

## **Establishing a dynamic US federal national vegetation classification process standard in partnership with non federal partners**

*Ralph H . Crawford*

*<sup>1</sup>US Forest Service Research and Development , 1601 North Kent Street RPC-4 , Arlington , Virginia 22209 , E-mail : rcrawford01@fs.fed.us*

**Key words :** vegetation types , vegetation classification

**Introduction** The overall purpose of this Federal National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVC) is to support the development and use of a consistent national vegetation classification in order to produce uniform statistics about vegetation resources across the nation , based on vegetation data gathered at local , regional , or national levels .

**Material and methods** The following is the twelve step process for formal development of a FGDC Standard (OMB 1990) . 1-develop proposal ; 2-review proposal , 3-set up project , 4-produce working draft , 5-review working draft , 6-review and evaluate committee draft , 7-approve standard for public review , 8-coordinate public review , 9-respond to public comment , 10-evaluate responsiveness to public comments , 11-approve standard endorsement , 12-endorsement .

**Results** This will facilitate cooperation on vegetation management issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries . It is therefore important that , as agencies map or inventory vegetation , they collect enough data to translate it for national reporting , aggregation , and comparisons . The ability to crosswalk other vegetation classifications and map legends to the NVC will facilitate the compilation of regional and national summaries .

**Conclusions** The overall purpose of this standard is to facilitate and support the development of a standardized vegetation classification for the United States and its use for information sharing . It also will define and adopt standards for vegetation data collection and analysis used in support of the classification to maintain scientific credibility of the national classification through a peer review process . Finally this Standard will facilitate inter-agency collaboration and inter-agency product consistency .

### **Reference**

OMB .1990 . Circular A-16 Coordination of Geographical Information and Related Spatial Data Activities . *Office of Management and Budget* . Washington , DC .