The U.S. National Vegetation Classification

United States National Vegetation Classification

USNVC

Learn more about the National Vegetation Classification, the partnership, and applications at the USNVC website.

NVC partners: U.S. Forest Service (Subcommittee Chair), USGS Core Science Systems, NatureServe, Ecological Society of America (ESA), and the Vegetation Subcommittee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee**.**

Key Features

- A focus on vegetation structure and composition that provides context for local to global scales
- A comprehensive classification that includes both natural and cultural vegetation types
- A dynamic content standard supported by a rigorous peer review process
- A hierarchical structure that provides ecological context at all levels of the classification
- Expresses the expertise and experience of a diversity of partners (federal, state, and non-governmental)

Try out the NVC Hierarchy Explorer
Interactively view the vegetation classification online at

www.usnvc.org

The National Vegetation Classification provides a common language for the effective inventory, management, and conservation of plant communities in the U.S.   The FGDC 2008 Vegetation Classification Standard reflects years of hard work by the FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee, with members from a diversity of federal agencies, the Ecological Society of America's Vegetation Classification Panel, and NatureServe.   The dynamic nature of the standard is a creative and forward thinking approach that incorporates evolution of the classification so that it reflects the most current scientific understanding of the nation's plant communities.   The vegetation classification partners are now engaged in expanding our understanding of plant communities through continued research and a peer review process for revising and adopting new types.

Vision for the NVC

The National Vegetation Classification enables federal agencies to produce uniform statistics about vegetation resources across the nation, facilitates interagency cooperation on vegetation inventory, mapping, and management issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries, and encourages non-Federal partners to utilize and contribute to a common system when working with their Federal partners.

Uses of the NVC

- Cross boundary Natural Resource Assessments
- Conservation Planning at Multiple Scales
- Inventory and Mapping Programs
- Long-term Research Plots and Networks

USNVC — United States National Vegetation Classification

Full membership on the Vegetation Subcommittee has included both governmental and non-governmental organizations as listed below:

U.S. Government

Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Forest Service (FS) - Chair
National Agriculture Statistical Service (NASS)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Department of Commerce (DOC)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Department of Defense (DOD)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
U.S. Navy
Department of the Interior (USDI)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
National Park Service (NPS)
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Non U.S. Government

NatureServe (NS)
Ecological Society of America (ESA)

Further Reading

•**The FGDC Vegetation Classification Standard, Version 2**
http://usnvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/NVCS_V2_FINAL_2008-02.pdf

•Jennings, M.D., D. Faber-Langendoen, O.L. Louckes, R. K. Peet, and D. Roberts. 2009. **Standards for associations and alliances of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification.** Ecological Monographs 79(2) pp. 173-199.

•Faber-Langendoen, D., D.L Tart, and R.H.Crawford. 2009. Contours of the revised U.S. National Vegetation Classification standard. Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America 90:87-93

•**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Natural Resource Inventory**
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS//stelprdb1041379.pdf

•**National Parks Service Inventory and Monitoring Program.** http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/index.cfm

www.esa.org/vegweb/

The mission of the ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification is to develop the standards for the NVC, including standards for plot-based survey methods and databases, and a dynamic approach to revising the classification based on peer-review.

www.vegbank.org

VegBank is the vegetation plot database of ESA's Panel on Vegetation Classification. VegBank consists of three linked databases that contain (1) the actual plot records, (2) vegetation types recognized in the USNVC and other vegetation types submitted by users, and (3) all plant taxa recognized by ITIS/USDA as well as all other plant taxa recorded in plot records.

www.natureserve.org/explorer/

The NatureServe Explorer is an authoritative source for information on more than 70,000 plants, animals, and ecosystems of the United States and Canada. For ecosystems, it is also the source for the descriptions for the International Vegetation Classification (IVC) and Ecological Systems.