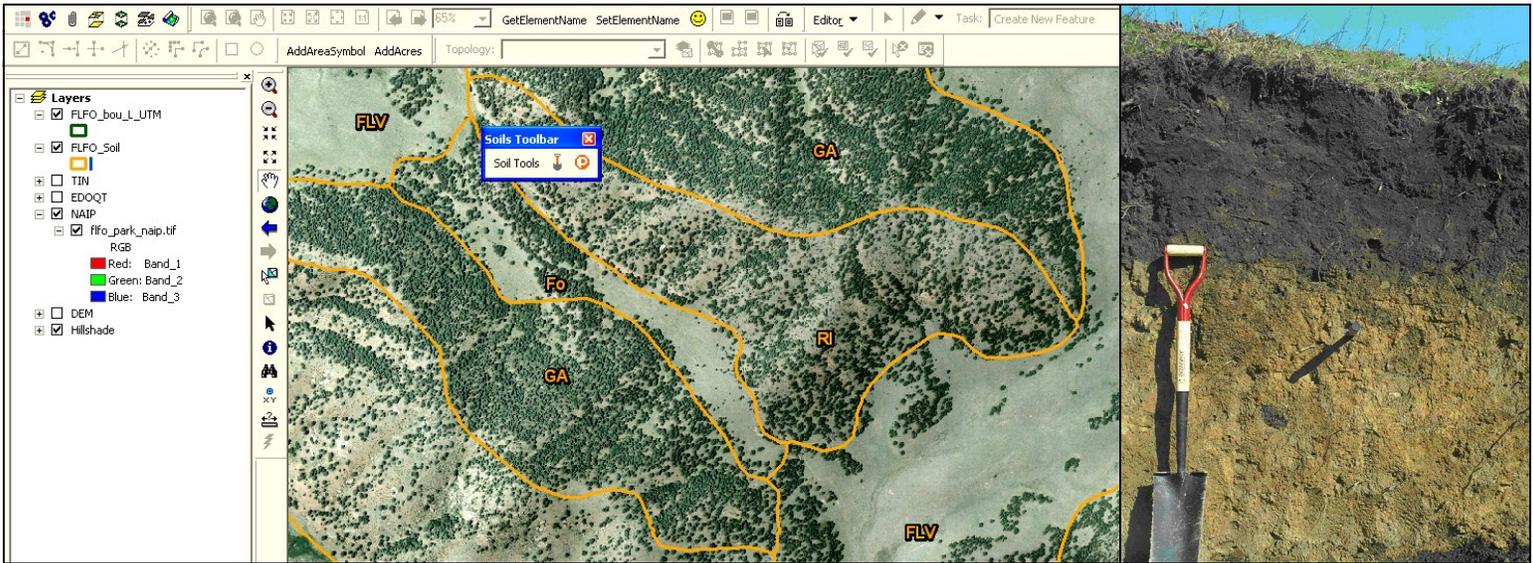


# Soil Resources Inventory NPS Soil Tools 2.0 Fact Sheet

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

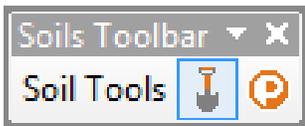
Inventory and Monitoring Program  
Soil Resources Inventory



The National Park Service Soil Resources Inventory (SRI) Program provides user-friendly products to park managers to facilitate effective resource management, as well as baseline information on soil resources for the Vital Signs Monitoring Program.

## What are NPS Soil Tools?

NPS Soil Tools 2.0 are a set of ArcGIS tools developed by the Soil Resources Inventory team to meet the emerging needs of non-soil scientists, allowing them to access and better understand the soils data that is available within the NPS. NPS Soil Tools 2.0 can be utilized by anyone working with ArcGIS 10.0, who has downloaded service pack 5.



NPS Soil Tools 2.0 is comprised of the Map Unit Identify Tool (the shovel) and the Pedon Identify Tool (the P). These tools are made available to the user when the Soils Toolbar is added to their ArcGIS desktop after installation. The tools geospatially link soils data with a robust description of a particular map unit or pedon point by bringing together information from various resources in an interactive and user friendly manner.

## Why are the MapUnit Identify and Pedon Identify Tools advantageous?

Soil surveys rely heavily on tabular data, and until now the representation of soils in a GIS context has excluded much of this valuable and vital information. This can result in an oversimplification and generalization of soil types and attributes. However, the reality is that soils are generally quite complex and should be recognized as such when being represented in a GIS context. This is where the Map Unit and Pedon Tools come in. These tools give the user far more detailed information than an attribute table alone could. While far from being a comprehensive view of the tabular data available within a soil survey, the information associated with these tools marks a huge step in the geospatial representation of soils data.

