The ecoregions shown here have been derived from Omernik (1987) and from refinements made in collaboration with regional offices, state resource management agencies, and with other federal agencies. The approach used to compile this map is based on the premise that ecological regions represent areas of relatively homogeneous ecosystems, and that these regions have implications for environmental management. Ecological regions are valuable tools for environmental management, because they delineate areas within which ecosystems and the type, quality, and quality of environmental measures are essentially similar. The approach to develop this compilation is based on the premise that ecological regions can be used to develop a more coherent framework for environmental management and to provide a common perspective for environmental management from one ecological region to another.

The names and identification numbers for level I and II ecological regions are given in Figure 1. In general, the level I ecological regions are defined by major ecoregions or provinces that are important for national or international reasons. The level II ecological regions are defined by smaller geographic units that are important for more specific management purposes. The level III ecological regions are defined by even smaller geographic units that are important for more specialized management purposes.

The level III ecoregions of the Continental United States are shown in this figure. The level III ecoregions are further subdivided into level IV ecoregions, which are shown in Figure 2. The level IV ecoregions are further subdivided into level V ecoregions, which are shown in Figure 3.

The level III ecoregions of the Continental United States were compiled in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey. The level III ecoregions of the Continental United States were compiled using data from a variety of sources, including ecological databases, ecological field studies, and ecological literature.

References: