

Level III Ecoregions of the Continental United States

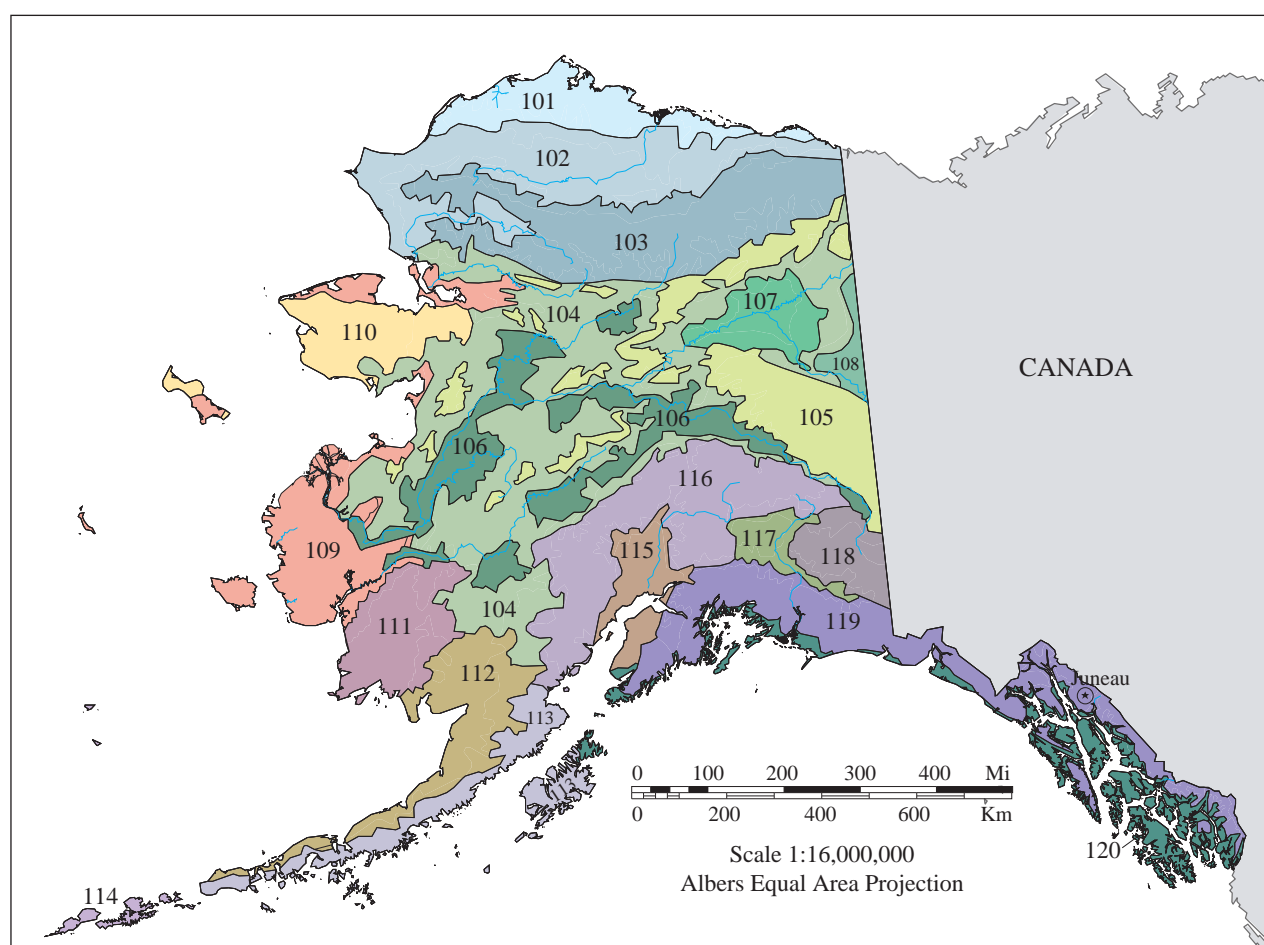
(Revised April 2013)

