# Alaska Arctic Vegetation and Map Archives for ABoVE: A Pre-ABoVE project



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## **Key People**



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## ABoVE science questions, objectives, & overarching goals of the AVA and AMA

A data gathering effort that addresses ABoVE Tier 2 Science Questions: 3.2 Disturbance regimes & 3.5 Flora and fauna.

## And contributes to ABoVE Tier 2 Science Objectives:

- 1. Vegetation-permafrost interaction; 3. vegetation-hydrology interactions;
- **4.** vegetation-snow interactions; **5.** greening and browning trends; and **7.** fish and wildlife habitat in relation to climate and disturbance.

## Overarching goals of the Alaska AVA and AMA:

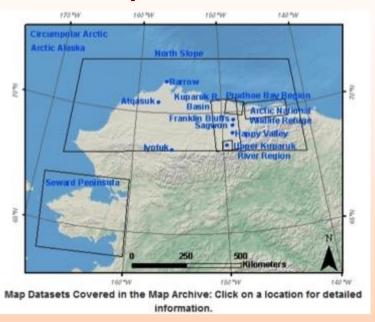
- To unite & harmonize the vegetation data from Arctic Alaska.
- Use the archives in developing an Alaska Arctic and a pan-Arctic vegetation classification and as a resource for climate-change and biodiversity research.
- An open-access plant-community resource.

## Three major project components:

### **Plot Archive**



### **Map Archive**



### **Data Portal**

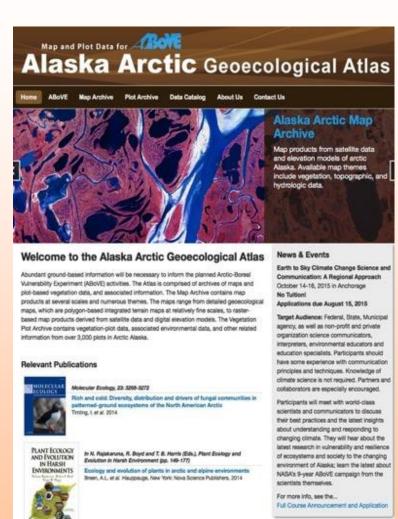


A synthesis of date from Arctic Alaska vegetation plot studies + remote sensing and map products derived from these studies.

## **Data portal**

## 2013. Alaska Arctic Geoecological Atlas data portal

- Housed at the Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA), UAF.
- Includes the AK-AVA (plot archive) and AK-AMA (map archive).
- Web Link: <a href="http://alaskaaga.gina.alaska.edu/">http://alaskaaga.gina.alaska.edu/</a>

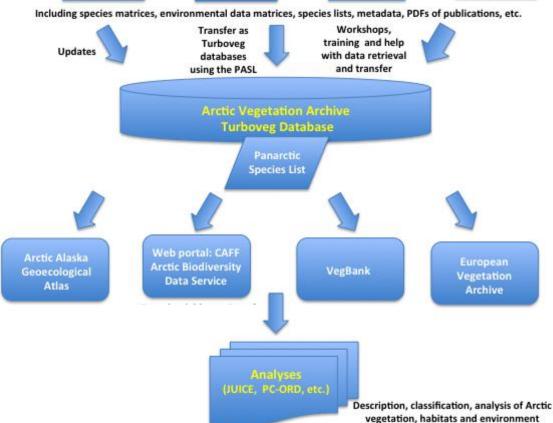


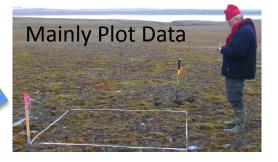
## The Arctic Vegetation Archive

### **AVA Conceptual Framework**

Data sheets, spreadsheets or database formats (Excel, Vpro, IBIS, Turboveg, etc.)







Several regional archives in the total AVA.

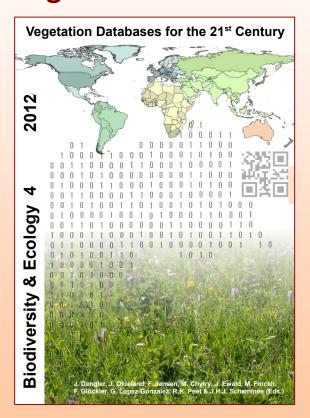
Central Turboveg Database contains all the plot data in a standardized form.

Links through other vegetation archives.

Linked to spatial data and applied to a variety of vegetation, biodiversity, and environmental analyses.

