



Level III Ecoregions of Alaska

1995

reproduced 2010

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This map of ecoregions has been produced for Alaska as a framework for organizing and interpreting environmental data for State, national, and international level inventory, monitoring, and research efforts. The map and descriptions for 20 ecological regions were derived by synthesizing information on the geographic distribution of environmental factors such as climate, physiography, geology, permafrost, soils, and vegetation. A qualitative assessment was used to interpret the distributional patterns and relative importance of these factors from place to place (Gallant and others, 1995).

Numeric identifiers assigned to the ecoregions are coordinated with those used on the map of "Ecoregions of the Conterminous United States" (Omernik 1987, U.S. EPA 2010) as a continuation of efforts to map ecoregions for the United States. Additionally, the ecoregions for Alaska and the conterminous United States, along with ecological regions for Canada (Wiken 1986) and Mexico, have been combined for maps at three hierarchical levels for North America (Omernik 1995, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, 1997, 2006).

References
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GIS files, maps, and a table of major environmental characteristics for each ecoregion are available at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/ak/>.