



State of the Nation's Ecosystems: Annual Update 2003

Annual Update 2003 is the first planned revision of *The State of the Nation's Ecosystems: Measuring the Lands, Waters, and Living Resources of the United States*. This groundbreaking report was published by The Heinz Center in September 2002 as the first in a series. Web-only updates will be issued annually, with new editions of the full report issued every five years.

Annual Update 2003 provides new data for 26 indicators, resulting in changes to more than 40% of the indicators that had full or partial data in the 2002 *State of the Nation's Ecosystems* report. *Update 2003* also includes first-time data for one indicator for which no data were available at the time of the 2002 report's release (Recreation in Forests). At least one indicator was updated for each of the six principal ecosystems described in the report, as were several "core national indicators" (see below). Overall, the new data contained in *Annual Update 2003* demonstrate continuation of existing trends; no major deviations were reported.

Annual updates are intended to provide access to data that become available between new editions of *The State of the Nation's Ecosystems* report. *Update 2003* extends the reporting period, and in some cases expands the geographic coverage, for those indicators where new data have been released; where appropriate, it notes how these new data affect longer-term trends. New editions, due every five years, will incorporate in-depth reviews of the indicators, the methods used to collect and analyze data, and the interpretation of findings.

The indicators listed below have been updated. See the attachment for a summary of changes, or go to the *Annual Update 2003* web site (www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/intro/updates.shtml).

Core National Indicators

- Ecosystem Extent
- Movement of Nitrogen
- Chemical Contamination
- Plant Growth Index
- Production of Food and Fiber and Water Withdrawals
- Recreation

Coasts and Oceans

- Contamination in Bottom Sediments
- Condition of Bottom-Dwelling Animals
- Commercial Fish and Shellfish Landings

Farmlands

- Total Cropland
- Major Crop Yields
- Agricultural Inputs and Outputs
- Monetary Value of Agricultural Production

Forests

- Forest Area and Ownership
- Forest Types
- Forest Management Categories
- Carbon Storage
- Forest Age
- Forest Disturbance: Fire, Insects, Disease
- Timber Harvest
- Timber Growth and Harvest
- Recreation in Forests (*first-time data*)

Fresh Waters

- Waterborne Human Disease Outbreaks

Grasslands and Shrublands

- Land Use
- Production of Cattle

Urban and Suburban Areas

- Urban Air Quality

*See Following Page For Additional Information on
The State of the Nation's Ecosystems and Annual Update 2003*

Update 2003 was a collaborative effort involving The Heinz Center and eight federal agencies, overseen by the project's multi-stakeholder Design Committee. All agencies and organizations that provided data used in the 2002 report were contacted to determine whether data had become available since the 2002 report was completed. The 2002 report was drafted in late 2001, so this first update probably contains more revised indicators than future updates will.

In producing *Update 2003*, Heinz Center staff worked closely with those experts responsible for managing the various monitoring and data collection programs. For 11 of the 26 updated indicators, the changes included in *Update 2003* go beyond simply providing new data for one or several years. In these instances, *Update 2003* includes revisions to data that were included in the 2002 *State of the Nation's Ecosystems* report, resulting from revisions by the responsible agencies. These changes ranged from minor changes to existing data to revision of large portions of a data series.

The following agencies contributed data and staff assistance to Update 2003:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	USDA Economic Research Service
Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis	USDA Farm Service Agency
Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	USDA Forest Service
Environmental Protection Agency	USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
	U.S. Geological Survey

The State of the Nation's Ecosystems is a periodic report on the condition and use of the nation's ecosystems. The report is the product of intensive collaboration between representatives of business, environmental organizations, academia, and federal, state, and local government, and the goal is to provide periodic, high-quality, nonpartisan information to decision makers and opinion leaders.

The first edition of the series was published in 2002, and future editions will be produced every five years, with the next edition due in 2007. Web updates are released annually.

The State of the Nation's Ecosystems is available in full text on the Web at no charge. Please inquire about individual review copies. The report is available through the publisher, Cambridge University Press, at www.cup.org.

Additional information on *Update 2003* or on the overall *State of the Nation's Ecosystems* project may be obtained from Robin O'Malley, Program Director, at (202) 737-6307, omalley@heinzctr.org; or from Kent Cavender-Bares, Fellow, at (612) 624-6182, bares@heinzctr.org.

Web Links

The Heinz Center: www.heinzctr.org

State of the Nation's Ecosystems Project home page: www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems

State of the Nation's Ecosystems report: www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/report.html

Annual Update 2003: www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/intro/updates.shtml

Cambridge University Press: www.cup.org

The Heinz Center, established in 1995 in memory of Senator John Heinz, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution dedicated to improving the scientific and economic basis for environmental policy and to developing innovative solutions to environmental problems.