

Vegetation Mapping

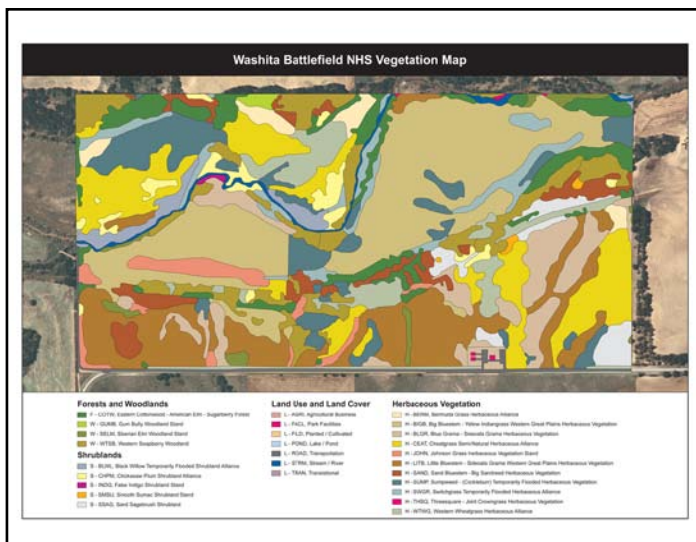
SOPN Parks

PROJECT SUMMARY

Introduction and Background

In 1994, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and NPS formed the USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program to cooperatively inventory and map the vegetation in the United States National Parks. The goals of this program are to provide baseline ecological data for park resource managers, obtain data that can be examined in a regional and national context, and provide opportunities for future inventory, monitoring, and research activities (FGDC 1997, Grossman et al. 1998).

The use of the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS) (FGDC 1997) and the USGS-NPS vegetation mapping protocols facilitate effective resource stewardship by ensuring compatibility and widespread use of the information throughout the NPS as well as by other federal and state agencies. These vegetation maps and associated information support a wide variety of resource assessment, park management, and planning needs. In addition they can be used to provide





Status

Final vegetation maps and reports have been completed and accepted for the following SOPN parks: BEOL, FOLS, FOUN, LAMR/ALFL, LJYO, SAND and WABA. Vegetation mapping is on-going at CAVO, CHIC and PECO (Figure 1).

The Accuracy Assessment phase of vegetation mapping was completed at CHIC this summer by a crew managed through cooperative agreement with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Over 280 pinpoint locations within the park were visited by the crew and the surrounding plant community assessed. The team overcame difficulties with topography, access and heat-related issues to complete this daunting task. Data has been compiled and submitted to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for analysis and completion of the draft report.

Natural Heritage New Mexico conducted the Accuracy Assessment phase at CAVO and PECO this summer and is in the process of compiling data for the draft report. It is anticipated that all draft reports will be sub-

mitted and commented on over the coming winter, with final reports ready in the Spring of 2009.

Literature Cited:

- Federal Geographic Data Committee Vegetation Subcommittee. 1997. Vegetation Classification Standard. June 1997. FGDC-STD-005. Available: <http://biology.usgs.gov/fgdc/veg/standards/vegstd>.
- Grossman, D.H., D. Faber-Langendoen, A.W. Weakley, M. Anderson, P. Bourgeron, R. Crawford, K. Goodin, S. Landaal, K. Metzler, K.D. Patterson, M. Pyne, M. Reid, and L. Sneddon. 1998. International Classification of Ecological Communities: Terrestrial Vegetation of the United States. Volume I: The National Vegetation Classification Standard. (Draft June 1997.) The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/publications/library.jsp#nspubs>.

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