Level III and IV Ecoregions of Washington

June, 2010

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. These general purpose regions are critical for structuring and implementing ecosystem management strategies across federal agencies, state agencies, and non-governmental organizations that are responsible for different types of resources within the same geographical areas. The approach used to compile this map is based on the premise that ecological regions can be identified through the analysis of patterns of biotic and abiotic phenomena, including 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 the hierarchical level. The Ecoregions of Washington map was compiled at a scale of 1:250,000, as part of the US EPA framework of ecological regions. Although there have been differences in conceptual approaches and mapping methodologies used by the USDA–Forest Service, USDA–NRCS, and US EPA to develop the most common ecoregion-type frameworks, collaboration on refinement of these frameworks is a step toward attaining consensus and consistency in ecoregion frameworks for the entire nation. Comments regarding this map should be addressed to James Omernik, U.S. Geological Survey, 200 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, (541) 754-4458, omernik.james@epa.gov; or Glenn Griffith, Dynamac Corp., c/o US EPA, 200 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, (541) 754-4465, griffith.glenn@epa.gov.

Publications:

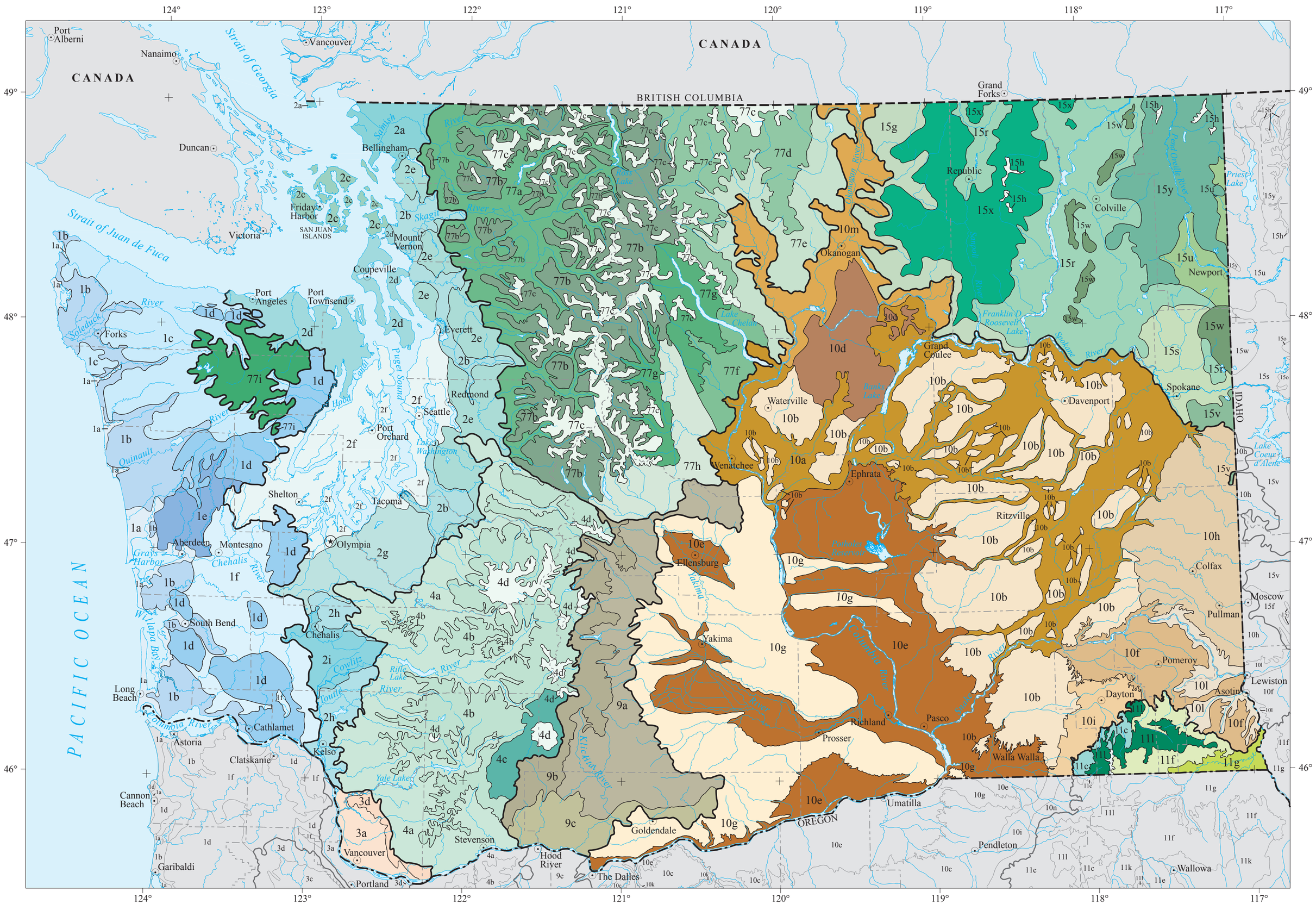
Thorson, T.D., S.A. Bryce, D.A. Lammers, A.J. Woods, J.M. Omernik, J. Kagan, D.E. Pater, and J.A. Comstock. 2003. Ecoregions of Oregon. (2 sided color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs). U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA. Scale 1:1,500,000.

