

Finding Your Forest Soils Map(s) Using the Internet

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Soil series maps can be found by doing a computer search using the internet and typing in “NRCS web soil survey” in the search window. Users should find the following URL:

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. Once on this site, press the green “WSS” button (Figure 1) and the following URL should come up on the screen:

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx> (Figure 2).

A forest landowner can find his/her property by entering (1) the state and county of the property (for example Laurens County Georgia), (2) the latitude and longitude of the property (center, gate, woods road), or use the curser and point to the property on the map and click. Each time you click on the map, the map is zoomed in some. The box on the upper left side of the screen in Figure 2 is where one would enter latitude – longitude or state and county. If you want to zoom out, then you need to press the magnifying glass with the “-” in the middle (zoom in would have the “+” in the middle of the magnifying glass). Then with some curser movement after using the state and county or curser on the map, locate your farm on the aerial photo within your state and county (Figure 3). Knowing where your forestland is in relation to roads is very helpful in locating your farm. Once you find your property, use the AOI (area of interest) icon in the upper part of the web page and outline your property (click each time you change direction, close the area and double click to finish, Figure 3). Then go to the “soil map” tab and press it and your AOI (property) will have a soil series map drawn on your property and the table on the left side of the screen will list your soil series, the number of acres in each soil series and the percentage of each soil series on your property (Photo 3). Capital B or C after the soil series abbreviation (for example AeB for Ailey soil series, B slope and CoB or CtC for Cowarts soil series, B or C slope) indicates the percent slope for that area; B = 0–6% or 2–5% slope and C = 5–8% or 5–12% slope (Figure 4).

Refer to “Knowing Your Forest Soils” series papers on “Making sense of soil series” and “Guide to Soil Taxonomy” for information on soil series that are on your property. The other series papers will be useful in species selection and benefits of competition control and fertilization.

