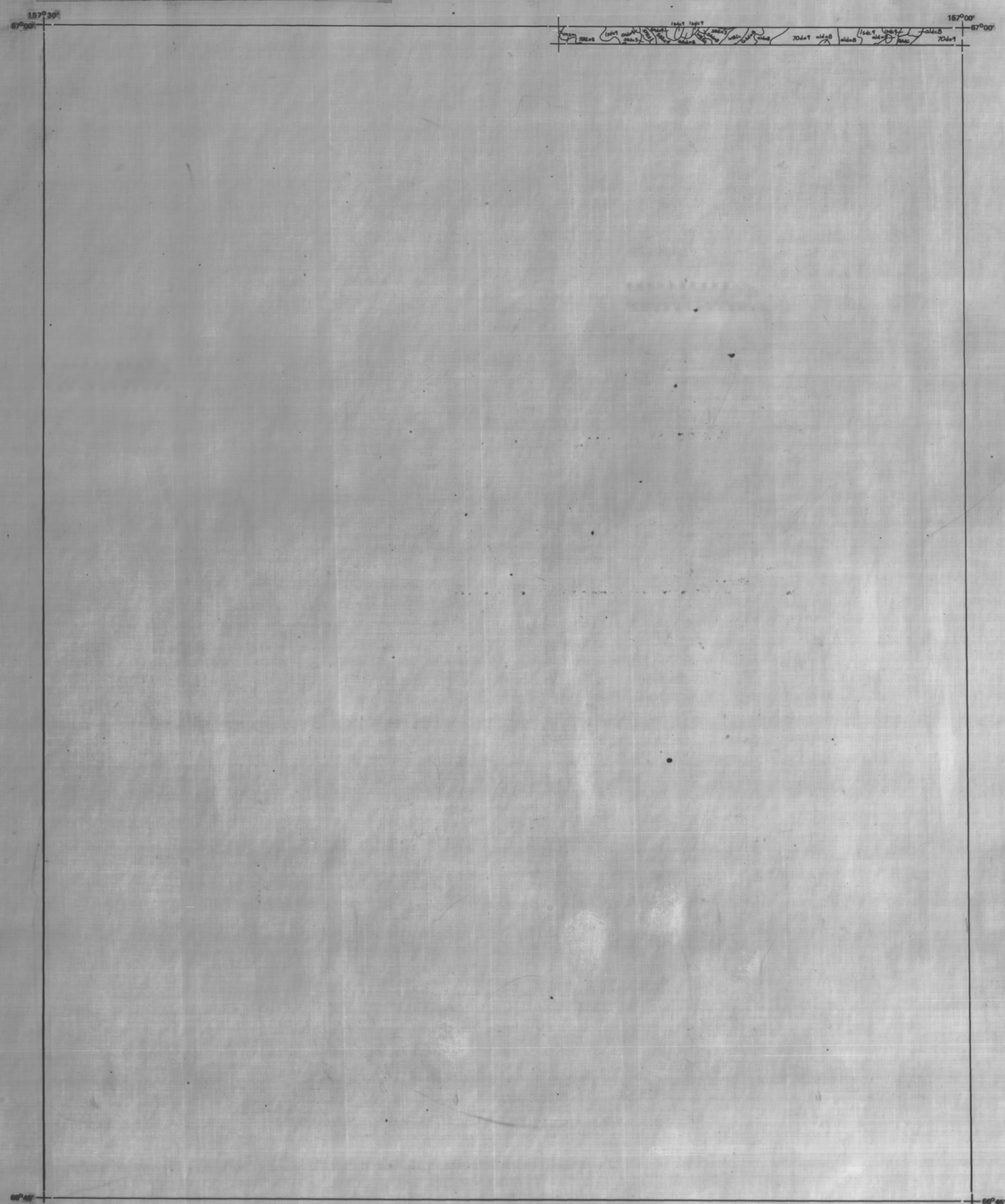
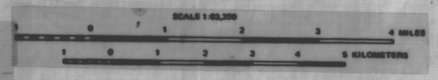


Base by U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the State of Alaska. Orthophotograph prepared from 1:120,000 scale aerial photographs taken July 1980 and July 1981.



Vegetation/landcover mapping by E. Beck, 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 interpretor.

THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN READ BY THE DIRECTOR, HAS NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL DGGS PUBLICATION STATUS, AND SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED AS SUCH.

Alaska Department of NATURAL RESOURCES

VEGETATION/LANDCOVER MAP OF THE SHUNGNAK D-3 QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

1986

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.

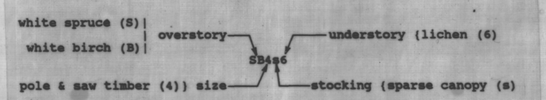
For mapping, similar areas of plant or land cover were differentiated creating discrete enclosures called polygons. Each polygon is then identified with a particular descriptive name, or vegetation type, using the appropriate alphanumeric designator and symbol. NASA high altitude color infrared photographs, 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.

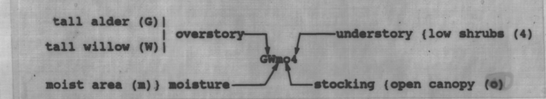
The classification scheme used to make the calls on this map is based on the species and relative height of the vegetation present in the canopy. The vegetative ground canopy generally consists of 3 layers: the overstory, understory and the intermediates. The overstory is the tallest growth form present, 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

Mixed forest by species, size and ground cover



Tall shrub by stand species, moisture, stocking and ground cover



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
	Tall Shrub (>5')
GA	Alder
WO	Willow
GW	Alder & willow
	Low Shrub (8" to 5')
ms	Mixed shrub (tundra)
al	Alder
bd	Dwarf birch
ws	Willow & shrub
ls	Lichen & shrub
sx	Willow
aw	Alder & willow
	Herbaceous
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

FOREST MODIFIERS

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"

FOREST AND SHRUB MODIFIERS

	Canopy Closure
s	Sparse/woodland (10-24%)
o	Open (25-59%)
c	Closed (>59%)
	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
	Moisture
d	Dry
m	Moist
w	Wet

WATER MODIFIERS

	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.