Ecoregions of Louisiana

34 Western Gulf Coastal Plain
35 Northern Humid Gulf Coastal Prairies
34 Floodplains and Low Terraces
34 Texas-Louisiana Coastal Marshes
34 Lafayette Looes Plains
35 South Central Plains
35a Tertiary Uplands
35b Floodplains and Low Terraces
35c Pleistocene Fluvial Terraces
35 Southern Tertiary Uplands
35d Flatswamp
35e Red River Bottomlands
65 Southeastern Plains
65f Southern Pine Plains and Hills
65p Southeastern Floodplains and Low Terraces
73 Mississippi Alluvial Plain
73a Northern Holocene Meander Belts
73b Southern Holocene Meander Belts
73e Southern Pleistocene Valley Trains
73f Southern Backswamps
73g Inland Swamps
73i Deltaic Coastal Marshes and Barrier Islands
74 Mississippi Valley Loess Plains
74a Bluff Hills
74b Southern Rolling Plains
74c Baton Rouge Terrace
75 Southern Coastal Plain
75a Gulf Coast Flatwoods
75b Floodplains and Low Terraces
75c Gulf Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes

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 the research, assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components. Ecoregions are general purpose regions that are critical for structuring and implementing ecosystem management strategies across federal agencies, state agencies, and nongovernment organizations responsible for different types of resources in the same geographical areas.

The approach used to compile the ecoregion map is based on the premise that ecological regions can be identified through analysis of the spatial patterns and the composition of biotic and abiotic characteristics that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity. These characteristics 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 ecoregion hierarchical level.

This ecoregion map was compiled at a scale of 1:2,500,000, and depicts revisions and subdivisions of level III ecoregions that were originally completed at a smaller scale. It is part of a collaborative project primarily between USEPA-National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (Corvallis, Oregon), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWFW), Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS), and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). Collaboration and consultation also occurred with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and USGS-Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science.

This project is associated with an interagency effort to develop a common framework of ecological regions. Reaching that objective requires recognition of the differences in the conceptual approaches and mapping methodologies applied to develop the most common ecoregion-type frameworks, including those developed by the USFS, the USEPA, and the NRCS. As each of these frameworks is further refined, their differences are becoming less discernible. Each collaborative ecoregion project, such as this one in Louisiana, is a step toward attaining consensus and consistency in ecoregion frameworks for the entire nation.

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