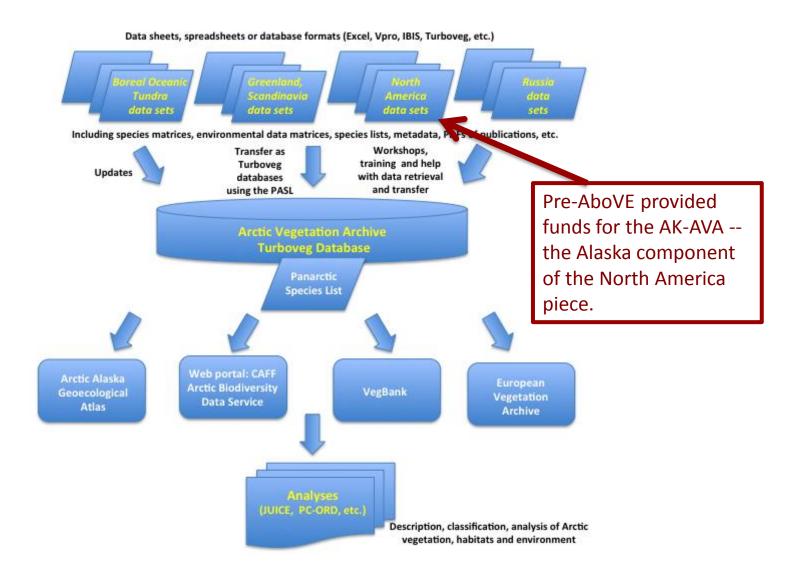
## The AVA is modeled after the European Vegetation Archive (EVA).

## The European Vegetation Archive: A methodology for handling massive vegetation databases.





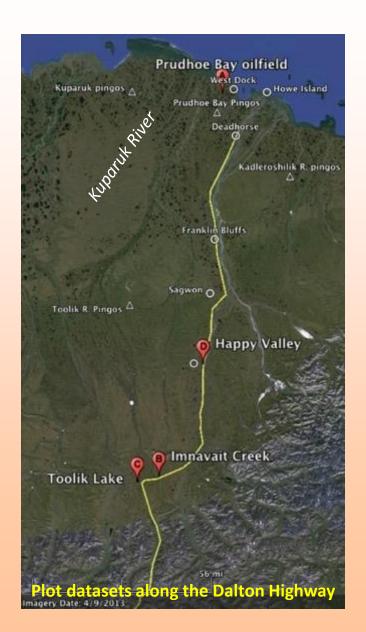
## How the AK-AVA fits in the overall AVA



## **AK-AVA: Current status**

## Initial focus: Dalton Highway Transect

- Highest concentration of quality plot and map data in northern Alaska.
- Along well-described climate and geoecological gradient with easy access to all locations.
  - 1. Prudhoe Bay: DA Walker 1985, 89 plots
  - 2. Dalton Highway Patterned Ground Vegetation: A. Kade et al. 2005, 117 plots
  - 3. Dalton Highway Willow Communities: U. Schickhoff et al. 2002, 85 plots
  - 4. North Slope pingos: MD Walker 1990, 293 plots
  - 5. Happy Valley: DA Walker et al. 1997, 56 plots
  - 6. Imnavait Creek: DA Walker et al. 1989, 73 plots
  - 7. Toolik Lake: DA Walker et al., 1991, 81 plots
  - 8. North Slope Balsam Poplar Communities: A. Breen 2013, 19 plots



### **AK-AVA: Current status**

Nr.	Plot dataset (citation)	Plot	Archive Complete			
	· ·	Nr.	Turboveg	Atlas	GIVD	VegBank
Prio	rity-1: Dalton Highway and Brooks Range					
1	Arrigetch Peaks (Cooper 1986)	439	X	X	X	
2	Frostboil Vegetation (Kade et al. 2005)	117	X	X	X	
3	Happy Valley (Walker et al. 1997)	56	X	X	X	
4	Imnavait Creek (Walker et al. 1987)	84	X	X	X	
5	Pingo vegetation (Walker 1990)	293	X	X	X	
6	Poplar Vegetation (Breen 2014)	32	X	X	X	
7	Prudhoe Bay (Walker 1985)	89	X	X	X	
8	Toolik Lake (Walker & Barry 1991)	81	X	X	X	X
9	Willow Vegetation (Schickhoff et al. 2002)	85	X	X	X	
	Total	1276				
Priority-2: Western Arctic Transect						
10	ATLAS-1 Vegetation (Edwards et al. 2000)	15	X	X	X	
11	ATLAS-2 Vegetation (Raynolds et al. 2002)	52	X	X	X	
12	Atqasuk (Komarkova & Webber 1980)	31	X		X	
13	Barrow (Webber 1978; Villerreal et al. 2012)	33	X		X	
14	Legacy Vegetation (Elias et al. 1996)	61	X	X	X	
15	Barrow (Sloan et al. 2014)	48	X		X	
16	Oumalik (Ebersole 1985)	87	X	X	X	
	Cumulative Total	1603				
Prior	rity-3: Other Arctic Alaska data					
17	NPS Arctic Network (Jorgenson et al. 2009)	936	X (Spp only)			
18	Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Jorgenson 2000)	63				
19	NSF FLUX (Walker 1995, 1996)	29				
20	Prudhoe Bay (Walker 2014, 2015)	48				
	Cumulative Total	2679				