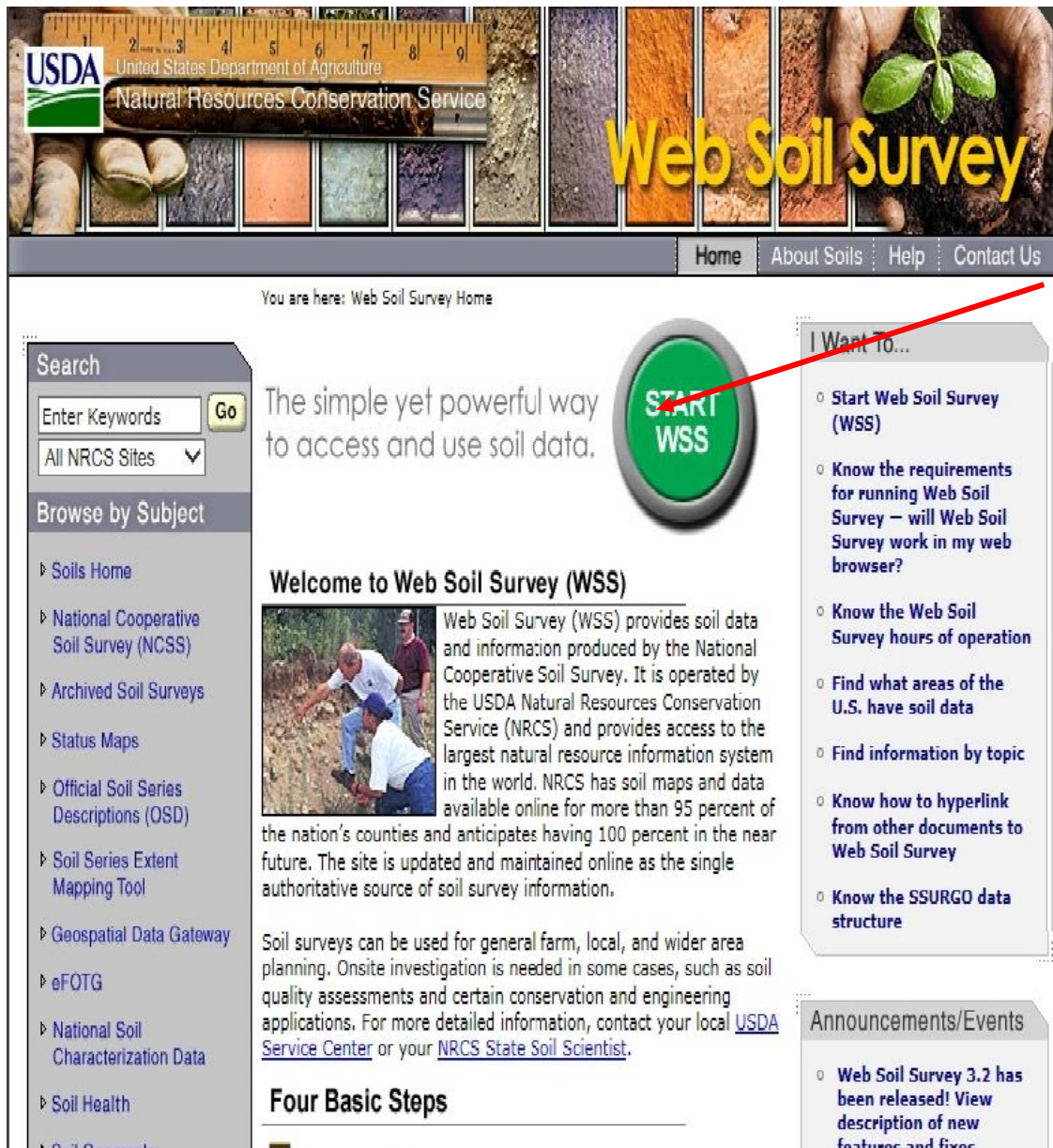


Figure 1. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) web soil survey site screen shot.

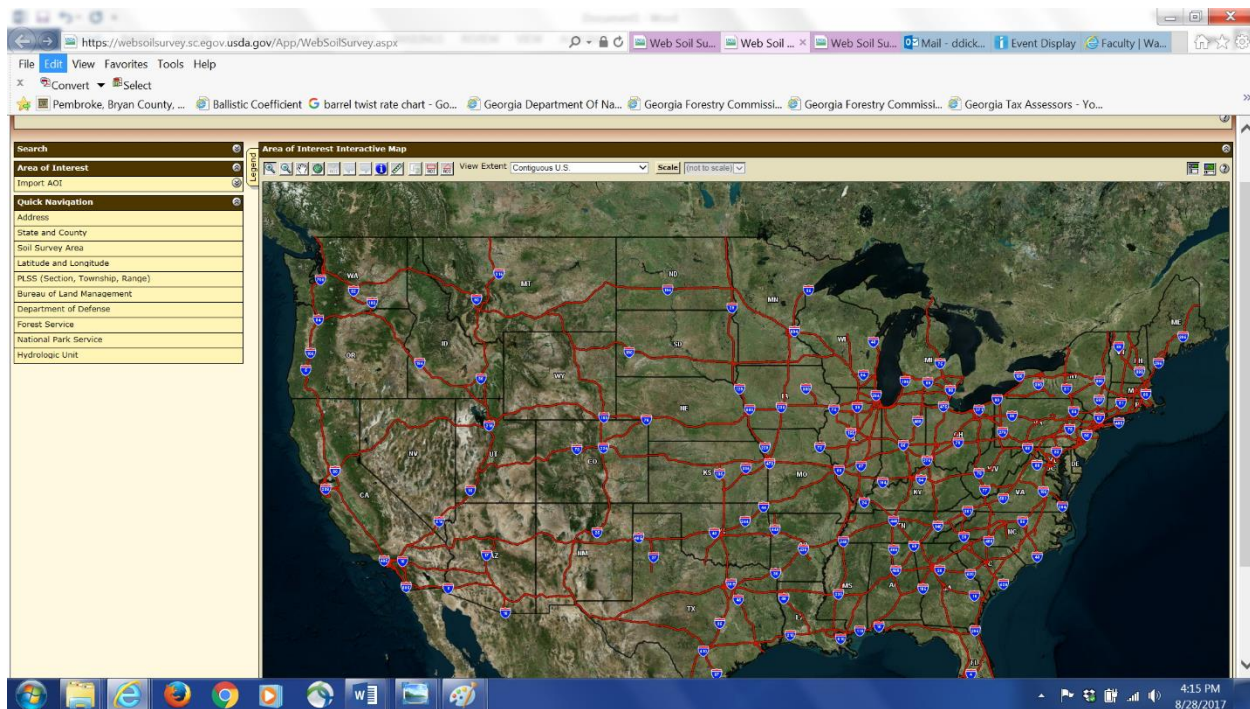


Figure 2. NRCS soil series locator starting point map.