National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- 1. Coast Range
- 2. Puget Lowland
- 3. Willamette Valley
- 4. Cascades
- 5. Sierra Nevada
- 6. Central California Foothills and Coastal Mountains
- 7. Central California Valley
- 8. Southern California Mountains
- 9. Eastern Cascades Slopes and Foothills
- 10. Columbia Plateau
- 11. Blue Mountains
- 12. Snake River Plain
- 13. Central Basin and Range
- 14. Mojave Basin and Range
- 15. Northern Rockies
- 16. Idaho Batholith
- 17. Middle Rockies
- 18. Wyoming Basin
- 19. Wasatch and Uinta Mountains
- 20. Colorado Plateaus
- 21. Southern Rockies
- 22. Arizona/New Mexico Plateau
- 23. Arizona/New Mexico Mountains
- 24. Chihuahuan Deserts
- 25. High Plains
- 26. Southwestern Tablelands
- 27. Central Great Plains
- 28. Flint Hills
- 29. Cross Timbers
- 30. Edwards Plateau
- 31. Southern Texas Plains
- 32. Texas Blackland Prairies
- 33. East Central Texas Plains
- 34. Western Gulf Coastal Plain
- 35. South Central Plains
- 36. Ouachita Mountains
- 37. Arkansas Valley
- 38. Boston Mountains
- 39. Ozark Highlands
- 40. Central Irregular Plains
- 41. Canadian Rockies
- 42. Northwestern Glaciated Plains
- 43. Northwestern Great Plains
- 44. Nebraska Sand Hills
- 45. Piedmont
- 46. Northern Glaciated Plains
- 47. Western Corn Belt Plains
- 48. Lake Agassiz Plain
- 49. Northern Minnesota Wetlands
- 50. Northern Lakes and Forests
- 51. North Central Hardwood Forests
- 52. Driftless Area
- 53. Southeastern Wisconsin Till Plains
- 54. Central Corn Belt Plains
- 55. Eastern Corn Belt Plains
- 56. Southern Michigan/Northern Indiana Drift Plains



- 57. Huron/Erie Lake Plains
- 58. Northeastern Highlands
- 59. Northeastern Coastal Zone
- 60. Northern Allegheny Plateau
- 61. Erie Drift Plain
- 62. North Central Appalachians
- 63. Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain
- 64. Northern Piedmont
- 65. Southeastern Plains
- 66. Blue Ridge
- 67. Ridge and Valley
- 68. Southwestern Appalachians
- 69. Central Appalachians
- 70. Western Allegheny Plateau
- 71. Interior Plateau
- 72. Interior River Valleys and Hills
- 73. Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- 74. Mississippi Valley Loess Plains
- 75. Southern Coastal Plain
- 76. Southern Florida Coastal Plain
- 77. North Cascades
- 78. Klamath Mountains/California High North Coast Range
- 79. Madrean Archipelago
- 80. Northern Basin and Range
- 81. Sonoran Basin and Range
- 82. Acadian Plains and Hills
- 83. Eastern Great Lakes Lowlands
- 84. Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens
- 85. Southern California/Northern Baja Coast



- 101. Arctic Coastal Plain
- 102. Arctic Foothills
- 103. Brooks Range
- 104. Interior Forested Lowlands and Uplands
- 105. Interior Highlands
- 106. Interior Bottomlands
- 107. Yukon Flats
- 108. Ogilvie Mountains
- 109. Subarctic Coastal Plains
- 110. Seward Peninsula
- 111. Ahklun and Kilbuck Mountains
- 112. Bristol Bay-Nushagak Lowlands
- 113. Alaska Peninsula Mountains
- 114. Aleutian Islands (Western portion not shown)
- 115. Cook Inlet
- 116. Alaska Range
- 117. Copper Plateau
- 118. Wrangell Mountains
- 119. Pacific Coastal Mountains
- 120. Coastal Western Hemlock-Sitka Spruce Forests

Ecoregions are areas where ecosystems (and the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources) are generally similar. This ecoregion framework is derived from Omernik (1987) and from mapping done in collaboration with U.S. EPA regional offices, other Federal agencies, state resource management agencies, and neighboring North American countries (Omernik and Griffith 2014). Designed to serve as a spatial framework for the research, assessment, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components, ecoregions denote areas of similarity in the mosaic of biotic, abiotic, terrestrial, and aquatic ecosystem components, with humans considered as part of the biota. These ecoregions have been used to develop regional biological criteria and water quality standards, set management goals for nonpoint source pollution, assess land cover trends, report on ecosystem carbon sequestration, and frame wildlife conservation research, among other applications.

