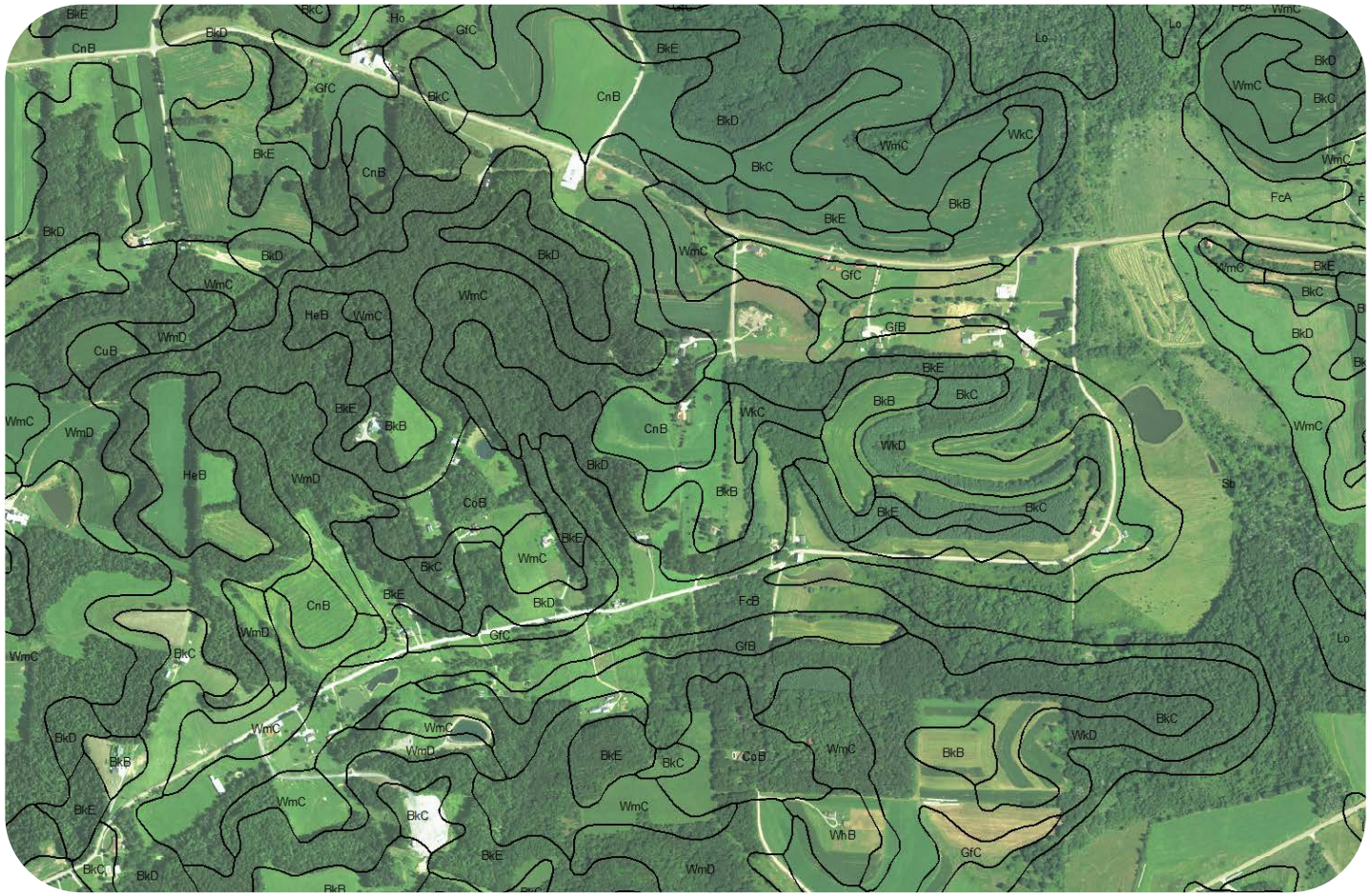
Backyard Layout for Homesteading

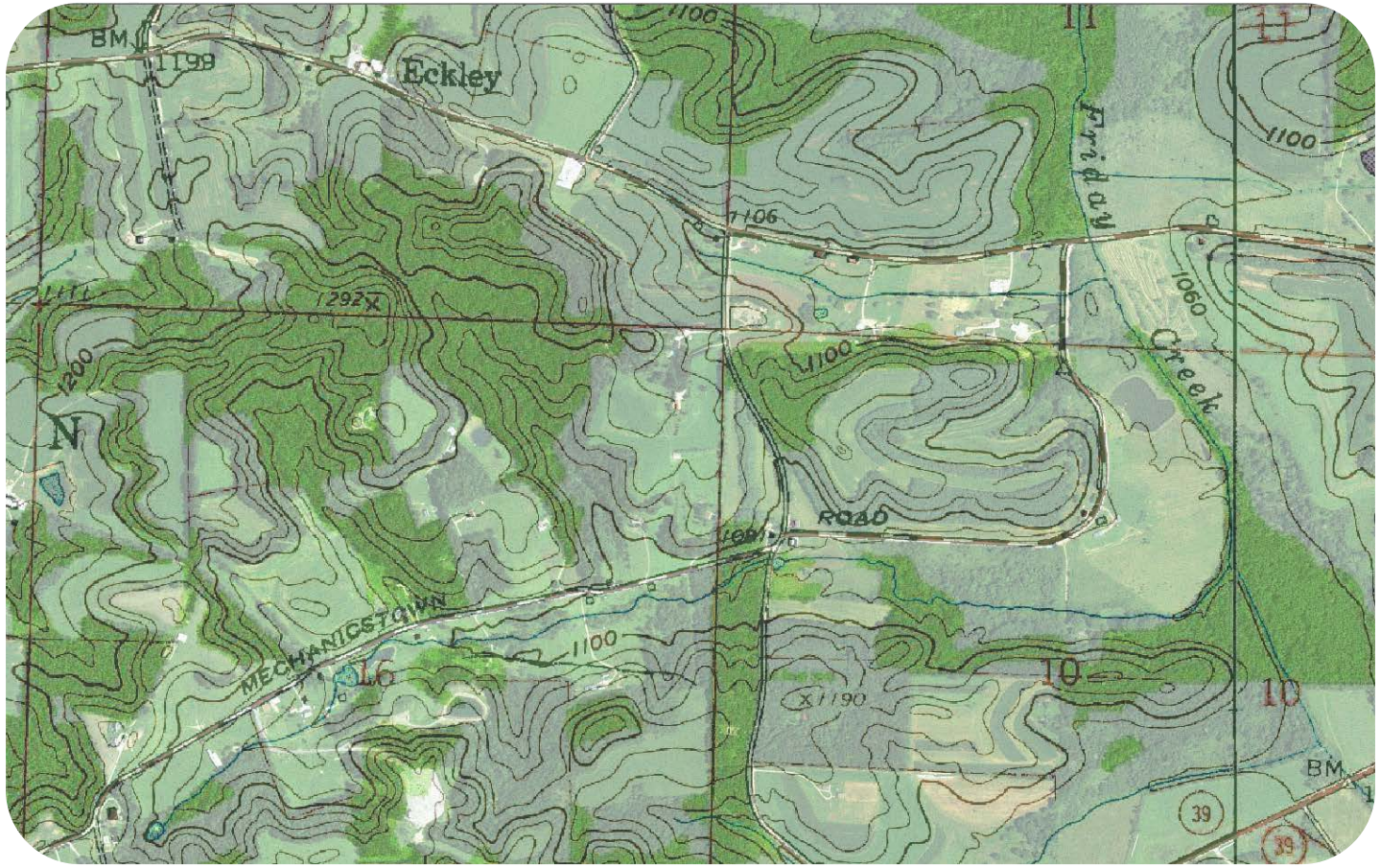
Site Evaluation – The MOST Important FIRST Step in Planning a Successful Homestead!