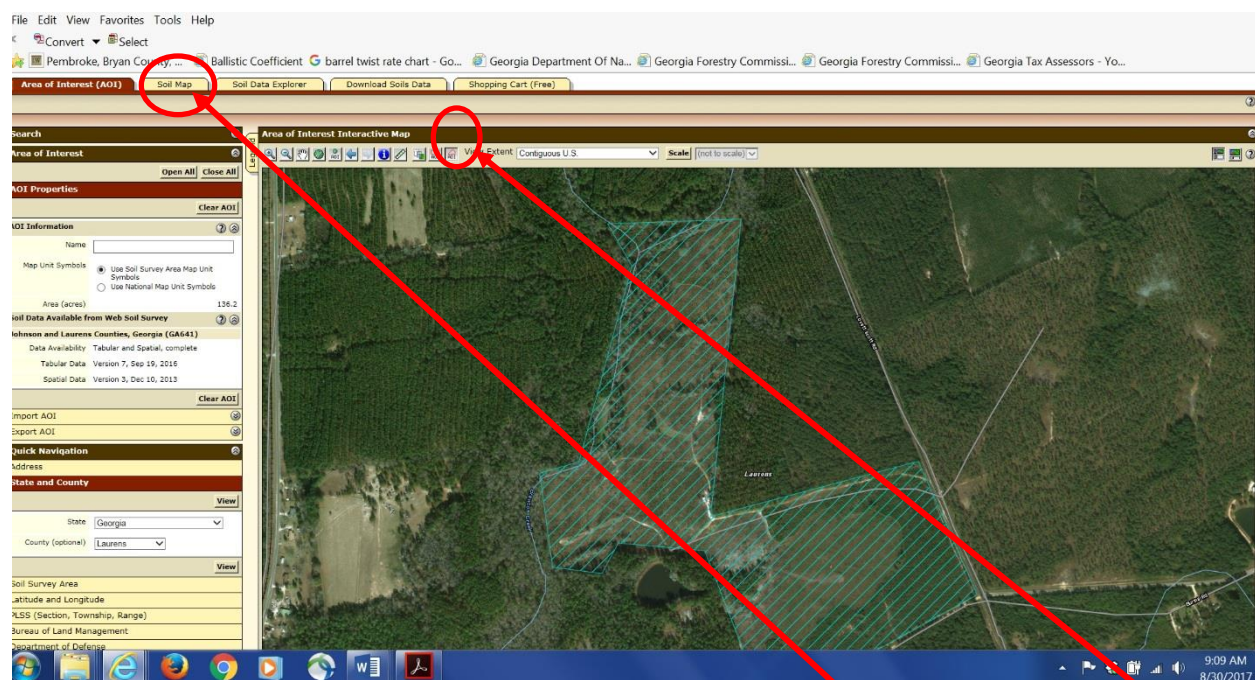


Figure 3. Outlining one's property boundaries using the AOI (area of interest) function by double clicking the cursor at a boundary corner, then moving the cursor along the property boundary, single clicking the cursor at each turn in the property line and double clicking when the property boundaries are closed. This creates the AOI for your property. Once one's AOI is established, Click on the "Soil Map" tab, wait a few seconds and a soil series map of the property is created (Figure 4)

