



North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN) Vegetation Inventory Annual Report 2012

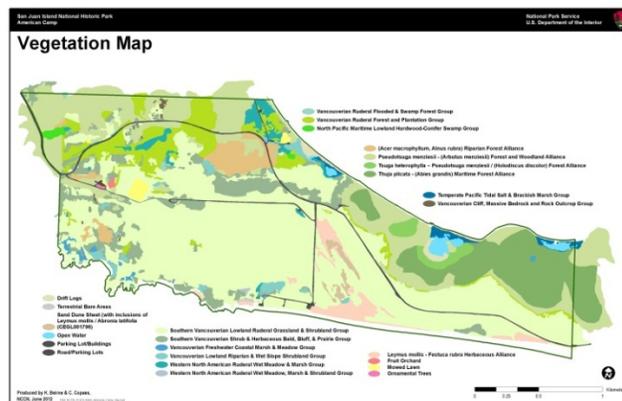
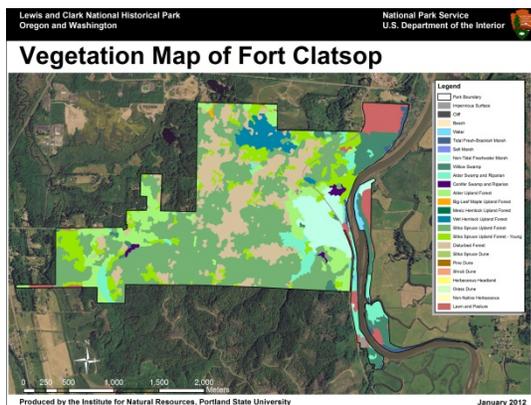
NCCN Parks: Ebeys Landing (EBLA), Fort Vancouver (FOVA), Lewis and Clark National Historic Park (LEWI), Mount Rainier National Park (MORA), North Cascades National Park (NOCA), Olympic National Park (OLYM), San Juan Island National Historical Park (SAJH).

FY 2012 Highlights:

- 2012 was an exciting year for vegetation inventory projects in the NCCN- the vegetation classification, keys, and maps for Lewis and Clark and San Juan Island have been completed.
- MORA map completed and final report in preparation
- New vegetation inventory initiated at NOCA

Classification and mapping work at Lewis and Clark National Historic Parks completed

Mapping cooperators with the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and NCCN staff hosted a roll-out meeting for the LEWI vegetation inventory and classification in April, attended by about 30 park and network staff and key partners from the local community. The map features 22 coastal and forest vegetated classes and 4 land surface classes. Overall accuracy is 82%. The map has been well received by LEWI natural resource staff and is already being used to help develop the Park's Forest Restoration Plan for the Fort Clatsop Unit.



Classification and mapping work at San Juan Island National Historic Parks completed

Joe Rocchio, Washington Natural Heritage Program ecologist, delivered the vegetation classification, keys and map for SAJH in May. The prevalence of ruderal map classes highlights the long history of human use of American and English Camps at SAJH. Overall accuracy is 79%. A roll-out meeting is planned for spring 2013. The new map is being used to help create the Park's Prairie Stewardship Plan and has been applied to habitat assessments for the Island Marble Butterfly, a federal species of concern.

Mount Rainier deliverables in preparation

The MORA vegetation inventory and classification is biggest project for the NCCN to date. INR cooperators presented the near-final version of the MORA vegetation map at a roll-out meeting in April. For this map, 30 vegetation classes were recognized, spanning a gradient of vegetation found from Mt. Rainier's volcanic cone down to the tall Douglas-fir Hemlock forests. The map was developed using

Lidar and other remotely-sensed inputs, with polygons developed using automated segmentation and classification algorithms. The final report is scheduled to be completed by September.

Mapping work at Olympic National Park continues

High snow levels combined with cold spring and summer conditions for the last two years have hindered data collection in the high elevations at OLYM. Collection of training data to classify and model vegetation continues this year, with a focus on high elevation sampling in August and September. A draft vegetation map will be produced this winter in preparation for next summer's accuracy assessment sampling.

Field sampling at North Cascades National Park Complex kicks-off

The first of three summers of training data collection at NOCA started in May. An NPS field crew of four plus two student interns will continue field work through September.



Matt Lee collects map training data in a green fescue meadow at North Cascades National Park.

NCCN Vegetation Inventory Work featured topic for the NCCN Science Learning Network (SLN)

A short educational video on the NCCN vegetation inventory was developed by the SLN and highlights the value of these projects to create baseline information about NCCN vegetation resources. See the video at <http://nwparkscience.org/node/1036>.

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