Consider the Landscape as a Whole

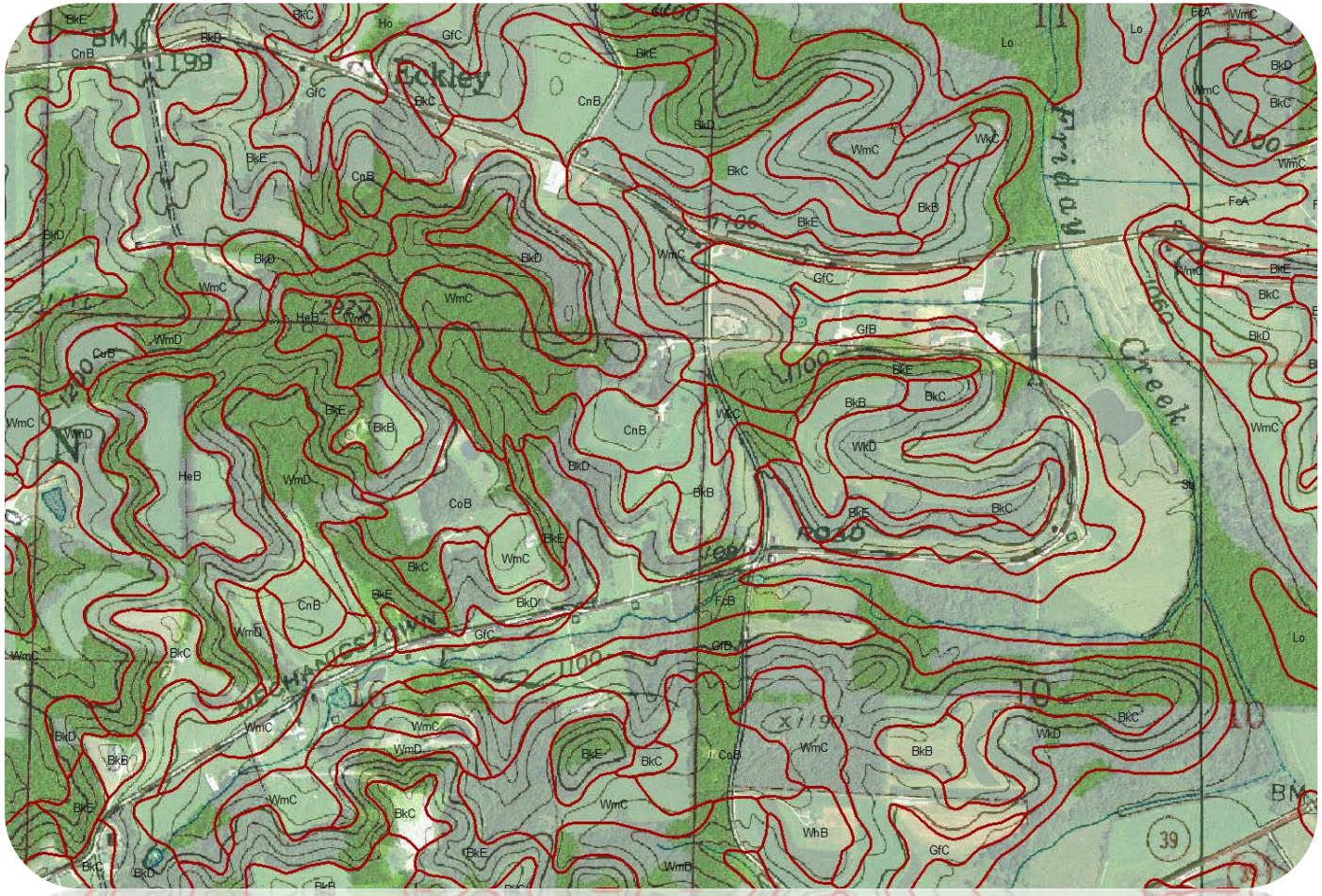
Soil Types are a Key Consideration



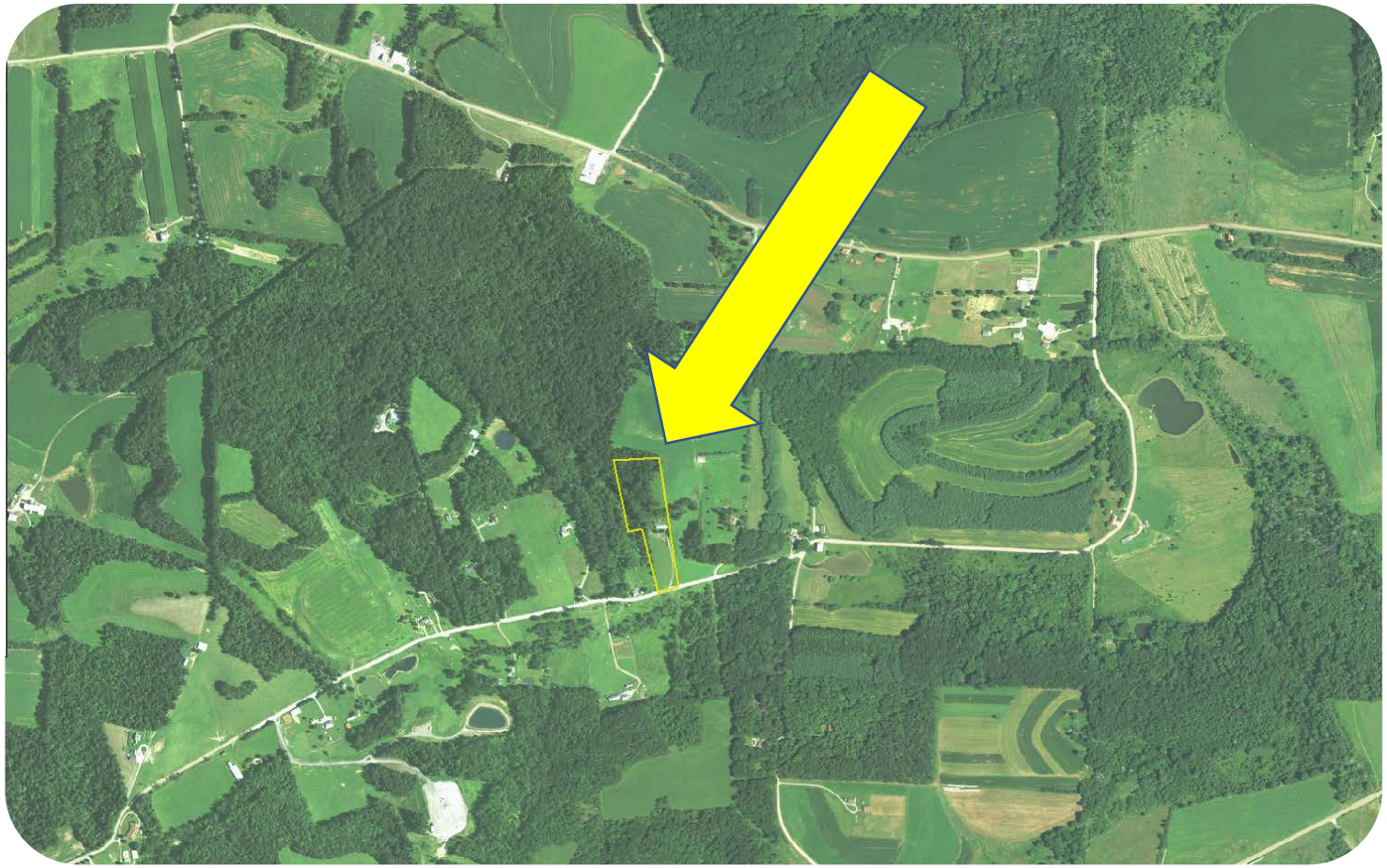
Topography Must be Considered



Soils & Topography are Linked



Let’s Focus in Now




BkD
BkB
FcB

BkD (moderately steep), **BkE** (steep), and **BkF** (very steep) are soils poorly suited to corn, and small grains.

There is a *very severe erosion hazard when this soil is cultivated*. Erosion removes the finer soil particles and leaves the rock fragments behind. This further reduces the already low capacity of the soil to store and release plant nutrients and available water. Conservation tillage, used in combination with contour strip crops is an adapted erosion control practice that also aids in moisture conservation.

This soil is droughty and crops can be expected to suffer from shortages of available moisture in most growing seasons.

This soil is moderately well suited to hay and pasture. Drought resistant forage species such as alfalfa should be included in hay and pasture seedings.

Considerable lime is needed for the optimum growth of alfalfa. Leaching and runoff losses of lime will be minimized by making several light applications instead of one heavier one.

Unimproved grass pastures do not produce well through the dry part of the summer, but the good natural drainage permits early spring grazing.

BkD - Berks shaly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes

This moderately steep Berks soil is moderately well suited to woodland. Growth rates are moderately slow, *limited by frequent shortages of available moisture*. Growth rates are slightly better on the north and east facing slopes, where moisture relationships are more favorable.