16 Dataset (1603 plots) in Turboveg and the Atlas. 4 Datasets on deck.

## Alaska Arctic Geoecological Atlas Home ABOVE Map Archive Piot Archive Data Catalog About Us Contact Us



#### **Plot Archive**



Click on a dataset number to display author, year, number of plots and a site photo.

The Alaska Arctic Vegetation Archive (AAVA) is a prototype database for the Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA). The goal of the AVA is to unite and harmonize the vegetation data from the Arctic tundra biome for use in developing a pan-Arctic vegetation classification and to facilitate research on vegetation and biodiversity change and ecosystem models. This open-access database will be the first to represent an entire global biome.

The AAVA utilizes Turboveg for Windows (Hennekens and Schaminee 2001), which is a comprehensive data management system for vegetation-plot data. Our data model is a set of tables that comprise our relational database. More information about the structure of the AAVA can be seen with our data dictionary

#### PLOT DATASETS

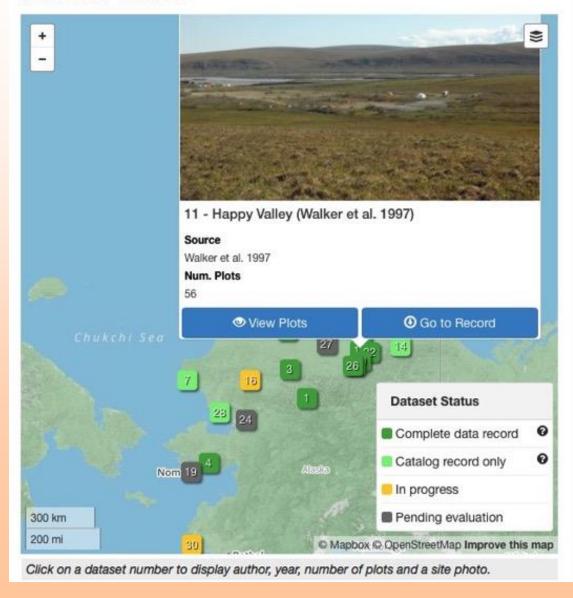
- 1: Arrigetch Peaks
- 2: Alaska Natural Heritage Program
- 3: ATLAS-1 Vegetation Studies
- 4: ATLAS-2 Vegetation Studies
- 5: Atgasuk
- 6: Barrow
- 7: Barrow-NGEE
- 8: Cape Thompson
- 9: Colville River Delta
- 10: Fish Creek
- 11: Frost Boil Vegetation Plots
- 12: Happy Valley
- 13; Ice-wedge Degradation Plots
- 14: Imraviat Creek
- 15. ITEX Vegetation Plots
- 16: Legacy (Barter Island and Barrow)
- 17: NPS Arctic Network
- 18: National Petroleum Reserve AK
- 19: Nome
- 20: North Slope-FLUX
- 21: Oumalik
- 22: Pingo Vegetation Plots
- 23: Poplar Vegetation Plots
- 24: Prudhoe Bay
- 25: Prudhoe Bay-ArcSEES
- 26: Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
- 27: Southwest Alaska Vegetation
- 28: Toolik Lake
- 29: Umiat
- 30: Western Alaska Vegetation Plots
- 31: Willow Vegetation Plots
- 32: Yukon-Kuskokwim Deita Plots

## Data available in AK-AVA datasets: Plot Archive

### **Plot Archive Home Page**

- Datasets accessible by location name,
- Or by project name in cases where datasets include data from numerous locations.

