

- 1.0 ARCTIC CORDILLERA**
CORDILLERA ÁRTICA
CORDILLÈRE ARCTIQUE
- 2.0 TUNDRA**
TUNDRA
TOUNDKA
- 3.0 TAIGA**
TAIGA
TAÏGA
- 4.0 HUDSON PLAIN**
PLANICIE DE HUDSON
PLAINE D'HUDSON
- 5.0 NORTHERN FORESTS**
BOSQUES SEPTENTRIONALES
FORÊTS SEPTENTRIONALES
- 6.0 NORTHWESTERN FORESTED MOUNTAINS**
MONTAÑAS BOSCOSAS NOROCCIDENTALES
MONTAGNES FORESTÉES DU NORD-QUEST
- 7.0 MARINE WEST COAST FOREST**
BOSQUE COSTERO OCCIDENTAL
FORêt MARITIME DE LA CÔTE OCCIDENTALE
- 8.0 EASTERN TEMPERATE FORESTS**
BOSQUES TEMPLADOS DEL ESTE
FORêTS TEMPÉRÉES DE L'EST
- 9.0 GREAT PLAINS**
GRANDES PLANICIES
GRANDES PLAINES
- 10.0 NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS**
DESIERTOS DE NORTEAMÉRICA
DESÉRTS DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD
- 11.0 MEDITERRANEAN CALIFORNIA**
CALIFORNIA MEDITERRÁNEA
CALIFORNIE MÉDITERRANÉENNE
- 12.0 SOUTHERN SEMI-ARID HIGHLANDS**
ELEVACIONES SEMIÁRIDAS MERIDIONALES
HAUTES TERRES SEMI-ARIDES MÉRIDIONALES
- 13.0 TEMPERATE SIERRAS**
SIERRAS TEMPLADAS
SIERRAS TÉMPERÉES
- 14.0 TROPICAL DRY FORESTS**
SELVAS CÁLIDO-SECAS
FORêTS TROPICALES SÈCHES
- 15.0 TROPICAL WET FORESTS**
SELVAS CÁLIDO-HÚMEDAS
FORêTS TROPICALES HUMIDES

Échelle Escala Scale
 0 200 400 600 800 Mi
 0 400 800 1200 Km
 Projection Azimutal de Equi-aire de Lambert
 Proyección Azimutal de Equi-área de Lambert
 Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area Projection

Region boundary Level I
 Limite de régions Nivel I
 Limite de régions Niveau I
 International boundary
 Limite internacional
 Limite internationale

Canada

United States of America

Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Three countries working together to map our shared environment.







ECOLOGICAL REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

REGIONES ECOLÓGICAS DE AMÉRICA DEL NORTE

RÉGIONS ÉCOLOGIQUES DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD

Level I

Nivel I

Niveau I

North American Atlas

Atlas de América del Norte

Atlas nord-américain

Produced in partnership with:


CEC
 cec.org


Canada
 atlas.gc.ca


nationalatlas.gov
 nationalatlas.gov


INEGI
 www.inegi.gob.mx

Elaborado en colaboración con: Réalisé en partenariat avec :

Ecological regions are areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources. They serve as a spatial framework for the research, assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components. They are effective for national and regional state of the environment reports, environmental resource inventories and assessments, setting regional resource management goals, determining carrying capacity, as well as developing biological criteria and water quality standards. The development of a clear understanding of regional and large continental ecosystems is critical for evaluating ecological risk, sustainability, and health.

The maps shown here represent a second attempt to holistically classify and map ecological regions across the North American continent (Commission for Environmental Cooperation Working Group, 1997). The mapping from 1997 and 2006 was built upon earlier efforts that had begun individually in all three countries (e.g., Wiken 1986, Omernik 1987). These approaches recognized the need to consider a full range of physical and biotic characteristics to explain ecosystem regions (Omernik 2004). Equally, they recognized that the relative importance of each characteristic varies from one ecological region to another regardless of the hierarchical level. In describing ecoregionalization in Canada, Wiken (1986) stated:

Ecological land classification is a process of delineating and classifying ecologically distinctive areas of the Earth's surface. Each area can be viewed as a discrete system which has resulted from the mesh and interplay of the geologic, landform, soil, vegetative, climatic, wildlife, water and human factors which may be present. The dominance of any one or a number of these factors varies with the given ecological land unit. This holistic approach to land classification can be applied incrementally on a scale related basis from very site-specific ecosystems to very broad ecosystems.

Literature Cited:

Commission for Environmental Cooperation Working Group, 1997. Ecological regions of North America – toward a common perspective: Montreal, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, 71 p.

McMahon, G., Gregonis, S.M., Waltman, S.W., Omernik, J.M., Thorson, T.D., Freeouf, J.A., Rorick, A.H., and Keys, J.E., 2001. Developing a spatial framework of common ecological regions for the conterminous United States: Environmental Management, v. 28, no. 3, p. 293-316.

Omernik, J.M., 1987. Ecoregions of the conterminous United States (map supplement): Annals of the Association of American Geographers, v. 77, no. 1, p. 118-125, scale 1:7,500,000.

Omernik, J.M., 2004. Perspectives on the nature and definition of ecological regions: Environmental Management, v. 34, Supplement 1, p. s27-s38.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2006. Level III ecoregions of the continental United States (revision of Omernik, 1987): Corvallis, Oregon, USEPA – National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Map M-1, various scales.

Wiken, E.B., 1986. Terrestrial ecozones of Canada: Ottawa, Ontario, Environment Canada, Ecological Land Classification Series no. 19, 26 p.

Wiken, E.B., Gauthier, D., Marshall, I.B., Lawton, K., and Hirvonen, H., 1996. A perspective on Canada's ecosystems: An overview of the terrestrial and marine ecozones: Ottawa, Ontario, Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, Occasional Paper No. 14, 95 p.

These maps represent the working group's best consensus on the distribution and characteristics of major ecosystems on all three levels throughout the three North American countries. The methodology incorporated these points in mapping ecological regions:

- Ecological classification incorporates all major components of ecosystems: air, water, land, and biota, including humans.
- It is holistic ("the whole is greater than the sum of its parts").
- The number and relative importance of factors that are helpful in the delineation process vary from one area to another, regardless of the level of generalization.