



North American
Environmental Atlas

Mapping North America's shared environment



cec.org



MAPPING NORTH AMERICA'S SHARED ENVIRONMENT

At first glance, the maps in the *North American Environmental Atlas* look no different from maps found on walls across the continent. These maps are unique, however, in that they harmonize geographic information across North America's political boundaries to depict significant environmental issues at a continental scale.

Through a collaboration of government agencies in Canada, Mexico and the United States and the trilateral Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), the *North American Environmental Atlas* assembles seamless, accurate geospatial data, including maps, documentation, and interactive map layers generalized at a scale of 1:10,000,000 or finer. The variety of base and thematic map layers is continuously expanding, providing a foundation to analyze the status of environmental conditions and identify significant trends across North America.

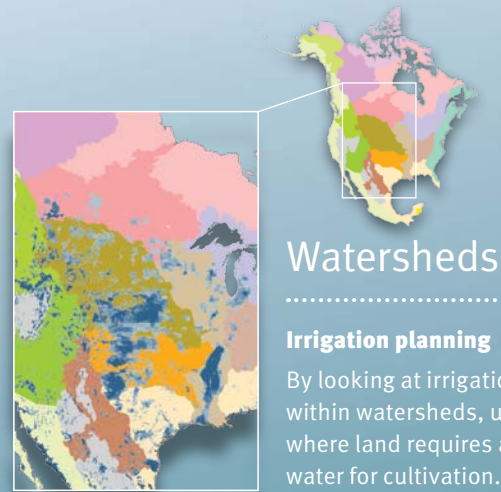
[ON THE COVER]

Land cover — The observed physical cover of Earth's surface, which forms a foundation for understanding continental-scale environmental issues. It provides a snapshot of North America's environment as a mosaic of forests, prairies, deserts and cities.

North American Environmental Atlas

Mapping North America's shared environment

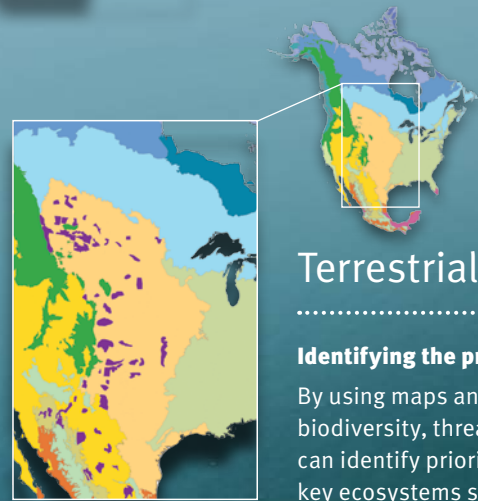
The *North American Environmental Atlas* assembles a growing number of foundational and thematic map layers. By comparing these layers, users can better understand and quantify critical trends and interrelationships at a continental scale.



Watersheds

Irrigation planning

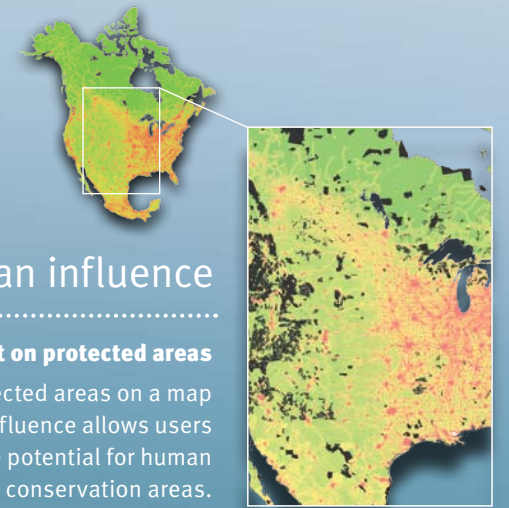
By looking at irrigation patterns within watersheds, users can see where land requires additional water for cultivation.



Terrestrial ecoregions

Identifying the priorities

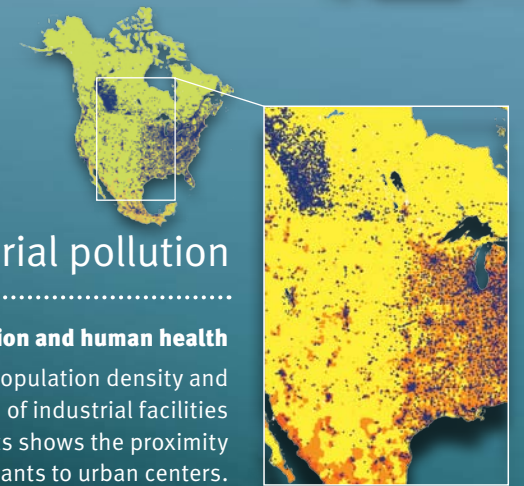
By using maps and information on biodiversity, threats and land cover, researchers can identify priority conservation areas within key ecosystems such as the grasslands.