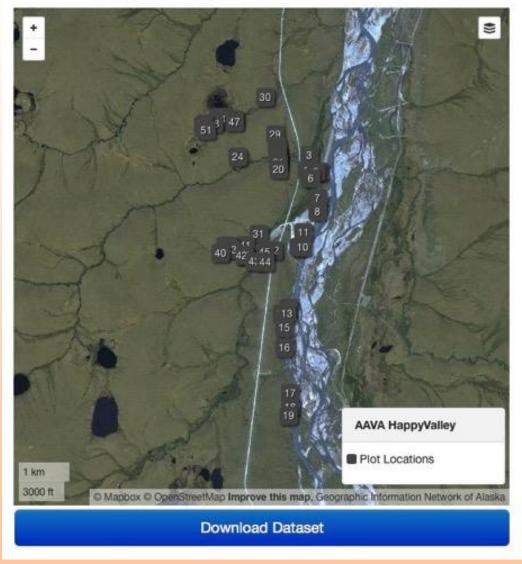
### **Plot Archive**



# Site photos and dataset descriptions

- Dataset number and name
- √ Source of data
- ✓ Number of plots
- ✓ Links:
  - Plot map
  - Data catalog record

## 11: Happy Valley



## **Plot map**

 Plot locations on highest resolution imagery available.



Landscape



**Vegetation close up** 

### 11: Happy Valley

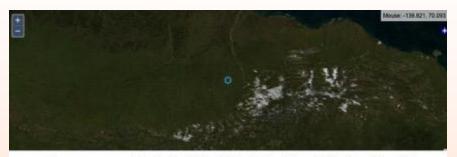


**Plot photos** 



Soil

## **Data Catalog Record**





#### Alaska Geobotany Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Other agencies



Record Previews





\_edilibe\_

#### Alaska Arctic Vegetation Archive: Happy Valley Vegetation Plots (Walker et al. 1997)

The Happy Valley research site is located along the Sagaraninkok River in a glaciated valley of the northern Arctic Foothills of the Brooks Range. Vegetation of the Happy Valley research site was described and mapped by Walker et al. through the institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Tundra Ecosystem Analysis and Mapping Laboratory, for a project funded by the Arctic System Science Flux Study, National Science Foundation grant OPP-9313530. The primary source document for this dataset is a data report prepared for the project (Walker et al. 1997).

Data are presented for 56 plots subjectively located in 17 plant communities that occur in five broad habitat types including: 13 dry tundra (including river terraces and frost scaral (10 plots), 23 enowbeds (2 plots), 3) moist tundra (including acidic tussock tundra and nonacidic tundra) (14 plots), 4) shrublands (including riparian elders, riparian willow communities, and dwarf-birch shrub tundra) (16 plots), and 5) wet tundra (including fens, poor fens, and aquatic marshes) (14 plots).

All the plots were permanently marked with a 4-foot black and white-striped 1-inch PVC pipe with the plot number stamped into an aluminum tag at the top of the post. The plots had no fixed size in order to obtain a complete species list, however the size of the plots were estimated and are included in the data. Species and environmental data (including soil physical variables, subjective site assessments, and active layer depths) were collected in the field and soil samples were brought back to the lab for chemical assessments. Species cover-abundance, environmental site feators, and soil physical and chemical data are included in the data report. GPS coordinates were obtained for many plots in the mid-2000s. An aerial photograph and Google Earth were used to approximate the location and obtain coordinates for the remaining plots.

These data were subsequently used in several reports and publications listed below.

#### References:

Kane, D. L., and W. S. Reeburgh. 1998. Introduction to special section: Land-Air-loe Interactions (LAII) Flux Study. Journal of Geophysical Research 103:28-913-28-915.

McGuine, A. D., M. Suurm, and F. S. Chapin III. 2003. Arctic Transitions in the Land-Atmosphere System (ATLAS): Background, objectives, results, and future directions. Journal of Geophysical Research 108:8186 (ATL-T-7):

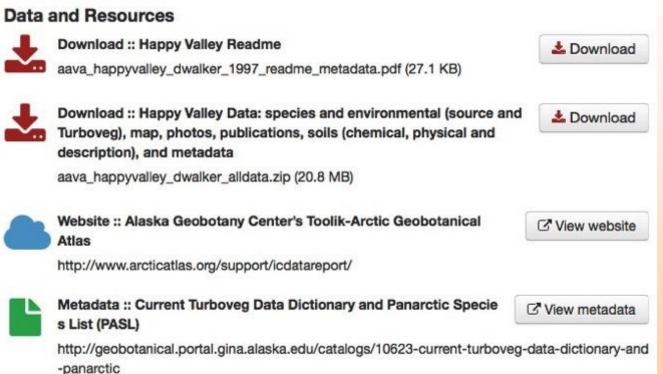
Raynolds, M. K., D. A. Walker, and C. R. Martin. 2004. Biocomplexity of Frost-Boll Ecosystems: Snow Data Report. Alaska Geobotany Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.

