



July 11, 2013

Vegetation Subcommittee Update

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March 12, 2013v1

Introduction

The Mission/Purpose of the Vegetation Subcommittee is: the coordination of terrestrial vegetative data-related activities among Federal agencies and establishes a mechanism for the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of terrestrial vegetation data.

Members include:

- **Ralph H. Crawford, USFS**
- **Marianne Burke**
- **Mike Mulligan, USGS**
- **Gene Fults, NRCS**
- **Chris Lea, NPS**
- **Don Faber Langendoen, NatureServe**
- **Dave Cleland, USFS**
- **Scott Franklin, ESA**

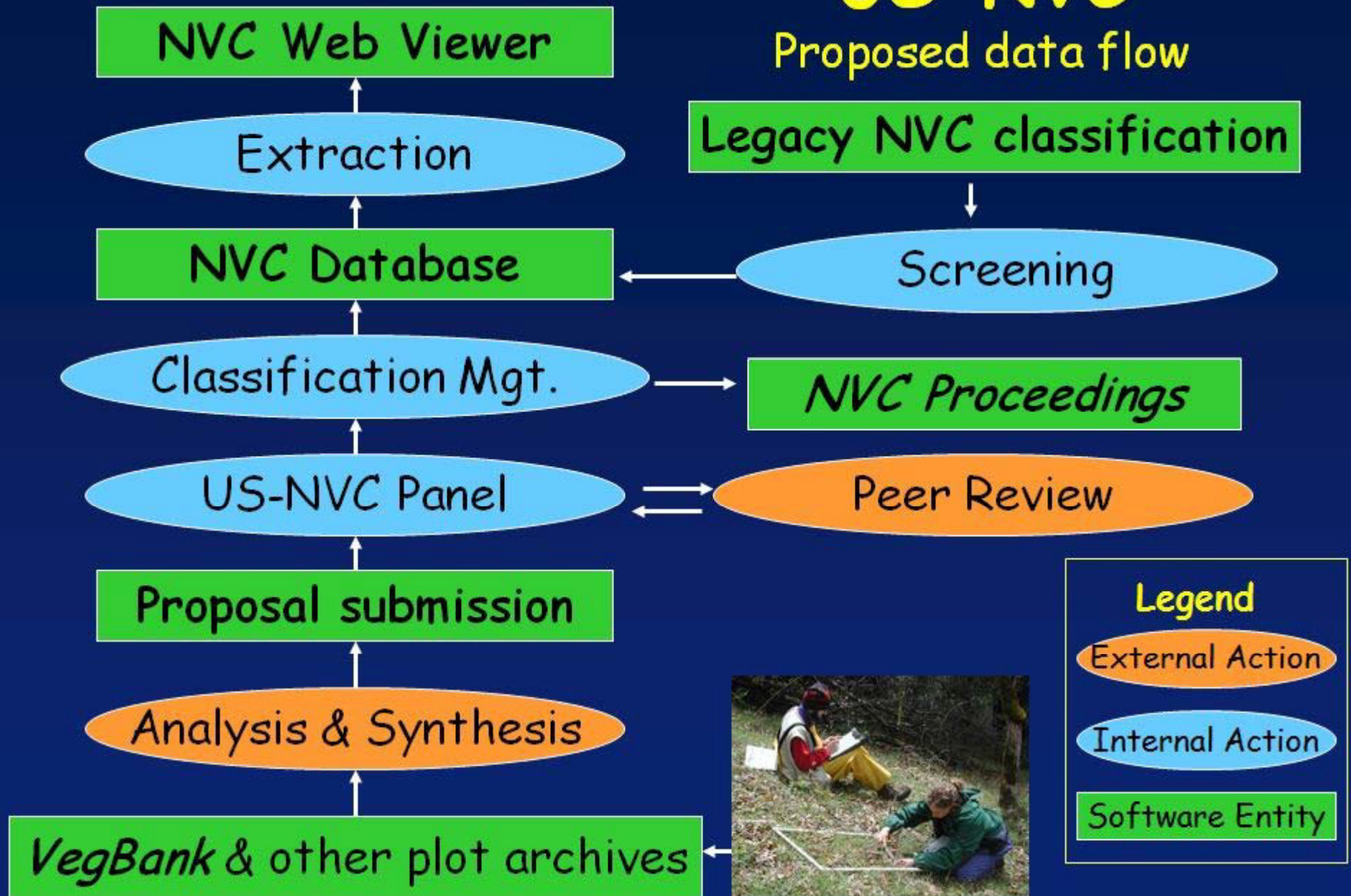
- **Alexa McKerrow, USGS**
- **Kristin Snow, NatureServe**
- **Jill Parsons, ESA**
- **Cliff Duke, ESA**
- **Harbin Li, USFS**
- **Robert Peet, UNC/ESA**
- **Dave Tart, USFS**
- **John Dennis, NPS**
- **Michelle Cox, US Navy**
- **Carol Spurrier, BLM**

