

INTRODUCTION

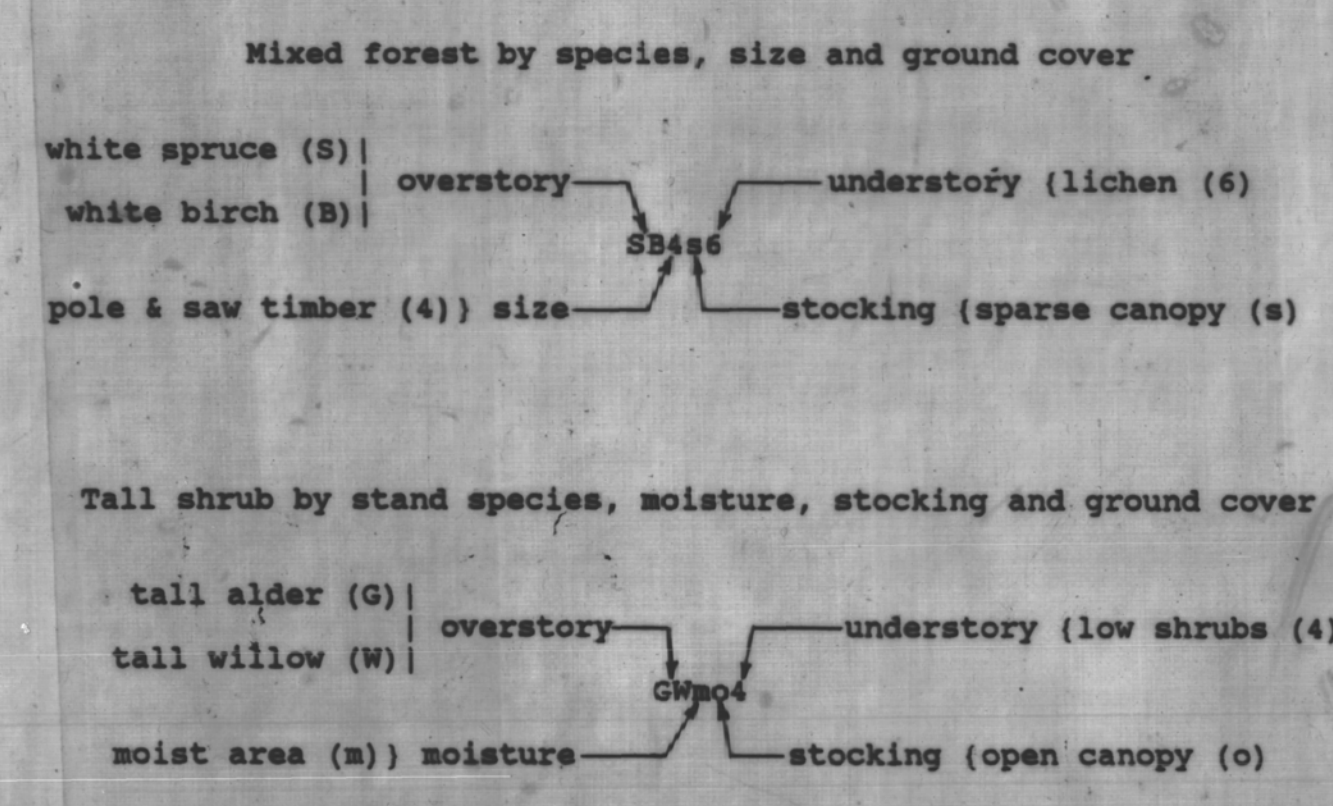
The term vegetation is used to describe the landscape's plant cover as illustrated on the map. Three major vegetation growth forms (cover types) have been classified. These are forests, shrubs and herbaceous. Biological and physical factors determine the plant types and the character of their groupings (communities). Land cover is the non-vegetated landscape cover such as water bodies, snow and ice and barren.

For mapping, similar areas of plant or land cover were differentiated creating discrete enclosures called polygons. Each polygon is then identified with a particular descriptive name, or vegetation type, using the appropriate alphanumeric designator and symbol. NASA high altitude color infrared photographs, at a scale of 1:60,000, were interpreted using stereo pairs. Unfortunately, budget constraints prohibited "ground truth" surveys. Minimum polygon size for vegetation and land cover is 40 acres; for water, the minimum size is 10 acres. Base mapping was done on 1:63,360 scale orthophoto quad sheets.

The accompanying table presents an explanation of symbols and classification scheme used in this map; the examples demonstrates how the scheme is to be interpreted.

The classification scheme used to make the calls on this map is based on the species and relative height of the vegetation present in the canopy. The vegetative ground canopy generally consists of 3 layers: the overstory, understory and the intermediates. The overstory is the tallest growth form present, the understory is next to the ground surface and the intermediates are between those in height. All layers are not necessarily always present. The growth forms found are forests, shrubs and herbaceous. Depending on the canopy present, any combination of these forms may be found and is indicated in the calling sequence.