Walker, D. A., N. A. Auerbach, T. K. Nettleton, A. Gallant, and S. M. Murphy. 1997. Arctic System Science Flux Study Data Report. Happy Valley Vegetation Plots: Site factors, physical and chemical sell properties, plant species cover, photographs, soil descriptions, and ordination. Institute of Arctic and Apine Research, University of Colorado, Soulder, Colorado, USA.

## Top of record (Basic dataset information)

- ✓ Image showing location of dataset.
- ✓ Title and author of dataset.
- ✓ Source of data.
- ✓ Description of the dataset.
- √ Key references.
- ✓ Funding agency.

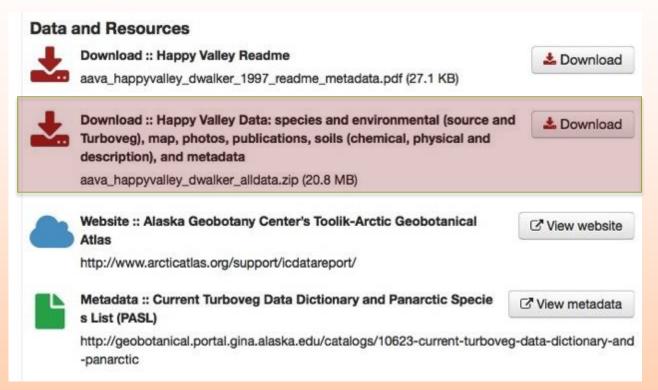
## **Data Catalog Record**



#### **Bottom of record**

- ✓ Short readme file describing the available data.
- ✓ Data download.
- ✓ Links to other relevant web sites.

## **Data Catalog Record**

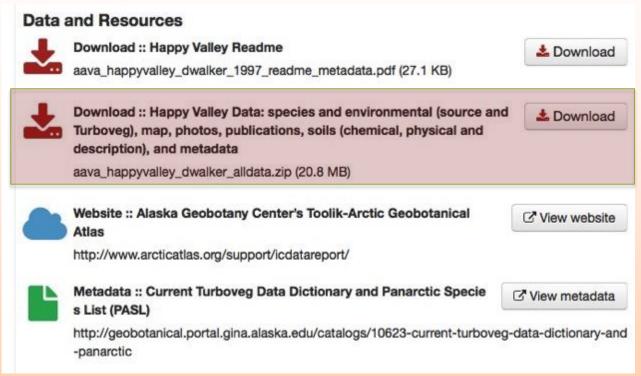


#### **Bottom of record**

### **Species data:**

- ✓ Original species cover data (as published).
- ✓ Corrected and standardized data in xls. and csv. files for speciescover.
- ✓ Species data standardized (according to PASL) and formatted for Turboveg.

