Level III Ecoregions of the Continental United States
(Revised April 2013)
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ecological regions are named from vegetation (and the typography, quality, and quantity of environmental conditions) on a parallel basis. This coherent framework is derived from Omernik (1987) and provides mapping at collaboration with U.S. Geological Survey, as well as ongoing ecological research and understanding. These are the highest level of ecological complexity. Below it are the Level II ecoregions, and below that are the Level III ecoregions.

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Ecoregions can be identified by analyzing the patterns and composition of the environment and the ecological processes that are affected by these patterns. This is accomplished by mapping, vegetation surveys, and ecological monitoring. These maps are used to identify areas of concern and to develop management strategies.


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