The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint undertaking of Federal, State and local agencies and groups. The Soil Conservation Service has primary responsibility and Federal leadership in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, while the land grant colleges and universities (mostly the agricultural experiment stations) are the State agencies who cooperate in the work. In some soil survey areas the Forest Service of U.S.D.A. and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Land Management of U.S.D.I. cooperate. Other State agencies such as the departments of natural resources, conservation, or agriculture also cooperate. In some states, county governments, soil conservation districts, planning commissions, and other local groups are now cost-sharing in the Soil Survey.

The continuing shift from a predominantly rural land occupancy to an urban concentration and rapidly increasing population in the United States are putting new and different kinds of pressure on the land. Shifts of farmland to housing, industrial developments, highways, airfields, recreational developments and other non-agricultural uses have created many soil and water conservation problems that require technical information for their solution.

The people confronted with these man-made conservation problems include the city and town "fathers", the individual subdivision developer, the contractor, the individual lot owner and state, county and local planning groups. Many requests have been made to the Soil Conservation Service through soil conservation districts for assistance with these conservation and land use problems. This need has led to cost-sharing by