Ecoregions of Louisiana

Western Gulf Coastal Plain

This ecoregion stretches from the Ohio River in western Kentucky to Louisiana. It includes large Pleistocene glacial outwash deposits of Ecoregion 73j. Soils are mostly Vertisol developed on alluvial sediments. The region supports coastal wetlands, backswamps, and coastal prairies. The coastal prairies have many of the same plant species as the prairies of Ecoregion 34a, but they are inundated more frequently. Western Gulf Coastal Plain is not dominated by coastal prairies; extensive areas of bottomland hardwood forests occur on younger, Miocene- and Pliocene-age geologic deposits. Inceptisols with a sandy loam texture are common. The ecoregion is a flat to nearly flat floodplain where erosion has occurred in many parts of 74a, particularly when the soils lack adequate land use. Agricultural activities, including livestock grazing, poultry production, and oil and gas exploration and production, are prevalent throughout the area. The longleaf pine community was characterized by longleaf pine over a great diversity of herbaceous understory species. Semideciduous hardwoods dominated the mixed forests that occur in various subparts of the ecoregion. This ecoregion is in the reservation of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Agriculture is now the dominant land use, along with livestock grazing, poultry production, and oil and gas exploration and production. Ecoregion 74a includes the slackwater areas along the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers, which are important areas for capturing excess nutrients from local waters. Coarser soils have fewer organic matter horizons and are better drained than the heavy clays and silt loams typical in the surrounding ecoregions. Approximately 30% of the region supports wetland communities, dominated by the marsh grasses present in the Louisiana marshes. Southern Coastal Plain

This ecoregion includes the slackwater areas along the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers, which are important areas for capturing excess nutrients from local waters. Coarser soils have fewer organic matter horizons and are better drained than the heavy clays and silt loams typical in the surrounding ecoregions. Approximately 30% of the region supports wetland communities, dominated by the marsh grasses present in the Louisiana marshes.

Southeastern Wisconsin Till Plains

This ecoregion is a lowland area located along the southern and western edge of the Great Lakes. The region consists of the unconsolidated terrace deposits, and often covered by pine-hardwood flatwoods. The LaCrosse terrace (73e), the Eau Claire terrace (73f), and the Chippewa terrace (73g) all contribute to the geographical formation of the Southeastern Wisconsin Till Plains. The ecoregion includes the slackwater areas along the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers, which are important areas for capturing excess nutrients from local waters. Coarser soils have fewer organic matter horizons and are better drained than the heavy clays and silt loams typical in the surrounding ecoregions. Approximately 30% of the region supports wetland communities, dominated by the marsh grasses present in the Louisiana marshes.

Central Appalachians

The Central Appalachians is an ecoregion that stretches from the Ohio River in western Kentucky to Louisiana. It includes large Pleistocene glacial outwash deposits of Ecoregion 73j. Soils are mostly Vertisol developed on alluvial sediments. The region supports coastal wetlands, backswamps, and coastal prairies. The coastal prairies have many of the same plant species as the prairies of Ecoregion 34a, but they are inundated more frequently. Western Gulf Coastal Plain is not dominated by coastal prairies; extensive areas of bottomland hardwood forests occur on younger, Miocene- and Pliocene-age geologic deposits. Inceptisols with a sandy loam texture are common. The ecoregion is a flat to nearly flat floodplain where erosion has occurred in many parts of 74a, particularly when the soils lack adequate land use. Agricultural activities, including livestock grazing, poultry production, and oil and gas exploration and production, are prevalent throughout the area. The longleaf pine community was characterized by longleaf pine over a great diversity of herbaceous understory species. Semideciduous hardwoods dominated the mixed forests that occur in various subparts of the ecoregion. This ecoregion is in the reservation of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Agriculture is now the dominant land use, along with livestock grazing, poultry production, and oil and gas exploration and production. Ecoregion 74a includes the slackwater areas along the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers, which are important areas for capturing excess nutrients from local waters. Coarser soils have fewer organic matter horizons and are better drained than the heavy clays and silt loams typical in the surrounding ecoregions. Approximately 30% of the region supports wetland communities, dominated by the marsh grasses present in the Louisiana marshes.

North Central Hardwood Forests

This ecoregion is a lowland area located along the southern and western edge of the Great Lakes. The region consists of the unconsolidated terrace deposits, and often covered by pine-hardwood flatwoods. The LaCrosse terrace (73e), the Eau Claire terrace (73f), and the Chippewa terrace (73g) all contribute to the geographical formation of the Southeastern Wisconsin Till Plains. The ecoregion includes the slackwater areas along the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers, which are important areas for capturing excess nutrients from local waters. Coarser soils have fewer organic matter horizons and are better drained than the heavy clays and silt loams typical in the surrounding ecoregions. Approximately 30% of the region supports wetland communities, dominated by the marsh grasses present in the Louisiana marshes.