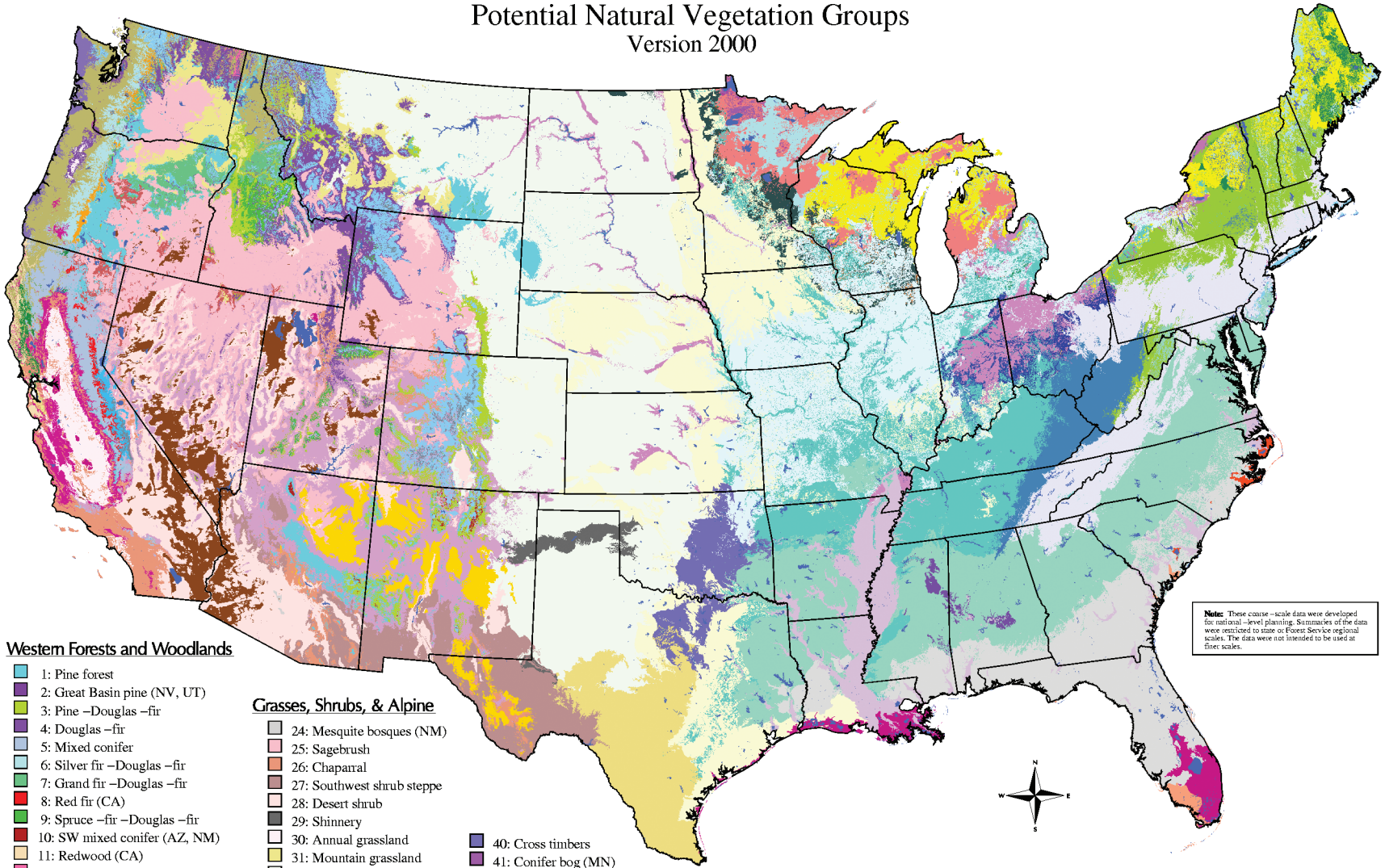
Potential Natural Vegetation Groups
Version 2000



Note: These coarse –scale data were developed for national –level planning. Summaries of the data were restricted to state or Forest Service regional scales. The data were not intended to be used at finer scales.