## Data available in AK-AVA datasets: Ancillary data

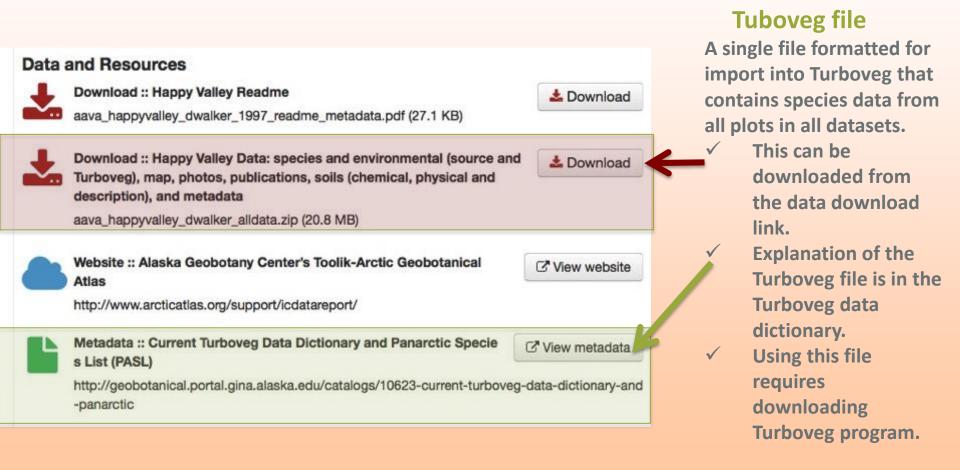


## **Ancillary data**

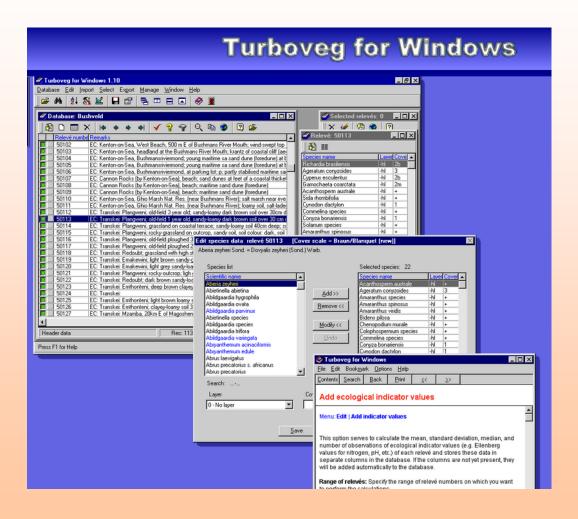
- For example, soils data, environmental information, plot photos, plot location maps, publications, original data reports, biomass data, & spectral data.
- ✓ These are included as xls. and csv. or pdf. (for some some data).
- ✓ A subset of ancillary data is standardized and included as header data for the Turboveg file.

## **Data Catalog Record**

### **Bottom of Catalog record**



## Data available in AK-AVA datasets: Species data



http://www.synbiosys.alterra.nl/turboveg/

## **Turboveg**

Database management system for the storage, selection, and export of vegetation data (relevés).

- ✓ Free for:
  - private use
  - students
  - institutes or universities which don't have sufficient resources to buy the software.
- ✓ Easy import into vegetation analysis programs (e.g., JUICE, Twinspan, Canoco, Excel, Mulva).

Hennekens, S. M., & Schaminée, J. H. J. (2001). TURBOVEG, a comprehensive data base management system for vegetation data. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, *12*, 589–591.

# Data available in Map Archive (AK-AMA)

### **Map Archive Home Page**

✓ Similar construction to the plot archive.

## Alaska Arctic Geoecological Atlas

Home ARo

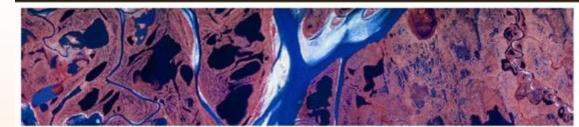
**Map Archive** 

Plot Archive

**Data Catalog** 

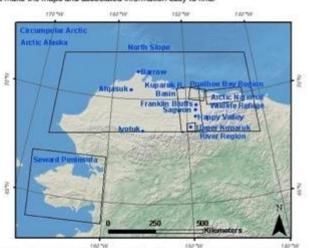
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#### **Map Archive**

The hierarchy of maps currently available in the atias range in scale from plant species maps of tx1-m plots at Toolik Lake and Imnavait Creek to maps of the entire circumpolar Arctic. Most regions have a variety of map themes available including vegetation, landforms, topography, and hydrology. Some of the maps are raster-based map products derived from satellite data and digital elevation models. Some of the maps are polygon-based geoecological maps, with many different attributes coded into a geographic information system (GIS). Various search options make the maps and associated information easy to find.



Map Datasets Covered in the Map Archive: Click on a location for detailed information.

This map shows the major regions that are available for Arctic Alaska excluding arctic parts of southwest Alaska (Yukon-Kuskoqwim river delta region), where the only map data contained here is that on the Arctic Alaska Vegetation Map.

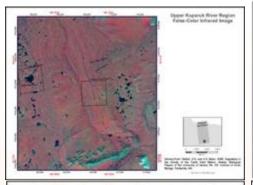
#### DATASET LOCATIONS

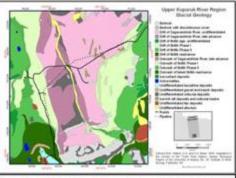
- 1. Arctic Alaska
- 2. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (2)
- 3. Atgasuk
- 4. Barrow (2)
- Circumpolar Arctic
- 6. Franklin Bluffs
- 7. Happy Valley
- 8. Ivotuk (3)
- 9. Kuparuk Basin
- 10. North Slope (6)
- 11. Prudhoe Bay (24)
- 12. Sagwon
- 13. Seward Peninsula
- Upper Kuparuk River
   (Toolik Lake & Imnavait Creek) (5)



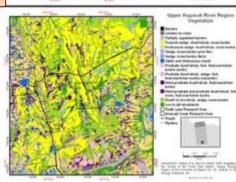
Martha Raynolds checking the Russian portion of the Circumpolar Arctic vegetation map with Dr. Nadya Matveyeva, 2002, Cherski, Russia.