- **Greg Reams, USFS**
- **Nate Herold, NOAA**
- **Karl Brown, NPS**
- **Kathy Goodin, NatureServe**
- **Laurel Gorman, USACE**
- **Dennis Thompson, NRCS**
- **Elizabeth Middleton, NASA**
- **Patrick Donnelly, FWS**

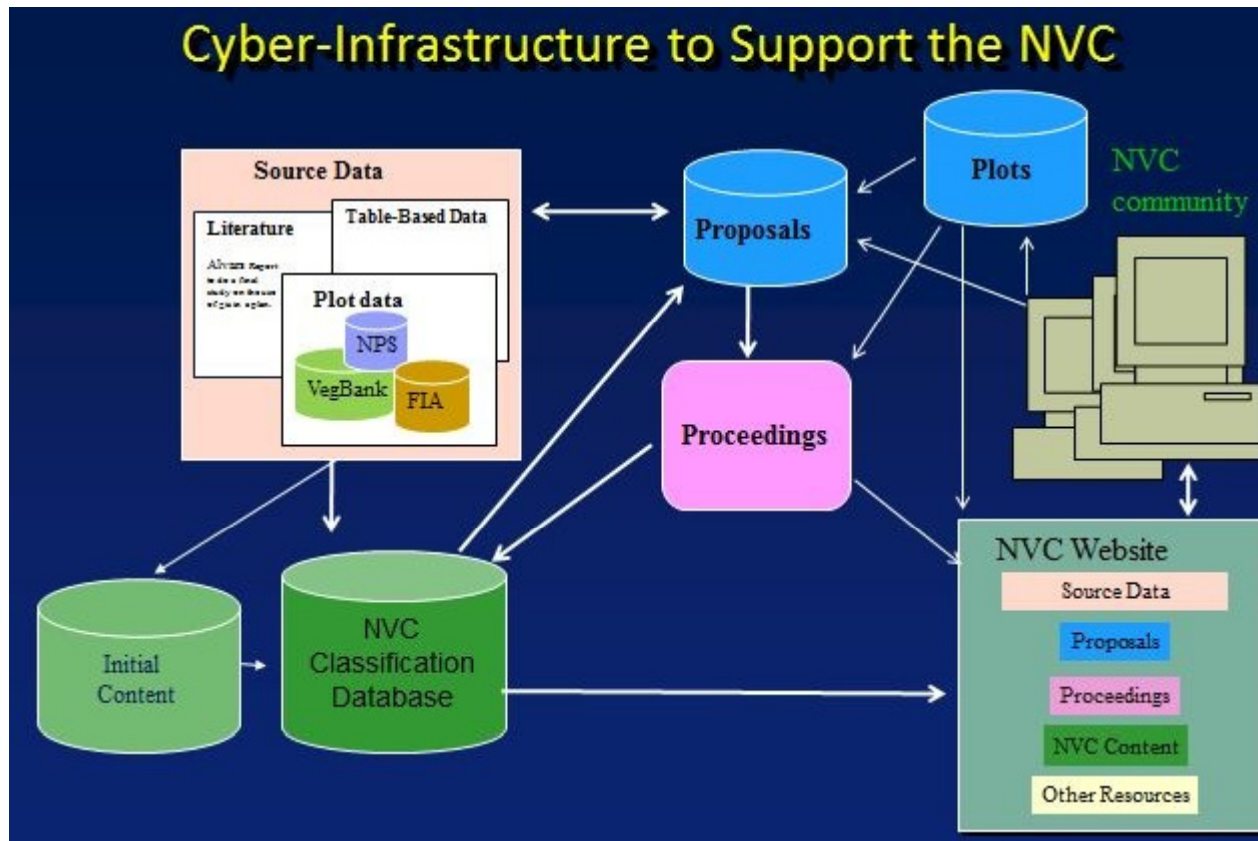


US-NVC

Proposed data flow



Cyber-Infrastructure to Support the NVC



Significant FY 12 Meetings

- ◆ **The Vegetation Subcommittee met monthly via conference call.**
- ◆ **ESA Panel Midcareer Managers Workshop (March 20, 2012)**
- ◆ **Vegetation Subcommittee Face-to-Face (June 25 – 27, 2012)**



Mid-Career Managers NVC Workshop

35 Participants from a variety of land management agencies met on March 20, 2012.

◆ Topics covered include:

- Tangible applications and uses of the NVC, as they relate to agency business needs (e.g. mapping & modeling).
- Cross-walking the NVC to other classification systems (e.g. NRCS Ecological Site Descriptions).
- Identifying NVC user needs; documenting implementation challenges and brainstorming solutions.



Mid-Career Managers NVC Workshop March 2012

- ◆ Workshop recommendations include:
 - Incorporate NVC training into college curricula.
 - Create detailed field methodology guidance.
 - Hold a workshop on VegBank.
 - Create a timeline for projected NVC needs, particularly regarding future climate change.

The screenshot shows the VegBank website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for LOGIN, DATASETS, and LOGOUT, and a 'Jump to...' dropdown menu. Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'plots', a search input field, and a 'go' button. There are also links for 'advanced search' and 'browse data', and a shopping cart icon showing 'download 0 items'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Find Plots' with links for 'Browse plots', 'Simple search', 'Search with a map', and 'Advanced plot search'; 'Plant Taxa' with links for 'What is a plant concept?', 'Browse plants', 'Search