Western Forests and Woodlands

- 1: Pine forest
- 2: Great Basin pine (NV, UT)
- 3: Pine –Douglas –fir
- 4: Douglas –fir
- 5: Mixed conifer
- 6: Silver fir –Douglas –fir
- 7: Grand fir –Douglas –fir
- 8: Red fir (CA)
- 9: Spruce –fir –Douglas –fir
- 10: SW mixed conifer (AZ, NM)
- 11: Redwood (CA)
- 12: Cedar –hemlock –pine (WA)
- 13: Cedar –hemlock –Douglas –fir
- 14: Spruce –cedar –hemlock (WA, OR)
- 15: Fir –hemlock (WA, OR)
- 16: Spruce –fir
- 17: Lodgepole –subalpine (CA)
- 18: California mixed evergreen
- 19: Oakwoods (CA)
- 20: Mosaic cedar –hemlock –Douglas –fir & oak (OR)
- 21: Alder –ash (OR, WA)
- 22: Juniper –pinyon
- 23: Juniper steppe

Grasses, Shrubs, & Alpine

- 24: Mesquite bosques (NM)
- 25: Sagebrush
- 26: Chaparral
- 27: Southwest shrub steppe
- 28: Desert shrub
- 29: Shinnery
- 30: Annual grassland
- 31: Mountain grassland
- 32: Plains grassland
- 33: Prairie
- 34: Desert grassland
- 35: Texas savanna
- 36: Wet grassland
- 37: Alpine meadows –barren

Eastern Forests

- 38: Oak savanna (ND)
- 39: Mosaic bluestem/oak –hickory
- 40: Cross timbers
- 41: Conifer bog (MN)
- 42: Great Lakes pine forest
- 43: Spruce –fir
- 44: Maple –basswood (MN, WI, IL)
- 45: Oak –hickory
- 46: Elm –ash forest
- 47: Maple –beech –birch
- 48: Mixed mesophytic forest
- 49: Appalachian oak
- 50: Transition Appalachian oak –northern hardwood
- 51: Northern hardwoods
- 52: Northern hardwoods –fir (MA, NH, NY)
- 53: Northern hardwoods –spruce
- 54: Northeastern oak –pine
- 55: Oak –hickory –pine
- 56: Southern mixed forest
- 57: Loblolly –shortleaf pine
- 58: Blackbelt
- 59: Oak –gum –cypress

Other

- 60: Northern floodplain
- 61: Southern floodplain
- 62: Barren
- 63: Water

This map is based on a terrain – matched refinement of Kuchler's Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV) map. Kuchler's PNV map was digitized for the conterminous United States, then adjusted to match terrain using a 500 meter Digital Elevation Model, 4th Code Hydrologic Unit delineations, and Ecological Subregions (Bailey's Sections). These biophysical data layers were integrated with two current vegetation layers (Resource Planning Act's 1992 map of Forest Types and map of Forest Densities, and USGS EROS Data Center's 1991 map of Land Cover Characterization) to develop generalized successional pathway diagrams. Expert regional panels refined the PNV map based on these successional pathways.

PNV is the "climax" vegetation that will occupy a site without disturbance or climatic change. PNV is therefore an expression of environmental factors such as topography, soils, and climate across an area. Where cover type is a classification of existing vegetation, PNV is a site classification based on climax vegetation. Because the existing cover type at any particular location and time may reflect a vegetation community anywhere along its successional pathway – from seral to climax – the cover type may be the same as the PNV.

This product was developed by the Fire Modeling Institute at the Fire Sciences Laboratory, Missoula, Montana through funding from:
USDA FS/USDI Joint Fire Sciences Program
in collaboration with
USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management
http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/fuelman

Map Date: March 23, 2001
Map Number: pnvgroup2000