The good natural drainage is favorable for the growth of many upland tree species, and good stands can be attained, given time.

Slopes permit the use of most types of equipment.

Only species tolerant of moisture shortages, such as red and white pine should be selected for planting. Weeds and shrubs which compete for the limited supply of available moisture should be controlled by mowing or spraying.

This soil is not well suited to Christmas tree production because of its droughtiness. It has a limited suitability for the pines, but is generally unsuited to the spruces and firs, which are less tolerant of moisture shortages. Slow growth can be expected.

BkD - Berks shaly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes

This moderately steep Berks soil is poorly suited to building site development and septic tank absorption fields. The good natural drainage is favorable, but slopes are steeper than optimum and rock at 20 to 40 inches interferes with excavation.

Development of a conventional building site on slopes this steep requires considerable excavation, which commonly extends into layers of rock that are difficult to excavate. Bank type buildings commonly require less excavation.

The volume of soil material above the rock is not sufficient to adequately filter septic tank effluent. Downslope seepage, as well as seepage into cracks in the underlying rock are likely.

The latter can travel for considerable distances and contaminate ground water supplies. The seepage can be reduced but not eliminated, by laying the distribution lines across the slope.

FcA - Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes.
FcB - This is gently sloping silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes.

These are a nearly level (FcA), or gently sloping (FcB) soil that are deep, somewhat poorly drained, and found on slackwater terraces along streams. They formed in silty deposits laid down in still or slow moving water. Typically, the surface layer is a dark grayish brown silt loam. The subsoil is a brown and yellowish brown silty clay loam with many gray and grayish brown mottles. The substratum is a dark yellowish brown mottled silt loam and silty clay loam. Permeability is moderately slow, and runoff is slow. The available water capacity is high. *Rooting depth is limited only by the water table, which is at depths of 12 to 30 inches in the winter and spring*.

Fitchville *soils are well suited to crops and pasture when drained.* Artificial drainage is needed if crops are to be grown successfully on this soil. Subsurface drains are effective in lowering the water table if they are properly outleted. Adequately drained areas are well suited to crops, especially corn and soybeans. Undrained areas are suited to bluegrass pasture. *Pastures yield well in dry periods but grazing when the soil is soft can damage the sod*. Alfalfa is suited as a hay or pasture species only in areas with adequate artificial drainage. There is little erosion hazard on the nearly level slopes of the FcA. The FcB soil can be subject to some erosion losses, but erosion commonly is less of a problem then wetness.

FcB - This is gently silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes.

This gently sloping *Fitchville soil is poorly suited to building site development septic tank absorption fields because of wetness and restricted permeability.*

The water table is at depths of 12 to 30 inches for extended periods in the winter and spring.

Drains are needed to keep water away from basement walls.

Areas to be used as septic tank absorption fields should be drained artificially to lower the water table. Drains must be properly outletted to be effective.

Because of the moderately slow permeability of the soil, large absorption fields are needed for proper filtration, even when the water table is low.

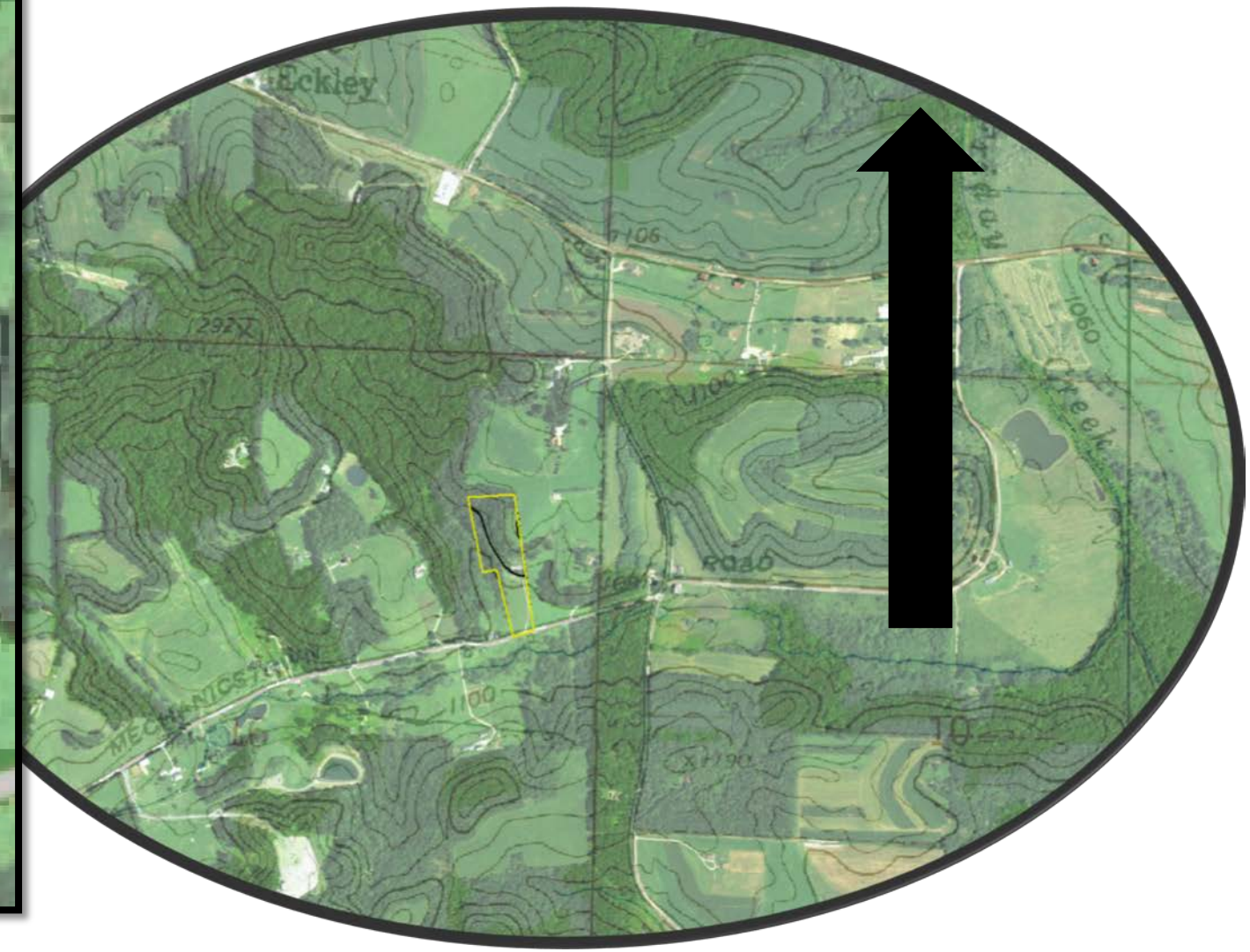
FcB - This is gently silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes.