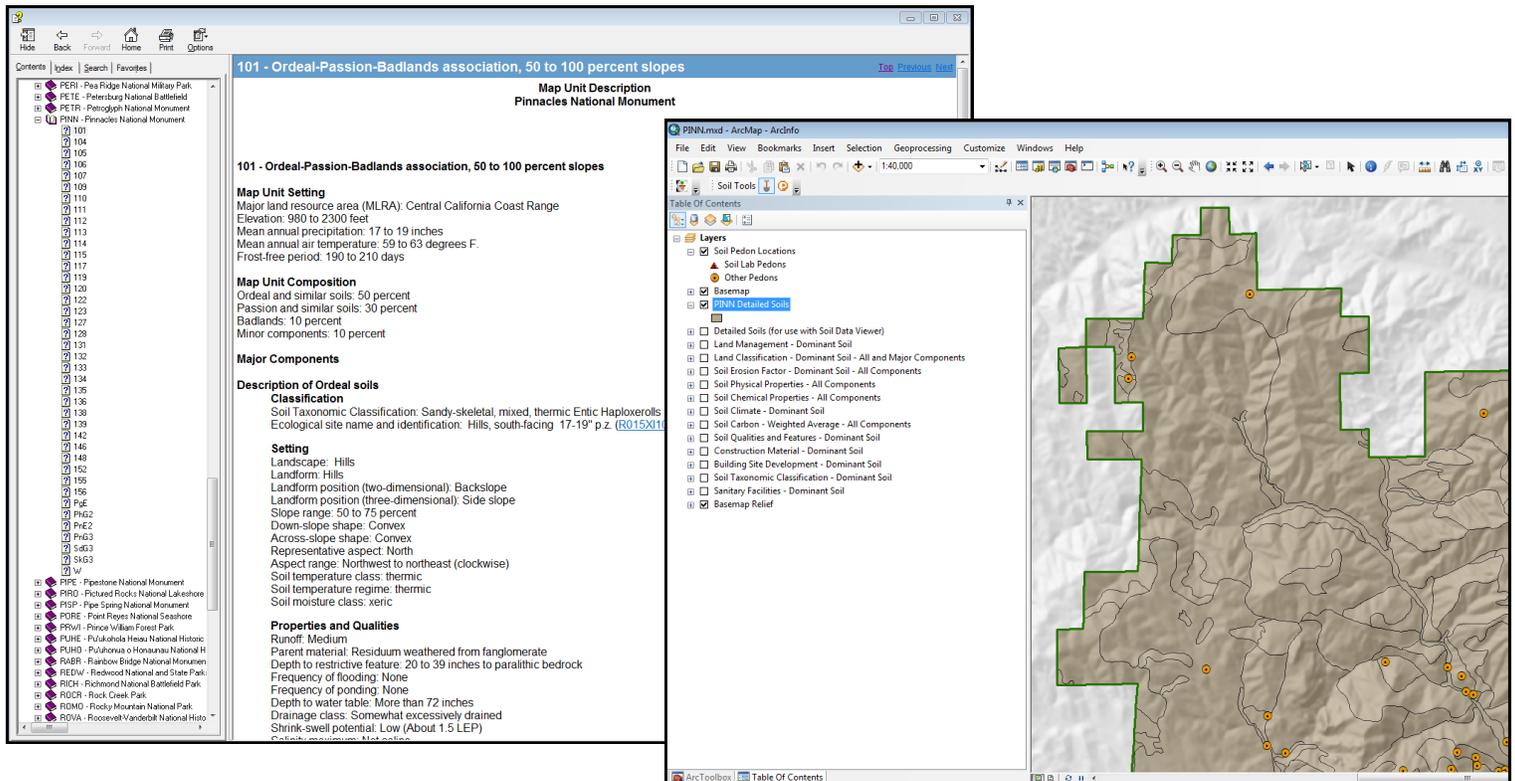
## Why are Map Unit Descriptions important?

Map Unit Descriptions can be considered the backbone of a soil survey. Within these descriptions one can find the detailed characteristics of the soil that are necessary to make informed and responsible management decisions.

## What are the data requirements?

The Map Unit Identify Tool can be used with any soils shapefile that the SRI has posted to the NR Info Portal. For a complete listing of these available parks and to download data go to: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/gis/soiltools.cfm>

The Pedon Identify Tool can currently only be used with Pedons exported from the National Soil Information System (NASIS) database, and processed by the SRI Program, conforming to a national standard. Data mining and development of the help file for this tool are still in the early stages, but many more parks will be added in the near future.



This is an example of the MapUnit Identify Tool being used with data from Pinnacles National Monument.

## System Requirements

- ArcGIS 10.0 with service pack 5
- Administrative rights are required for installation; however, if “Everyone” is left selected (as recommended) during installation anyone using that particular machine can use Soil Tools 2.0.

## For More Information

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