

Minnesota Level III and IV Ecoregions

Level IV Brief Descriptions

Ecoregion	Description
46 Northern Glaciated Plains	
46e Tewaukon/Big Stone Stagnation Moraine	Gently undulating moraine field with mix of row crops, many small lakes, marshes, and potholes
46k Prairie Coteau	Higher elevation plateau with poorly defined drainage, many lakes, and mix of row crops and some pasture
46l Prairie Coteau Escarpment	Slopes from plateau to river basin with perennial streams and riparian vegetation, and row crops on interfluves
46m Big Sioux Basin	Plateau of older loess covered till with row crops, pasture and no lakes
46o Minnesota River Prairie	Generally level plain with mostly row crops on deep soils and with some lakes and wetlands
47 Western Corn Belt Plains	
47a Loess Prairies	Loess covered undulating plain with dissecting rivers and predominantly row crops
47b Des Moines Lobe	Vast fertile plain of deep soils dominated by row crops
47c Eastern Iowa and Minnesota Drift Plains	Older till plain with mostly row crops and some pasture
47g Lower St Croix and Vermillion Valleys	Dissected till plain and outwash valleys with mix of row crops and pasture
48 Lake Agassiz Plain	
48a Glacial Lake Agassiz Basin	Flat former lake bed dominated by row crops and grains
48b Beach Ridges and Sand Deltas	Low ridges of gravel and sand with mix of row crops, small grains, woodland, and wetlands
48d Lake Agassiz Plains	Flat land higher than 48a with row crops, small grains, and pasture
49 Northern Minnesota Wetlands	
49a Peatlands	Vast wetland of peat soils on former lake bed
49b Forested Lake Plains	Flat to gently sloping plain with extensive wetlands, some forest and several eroded river channels
50 Northern Lakes and Forests	
50a Lake Superior Lacustrine Clay Plain	Clay-covered former lake bed strongly dissected having mixed land use
50b Minnesota/Wisconsin Upland Till Plain	Rolling landscape of woods, wetlands, pasture, and crops
50m Mesabi Range	Granite hills extensively modified by mine pits and dumps
50n Boundary Lakes and Hills	Forested hills with thin soils and irregular slopes interspersed with many lakes
50o Glacial Lakes Upham and Aitken	Flat former lake beds with peat and sandy soils covered with wetlands, forest, and some pasture
50p Toimi Drumlins	Drumlins covered with forest, interspersed with wetland depressions
50q Itasca and St Louis Moraines	Mostly forested rolling landscape with some lakes, crops, and pasture
50r Chippewa Plains	Mostly level landscape with forest, crops, and pasture and many lakes
50s Nashwauk/Marcell Moraines and Uplands	Rolling to steeply sloped landscape with mix of forest and wetlands
50t North Shore Highlands	Hills above Lake Superior with many streams draining into lake

Ecoregion	Description
51 North Central Hardwoods	
51a St Croix Outwash Plain and Stagnation Plains	Rolling hills interspersed with depressions of small lakes and wetlands, extensively covered by urban and suburban development, but also pasture, and some crops and woodland
51h Anoka Sand Plain and Mississippi Valley Outwash	Undulating sandy plain with wetlands, some lakes, small grains, row crops, woodlands, and suburban development
51i Big Woods	Rolling plain with some lakes, mostly row crops with pasture and suburban development; formerly extensive hardwood forest
51j Alexandria Moraines and Detroit Lakes Outwash Plain	Elevated knob and kettle landscape with many lakes, and mix of forest, row crops, and pasture
51k McGrath Till Plain and Drumlins	Undulating and rolling plain with drumlins and mix of woodland, row crops, and pasture
51l Wadena/Todd Drumlins and Osakis Till Plain	Drumlins and rolling plains with row crops, pasture, and woodland
52 Driftless Area	
52b Blufflands and Coulees	Steeply dissected plateau, wooded on slopes with crops in bottoms, some pasture and crops on bluffs
52c Rochester/Paleozoic Plateau Upland	Rolling older loess covered plain with row crops and some pasture

This is a provisional version of the Minnesota Level IV ecoregions. It has not been subjected to field verification or to sufficient consultation with experts in important aspects of ecosystem geography in Minnesota. For example the current subregions of level III region 50, especially 50b, q, r, and s contain a complex of glacial features, moraines, drumlins, outwash, etc., varying at a scale somewhat finer than these subregions. There are no plans at this time to revise the map.

Comments and questions regarding the Level III and IV Ecoregions of Minnesota should be addressed to Denis White, US EPA., 200 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, (541) 754-4476, email: white.denis@epa.gov, or to James Omernik, USGS, c/o US EPA, 200 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, (541) 754-4458, email: omernik.james@epa.gov.