This gently sloping s Fitchville soil is suited only to tree species that are tolerant of some wetness.

White pine and sweet gum are among the species suitable for planting. Competing grasses and shrubs should be controlled by mowing or spraying when new plantings are made. Wetness limits the use of equipment needed for woodland improvement and harvest activities in the winter and spring. This soil is poorly suited to Christmas tree production because of wetness. It has limited suitability for the pines, spruces, and balsam fir, and is unsuited to douglas or frasier fir. The spruces and firs are subject to frost damage in the narrow valleys. *Frost heaving of seedlings is a problem.*

Some areas of this soil can be artificially drained to improve their suitability.


BkD
BkB
FcB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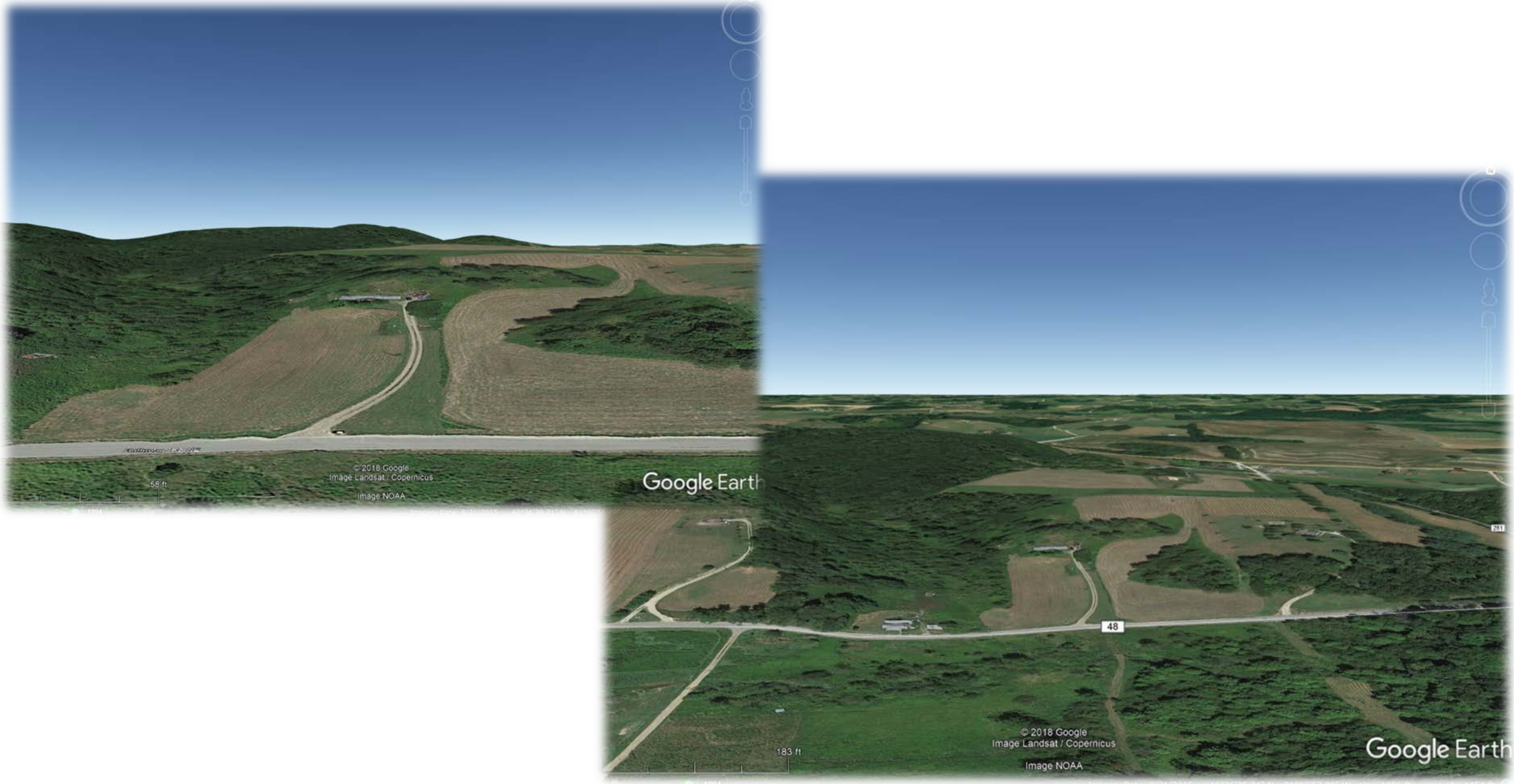
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Discussion Time

- What are our options for this property?
- What challenges are present?
- Are there solutions to those challenges?

