



## North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN) Vegetation Inventory Annual Report 2015

NCCN Parks: Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (EBLA), Fort Vancouver National Historical Reserve (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 2015 Highlights:

- EBLA map finished and deliverables in preparation
- FOVA map finished and deliverables in preparation
- 3 Parks, One Classification

### Ebey's Vegetation Classification and Mapping deliverables in preparation

Field sampling continued at Ebey's during the fall, followed by an accuracy assessment in the spring.



Natural vegetation on the Reserve includes coastal bluffs, lagoons, prairie remnants and stands of dry Douglas-fir forests found only within the rainshadow of the Olympic Mountains. Cultural and ruderal map classes capture the housing, agricultural fields and historic forts included in this complex mix of public and private lands.

*Picture: NPS Botanist Tynan Ramm-Granberg and Washington Natural Heritage Program Botanist Joe Rocchio key out the vegetation on the coastal bluff at Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve.*

### Mapping work at FOVA started in spring, deliverables are under review

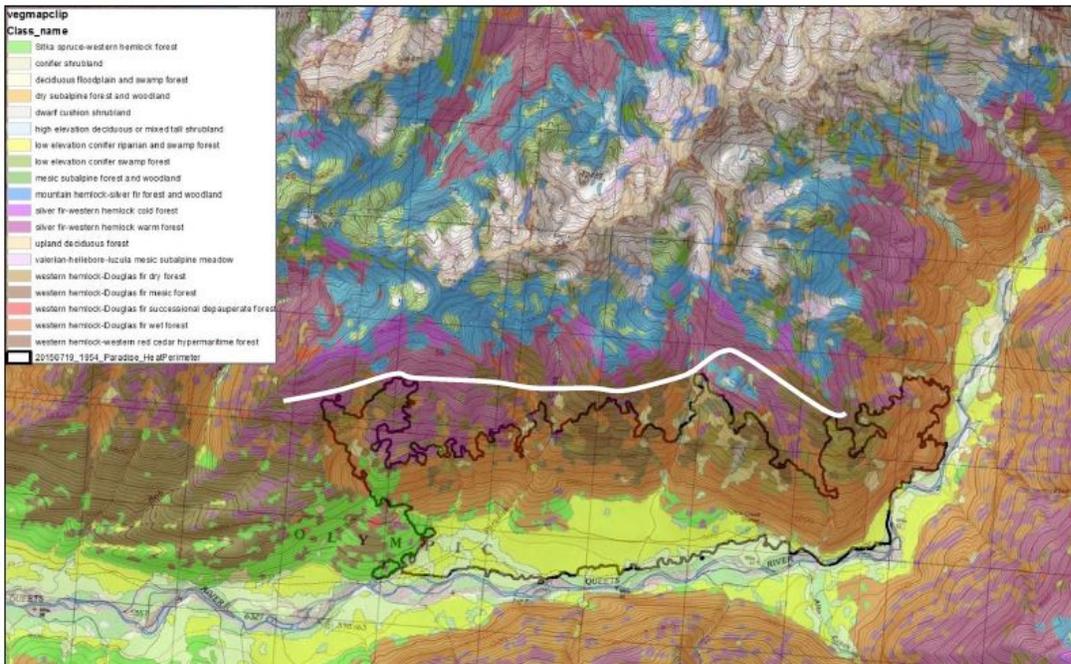
In the earliest period of Euro American exploration of the Pacific Northwest, Fort Vancouver was briefly home to the Scottish botanist, David Douglas, for whom the region's iconic Douglas-fir tree was named. The NCCN mapping team followed in Douglas' footsteps, classifying and mapping the vegetation around the historic fort site and upriver along the Columbia.

### Project implementation plans adjusted for MORA, OLYM and NOCA

Project implementation has been adjusted to allow for a comprehensive, three park (MORA, NOCA, OLYM) combined review of the field-collected training data. The review consists of making sure that the crews were consistent among parks in their selection of associations and clarifying the concepts for associations that were easily confused in the field and belong to different map classes. Adding this step was motivated by both the need to improve MORA map accuracy to meet program standards and the interest in maximizing consistency among products for all three parks. Descriptions and keys to the map classes are also being developed. While adjusting the project plan does mean a delay for the MORA and OLYM deliverables, these improvements will increase map accuracy and usability for all three products. Upcoming work will focus on applying mapping methods developed for MORA and OLYM to the NOCA final map production and preparation for the NOCA accuracy assessment which will occur next summer.

### Draft Olympic vegetation map used in Long Term Assessment of the Queets Fire

A combination of El Nino climate conditions and a rare lowland lightning strike ignited the largest fire in Olympic National Park history in the Queets rainforest. The park's draft vegetation map was used to evaluate the relationship between the forest types and the fire spread in order to help better understand and project fire behavior in this unusual setting for wildland fire.



*Queets fire perimeter in late July overlain on the draft vegetation layer, showing the correlation between the upslope perimeter of the fire and the silver fir forest type.*

### **I&M SAJH mapping work underpins Natural Resource Condition Assessment at SAJH**

The NRCA for SAJH benefited greatly from the vegetation classification and mapping work completed in 2012 by the I&M VIP. Detailed information on the location, extent and condition of prairies, wetlands and unique forest types such as the Oregon white oak woodlands formed the basis for the assessment chapter on terrestrial vegetation and landcover.