Level III and IV Ecoregions of EPA Region 5

November 2010

46 Northern Glaciated Plains
- 46e Tewaukon/Big Stone Stagnation Moraine
- 46k Prairie Coteau
- 46l Prairie Coteau Escarpment
- 46m Big Sioux Basin
- 46o Minnesota River Prairie

47 Western Corn Belt Plains
- 47a Loess Prairies
- 47b Des Moines Lobe
- 47c Eastern Iowa and Minnesota Drift Plains
- 47g Lower St. Croix and Vermillion Valleys

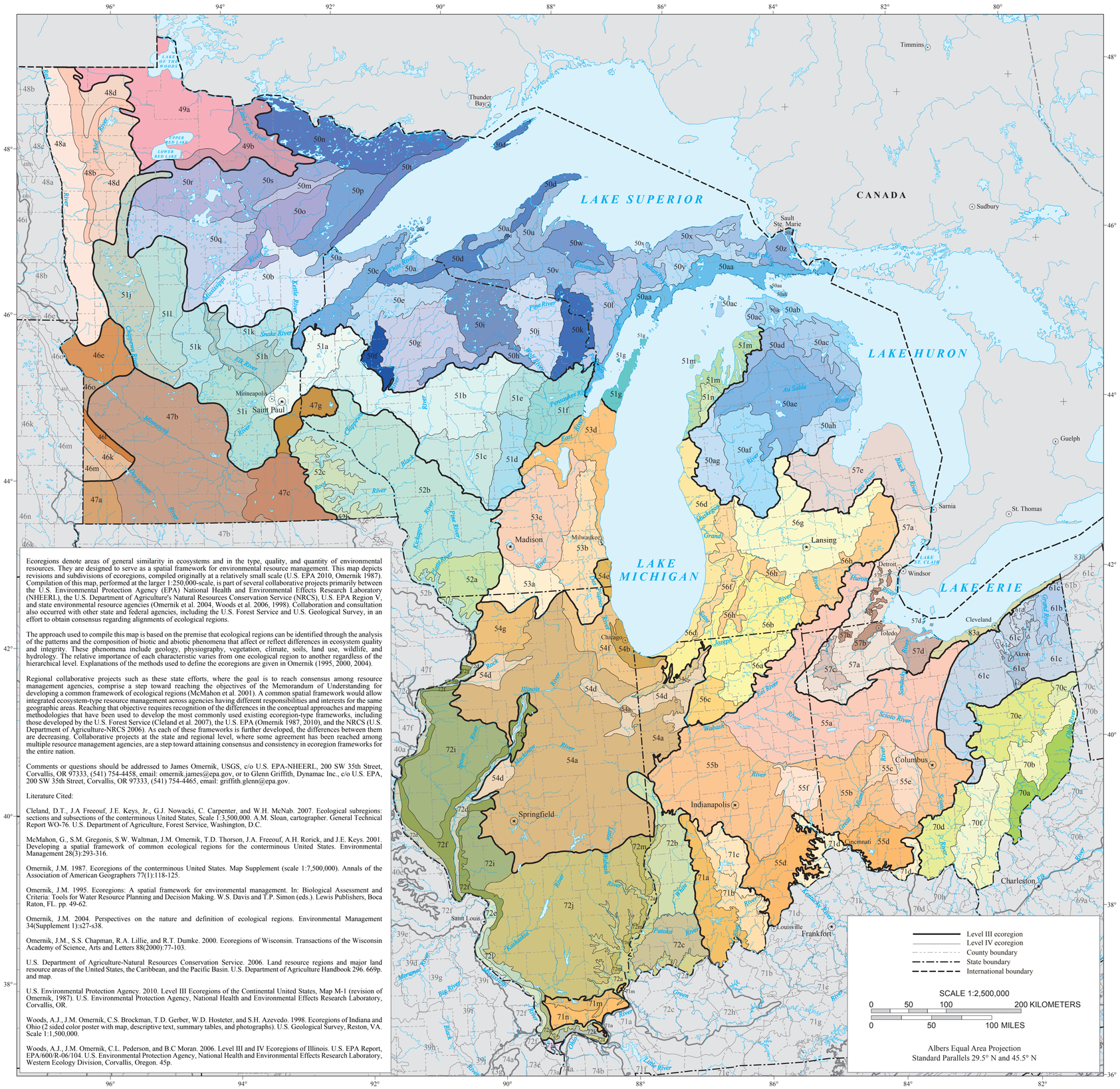
48 Lake Agassiz Plain
- 48a Glacial Lake Agassiz Basin
- 48b Beach Ridges and Sand Deltas
- 48d Lake Agassiz Plains