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The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.

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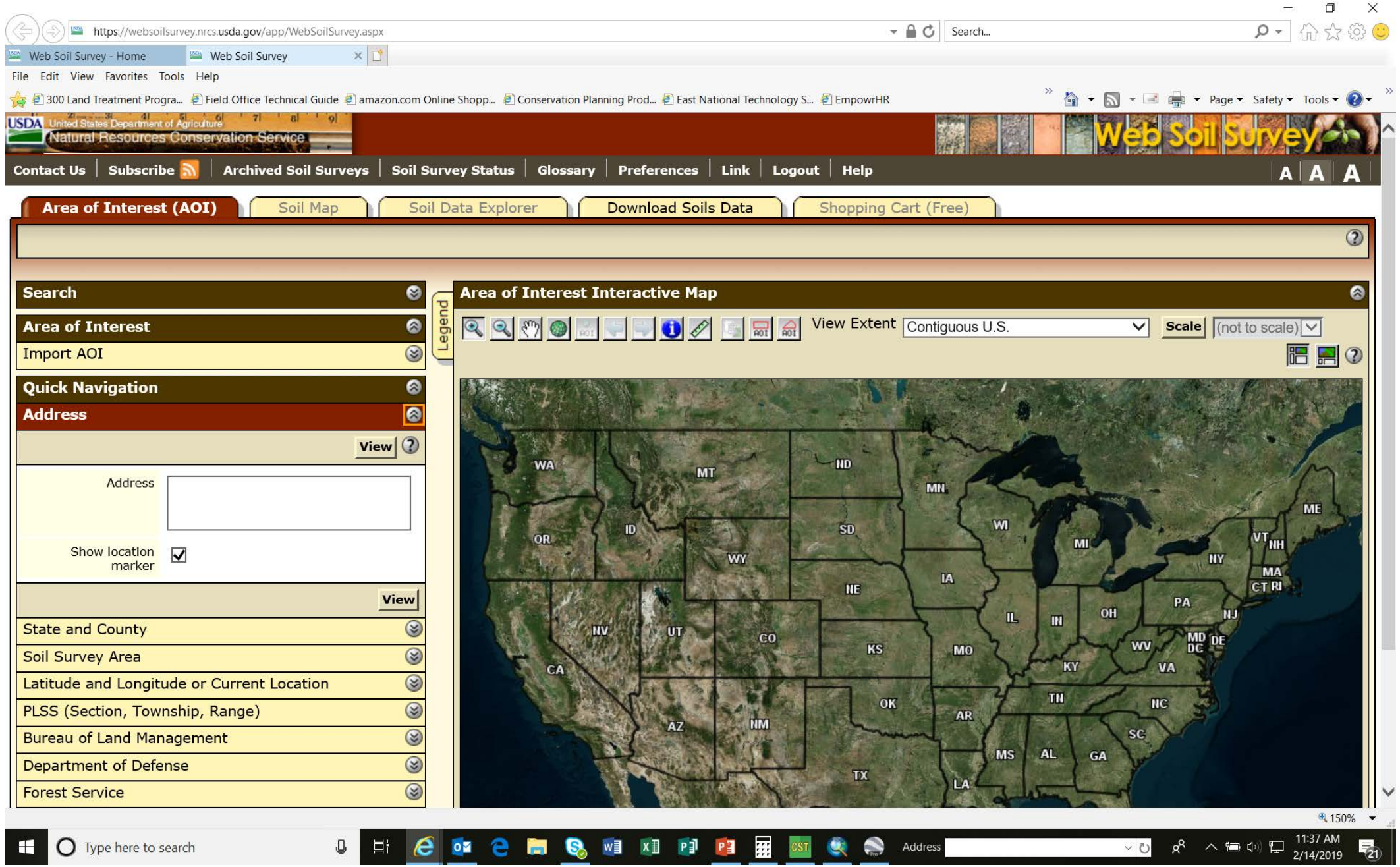
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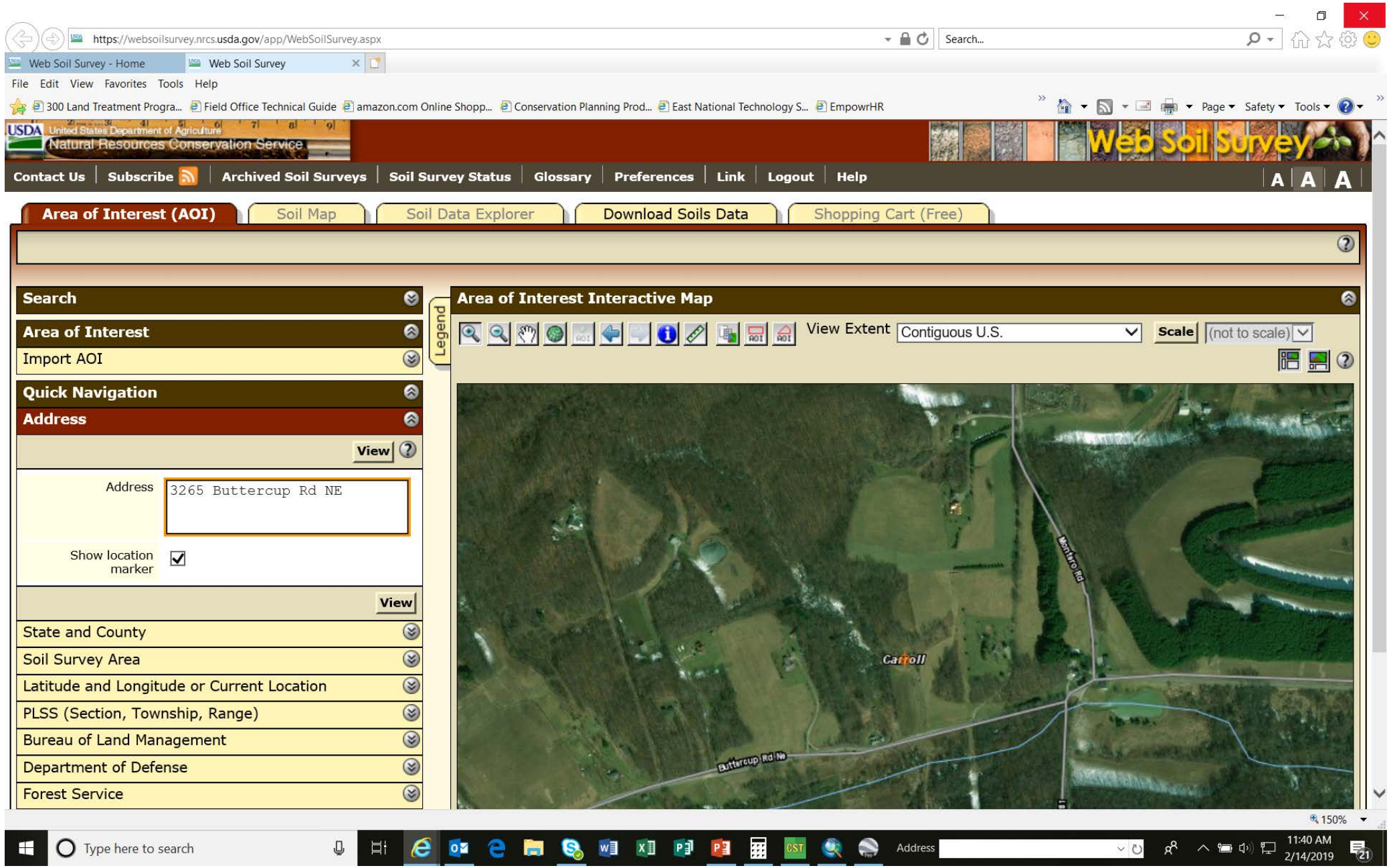
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Area of Interest

