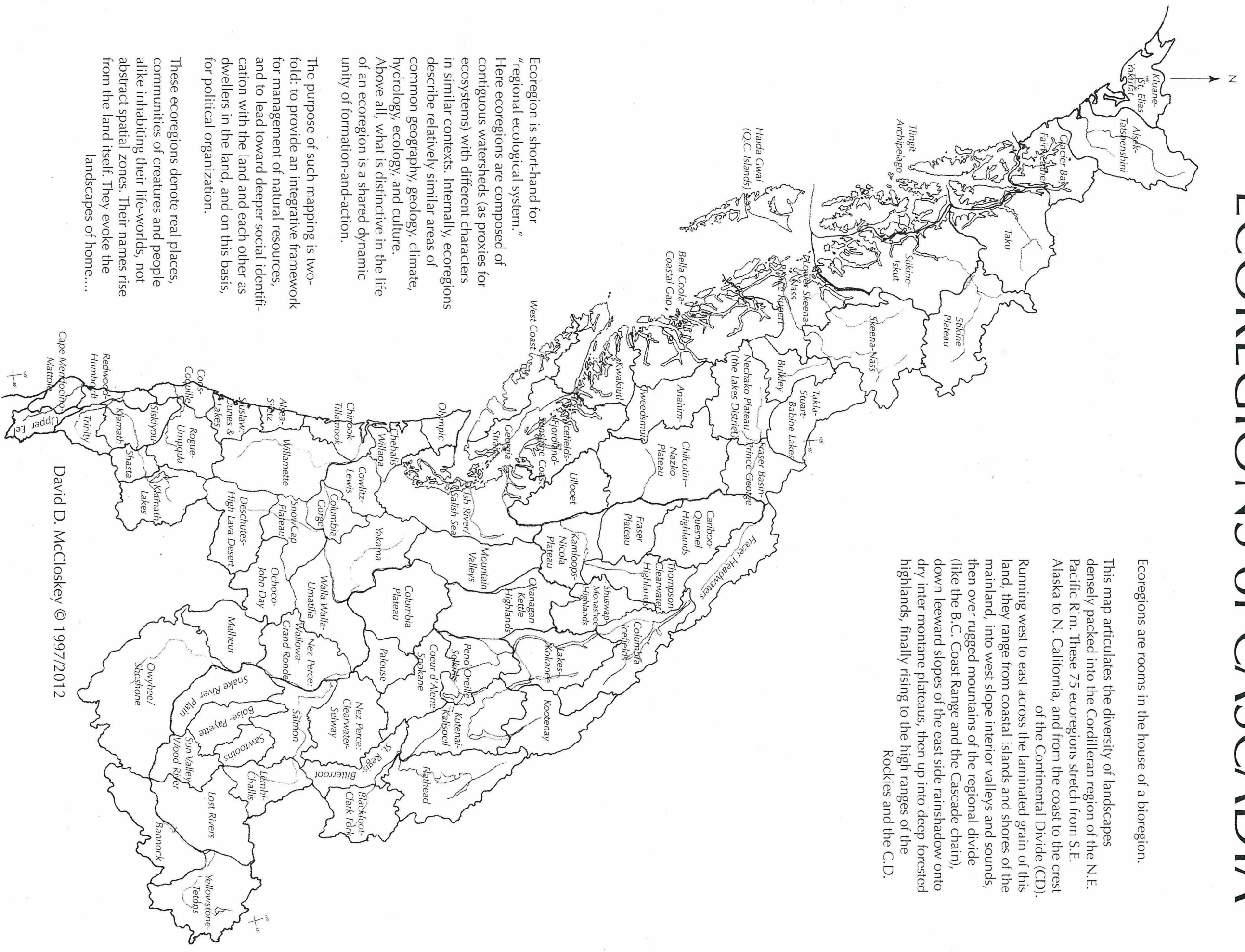


ECOREGIONS of CASCADIA



Ecoregions are rooms in the house of a bioregion.

This map articulates the diversity of landscapes densely packed into the Cordilleran region of the N.E. Pacific Rim. These 75 ecoregions stretch from S.E. Alaska to N. California, and from the coast to the crest of the Continental Divide (CD).

Running west to east across the laminated grain of this land, they range from coastal islands and shores of the mainland, into west slope interior valleys and sounds, then over rugged mountains of the regional divide (like the B.C. Coast Range and the Cascade chain), down leeward slopes of the east side rainshadow onto dry inter-montane plateaus, then up into deep forested highlands, finally rising to the high ranges of the Rockies and the C.D.

Ecoregion is short-hand for "regional ecological system."

Here ecoregions are composed of contiguous watersheds (as proxies for ecosystems) with different characters in similar contexts. Internally, ecoregions describe relatively similar areas of common geography, geology, climate, hydrology, ecology, and culture. Above all, what is distinctive in the life of an ecoregion is a shared dynamic unity of formation-and-action.

The purpose of such mapping is two-fold: to provide an integrative framework for management of natural resources, and to lead toward deeper social identification with the land and each other as dwellers in the land, and on this basis, for political organization.

These ecoregions denote real places, communities of creatures and people alike inhabiting their life-worlds, not abstract spatial zones. Their names rise from the land itself. They evoke the landscapes of home....

David D. McCloskey © 1997/2012