of stored data. Examples are single-purpose interpretive maps for a specific area that delineate important farmlands, flood frequency, soil erodibility, or some other feature.

New technology is needed for making soil surveys in remote areas. For example, we need to know how to make more and better use of color infrared photography and other remote sensing techniques.

National Cooperative Soil Survey expects to complete the soil mapping of all 3,100 survey areas in the Nation in about 20 years. Most future mapping, however, will be by “project soil surveys.” Like basic soil services, project mapping also is receiving major emphasis. Priority for these surveys will be assigned to areas where soil and water conservation problems are critical.

Soil Survey on the A.T.B.

Barb Cencich

Soil survey on the what? The A.T.B.—All Terrain Bike, I mean bicycle. Yes, used in the early days of soil survey, the bike is back in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. This vehicle is being used by SCS Soil scientists and by private contractors on the West Elks Soil Survey Area near Paonia, Colo. (Fig. 1).

Of course, it’s not as convenient as a pick-up truck or as fast as a motorcycle; but it does have its advantages. The bicycle can be used on many hiking trails, closed logging and jeep trails, and irrigation ditch banks. The main advantage of a bicycle is that it’s faster than walking and you can get further in a day. Bicycles can also be lifted over many obstacles that motorcycles cannot get around.

I first used a bicycle 3 years ago while working on a USFS contract near Durango, Colo. After just a few times of using the Rokon Scout we had available, I decided there had to be a better way. So, I tried my old fat tire, one-speed with a great deal of success. Today I use a 15-speed bicycle which is especially designed to ride the rough stuff. Several companies now produce these bikes. On one side of the rear rack is a sheath for the shovel blade. The handle is strapped to the head tube. On the other side of the rack, I can hang a small pack for carrying a collapsible auger. All the other soils paraphenalia goes in a pack on my back.

Many people don’t believe it’s possible to ride up some of these trails, but they’ve also never tried it. Sure you can’t be overweight, and you do...