EXAMPLES



NATIVE VEGETATION OF NORTHWEST ALASKA

| Designator                  | Forest (modifiers designate size)          |
|-----------------------------|--|
| SW                          | White spruce                               |
| MA                          | Black spruce                               |
| WB                          | White birch                                |
| BP                          | Balsam poplar                              |
| QA                          | Quaking aspen                              |
| SM                          | White spruce & black spruce                |
| SB                          | White spruce & white birch                 |
| SP                          | White spruce & balsam poplar               |
| SA                          | White spruce & quaking aspen               |
| MB                          | Black spruce & white birch                 |
| MP                          | Black spruce & balsam poplar               |
| BA                          | White birch & quaking aspen                |
| PB                          | White spruce, black spruce & white birch   |
| PP                          | White spruce, black spruce & balsam poplar |
| ST                          | White spruce & tall shrub                  |
| MT                          | Black spruce & tall shrub                  |
| BT                          | White birch & tall shrub                   |
| PT                          | Balsam poplar & tall shrub                 |
| SL                          | White spruce & low shrub                   |
| ML                          | Black spruce & low shrub                   |
| BL                          | White birch & low shrub                    |
| <b>Tall Shrub (&gt;5')</b>  |  |
| GA                          | Alder                                      |
| WO                          | Willow                                     |
| GW                          | Alder & willow                             |
| <b>Low Shrub (8" to 5')</b> |  |
| ms                          | Mixed shrub (tundra)                       |
| al                          | Alder                                      |
| bd                          | Dwarf birch                                |
| ws                          | Willow & shrub                             |
| ls                          | Lichen & shrub                             |
| sw                          | Willow                                     |
| aw                          | Alder & willow                             |
| <b>Herbaceous</b>           |  |
| 60                          | Undifferentiated herbaceous                |
| 61                          | Sedge (wet meadow)                         |
| 62                          | Tussock tundra                             |
| 63                          | Water sedge & muskeg (bog-fern)            |
| 70                          | Dwarf shrub & lichen (mat & cushion)       |

LAND COVER

| Designator                        | Land Cover Type            |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 80                                | Lakes & ponds              |               |
| 82                                | River & streams            |               |
| 85                                | Snow & ice                 |               |
| 88                                | Burns (recent)             |               |
| 90                                | Barren                     |               |
| 95                                | Airfield, mining area, etc |               |
| <b>FOREST MODIFIERS</b>           |                            |               |
| Designator                        | Tree Size                  | D.B.H. Range* |
| 1.                                | Seedlings & saplings       | .05-4.9"      |
| 2                                 | Pole timber-conifer        | 5.0-8.9"      |
| 2                                 | Pole timber-hardwood       | 5.0-10.9"     |
| 3                                 | Saw timber-conifer         | 9.0-20.9"     |
| 3                                 | Saw timber-hardwood        | 11.0-20.9"    |
| 4                                 | Mixed pole & saw timber    | 5.0-20.9"     |
| <b>FOREST AND SHRUB MODIFIERS</b> |                            |               |
| Designator                        | Canopy Closure             |               |
| s                                 | Sparse/woodland (10-24%)   |               |
| o                                 | Open (25-59%)              |               |
| c                                 | Closed (>59%)              |               |
| Designator                        | Ground Cover               |               |
| 1                                 | Alder                      |               |
| 2                                 | Willow                     |               |
| 3                                 | Tall shrub                 |               |
| 4                                 | Low shrub                  |               |
| 5                                 | Dwarf birch                |               |
| 6                                 | Lichen                     |               |
| 7                                 | Old burn                   |               |
| 8                                 | Grass & grasslike plants   |               |
| 9                                 | Barren                     |               |
| <b>Moisture</b>                   |                            |               |
| d                                 | Dry                        |               |
| m                                 | Moist                      |               |
| w                                 | Wet                        |               |
| <b>WATER MODIFIERS</b>            |                            |               |
| Designator                        | Turbidity                  |               |
| c                                 | Clear                      |               |
| v                                 | Variable                   |               |
| t                                 | Turbid                     |               |

\* D.B.H. refers to the tree diameter at breast height (4 1/2' above ground level) measured on the upslope side of the tree.

Scale 1:63,360

ALASKA QUADRANGLE LOCATION

APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1984

Vegetation/landcover mapping by E. Boca, 1985. Polygon delineation and classification of landcover was accomplished by using the NASA high-altitude CIR photography in stereo with the orthophoto base map. No aerial nor ground truthing was done by this investigator.

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SHUNGNAK (D-1)