plants', and 'Submit plants'; 'Plant Communities' with links for 'What is a community?', 'Search communities', and 'Submit communities'; 'Supplemental Data' with links for 'People', 'Stratum methods', 'Cover methods', 'Projects', 'References', and 'Search supplemental data'; 'News' with links for 'Map plots: Example | Datacart | Multiple Datasets (Requires Login)', 'Save Your Datacart | Edit Datasets', and 'Create a Constanacy Table'; 'My VegBank Account' with links for 'Edit profile information' and 'Manage datasets'; and 'Learn About VegBank' with links for 'What is VegBank?', 'What is a plot?', 'FAQ', 'Tutorial', 'Cite or link to VegBank', 'Terms of use', 'Site map', and 'Contact'. A map of North America is displayed in the 'Find Plots' section, with a legend below it showing plot counts for different regions: 1-49, 50-99, 100-249, 250-999, 1,000-3,000, and 5,000.



Mid-Career Managers NVC Workshop

◆ Agencies represented at the workshop include:

- Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands
- US Geological Survey
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado Native Plant Society
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- NatureServe
- City of Boulder (Open Space and Mountain Parks Dept.)



Recent Developments/Projects



HIERARCHY REVISIONS WORKING GROUP 2010-2013

CANADA

- ◆ Del Meidinger (British Columbia Ministry of Forests, now consultant)
- ◆ Serguei Ponomarenko (NatureServe-Canada)
- ◆ Jean-Pierre Saucier (Ministère des Ressources naturelles, Québec)



UNITED STATES

- ◆ Don Faber-Langendoen (NatureServe) (chair)
- ◆ Gene Fults (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- ◆ Andy Gray (U.S. Forest Service)
- ◆ Eileen Helmer (U.S. Forest Service, Puerto Rico)
- ◆ Bruce Hoagland (University of Oklahoma)
- ◆ Todd Keeler-Wolf (California Department of Fish and Game)
- ◆ Alan Weakley (North Carolina Botanic Garden, University of North Carolina)