McGrath, C.L., A.J. Woods, J.M. Omernik, S.A. Bryce, M. Edmondson, J.A. Nesser, J. Shelden, R.C. Crawford, J.A. Comstock, and M.D. Plocher. 2002. Ecoregions of Idaho. (2 sided color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs). U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA. Scale 1:1,350,000.

Pater, D.E., S.A. Bryce, T.D. Thorson, J. Kagan, C. Chappell, J.M. Omernik, S.H. Azevedo, and A. J. Woods. 1998. Ecoregions of Western Washington and Oregon (2 sided color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs). U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA. Scale 1:1,350,000.

Clarke, S.E. and S.A. Bryce. 1997. Hierarchical subdivisions of the Columbia Plateau & Blue Mountains ecoregions, Oregon & Washington. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-395. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR. 114p.

Ecoregion information is available at: http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions.htm.



1 Coast Range
- 1a Coastal Lowlands
- 1b Coastal Uplands
- 1c Low Olympics
- 1d Volcanics
- 1e Outwash
- 1f Willapa Hills

2 Puget Lowland
- 2a Fraser Lowland
- 2b Eastern Puget Riverine Lowlands
- 2c San Juan Islands
- 2d Olympic Rainshadow
- 2e Eastern Puget Uplands
- 2f Central Puget Lowland
- 2g Southern Puget Prairies
- 2h Cowlitz/Chehalis Foothills
- 2i Cowlitz/Newaukum Prairie Floodplains

3 Willamette Valley
- 3a Portland/Vancouver Basin
- 3d Valley Foothills

4 Cascades
- 4a Western Cascades Lowlands and Valleys
- 4b Western Cascades Montane Highlands
- 4c Cascade Crest Montane Forest
- 4d Cascade Subalpine/Alpine

9 Eastern Cascades Slopes and Foothills
- 9a Yakima Plateau and Slopes
- 9b Grand Fir Mixed Forest
- 9c Oak/Conifer Foothills

10 Columbia Plateau
- 10a Channeled Scablands
- 10b Loess Islands
- 10d Okanogan Drift Hills
- 10e Pleistocene Lake Basins
- 10f Dissected Loess Uplands
- 10g Yakima Folds
- 10h Palouse Hills
- 10i Deep Loess Foothills
- 10l Lower Snake and Clearwater Canyons
- 10m Okanogan Valley

11 Blue Mountains
- 11c Maritime-Influenced Zone
- 11f Canyons and Dissected Highlands
- 11g Canyons and Dissected Uplands
- 11l Mesic Forest Zone
- 11m Subalpine-Alpine Zone

15 Northern Rockies
- 15g Western Okanogan Semiarid Foothills
- 15h High Northern Rockies
- 15r Okanogan-Colville Xeric Valleys and Foothills
- 15s Spokane Valley Outwash Plains
- 15u Inland Maritime Foothills and Valleys
- 15v Northern Idaho Hills and Low Relief Mountains
- 15w Western Selkirk Maritime Forest
- 15x Okanogan Highland Dry Forest
- 15y Selkirk Mountains

77 North Cascades
- 77a North Cascades Lowland Forests
- 77b North Cascades Highland Forests
- 77c North Cascades Subalpine/Alpine
- 77d Pasayten/Sawtooth Highlands
- 77e Okanogan Pine/Fir Hills
- 77f Chelan Tephra Hills
- 77g Wenatchee/Chelan Highlands
- 77h Chiwaukum Hills and Lowlands
- 77i High Olympics

Scale 1:1,350,000

50 25 0 50 km

50 25 0 50 mi

- Level III ecoregion
- Level IV ecoregion
- County boundary
- State boundary
- International boundary