



**File Code:** 1940; 2000; 3000; 4000

**Date:** June 29, 2015

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Forest Service General Technical Report (GTR-WO-90): Existing Vegetation Classification, Mapping, and Inventory Technical Guide, Version 2.0

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs, and WO Directors

I am pleased to announce the release of the Existing Vegetation Classification, Mapping, and Inventory Technical Guide Version 2.0 (EVTG), a revised version of Forest Service General Technical Report (GTR WO-67). It is the latest in a series of published guides for resource professionals and managers that provide scientifically credible approaches to sampling, data collection, and data analysis.

This technical guide establishes Forest Service guidelines and procedures for existing vegetation classification, mapping, and inventory activities to improve the consistency and utility of existing vegetation products. While use of the Technical Guide is not mandatory, the products of its use: (1) comply with standards of the Federal Data Quality Act; (2) are consistent and continuous across landscape and administrative boundaries; and (3) are responsive to business needs of the Forest Service. Additionally, the 2012 Planning Rule requires Forests and Grasslands to develop a monitoring program by April of 2016. Forests and Grasslands will find this technical guide useful during development of their new monitoring programs.

The technical guide was developed by specialists both within and external to the agency, including national, regional and local vegetation specialists, FIA personnel, research scientists, and statisticians, and has been extensively and rigorously reviewed. The Technical Guide is a valuable resource for agency leadership, program managers, planners, biologists, vegetation specialists, remote sensing and GIS specialists, and designers, implementers, and users of base-, mid-, and broad-level inventories. I commend all those who contributed to this national effort for their high quality work and commitment.

The document will be distributed to all administrative units to ensure they are well equipped to continue our excellent stewardship of the Nation's natural resources. The guide is also available online: <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/rig/protocols/vegclassmapinv.shtml>; in addition, a limited number of hard copies are available by contacting Jim Alegria at [jalegria@fs.fed.us](mailto:jalegria@fs.fed.us).

*FOR*   
THOMAS L. TIDWELL  
Chief