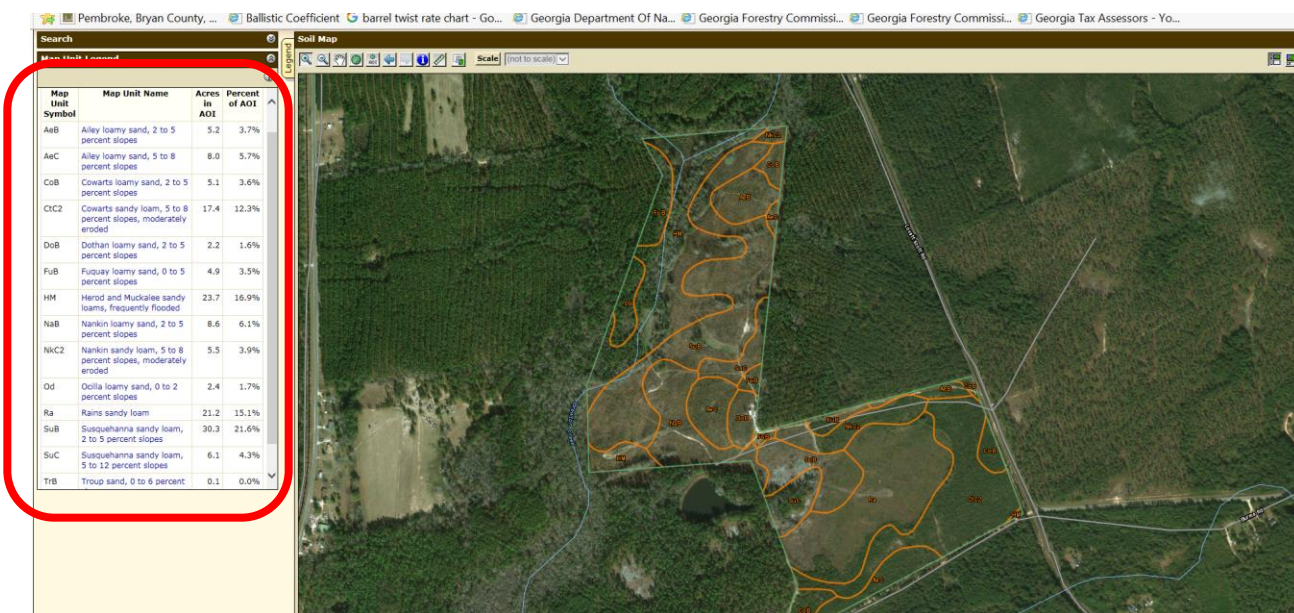


Photo 4. A Laurens County Georgia forested tract with soil series mapped out on the property.

Table 1. List of soil series on the above property with taxonomic name and key words. Use the following URL to find the taxonomic name and soil series description:

<https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/osdname.aspx>

Soil series name	# of acres of 140.6	Taxonomic name	Soil drainage class	Depth to argillic (Bt)* or gleying (Cg) (inches)	Loblolly 20-yr MAI*	Longleaf 30-yr MAI	Slash 20-yr MAI
Ailey	13.2	Arenic Kanhapludults	well to somewhat excessively	Bt1 @ 24-29	5 – 7	4 - 5	5 – 6
Cowarts	22.5	Typic Kanhapludults	moderately well to well	Bt1 @ 12-19	6 – 8	4 – 5.5	5.5 – 7
Dothan	2.2	Plinthic Kandiodults	well	Bt1 @ 13-22	6 – 8	4 – 5.5	5.5 – 7
Fuquay	4.9	Arenic Plinthic Kandiodults	well	Bt1 @ 34-45	6 – 8	4 – 5.5	5.5 - 7
Herod-Muckalee	23.7	Typic Fluvaquents	poorly	C1g @ 12-38, 6-28	questionable suitability	not suitable	questionable
Nankin	14.1	Typic Kanhapludults	well	Bt1 @ 8-13	6 – 8	4 – 5.5	5.5 – 7
Ocilla	2.4	Aquic Arenic Paleudults	somewhat poorly	Bt1 @ 28 - 49	6.5 – 8.5	4.5 – 5.5	6 – 7.5

Rains	21.2	Typic Paleaquults	poorly	Btg1 @ 12- 20	7 - 9	4.5 – 5.5	6.5 – 8.5
Susquehanna	36.4	Vertic Paleudalfs	poorly	Bt1 @ 5-9	questionable suitability	not suitable	questionable

*MAI = estimated mean annual increment of growth in tons/acre/year (wood+bark) with moderate to high levels of forest management (proper site preparation for each site + quality seedlings planted at 500 to 750/acre) on cut-over (former crop was more than one rotation of trees) or old-field, former pasture or hay field sites.

Citation:

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