(Revised January 2019)

**BY-LAWS FOR THE VEGETATION SECTION OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

*Article 1. NAME.* The official name of the Section shall be "The Vegetation Section of the Ecological Society of America".

*Article 2. PURPOSE*. The objectives of the Section shall be to encourage research and to sponsor meetings for the communication of results in all phases of vegetation science. The Vegetation Section shall be a subdivision of the Ecological Society of America and shall be governed in all of its operations by the Constitution and By-laws of that Society.

*Article 3. MEMBERSHIP.* Any member of any class of the Ecological Society of America who so desires may become a member of the Vegetation Section. Notice in writing to the Secretary of the Section, or to the Business Manager plus payment of current dues, if any, shall be the only other requirements. Dues will be as set by the Council of the Society.

*Article 4. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS*. The officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Immediate Past Chair, Student Representative, and Secretary. Election of officers shall be by mail or e- mail ballot. At least two candidates will be nominated for each office by the Executive Committee. Additional names may be placed on the ballot by petition of ten or more members. The Student Representative must be enrolled in a degree program at the time of election.

The slate of nominees and ballots will be included in the Newsletter of the Section and results of the balloting will be announced in the following Newsletter and at the annual meeting. The terms of office of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be as follows: (1) Chairperson shall serve for two years, and (2) Vice-Chairperson shall serve for a term of two years after which time he/she will assume the office of Chairperson and serve in that capacity for two additional years. Thus, a new Vice-Chairperson shall be elected every other year in even-numbered years. The term of office of the Student Representative shall be for one year. The term of office of the Secretary shall be two years. The election of the Secretary shall be in odd-numbered years. The official terms of office shall commence with the close of the annual meeting and shall continue until their successors assume office.

*Article 5. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON.* The Chairperson shall preside at the business meeting of the Section, shall authorize expenditures of the Section funds, serve as program officer and shall promote the interests of the Section. The Chairperson shall represent the Section on the Council of the Society, and shall appoint committees as required to promote the interests of the Section. Such committees shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Section and may be reappointed at the discretion of the Chairperson.

*Article 6. DUTIES OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON*. The Vice-Chairperson shall arrange the scientific program including field excursions for the annual Section meetings, and shall assume the duties of the Chairperson whenever that person is unable to act.

*Article 7. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.* The Secretary shall keep the records of the Section, including current membership and mailing lists. The Secretary shall attend the annual Section business meeting and report on the activities of the Section annually in the *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America.* The Secretary also serves as Treasurer and is responsible for corresponding with the Society Business Manager concerning expenditures made in connection with official Section business.

*Article 8. DUTIES OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE*. The Student Representative shall advise the executive committee on all matters, providing the perspective of current students as ongoing learners and future ecologists.

*Article 9. EXPENSES.* The necessary expenses of the Section shall be paid from the treasury of the Society, but in no year shall the total expenses of the Section exceed the sum of any amount allotted for this purpose in the annual budget of the Society and the amount, if any, collected as dues by the Society on behalf of the Section. No officer or member of the Section shall have authority to incur expenses in the name of the Society, except as specified above.

*Article 10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.* An Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the Section, may act on behalf of the Section during intervals between annual meetings.

*Article 11. MEETINGS*. The Section shall meet with the Society at its annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall also organize occasional meetings in conjunction with regional, national, and international meetings of other related societies. Additional meetings may be requested by ten or more members of the Section. A business meeting of the Section shall be held at the annual meeting, and the members present shall constitute a quorum. Notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to each member of the Section at least 60 days in advance of each annual meeting, but it is understood that publication of a notice of the meeting in the *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* shall constitute adequate notice.

*Article 12. AMENDMENTS.* These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the attending members at any annual meeting of the Section, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been supplied to members of the Section at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting date. Members wishing to vote on amendments but who are unable to attend the annual meeting may do so by notifying the Secretary of the Section in writing at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.