LATIN AMERICA

- ◆ Carmen Josse (NatureServe, Chile)
- ◆ Gonzalo Navarro (Bolivia & Universidad Complutense de Madrid)



ESA Vegetation Classification Panel Members 2013

Name	Affiliation
Scott Franklin (Chair)	University of Northern Colorado
Ralph Crawford	Chair, FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee, USDA Forest Service (Washington, DC)
Exequiel Ezcurra	University of California
Don Faber-Langendoen	NatureServe
William Gould	International Institute of Tropical Forestry
Eileen Helmer	International Institute of Tropical Forestry
Michael D. Jennings	The Nature Conservancy
Todd Keeler-Wolf	California Department of Fish and Game
Chris Lea	National Park Service (Denver, CO)
Orie L. Loucks	Miami University of Ohio
Alexa McKerrow	USGS
Esteban Muldavin	Biological Informatics Program, Natural Heritage New Mexico
Robert Peet	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Serguei Ponomarenko	NatureServe Canada
David Roberts (Chair Emeritus)	Montana State University
<u>John Sawyer</u>	Humbolt State University
Ayzik Solomeshch	University of California-Davis
Alan Weakley	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill



Ecological Society of America

USNVC Process Testing Peer Review

This pilot project will involve conducting analyses to identify new types and perform modifications to types currently described in the USNVC.

Plot data from Dr. Robert Peet's southeastern regional longleaf pine dataset will be used to develop a detailed proposals for association level types within two groups.

Xeric Sand Barrens and Uplands Group

Sub-Xeric Sandy Uplands Group

Results of the process will document the peer review process and the policy decisions necessary to standardize the evaluation of proposals for revising the NVC.



ESA Update Peer Review Plans **continued**

- ◆ ESA has a new agreement with the USGS to test the peer review process
- ◆ Identify dataset, propose types, submit plots to VegBank, and manage a peer review process
- ◆ In the kick-off meeting it was decided that the longleaf pine dataset represented the best available case study for testing the process.
- ◆ In January a work-plan and timeline update was made available to the Veg Subcommittee and the ESA Veg Panel.



Alliance Level Revisions

continued

- ◆ A new agreement funds the revision the alliance level of the USNVC.
- ◆ With the recent review of the group level and the screening of the associations, the time is right to revise the concepts at the alliance level.
- ◆ Started Sept 13, 2012 with one year to work through the conceptual revisions.

Natural Hierarchy Level

L1 – Formation Class

L2 – Formation Subclass

L3 – Formation

L4 – Division

L5 – Macrogroup

L6 – Group

L7 – Alliance

L8 – Association

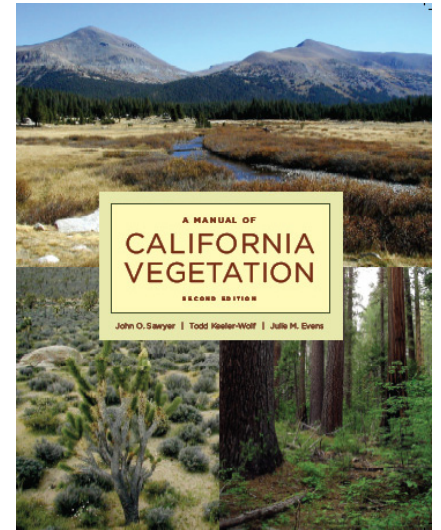


California CAP Grant continued

“Integrating the FGDC National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Standard with the CNPS/CDFG *Manual of California Vegetation*, second edition”

California has a long history of vegetation classification. This grant will allow the crosswalk of the California Alliances with the USNVC hierarchy.

California Native Plant Society
California Department of Game and Fish
NatureServe Western Regional Office



Federal Agencies

- ◆ US Forest Service
- ◆ Bureau of Land Management
- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ National Park Service
- ◆ U.S. Geological Survey



Organizational update

Federal Agencies

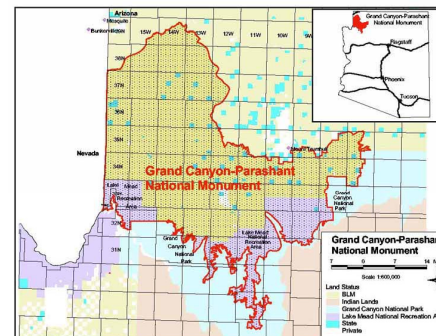
- ◆ working to finish the Information Memorandum encouraging field offices to use the NVC in their plans
Hope to finalize by March/April.
- ◆ Established the my.usgs space site to support the peer review process for finalizing the groups and for the alliance concept revisions. Dedicating efforts to migrate from the existing sharepoint to the requirements for the new space.



