Here are five reasons why we want to keep our soils as healthy as possible:

1. Soil regulates water - Controlling where rain, snowmelt, and irrigation water goes. Water flows over the land or into the soil.
2. Soil sustains life – Soil is a home to many life forms, both plant and animal.
3. Soil filters pollutants - The minerals and microbes in the soil are responsible for filtering, buffering, degrading, immobilizing, and detoxifying organic and inorganic materials, including industrial and municipal by-products.
4. Soil cycles nutrients - Carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and many other nutrients are stored, transformed, and used by both plants and microbes.
5. Soil provides physical stability and support - Soil is a medium for plant roots. It also provides support for human structures and protection for archeological treasures. Good soil structure is important.

Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. A simple soil stability test can show us how healthy the soil is. Check out these short NRCS videos on soil stability!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_ItEhCrLoQ&list=PL4J8PxoprpGbRi3gZ-fWN0dGD8bnnq3wM&index=4&app=desktop>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rpl09XP_f-w&list=PL4J8PxoprpGbRi3gZ-fWN0dGD8bnnq3wM&index=5>