

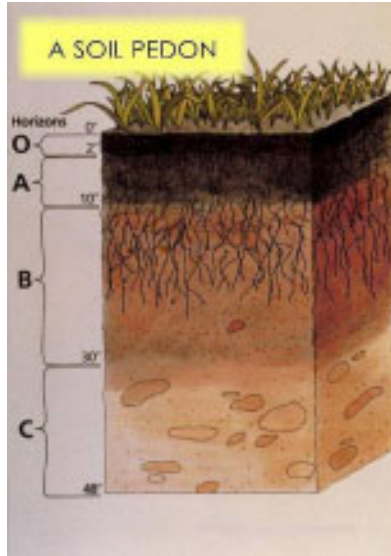


# Where to Find Information Regarding Your Soil

**W**hat you grow, what you build and how you manage your land all depend on the soil. Soil is the main livelihood of plants and animals. It's also important to air quality, water quality, and the ability to support buildings and treat waste effluent in septic systems.

## What is a Soil Survey?

Soil surveys provide an orderly, on-the-ground, scientific inventory of soil resources. Soil surveys include maps showing the locations and extent of dominant soil types and data about the physical and chemical properties of those soils. The soil interpretations derived from that data describe the suitability and limitations associated with each kind of soil. Soil surveys provide basic information needed to manage the soil resource for long-term sustainability. Soil surveys provide important information needed to manage water quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Soil surveys are important to homeowners, city and county planners, engineers, zoning commissions, tax commissioners, developers, as well as agricultural producers.



## Where do I find SOILS information?

Typing "soils" in an Internet search engine will likely give you thousands of links to information. Sorting through this huge amount of information will take some time and effort. Unless your specialty is soils, probably the best place to start looking for local soils information is a local NRCS office. Resource experts in NRCS office can help in many ways, such as identifying soils on property, helping one to understand the basics of soil science, and providing soil interpretations for specific land uses. Other soil-related topics of local interest can be found at a county extension office or from the University of Wyoming

College of Agriculture.

A paper copy of a published soil survey is available from a local NRCS office if the survey has been completed and published. For counties without a published soil survey, check with the local NRCS office to see if they have preliminary soil maps and information for an area of interest.

Soil information is also available at the following URL address <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Here one can easily find a state and area of interest. The Web site allows a person to generate and view soil reports online or download soil information to a personal computer. For areas where the soil maps have been digitized, one will need to download the spatial data from the Web site and view it through geographic information system software.



*Example of a soil map.*

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