

U.S. National Vegetation Classification: Advancing the Description and Management of the Nation's Ecosystems

Introduction to the USNVC, VegBank and the Proceedings

Marianne Burke (U.S. Forest Service), Alexa McKerrow (U.S. Geological Survey), Scott Franklin (ESA Vegetation Classification Panel & Univ. of Northern Colorado).

Background

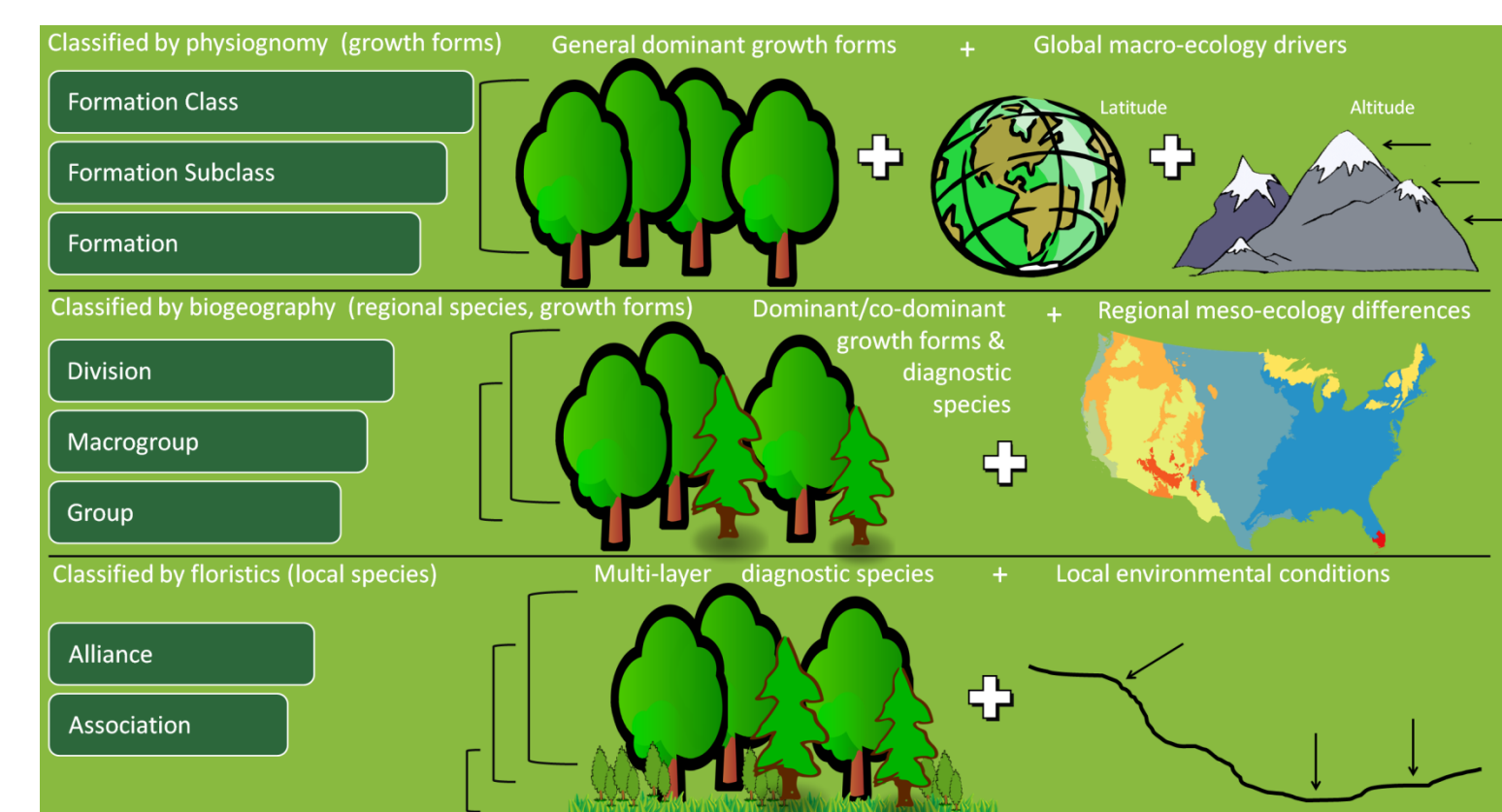
Vegetation classification is important for biological conservation and resource management and for basic scientific research. These activities require that ecological units be defined and that their distributions on the landscape be known and understood. A standardized method of classifying vegetation is needed to solve management and ecological problems that vary in scale and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

USNVC

In 2016 the US National Vegetation Classification Version 2.0 was rolled out by the FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee and its partners. This represents the formal release of the national classification based on the 2008 FGDC dynamic content standard.

The Classification

For natural vegetation the classification hierarchy is defined using eight levels, Formation class through association. Each of these levels are defined by physiognomy, growth form and ecological drivers.



Visit USNVC.org to explore the classification and download the database or individual type descriptions.

2.B.2 Temperate Grassland & Shrubland Formation

- 2.B.2.Na Western North American Grassland & Shrubland Division
 - MD49 Southern Rocky Mountain Montane Shrubland Macrogroup
 - G276 Southern Rocky Mountain-mahogany - Mixed Foothill Shrubland Group
 - A3730 Apache Plume - Skunkbush Sumac Shrubland Alliance
 - CEGL002222 Fallugia paradoxa - Rhus trilobata Shrubland Association
 - CEGL002330 Fallugia paradoxa / Rockland Shrubland Association
 - CEGL002333 Rhus trilobata - Ribes cereum Shrubland Association

A view of a portion of the USNVC hierarchy.

VEGBANK

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 Integrated Taxonomic Information System/ USDA Plants as well as all other plant taxa recorded in plot records. www.vegbank.org

Key features of Vegbank

- Permanent Archive
- Open Access
- User-friendly
- Comprehensive
- Concept-Based Taxonomy
- Ability to embargo sensitive data
- Unique Accession Codes for citing data

Over time the goal is for all USNVC types and their descriptions be supported by plot data and VEGBANK plays a central role in that vision.

PROCEEDINGS

The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) is a central organizing framework for documentation, inventory, monitoring, and study of vegetation in the United States. Because the NVC is a dynamic classification, changes can be made to the classification in a formal peer review process. The *Proceedings* of the USNVC serve as an official record of any changes, and the reasoning and evidence behind those changes.

<http://50.87.248.75/~usnvcorg/proceedings/index.php>

Get Involved

- Encourage your agency to participate in the FGDC – Vegetation Subcommittee
- Attend an USNVC workshop or field trip
- Join in on the ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification annual meeting
- Propose new types to the USNVC
- Become a reviewer
- Contribute Plot data to VegBank
- Get involved with state partners



Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2008. [The National Vegetation Classification Standard, Version 2](http://www.fgdc.gov/vegetation/standard/2008/). FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee. FGDC-STD-005-2008 (Version 2). pp. 126.



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