




What's Your Eco-Zipcode?


An Introduction to the Ecological Subsections of Southeastern Ohio




Lisa Kluesner, Ecologist – Wayne National Forest

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Overview



- What is ecological classification?
- Why classify and map ecosystems?
- Ecological zipcodes of southeast Ohio



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What is Ecological Classification?



- We classify individual species – why not ecosystems?
- Ecosystems can be classified into distinct, geographic units across spatial scales.
- Brings together the biotic and **abiotic** worlds
 - *Biotic* – “living” world, e.g. vegetation
 - *Abiotic* – “non-living” world, e.g., physiography, soils, hydrology

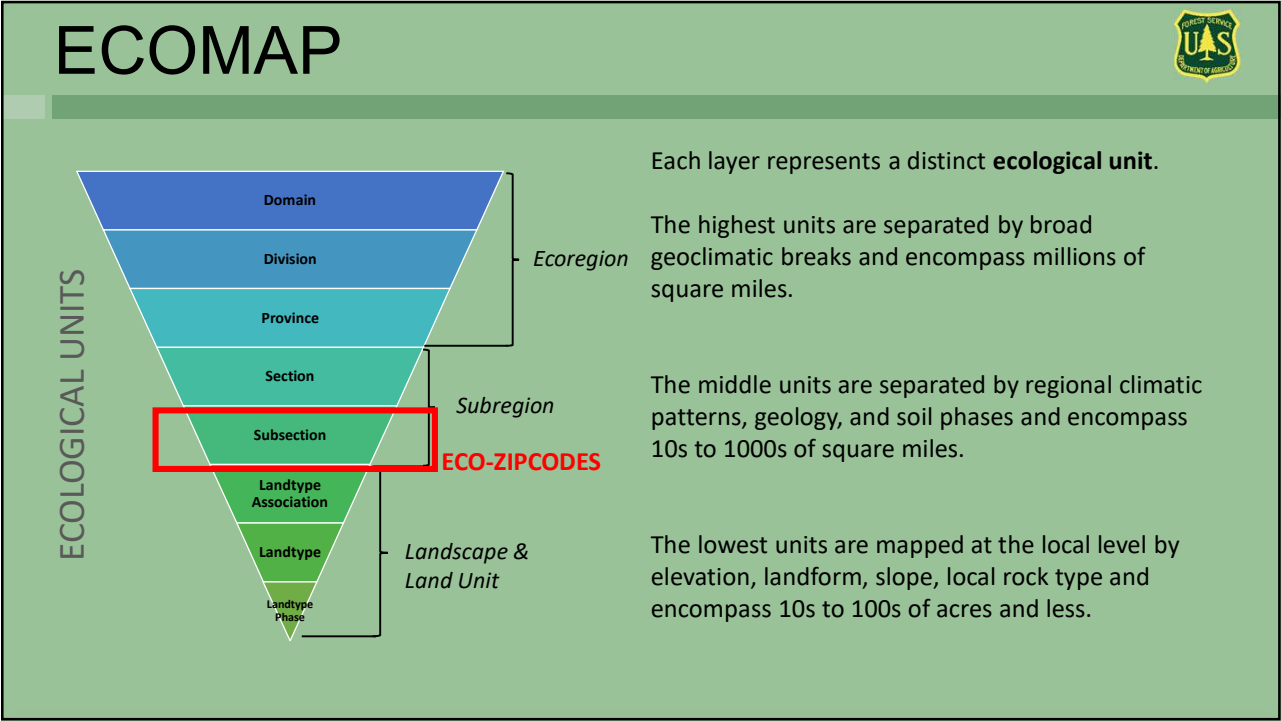
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Why Classify and Map?

