

**RESOLUTION ON 100 YEARS OF SOIL SURVEYS**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: David N. Cox**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR  
RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOIL SURVEYS; ENCOURAGING THE  
USE OF SOIL SURVEYS AND CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE'S NATURAL  
RESOURCES BY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND EDUCATORS; AND  
URGING THE MODERNIZATION OF UTAH SOIL SURVEYS AND RELATED DATA.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, 1999 marks the 100th anniversary of soil surveys;

WHEREAS, one of the nation's first soil surveys was conducted in Salt Lake County and published in 1899;

WHEREAS, Utah will host the 1999 Soil Science of America Centennial Year activities in Salt Lake City October 31 through November 5;

WHEREAS, this event will bring together professional soil scientists, agronomists, range conservationists, and other professionals from across the nation who work with the soil;

WHEREAS, of the more than 10,000 soil series that have been named and described in the United States, 700 soil series have been named and described in Utah;

WHEREAS, many everyday activities and pursuits are related to and influenced by the soil beneath homes, roads, septic and sewage systems, airports, parks, recreation sites, farms, forests, schools, and shopping centers;

WHEREAS, in 1937 the Utah Soil Conservation District Act authorized the creation of local political subdivisions responsible for the conservation of the state's soil, water, and related natural resources;

WHEREAS, currently there are 38 soil conservation districts governed by 190 locally elected leaders who cover the entire state;

WHEREAS, the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program is a partnership led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of federal land management agencies, state agricultural experiment stations and state and local units of government that provide soil survey information

necessary for understanding, managing, conserving, and sustaining the nation's limited soil resources;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Services have funded and modernized Utah's soil surveys to Geographic Information System databases to be included in the state's Geographic Information Database for use by the state and by local governments;

WHEREAS, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and Utah's Conservation Partnership have published the "1999 Citizen Planner's Guide to Subdivision Development Evaluating Natural Hazards and Resources During Subdivision Approval";

WHEREAS, this publication is designed to assist local government planning commissions in understanding and considering the importance of soil and related natural resources during subdivision evaluation;

WHEREAS, soil surveys are prepared by soil scientists who determine the properties of soil and predict soil behavior for a host of uses;

WHEREAS, soil surveys provide an orderly, on-the-ground, scientific inventory of soil resources that include maps showing the locations and extent of soils and data about the physical and chemical properties of those soils;

WHEREAS, information is derived from the data about potential problems of use on each kind of soil in sufficient detail to meet all reasonable needs of farmers, agricultural technicians, community planners, engineers, and scientists in applying the findings of research and experience to specific land areas;

WHEREAS, soil surveys prepared by the Natural Resources Conservation Service through the National Cooperative Soil Survey program help federal, state, and local conservation agencies and land users determine the potential and limitations of various soils; and

WHEREAS, what is put on the land should be guided by the soil that is beneath it:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognize 1999 as the 100th anniversary of soil surveys and encourage

elementary and secondary school educators to teach Utah children the importance of soil to a sustainable environment and quality of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage municipalities, counties, health departments, planners, school districts, and developers to use soil surveys in land use planning and approval of subdivisions, infrastructure improvements and building permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the Natural Resources Conservation Service to complete the modernization of Utah soil surveys according to the federal appropriations and mandates and provide the Geographic Information System databases to the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge counties and municipalities to use the publication entitled, "1999 Citizen Planner's Guide to Subdivision Development Evaluating Natural Hazards and Resources During Subdivision Approval" to assist with planning and local land use decisions related to the approval of subdivisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the federal Bureau of Land Management, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah's Conservation Partnership, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Utah Department of Natural Resources.