

# El Morro National Monument

## Vegetation and Land Cover

Southern Colorado Plateau Network  
National Park Service  
1298 S. Knoles Dr.  
Northern Arizona University  
Building 56, Room 140  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011



### Legend

- Monument Boundary
- Buffer Area
- Map Unit Code, Map Unit Name**
- 10, Two-needle Pinyon / Sparse Understory Forest
- 11, Two-needle Pinyon - (Juniper species) Woodland Alliance
- 12, Ponderosa Pine Woodland Alliance
- 13, One-seed Juniper / Blue Grama Woodland
- 14, One-seed Juniper Woodland Alliance
- 15, Two-needle Pinyon - (One-seed Juniper) / Blue Grama Woodland
- 16, Ponderosa Pine / Gambel Oak Woodland
- 20, False Tarragon Shrubland Alliance
- 21, Gambel Oak Shrubland Alliance
- 22, Fourwing Saltbush / Blue Grama Shrubland
- 23, Winterfat Dwarf-shrubland Alliance
- 30, Blue Grama Dwarf-shrub Herbaceous Alliance
- 31, Cheatgrass Semi-natural Herbaceous Alliance
- 32, Needle-and-Thread - Blue Grama Herbaceous Alliance
- 34, Blue Grama - Sand Dropseed Herbaceous Vegetation
- 35, Blue Grama Herbaceous Vegetation
- 36, Rubber Rabbitbrush / Blue Grama Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation
- 37, Weedy Forbs - Prairie Dog Colony
- 38, Two-needle Pinyon - (One-seed Juniper) / Sparse Woodland [Park Special]
- 50, Unvegetated Surface - Urban
- 51, Zuni Sandstone (Jz)

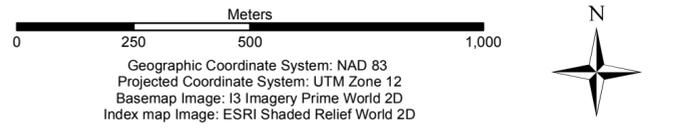
Vegetation map produced through the interpretation of 1:12,000 scale true color aerial photography acquired on September 1, 2004.

Vegetation classification: Using the methods described in the report, the vegetation plot data collected in 2002 and observation points of 2005, the vegetation was classified into 14 distinct vegetation types based on species composition, structure, and environmental characteristics. An additional 8 vegetation types were recognized for the project area, but were not supported by formal plots or observation points. Of the total 22 vegetation types, 20 are recognized NVC types, while two additional vegetation classifications are a "local" type (False Tarragon Shrubland Alliance) and a park special type (Two-needle Pinyon - (One-seed Juniper) / Sparse Woodland [Park Special]) specific to the park, but not yet recognized in the NVC.

Map Units: Two non-vegetated land cover types (unvegetated surface-urban and Zuni sandstone) are included with the mapped vegetation associations in addition to a "Weedy forbs - Prairie Dog Colony" map unit for a total of 25 map units. All alliances and associations described for the area correspond directly to a map class except for the Rubber Rabbitbrush Short Shrub Herbaceous Alliance, Sand Dropseed Shrub Herbaceous Alliance, Two-needle Pinyon - Juniper species / Gambel Oak Woodland, and Ponderosa Pine / Blue Grama Woodland. These alliances were not mapped because they typically occurred well below the minimum mapping unit, were difficult to discern from the adjacent shrubs and were not very abundant.

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Report:  
Salas, D. E., and C. Bolen. 2010.  
Vegetation classification and  
distribution mapping report:  
El Morro National Monument.  
Natural Resource Technical Report  
NPS/SCPN/NRTR-2010/365.  
National Park Service, Fort Collins,  
Colorado.



### Participating Agencies