49 Northern Minnesota Wetlands
- 49a Peatlands
- 49b Forested Lake Plains

50 Northern Lakes and Forests
- 50a Lake Superior Clay Plain
- 50b Minnesota/Wisconsin Upland Till Plain
- 50c St. Croix Pine Barrens
- 50d Superior Mineral Ranges
- 50e Chequamegon Moraines and Outwash Plain
- 50f Blue Hills
- 50g Chippewa Lobe Rocky Ground Moraines
- 50h Perkinstown End Moraines
- 50i Northern Wisconsin Highlands Lakes Country
- 50j Brule and Paint River Drumlins
- 50k Wisconsin/Michigan Pine Barrens
- 50l Menominee Drumlins and Ground Moraine
- 50m Mesabi Range
- 50n Boundary Lakes and Hills
- 50o Glacial Lakes Upham and Aitken
- 50p Toimi Drumlins
- 50q Itasca and St. Louis Moraines
- 50r Chippewa Plains
- 50s Nashwauk/Marcell Moraines and Uplands
- 50t North Shore Highlands
- 50u Keweenaw-Baraga Moraines
- 50v Winegar Dead Ice Moraine
- 50w Michigamme Highland
- 50x Grand Marais Lakeshore
- 50y Seney-Tahquamenon Sand Plain
- 50z Rudyard Clay Plain
- 50aa Menominee-Drummond Lakeshore
- 50ab Cheboygan Lake Plain
- 50ac Onaway Moraines
- 50ad Vanderbilt Moraines
- 50ae Mio Plateau
- 50af Cadillac Hummocky Moraines
- 50ag Newaygo Barrens
- 50ah Tawas Lake Plain

51 North Central Hardwood Forests
- 51a St. Croix Stagnation Moraines
- 51b Central Wisconsin Undulating Till Plain
- 51c Glacial Lake Wisconsin Sand Plain
- 51d Central Sand Ridges
- 51e Upper Wolf River Stagnation Moraine
- 51f Green Bay Till and Lacustrine Plain
- 51g Door Peninsula
- 51h Anoka Sand Plain and Mississippi Valley Outwash
- 51i Big Woods
- 51j Alexandria Moraines and Detroit Lakes Outwash Plain
- 51k McGrath Till Plain and Drumlins
- 51l Wadena/Todd Drumlins and Osakis Till Plain
- 51m Manistee-Leelanau Shore
- 51n Platte River Outwash

52 Driftless Area
- 52a Savanna Section
- 52b Blufflands and Coulees
- 52c Rochester/Paleozoic Plateau Upland



Ecoregions denote areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources. They are designed to serve as a spatial framework for environmental resource management. This map depicts revisions and subdivisions of ecoregions, compiled originally at a relatively small scale (U.S. EPA 2010, Omernik 1987). Compilation of this map, performed at the larger 1:250,000-scale, is part of several collaborative projects primarily between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. EPA Region V, and state environmental resource agencies (Omernik et al. 2004, Woods et al. 2006, 1998). Collaboration and consultation also occurred with other state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey, in an effort to obtain consensus regarding alignments of ecological regions.

The approach used to compile this map is based on the premise that ecological regions can be identified through the analysis of the patterns and the composition of biotic and abiotic phenomena that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity. These phenomena include geology, physiography, vegetation, climate, soils, land use, wildlife, and hydrology. The relative importance of each characteristic varies from one ecological region to another regardless of the hierarchical level. Explanations of the methods used to define the ecoregions are given in Omernik (1995, 2000, 2004).