Ecological regions can be identified by analyzing the patterns and composition of biotic and abiotic phenomena that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity (Omernik 1987, 1995). 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. A Roman numeral classification scheme has been adopted for different levels of ecological regions. Level I is the coarsest level, dividing North America into 15 ecological regions; at Level II the continent is subdivided into 50 classes (CEC 1997, 2006). Level III, shown here, has 105 ecoregions in the continental U.S. For the conterminous United States, the ecoregions have been further subdivided to 967 Level IV ecoregions. Details about the ecoregions or their applications are explained in reports and publications from the state and regional projects (e.g., Bryce et al., 1998, 2003; Chapman et al., 2001, 2006; Gallant et al., 1989, 1995; Griffith et al., 2004, 2009, 2014; McGrath et al., 2002; Omernik, 2004; Omernik et al., 2000; Thorson et al., 2003; Wilken et al., 2011; and Woods et al., 1996, 2002, 2004). For additional information, contact James M. Omernik, USGS, c/o U.S. EPA, 200 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, phone (541) 754-4458, email omernik.james@epa.gov; or Glenn Griffith, USGS, c/o U.S. EPA, 200 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, phone (541) 754-4465, email griffith@usgs.gov.

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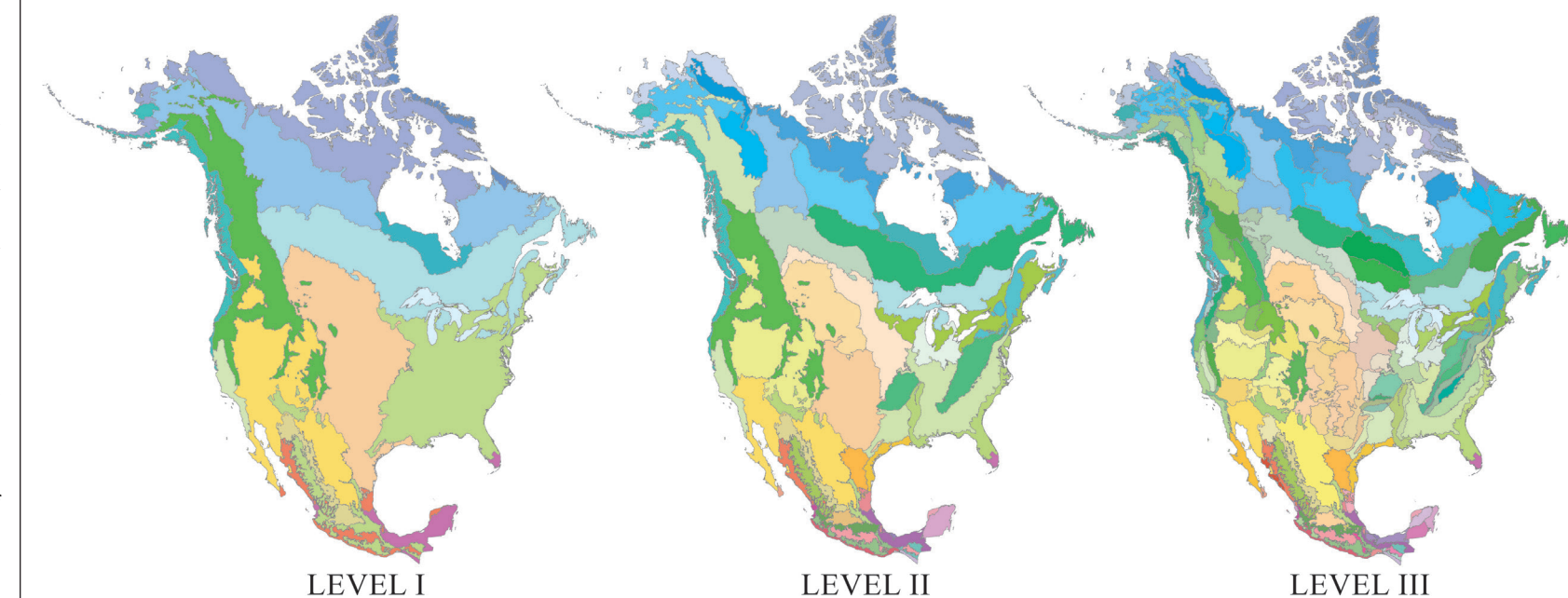
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ECOLOGICAL REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA



The names and identification numbers for North American Level I, II, and III ecological regions are given in CEC 1997, 2006.

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