Human influence

Human impact on protected areas

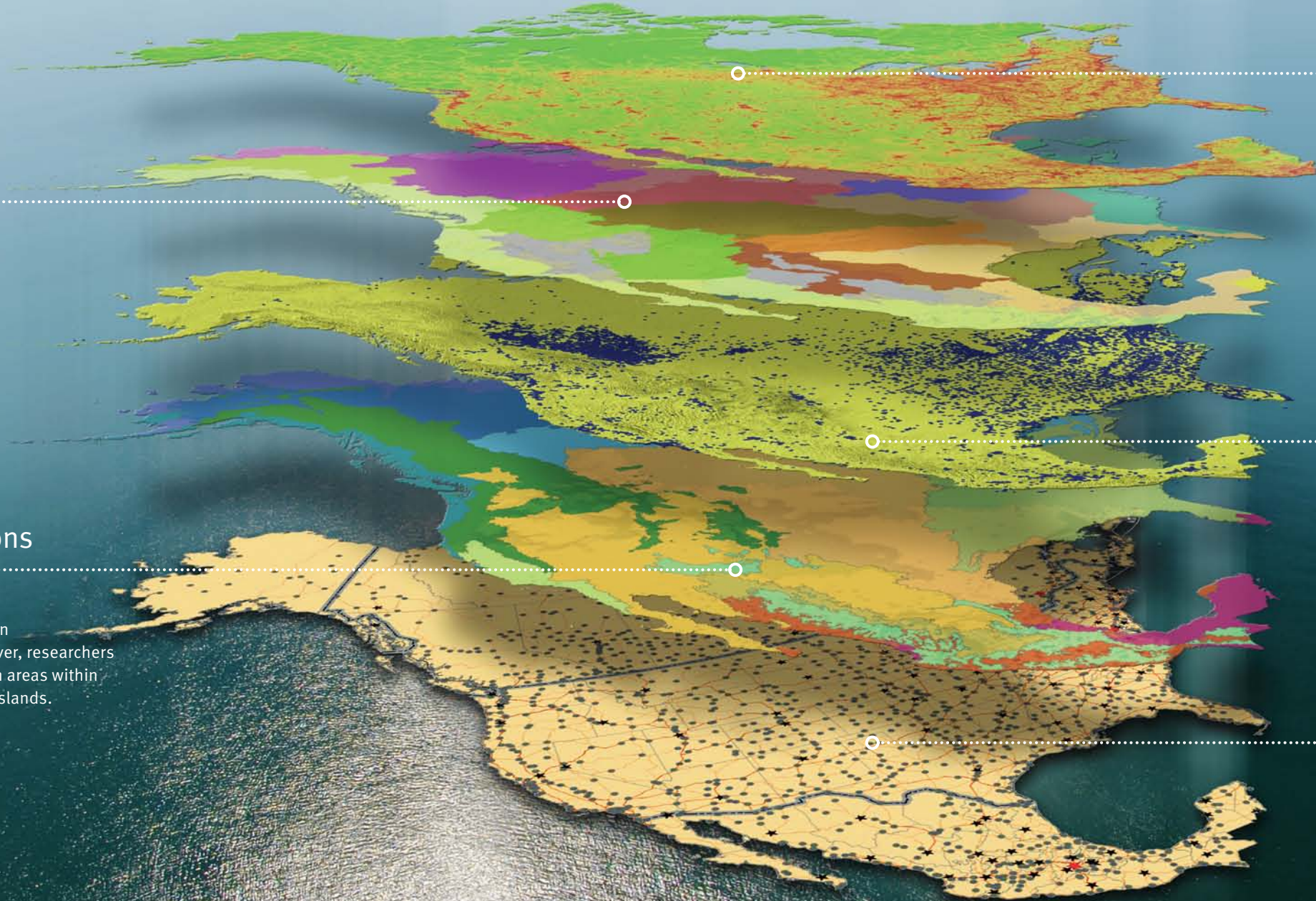
Overlaying protected areas on a map of human influence allows users to observe the potential for human encroachment on conservation areas.



Industrial pollution

Pollution and human health

A close-up of population density and the location of industrial facilities reporting pollutants shows the proximity of these pollutants to urban centers.



Base map

The base map of North America is actually a collection of layers showing the continent's infrastructure and physical features, such as main transportation routes, waterways and cities. It highlights the connectivity of the continent and interdependency of these systems.

BATHYMETRY
 ELEVATION
 SHADED RELIEF
 GLACIERS & SEA ICE
 LAKES & RIVERS
 MAJOR ROADS
 POLITICAL BOUNDARIES
 POPULATION DENSITY
 POPULATED PLACES
 PRECIPITATION
 RAILROADS
 MARINE ECOREGIONS
 TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS
 WETLANDS
 LAND COVER
 PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS
 TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS
 SPECIES OF COMMON CONSERVATION CONCERN
 INDUSTRIAL POLLUTANTS
 MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS
 ANTHROPOGENIC BIOMES
 HUMAN INFLUENCE
 IRRIGATED AREAS
 RENEWABLE ENERGY

A NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Created through the cooperation of three national agency partners, the *North American Environmental Atlas* combines harmonized data from Canada, Mexico and the United States to allow for a continental and regional perspective on environmental issues that cross boundaries. The Atlas continues to grow in breadth and depth as more thematic maps are created through the work of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and its partners. Scientists and map makers from Natural Resources Canada, United States Geological Survey and *Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía* and other agencies in each country produced the information contained in the Atlas.

The collection of viewable maps, data, and downloadable map files is available without cost online at: www.cec.org/naatlas.



cec.org

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

393, rue St-Jacques Ouest, bureau 200
 Montréal (Québec) Canada H2Y 1N9
 t 514.350.4300 f 514.350.4314
 info@cec.org / www.cec.org



atlas.gc.ca

