Mesa Verde National Park
Vegetation Mapping Project

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Mesa Verde National Park Vegetation Map Database was developed as a primary product in the Mesa Verde National Park Vegetation Classification, Distribution, and Mapping project. The map database includes vegetation in three levels of thematic organization at the park: the base, group, and management map levels. Most of the base map classes represent plant communities identified to National Vegetation Classification associations. The Vegetation Classification and Distribution Mapping Report: Mesa Verde National Park describes the methods used to develop the map database and map classes. The project was sponsored by the USGS-NPS National Vegetation Mapping Program and the National Park Service (NPS) Southern Colorado Plateau Network. The work was executed by a multi-agency team. The vegetation map database includes the park and approximately a 1 kilometer buffer outside the park boundary.

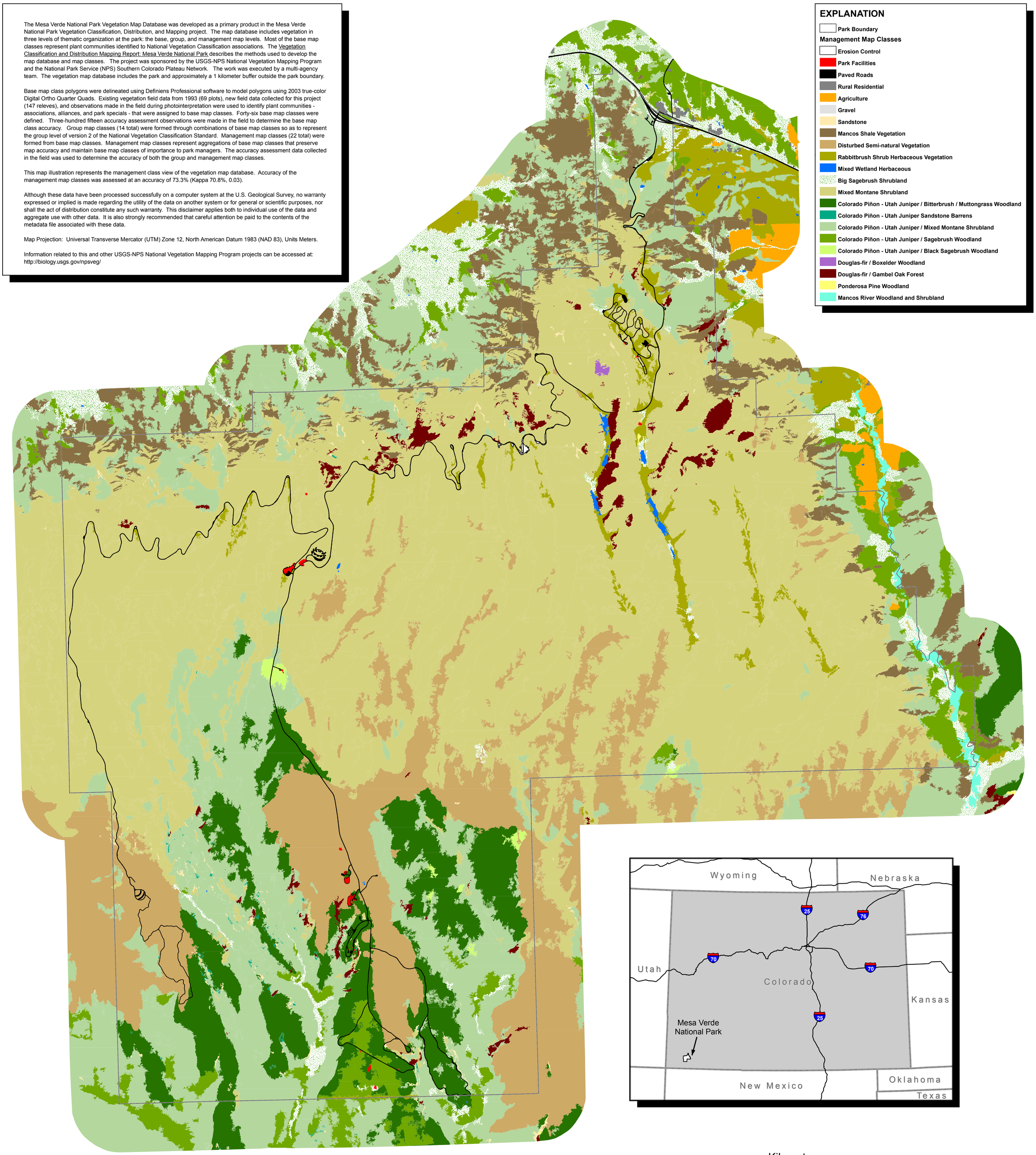
Base map class polygons were delineated using Definiens Professional software to model polygons using 2003 true-color Digital Ortho Quarter Quads. Existing vegetation field data from 1993 (69 plots), new field data collected for this project (147 releves), and observations made in the field during photointerpretation were used to identify plant communities - associations, alliances, and park specials - that were assigned to base map classes. Forty-six base map classes were defined. Three-hundred fifteen accuracy assessment observations were made in the field to determine the base map class accuracy. Group map classes (14 total) were formed through combinations of base map classes so as to represent the group level of version 2 of the National Vegetation Classification Standard. Management map classes (22 total) were formed from base map classes. Management map classes represent aggregations of base map classes that preserve map accuracy and maintain base map classes of importance to park managers. The accuracy assessment data collected in the field was used to determine the accuracy of both the group and management map classes.

This map illustration represents the management class view of the vegetation map database. Accuracy of the management map classes was assessed at an accuracy of 73.3% (Kappa 70.8%, 0.03).

Although these data have been processed successfully on a computer system at the U.S. Geological Survey, no warranty expressed or implied is made regarding the utility of the data on another system or for general or scientific purposes, nor shall the act of distribution constitute any such warranty. This disclaimer applies both to individual use of the data and aggregate use with other data. It is also strongly recommended that careful attention be paid to the contents of the metadata file associated with these data.

Map Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 12, North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83), Units Meters.

Information related to this and other USGS-NPS National Vegetation Mapping Program projects can be accessed at: http://biology.usgs.gov/npsveg/



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Map Produced by U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center

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