Organizational update

Federal Agencies Continued

- ◆ roll out meeting for the Grand Canyon able to complete in three phases, spanned the beginning and through hierarchy revision
- ◆ Using association assemblages. Able to provide a product to the park staff with good accuracy. Now that they have the product for the full study area – now the 800,000 acres mapped Parashant National Monument (BLM). Working with Lake Mead Natural Recreation Area to provide seamless mapping with that area as well.



Non Federal Organizational Partners

- ◆ NatureServe
- ◆ ESA
- ◆ Sustainable Rangeland RoundTable



Next Meeting

- ◆ The next meeting of the Vegetation Subcommittee will be held on March 20, 2013
- ◆ Some of the topics to be discussed at the next meeting include:
 - HRWG
 - ◆ Acknowledgement of Phase II completion,
 - ◆ Report publications
 - Peer Review Process
 - ◆ Review of the Workplan and timeline
 - Alliance Revision Update
 - ◆ Status of my.usgs space
 - ◆ Review of training needs
 - Creation of a mapping working group
 - Update to the USNVC Website
 - ◆ Access to the full content of the USNVC type descriptions



Discussions

◆ President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology



Next Steps

In the coming months, the Vegetation Subcommittee hopes to accomplish:

Avenues and resources for full USNVC implementation

Continued planning and system design for the full cyber-infrastructure to support the USNVC

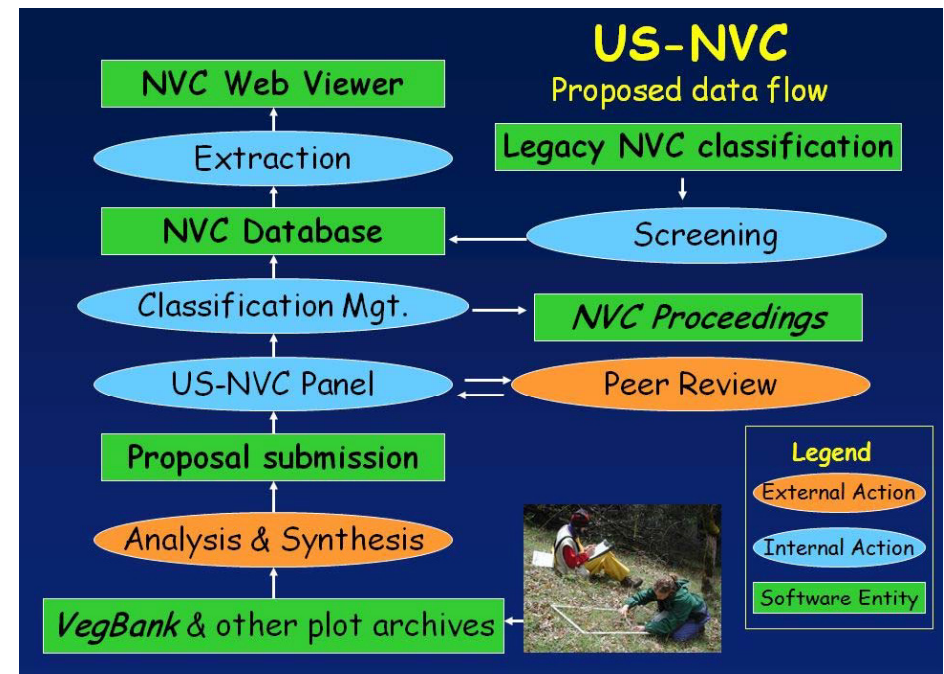
NVC Website

NVC Database

Plot Archive (VegBank)

Peer Review Tool

NVC Proceedings



Questions?

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