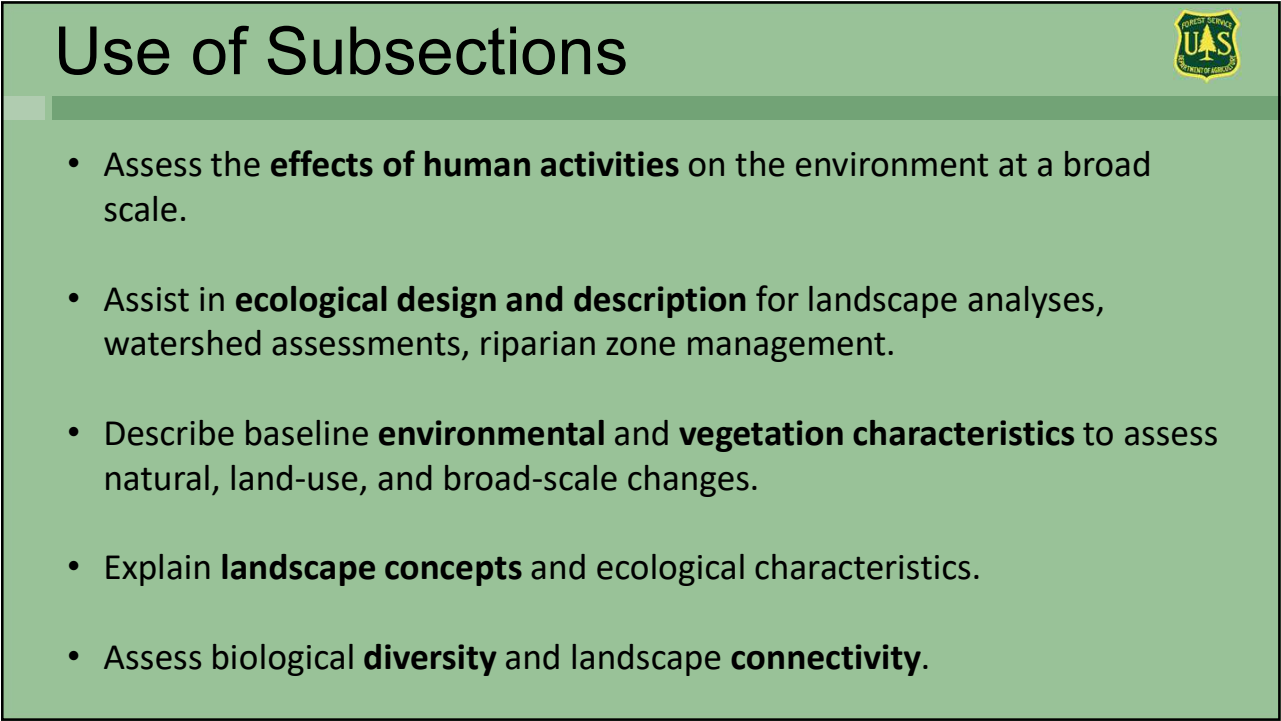


- Classify to identify lands that have similar **capabilities** and **potentials** for management and conservation.
- Map to provide a spatial understanding of **patterns** and **processes** across a landscape.
- Forest Service uses the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units, or **ECOMAP**

