

VegBank

A vegetation field plot archive

Produced at:

The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

Principal Investigators:

Robert K. Peet, University of North Carolina

Michael D. Jennings, U.S. Geological Survey

Dennis Grossman, NatureServe

Marilyn D. Walker, USDA Forest Service

Primary collaborators:

Don Faber-Langendoen, NatureServe

Michael Lee, University of North Carolina

Mark Anderson, NCEAS

Gabriel Farrell, NCEAS

John Harris, NCEAS

VegBank is made possible by the support and cooperation of:



Ecological Society of America



National Center for Ecological
Analysis and Synthesis



NatureServe



Federal Geographic Data Committee



Gap Analysis Program



National Biological Information Infrastructure



National Science Foundation

A vegetation plot archive?

Currently there is no standard plot data repository.

A repository is needed for:

- Plot storage and preservation
- Plot access and identification
- Plot documentation in literature/databases

In addition, data exchange standards are needed to support alternative data archive initiatives.

VegBank

- The ESA Vegetation Panel is currently developing *VegBank* (www.vegbank.org) as a public vegetation plot archive
- *VegBank* is expected to function for vegetation plot data in a manner analogous to *GenBank*.
- Primary data will be deposited for reference, novel synthesis, and reanalysis, particularly for classification.

VegBank

[Login](#) [Logout](#) [Information](#)

VegBank is the vegetation plot database of the Ecological Society of America's Panel on Vegetation Classification. VegBank consists of three linked databases that contain (1) the actual plot records, (2) vegetation types recognized in the U.S. National Vegetation Classification and other vegetation types submitted by users, and (3) all plant taxa recognized by ITIS/USDA as well as all other plant taxa recorded in plot records. Vegetation records, community types and plant taxa may be submitted to VegBank and may be subsequently searched, viewed, annotated, revised, interpreted, downloaded, and cited.

Login to VegBank

Email

Password

Submit

[Lost your password?](#)

[Not yet a user? Register here.](#)

VegBank is operated by the [Panel on Vegetation Classification](#) of the Ecological Society of America in cooperation with the [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis](#).

News

- **NEW!** Users can now view VegBank [metadata](#).
- VegBank's [Site Map](#) is **updated!**
- Version 2 of the ESA [Guidelines for Describing Associations and Alliances of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification](#) has been completed.
- Users of VegBank are encouraged to report errors and suggestions with our [Bugzilla](#) tool.
- New? Get [info](#) about us or a [summary of data](#) in Vegbank. Try VegBank out by [registering](#) (it's free).

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. DBI-9905838 and DBI-0213794. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

[VegBank Home](#) | [About VegBank](#) | [Instructions](#) | [ESA Vegetation Panel](#) | [Contact](#) |

©2002 Ecological Society of America
[Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

Why are we here?

Education of the audience:

- Demonstrate the benefits of using VegBank.
- Develop a group of knowledgeable users to try out the tools and come out feeling they can be and want to be users.
- Instill in our user community a sense of common ownership. We need VegBank "beta-testers" and good honest critiques.
- Demonstrate how these tools can improve the vegetation classification enterprise.

Education of the VegBank team:

- Determine the problems users encounter in functionality and interface of both VegBank and VegBranch.
- Learn the training needs in anticipation of future workshops with more naive users?
- Learn which uses are anticipated and which features are needed.
- Determine what are the most important inhibitors for getting data into and out of VegBranch and VegBank?

Traditional Community Ecology

The questions:

- How are communities structured?
- How do taxa interact?

The solutions :

- Simple observations.
- Simple experiments.

The scale:

- Stand or landscape.

Emerging data sources

- **Site data:** climate, soils, topography, etc.
- **Taxon attribute data:** identification, phylogeny, distribution, life-history, function attributes, etc.
- **Occurrence data:** attributes of individuals (e.g., size, age, growth rate) and taxa (e.g., cover, biomass) that co-occur at a site.

EcoInformatics ?

Massive plot data have the potential to create new disciplines and allow critical syntheses.

- Remote sensing. What is really on the ground?
- Community ecology. Who occurs together, and where, and following what rules?
- Monitoring. What changes are really taking place in the vegetation?
- Restoration. What should be our restoration targets?
- Vegetation & species modeling. Where should we expect species & communities to occur after environmental changes?