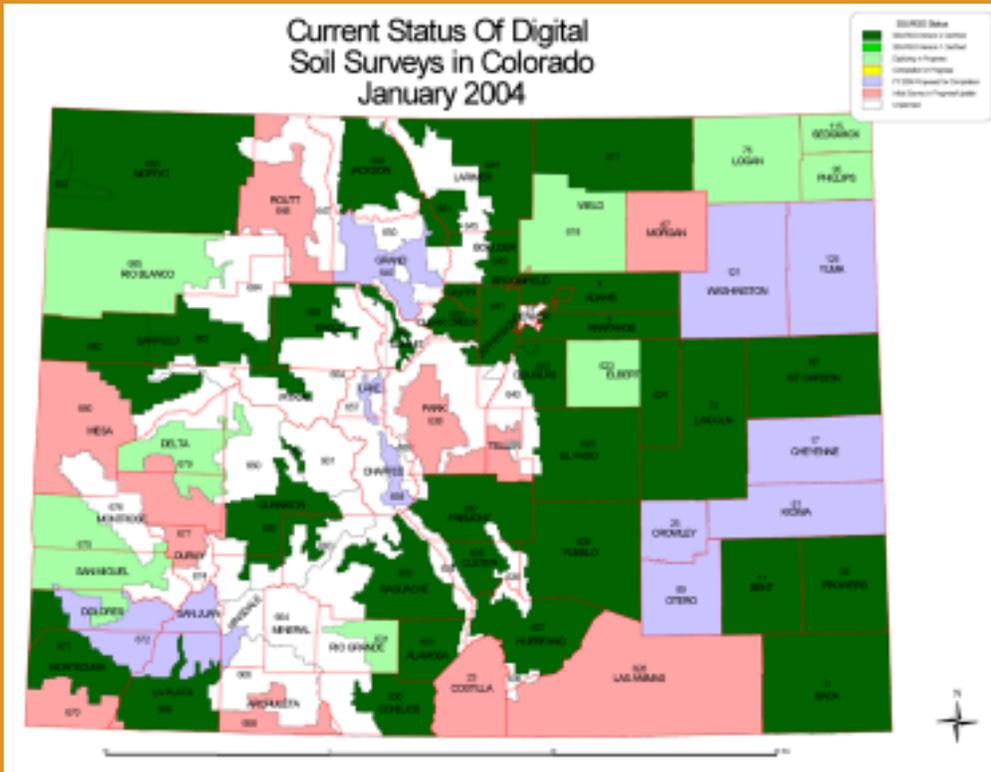


# Soil Survey



## Soil Geographical Data

Digitizing maps and developing databases are an integral part of today's soil survey process. They are completed concurrently with other activities in both initiating and maintaining soil survey projects. The soil survey geographic database consists of:

- Spatial data such as the digital soil survey map
- Attribute data such as the survey area map unit and record data from the **National Soil Information System**
- Association source information (metadata)

Soil surveys have been an important resource tool for 100 years. At first, soil surveys were conducted to find areas in which to expand agriculture. Today, they are used to plan ways to protect soil and water from erosion, sedimentation, and pollution.

Federal, state, and local governments, private individuals, and businesses use soil information for:

- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Urban development
- ◆ Wetlands
- ◆ Wildlife habitat
- ◆ Farm Bill program eligibility and ranking criteria

Colorado encompasses **66,618,200** acres with approximately 63 percent in private ownership, 22 percent National Forest, and 12 percent U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The rest is divided between national parks, Native American, and other Federal land.

**Soil surveys are available—published or in draft form—for about 95 percent of the state's private land and about 96 percent of the state's Federal land.**

It is estimated that soil surveys on all privately owned land will be available by **2007**. Approximately **1.5 million** acres remain to be mapped. During the past year (2003), about **170,000 acres** were surveyed. Field activities are going on in these survey areas: Morgan, Mesa, Routt, Ute Mountain In-

dian Reservation, Costilla, Ridgway, Teller-Park, Las Animas, and Archuleta.

**In 2003, new soil survey publications were issued** for the Douglas-Plateau Area, Kit Carson County, Lincoln County, and the Cortez Areas.

Soil surveys that were State Soil Surveys Geographical Database (SSURGO) certified in 2003 include the following areas:

- 1) Boulder County Area
- 2) Lincoln County Area
- 3) Georgetown Area
- 4) Moffat County Area
- 5) Alamosa Area
- 6) Adams County
- 7) Castle Rock Area
- 8) Arapahoe County
- 9) Gunnison Area

Recent releases of Historical Replicas of soil surveys have included Alamosa Area, East Elbert County, and Logan County. These replicas are available on CD and are on the Colorado Home Page.