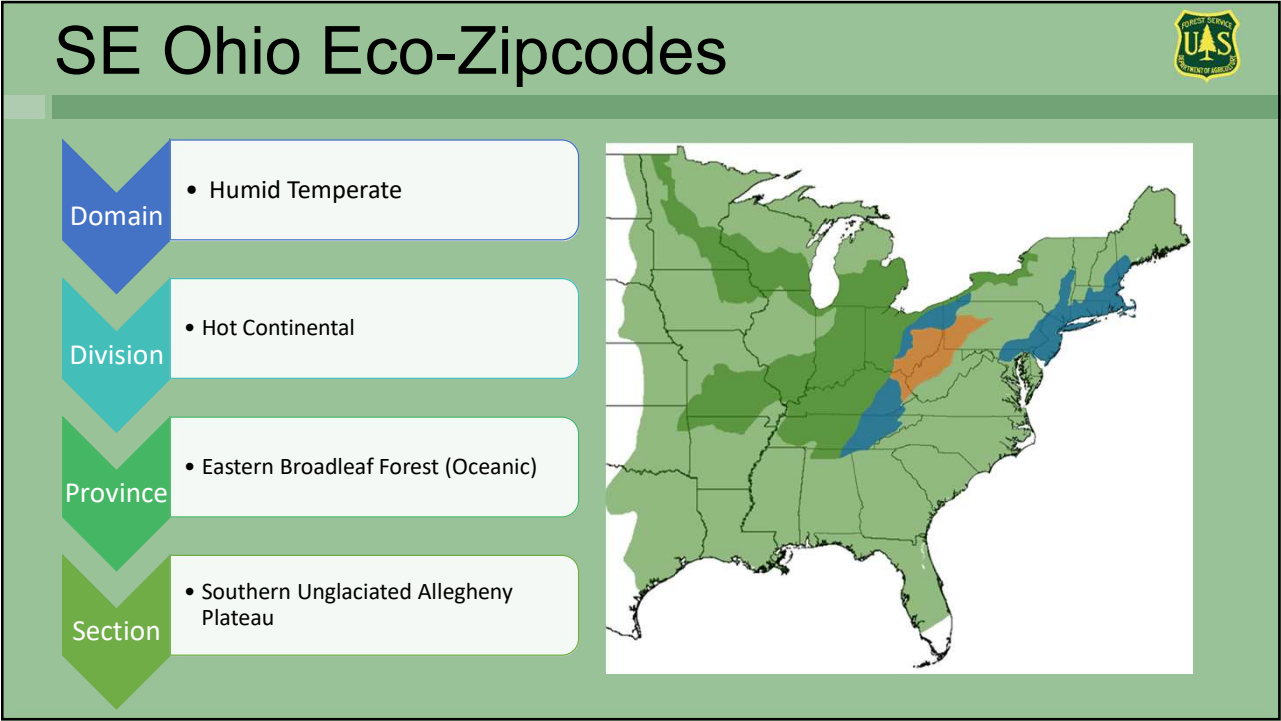
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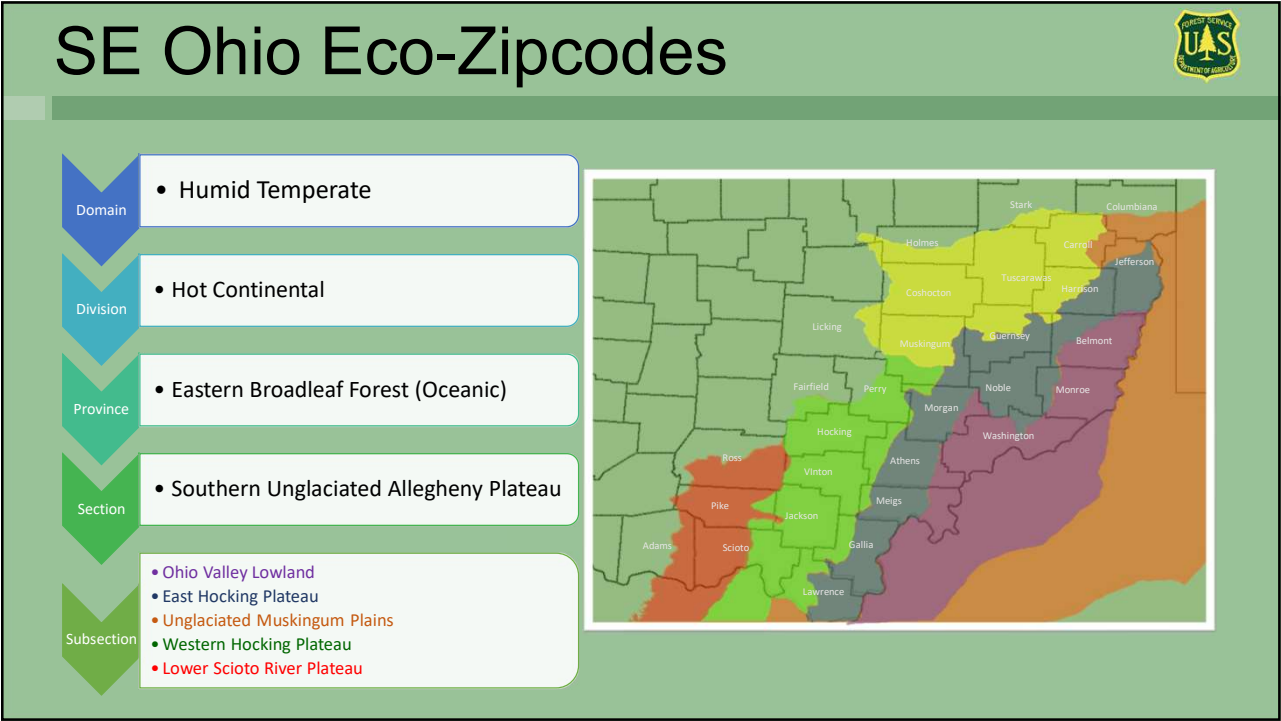
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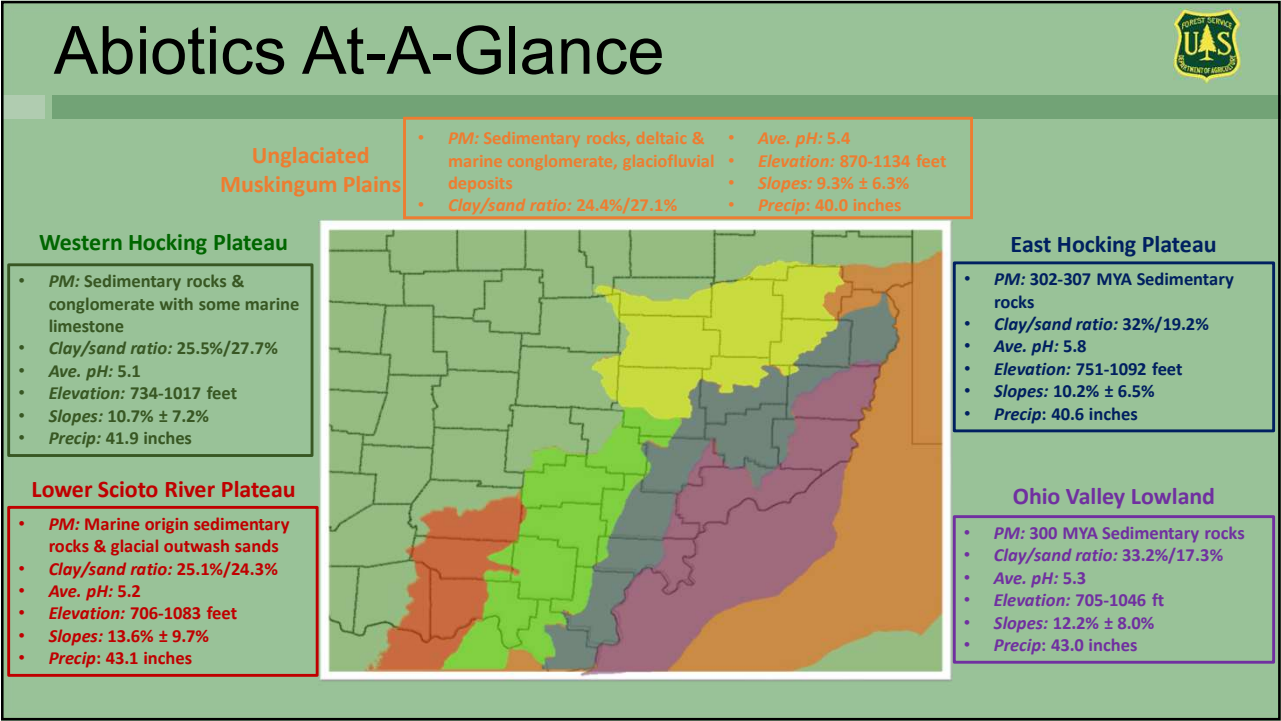
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Pre-settlement Vegetation