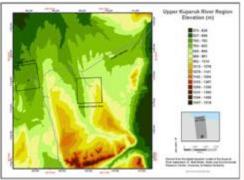
Photo: D.A. Waiker.

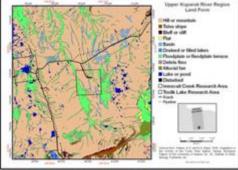


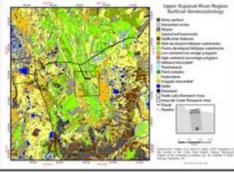


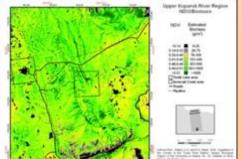












## Data available in Map Archive (AK-AMA)

Archive focuses on integrated geoecological maps with multiple themes:

For example, for the upper Kuparuk River region:

- SPOT image
- Elevation
- Glacial geology
- Landforms
- Surficial geology
- Surficial geomorphology
- Vegetation
- SPOT derived NDVI, biomass
- Hydrology (not shown)

## **Current content of the AK-AMA**

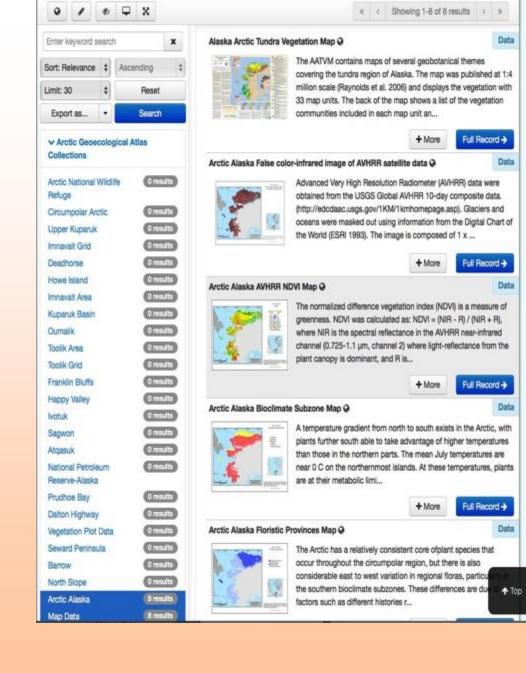
Regions	Datasets	Themes
Arctic Alaska	1	9
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	2	2
Circumpolar Arctic	1	15
Kuparuk Basin	1	4
North Slope	5	13
Prudhoe Bay	5	62
Seward Peninsula	2	2
Upper Kuparuk River	1	10

**Total: 218 Thematic maps in 18 datasets** 

## Alaska Arctic Map Archive (AK-AMA)

**Catalog Page** 

✓ Data are downloadable in a variety of formats.



## Data archiving and distribution

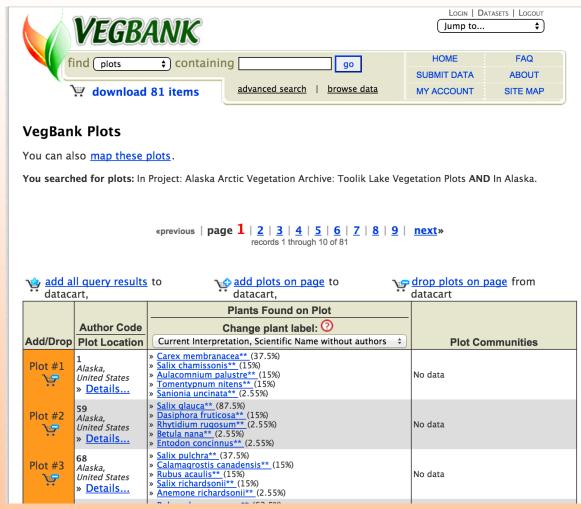
### **Primary Archives**

- 1. GINA: Current primary archive for plot and map data is with the Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA).
- 1. NASA DAAC: Working with NASA to also archive the data with the NASA Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC). Test for export from GINA to the DAAC was successful. All data on the GINA site will also be archived at the DAAC by the end of the project.

## Other data archiving and distribution:



U.S. National Vegetation Classification data archive.



