

# Vegetation Inventory Program

## Inventory and Monitoring Program

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Natural Resource Stewardship and Science



### General Background

#### Background:

The Vegetation Inventory is an effort by the National Park Service (NPS) to classify, describe, and map vegetation communities in more than 270 national park units across the United States. This program is ambitious in scope and unique in vision, generating some of the most highly detailed and accurate national vegetation maps.

This program is one of 12 baseline inventories funded by the NPS I&M Program. The description and mapping of plant communities provides park managers with the baseline data to make current management decisions and enables them to quantify and analyze vegetation changes in parks with future products.

#### Program Objective:

The primary objective of the Vegetation Inventory Program is to provide technical and logistical oversight necessary for the production of high-quality, standardized maps and associated data sets of vegetation and other land-cover occurring within parks.

Visit our website (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/im/inventory/veg/index.cfm>).

### What's new? Standards and Protocols

#### 1. 12 Step Guide to Vegetation Inventory Projects

Summarizes our > 15 years of experience and "lessons learned" in the program.

- Requires a project study plan with approval
- Emphasizes the construction of a "mapping model" and critical interplay between ecological teams and mapping teams
- Stresses the importance of map validation
- Details the final product specifications

#### 2. Accuracy Assessment Guidance

- Distribution of points on the landscape
- Suitable analysis (# / type)
- Provides helpful equations and calculations
- FAQ's

#### 3. PLOTS Database, MS Access 2003, 2007 ; 2010 version upcoming

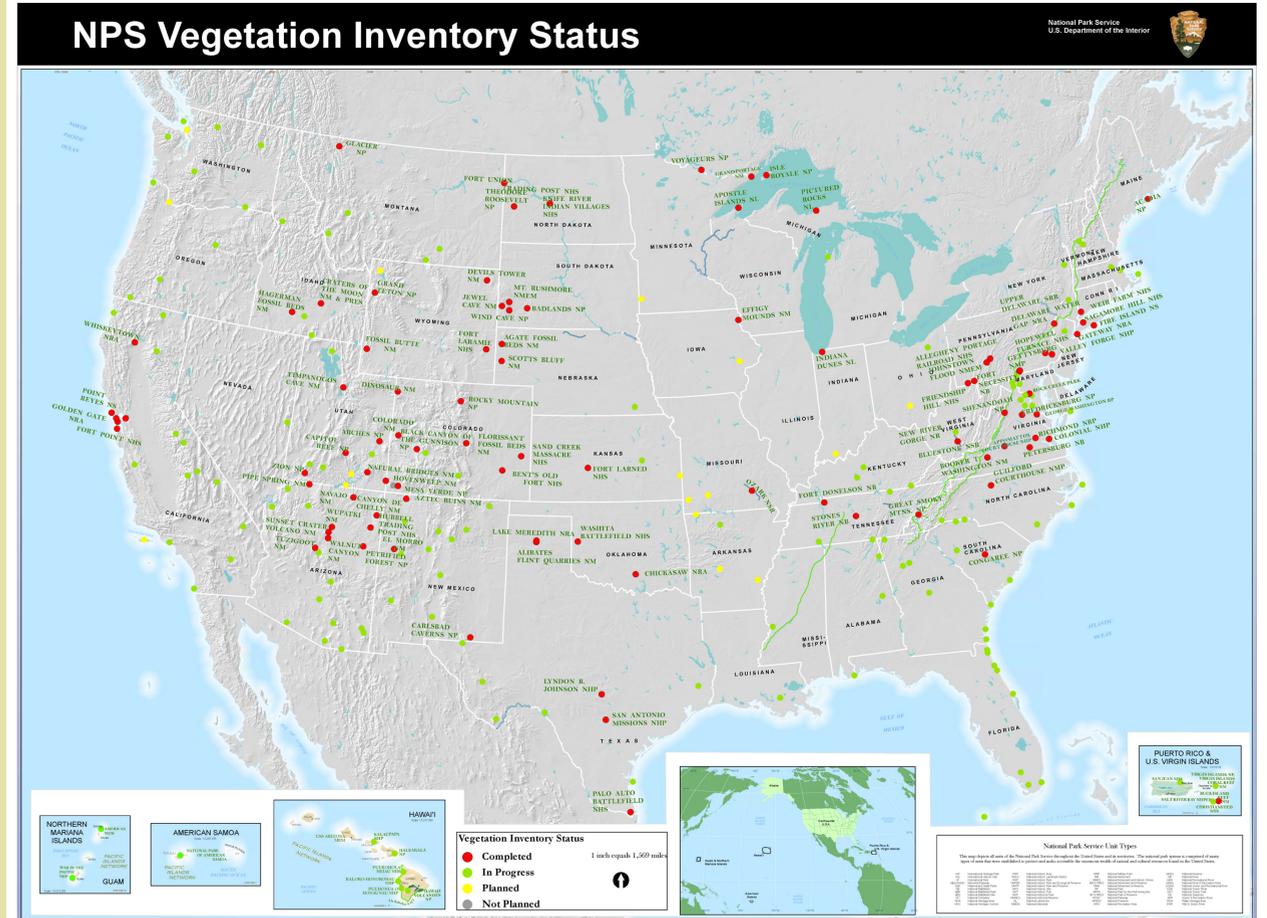
- Standardizing the ecological data

#### 4. Geodatabase Template

#### 5. Handheld Data Collection - Field Test Underway

- CartoPac Field Solution running on Juniper Systems, MESA hardware

### Program Status



#### Status Overview:

The Vegetation Inventory is 35% complete. We have 92 parks complete, 150 ongoing, and 18 planned but not started (n = 260; does not include Alaska Region). Anticipated completion data of all initial vegetation inventories is 2017-2018.

#### Major Upcoming Efforts:

- Gulf Coast Network: Vegetation Inventory Coordinator (Arnie Peterson) hired; Network-wide study plan in development FY2012
- Glen Canyon NRA: Study plan complete; field crews starting late summer 2011
- Channel Islands NP: Study plan in development; project starting 2012
- Bighorn Canyon NRA: Field crews starting in May 2011; testing electronic data collection (Mesa units)
- Yellowstone NP: Contracting for study plan development

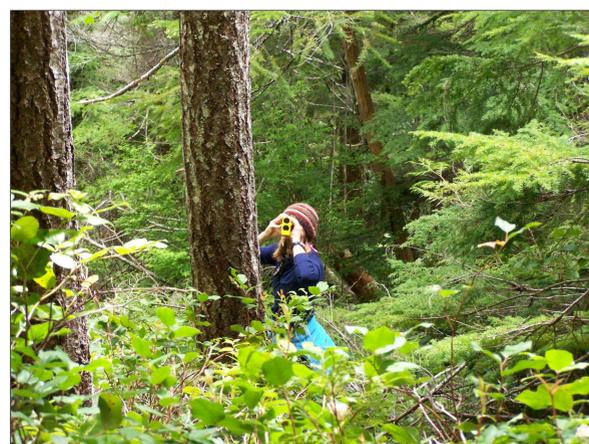
### Example : Field Photos and Reports

#### Sonoran Desert Network Field Staff



#### Big Bend NP – Rio Grande WSR Study Plan

#### North Coast and Cascade Field Staff



#### Final Mapping Project Report Great Lakes Network

#### Northern Colorado Plateau Field Staff

