How to Use These Guidelines

Because of the critical role a vegetation map plays in managing installation lands, and because vegetation mapping can be a complex task, these guidelines cover many subjects. This document is in two parts, the main part having four chapters and the second part containing 15 appendices. We have prepared this page to make it easy for you to get the most benefit from the guidelines.

The guidelines are not intended to be read all the way through in sequence. The authors do recommend two activities for a reader’s first access. The first activity is browsing the Table of Contents of the chapters and appendices. Note that the Table of Contents can be contracted or expanded. The second activity is reading Chapter 2, “Decision Framework.” This chapter contains four sections designed as a decision framework for the steps involved in mapping, establishing objectives, identifying available resources, and determining specifications and costs, and should help a Project Manager make many of the necessary decisions. Each section also refers the reader to additional, more detailed material and to templates in the appendices to help plan a project.

Chapter 3, “Reference Library,” gives more detailed information relevant to mapping ranging from regulatory requirements and mapping standards to field data collection to determining map accuracy, and should be accessed as needed. Chapter 4, “Management,” provides specific guidelines on writing and implementing statements of work including the detailed outline of a statement of work that can be modified for any mapping objective.

Appendices include material such as a glossary, list of acronyms, additional detailed reference material, and results of six case studies of mapping projects. Each case study includes a section on “Lessons Learned” from the project, an illustration of the map that resulted, and excerpts from statements of work. The appendices also contain templates for use in planning and conducting a mapping project; these were designed to be printed and used by the Project Manager.

Three features have been designed to help a reader go directly to the information needed. One is the shadow box at the beginning of each section that briefly introduces what the section contains. The second feature is the “Table of Contents” that has been constructed to let the reader see what is in the guidelines. The third feature is bookmarks in the on-line document that go directly to a desired location in the guidelines.