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SECTION 1: Identification Information

Originator: The Minnesota County Biological Survey, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological Resources

Title: MBS Native Plant Communities

Metadata Product ID: 25000004

Abstract: This data layer contains results of the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS). It includes polygons representing the highest quality native plant communities remaining in surveyed counties. These native plant communities are important areas for conservation. Native plant communities (sometimes also referred to as "natural communities") are groups of native plants that interact with each other and their surrounding environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced plant or animal species. These groups of native species form recognizable units, such as an oak forest, a prairie, or a marsh, that tend to repeat across the landscape and over time. Native plant communities are generally classified and described by considering vegetation, hydrology, land forms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes. The native plant community types and subtypes in this data layer are classified primarily by vegetation and major habitat features. Classification and inventory of native plant communities is an ongoing effort of the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program and the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The Minnesota County Biological Survey located higher quality native plant communities using aerial photo interpretation followed by field survey of selected sites. Areas that were not mapped as native plant community polygons primarily represent: 1) land where modern human activities such as farming, overgrazing, wetland drainage, recent logging and residential and commercial development have destroyed or greatly altered the natural vegetation; and 2) native plant community polygons that were below minimal size criteria. Note: some areas that were not mapped are important for conservation. They may include habitat for native plants and animals, corridors for animal movement, buffers surrounding high quality natural areas and open space, and target areas for restoration.

Purpose: To foster better understanding and protection of Minnesota's native plant communities

Usage Tips: This data set is the most complete source of information on Minnesota's native plant communities for the counties in which the biological survey has been completed. Data is added as county surveys are completed. Data for previously completed counties are not regularly updated, except to correct for errors.

Time Period of 1986 - Present

*Content:**Currentness* The data are current, by county, to the publication date of the County*Reference:* Biological Survey data for that county.*Progress:* In Work*Maintenance* As Needed*Frequency:**Spatial Extent of Data:* Data is available for counties where their MCBS work has been completed and published. This data set is considered the "state-wide" version. Additional county data are added as field work is verified and data are published.*Bounding* E = -89*Coordinates:* W = -97.5

N = 49.5

S = 43

Place Keywords: Minnesota*Theme Keywords:* Native Plant Communities, Natural Communities, Rare Plants, Natural Heritage, Biological Survey, biota*Theme Keyword* None*Thesaurus:**Access Constraints:* None*Use Constraints:* Users must include in any product derived from this GIS data set an acknowledgment of the Minnesota County Biological Survey as the source of information. In addition, in order to protect DNR's copyright interest in these data, the user must also include an appropriate copyright notice in the name of the DNR or the user.*Data Use Contact:* [Contact](#)*Sample Graphic:* [Data Sample](#)**SECTION 2: Data Quality Information***Attribute Accuracy:* *mcbs_npcpy3.dbf*: The data have been automated using ArcGIS.*Logical Consistency:* null*Completeness:* Data are complete for each county represented in the data set.*Horizontal Positional Accuracy:* No quantitative studies of horizontal positional accuracy exist for the data. Positional accuracy can be reasonably estimated based on the characteristics of source materials and processing techniques to be 45-60 feet (14-18 meters) from correct position.*Vertical Positional Accuracy:* Not Applicable*Lineage:* Attribute Lineage:*mcbs_npcpy3.dbf*: The data have been automated using ArcGIS.Cartographic Lineage:

Native Plant Community Areas: The data have been digitized using ArcGIS 9.x or ArcView 3.x at a minimum of 1:24,000 scale. The resulting data are converted to PostgresQL/PostGIS format for quality assurance procedures.

*Source Scale
Denominator:* 24000

SECTION 3: Spatial Data Organization Information

*Native Data Set
Environment:* ArcView Shapefile
*Geographic Reference
for Tabular Data:* Not Applicable
Tiling Scheme: state
Spatial Object Type: polygon
*Vendor Specific Object
Types:* polygon

SECTION 4: Spatial Reference Information

*Horizontal Coordinate
Scheme:* UTM
Ellipsoid: GRS1980
Horizontal Datum: NAD83
Horizontal Units: meters
Altitude Datum: Not Applicable
Altitude Units: Not Applicable
Depth Datum: Not Applicable
Depth Units: Not Applicable
Cell Width: 0
Cell Height: 0
Latitude Resolution: 0
Longitude Resolution: 0
UTM Zone Number: 15
SPCS Zone Identifier: null
*County Coordinate
Zone Identifier:* null
*Coordinate Offsets or
Adjustments:* Not Applicable
Map Projection Name: Transverse Mercator
*Map Projection
Parameters:* Not Applicable

Other Coordinate System Definition: Not Applicable

SECTION 5: Entity and Attribute Information

Entity and Attribute Overview: Each native plant community record contains specific information about the feature represented by the polygon in the coverage. This information includes the polygon identifiers, and the native plant community name, code, and map label.

Entity and Attribute Citation: See *Attribute Tables* link below

Attribute Tables: [Data Table](#)

SECTION 6: Distribution Information

Publisher: The Minnesota County Biological Survey, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological Resources

Publication Date: 1/1/2000

Distribution Contact: [Contact](#)

Distributor Data Set Identifier: mcbs_npcpy3

Distribution Liability: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources makes no representation or warranties, express or implied, with respect to the reuse of data provided herewith, regardless of its format or the means of its transmission. There is no guarantee or representation to the user as to the accuracy, currency, suitability, or reliability of this data for any purpose. The user accepts the data "as is", and assumes all risks associated with its use. By accepting this data, the user agrees not to transmit this data or provide access to it or any part of it to another party unless the user shall include with the data a copy of this disclaimer. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources assumes no responsibility for actual or consequential damage incurred as a result of any user's reliance on this data.

Transfer Format Name: Shapefile

Transfer Format Version: Not Applicable

Ordering Instructions: Visit the DNR Data Deli at the link provided.

Online Linkage: <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/>

SECTION 7: Metadata Reference Information

Metadata Content Contact: [Contact](#)

Metadata Standard: Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines

Name:
Metadata Standard 4/4/2001
Date:
Metadata Standard
Version: 1.2
Metadata Standard
Online Linkage: <http://www.gis.state.mn.us/stds/metadata.htm>

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