Subsection	Beech Forests	Mixed Oak Forests	Oak-Sugar Maple Forests	Elm-Ash Swamp Forests	Mixed Mesophytic Forests	Bottomland Hardwood Forests
Ohio Valley Lowland 	14.7%	71.1%	5.2%	--	7.4%	0.8%
East Hocking Plateau 	20%	50.9%	1.2%	--	26.6%	0.9%
Unglaciaded Muskingum Plains 	4%	76.8%	--	1.6%	17.6%	--
Western Hocking Plateau 	7.5%	74%	<0.01%	0.4%	13.8%	4.2%
Lower Scioto River Plateau 	5.5%	28.7%	4.9%	0.5%	48.6%	11.2%

Data based on Gordon (1969) Pre-settlement Map

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Current Day Land-Use



Subsection	Developed	Crop & Pasture	Herbaceous	Shrub/Scrub	Forest	Wetland & Water
Ohio Valley Lowland 	8.3%	20%	1%	0.3%	69.6%	0.8%
East Hocking Plateau 	8%	21.3%	3.1%	0.6%	65.8%	0.8%
Unglaciaded Muskingum Plains 	11.6%	34.8%	1.4%	0.2%	49.8%	2%
Western Hocking Plateau 	7.4%	16.3%	3.1%	1.2%	71.2%	0.6%
Lower Scioto River Plateau 	6.7%	20.5%	4.6%	3.4%	63.8%	0.8%

Data from National Land Cover Dataset (Homer et al. 2015)

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Ohio Valley Lowland



Marietta Unit, Wayne National Forest







Consol Energy Powhatan Point Wildlife Area

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East Hocking Plateau





Jesse Owens State Park

Dow Lake, Strouds Run State Park



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Unglaciated Muskingum Plains



Woodbury Wildlife Area

Tri-Valley Wildlife Area






The Wilds, Columbus Zoo

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Western Hocking Plateau



Ash Cave, Hocking Hills State Park

Lookout Rock, Zaleski State Forest

Iron-ton Unit, Wayne National Forest



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Lower Scioto River Plateau



Shawnee State Park



Shawnee State Forest





Scioto River

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Want to learn more?





https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rmap/rmap_nrs10.pdf

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Questions?

