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The Alaska Soil Carbon Database: A Powerful Database for Soil Carbon Synthesis and Modeling

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Soil carbon synthesis and modeling efforts rely on soils data. Yet, despite the existence of many usable soils data sets and the availability of modern database technology, there previously has not been a centralized means of storing and accessing soil carbon data. In addition, it is desirable that a database be easily updated and highly functional in retrieving data for specific modeling needs. Recently, the Alaska Soil Carbon Database was developed as a pilot project for the forthcoming National Soil Carbon Network online database. As a result, the most complete data set to-date of soil carbon pools in Interior Alaska was analyzed over various horizons, spatial scales and site characteristics. Such an analysis provides information for the synthesis and development of models that represent the controls over the spatial distribution of soil carbon pools across the region. Overall, it is anticipated that the database will encourage community approaches towards assessing the current distribution and future dynamics of soil carbon in terrestrial ecosystems.

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