Regional collaborative projects such as these state efforts, where the goal is to reach consensus among resource management agencies, comprise a step toward reaching the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding for developing a common framework of ecological regions (McMahon et al. 2001). A common spatial framework would allow integrated ecosystem-type resource management across agencies having different responsibilities and interests for the same geographic areas. Reaching that objective requires recognition of the differences in the conceptual approaches and mapping methodologies that have been used to develop the most commonly used existing ecoregion-type frameworks, including those developed by the U.S. Forest Service (Cleland et al. 2007), the U.S. EPA (Omernik 1987, 2010), and the NRCS (U.S. Department of Agriculture-NRCS 2006). As each of these frameworks is further developed, the differences between them are decreasing. Collaborative projects at the state and regional level, where some agreement has been reached among multiple resource management agencies, are a step toward attaining consensus and consistency in ecoregion frameworks for the entire nation.

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53 Southeastern Wisconsin Till Plains
- 53a Rock River Drift Plain
- 53b Kettle Moraines
- 53c Southeastern Wisconsin Savannah and Till Plain
- 53d Lake Michigan Lacustrine Clay Plain

54 Central Corn Belt Plains
- 54a Illinois/Indiana Prairies
- 54b Chicago Lake Plain
- 54c Kankakee Marsh
- 54d Sand Area
- 54e Chiwaukee Prairie Region
- 54f Valparaiso-Wheaton Morainal Complex
- 54g Rock River Hills

55 Eastern Corn Belt Plains
- 55a Clayey High Lime Till Plains
- 55b Loamy High Lime Till Plains
- 55c Mad River Interlobate Area
- 55d Pre-Wisconsinan Drift Plains
- 55e Darby Plains
- 55f Whitewater Interlobate Area

56 Southern Michigan/Northern Indiana Drift Plains
- 56a Northern Indiana Lake Country
- 56b Battle Creek/Elkhart Outwash Plain
- 56c Middle Tippecanoe Plains
- 56d Michigan Lake Plain
- 56f Lake Michigan Moraines
- 56g Lansing Loamy Plain
- 56h Interlobate Dead Ice Moraines

57 Huron/Erie Lake Plains
- 57a Maumee Lake Plain
- 57b Oak Openings
- 57c Paulding Plains
- 57d Marblehead Drift/Limestone Plain
- 57e Saginaw Lake Plain

61 Erie Drift Plain
- 61b Mosquito Creek/Pymatuning Lowlands
- 61c Low Lime Drift Plain
- 61d Erie Gorges
- 61e Summit Interlobate Area

70 Western Allegheny Plateau
- 70a Permian Hills
- 70b Monongahela Transition Zone
- 70c Pittsburgh Low Plateau
- 70d Knobs-Lower Scioto Dissected Plateau
- 70e Unglaciated Upper Muskingum Basin
- 70f Ohio/Kentucky Carboniferous Plateau

71 Interior Plateau
- 71a Crawford-Mammoth Cave Uplands
- 71b Mitchell Plain
- 71c Knobs-Norman Upland
- 71d Outer Bluegrass
- 71m Northern Shawnee Hills
- 71n Southern Shawnee Hills

72 Interior River Valleys and Hills
- 72a Wabash-Ohio Bottomlands
- 72b Glaciated Wabash Lowlands
- 72c Green River-Southern Wabash Lowlands
- 72d Upper Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- 72e Middle Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- 72f River Hills
- 72g Southern Ozarkian River Bluffs
- 72i Western Dissected Illinoian Till Plain
- 72j Southern Illinoian Till Plain
- 72k Cretaceous Hills
- 72l Karstic Northern Ozarkian River Bluffs
- 72m Wabash River Bluffs and Low Hills

73 Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- 73a Northern Holocene Meander Belts

83 Eastern Great Lakes Lowlands
- 83a Erie/Ontario Lake Plain