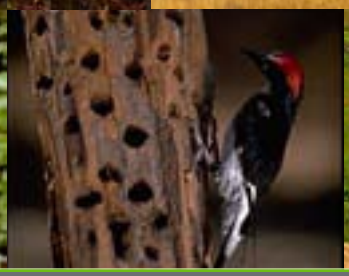
SONOMA **VEG** MAP

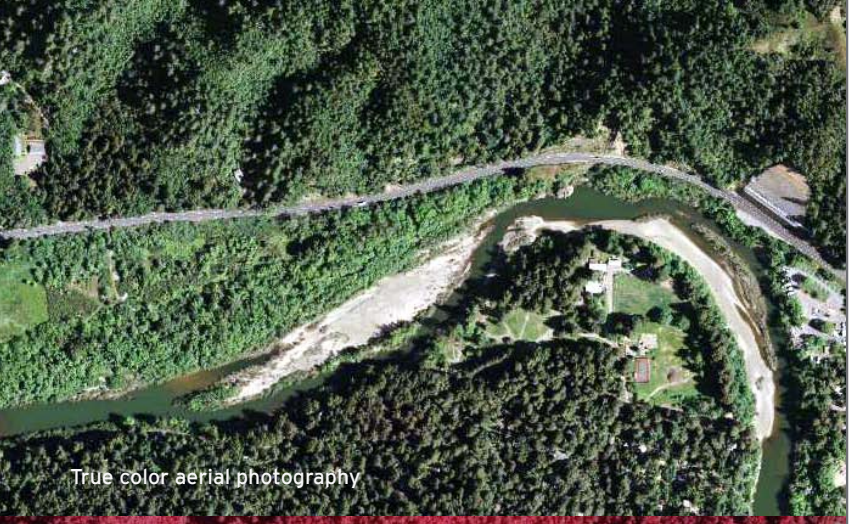
SONOMA COUNTY VEGETATION & HABITAT MAPPING PROGRAM

High-Quality Data for Planning, Conservation and Resource Management



www.sonomavegmap.org

SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT



True color aerial photography

False color near-infrared aerial photography

Mapping the Land to Conserve It

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District is producing a fine-scale map of Sonoma County's vegetation and habitats. This multi-year program will serve to increase knowledge and awareness of the County's rich ecological diversity. Once complete, the map, underlying GIS data, and ecological information will be made publicly available and will benefit the District, County departments, associated agencies, businesses and professionals in a number of critical areas.

Vegetation cover is the key baseline for nearly all analyses the District undertakes, including: setting quantifiable conservation targets for land acquisition, identifying the most critical natural areas for wildlife habitat and the highest quality agricultural lands for local food production, developing sound management plans for District-owned lands, ensuring regulatory compliance, analyzing climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities, and calculating the economic return on investment associated with conservation. The District invites public and private entities in Sonoma County to participate and reap the resource planning and management benefits of the map.

Benefits of vegetation mapping to planning, conservation, and natural resource management:

An accurate vegetation map is a critical precursor to **carbon sequestration** estimates and **carbon budgets**.

Vegetation maps characterize the landscape, providing a vital tool for identifying and prioritizing **conservation** options.

Vegetation maps are necessary for tracking the effects of **climate change** on vegetation, habitat and ecosystem function.

Vegetation maps provide a baseline inventory that will serve as a primary tool for measuring the impacts of **climate change**.

Regional planners use vegetation map data to help plan for and adapt to the effects of **climate change**.

Fine scale vegetation map data provides habitat and ecosystem information that is used for **endangered species management**.

Vegetation map data is a fundamental variable for estimating **fire hazard** and **fire behavior** across the landscape.

Vegetation map data is the primary component for **fuel load** estimates.

Accurate vegetation map data greatly improves **flow calculations** from **stormwater models**.

Accurate vegetation maps help increase **flood forecasting** effectiveness and help plan for **floods**.

Land managers rely on vegetation maps to help support **infrastructure planning**, **wildlife management**, and **fire and fuels management**.

Vegetation maps provide spatially explicit habitat and natural community information that is critical to good **regional planning**.

Firefighters and other **public safety** officials use vegetation map data to plan strategic approaches to **fire fighting** and **fuels reduction**.

Vegetation maps provide key information for **utility right of way management** and new **public works infrastructure planning**.

Vegetation maps provide a valuable tool for **watershed planners** working to improve **water quality**, **water supply**, and **fish habitat**.

To learn more, please visit:

www.sonomavegmap.org

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