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AOI Properties

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AOI Information

Name

Map Unit Symbols

- (●) Use Soil Survey Area Map Unit Symbols
- ( ) Use National Map Unit Symbols

Area (acres) 5.97

Soil Data Available from Web Soil Survey

Carroll County, Ohio (OH019)

Data Availability	Tabular and Spatial, complete
Tabular Data	Version 15, Sep 17, 2018
Spatial Data	Version 6, Sep 25, 2017

Clear AOI

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Quick Navigation

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Area of Interest Interactive Map

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Map Unit Legend

Carroll County, Ohio (OH019)

Carroll County, Ohio (OH019)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BkB	Berks channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	0.0	0.7%
BkD	Berks shaly silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	3.2	54.4%
FcB	Fitchville silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	2.7	44.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		**6.0**	**100.0%**

Legend

Soil Map

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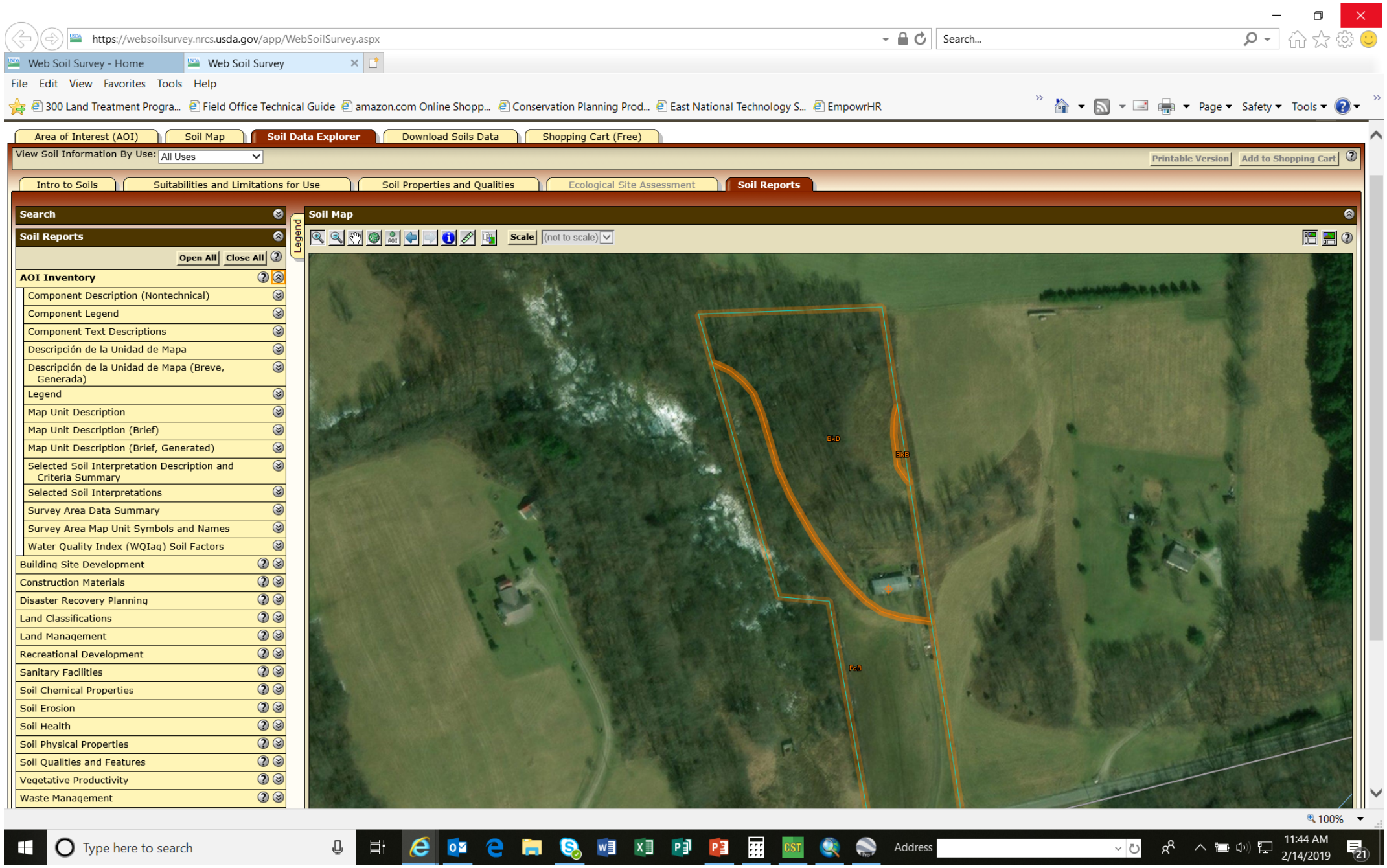
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Map Unit Description
Map Unit Description (Brief)
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Selected Soil Interpretations
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Disaster Recovery Planning
Land Classifications
Land Management
Recreational Development
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Soil Erosion
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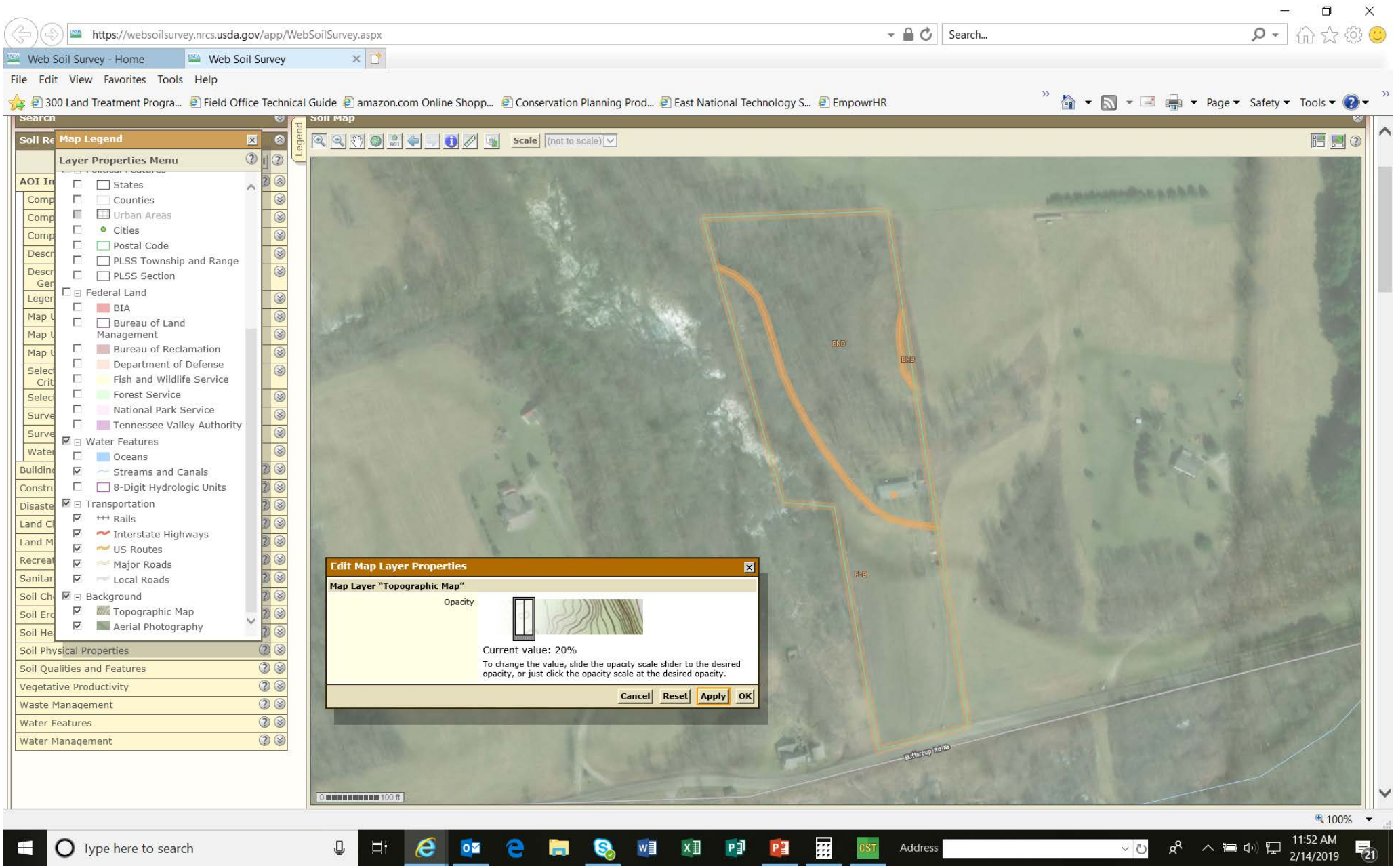
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