

Natural Heritage Vegetation Database for West Virginia

James Vanderhorst, Elizabeth Byers & Brian Streets

Abstract: The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program maintains a database of vegetation plots sampled across the state, the Natural Heritage Vegetation Database for West Virginia (GIVD ID NA-US-013). Data includes information on vegetation structure, plant species composition, and environment in plots of specified area and location. The purpose of this database is to facilitate classification and characterization of natural and semi-natural vegetation in the state to serve as a tool for conservation of biological diversity in all kingdoms.

Keywords: conservation; vegetation plot.

GIVD Database ID: NA-US-013		Last update: 2012-01-27	
Natural Heritage Vegetation Database for West Virginia			
Scope: Our database includes vegetation plot data collected from throughout the state of West Virginia. Plot data is limited to natural and semi-natural vegetation, and emphasis is placed on high quality stands. Plots must sample a specific area and meet minimum standards for locational, environmental, and floristic data. Floristic lists must be reasonably complete for the defined area, with percentage cover estimated for each plant taxon.			
Status: completed and continuing		Period: 1963-2012	
Database manager(s): James Vanderhorst (James.P.Vanderhorst@wv.gov); Elizabeth Byers (Elizabeth.A.Byers@wv.gov); Brian Streets (Brian.P.Streets@wv.gov)			
Owner: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program PO Box 67 Elkins, West Virginia 26241			
Web address: [NA]			
Availability: according to a specific agreement		Online upload: no	Online search: no
Database format(s): MS Access		Export format(s): MS Access, Excel, PDF, CSV file, plain text file	
Publication: [NA]			
Plot type(s): normal plots; time series		Plot-size range: 25-400 m ²	
Non-overlapping plots: 3,896	Estimate of existing plots: 4,000	Completeness: 97%	
Total plot observations: 3,905	Number of sources: [NA]	Valid taxa: 2,327	
Countries: US: 100.0%			
Forest: [NA] — Non-forest: [NA]			
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%; bryophytes (terricolous or aquatic): 22%; lichens (terricolous or aquatic): 22%; algae (terricolous or aquatic): 1%			
Environmental data: altitude: 100%; slope aspect: 73%; slope inclination: 50%; microrelief: 6%; soil depth: 50%; surface cover other than plants (open soil, litter, bare rock etc.): 60%; soil pH: 40%; land use categories: 19%			
Performance measure(s): cover: 100%; measurements like diameter or height of trees: 80%			
Geographic localisation: GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 53%; point coordinates less precise than GPS, up to 1 km: 46%; political units or only on a coarser scale (>10 km): 1%			
Sampling periods: 1960-1969: 1.0%; 1980-1989: 2.0%; 1990-1999: 36.0%; 2000-2009: 52.0%; 2010-2019: 10.0%			
<i>Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/NA-US-013</i>			

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