Peet, R. K., Lee, M. T., Jennings, M. D., & Faber-Langendoen, D. (2012). VegBank – a permanent, open-access archive for vegetation-plot data. *Biodiversity and Ecology*, 4, 233–241. http://doi.org/10.7809/b-e.00080

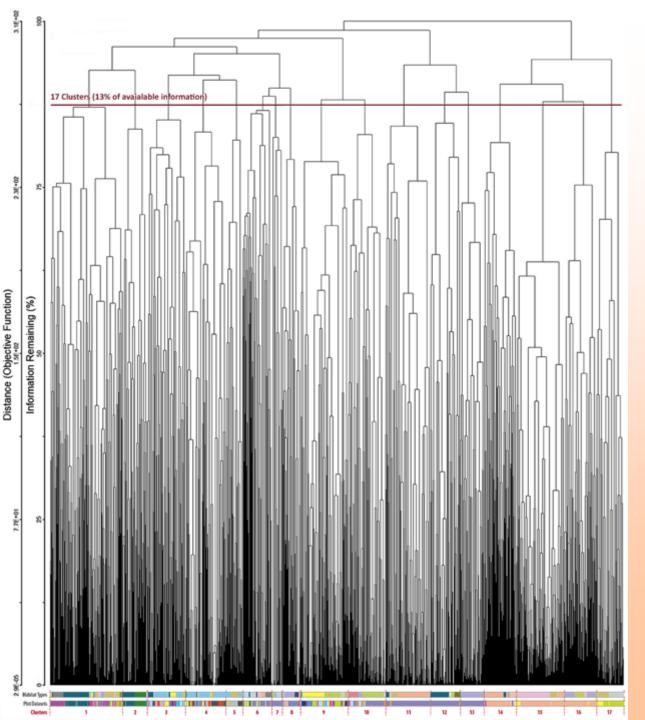
## Other data archiving and distribution:

### 2. Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD):

- Metadata source and link to global vegetation databases.
- Current content of GIVD is 230 databases and 3,140,672 plots.
- AK-AVA ID: is NA-US-014.

Dengler, J., et al. (2011). The Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD): a new resource for vegetation science. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, *22*(4), 582–597. http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1654-1103.2011.01265.x



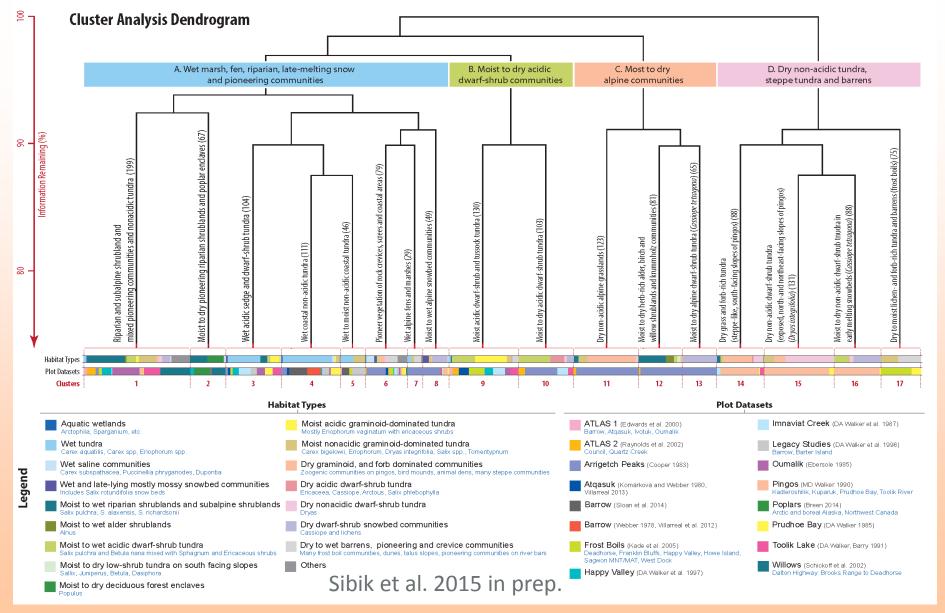


# Preliminary analysis of AKAVA data: Cluster analysis

Full dendrogram showing all relevés with associated habitat types and dataset origins.

- 1603 plots analyzed according similarity.
- 17 high-level clusters
  (above the red line) show
  the highest "separation
  power" (next slide).
- The two bottom color bars show the habitat type and datasets of the plots.

#### Preliminary cluster analysis of AK-AVA data: Top 4 and top 17 clusters: sorted by habitat type and dataset.



Cluster A: Wet tundra, wet snowbeds, riparian shrublands, poplar groves, azonal and pioneering communities: 684 plots.

Cluster B: Acidic tundra types including tussock tundra, dry dwarf-shrub heaths: 233 plots.

Cluster C: Most alpine plant communities with high cover of forbs and grasses: 269 plots.

Cluster D: Dry non-acidic tundra and steppe tundra vegetation: 382 plots.

