

This Chapter Has Been Updated. Updates Are Available At: www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems

Core National Indicators





What are the Core National Indicators?	Can we report trends? Are there other useful reference points?
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SYSTEM DIMENSIONS			
①	Ecosystem Extent	What is the area of the six major ecosystem types?	Some trends
②	Fragmentation and Landscape Patterns	How fragmented are natural lands into smaller, more isolated patches? How are developed lands intermingled within the natural landscape?	No data reported
CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS			
●	Movement of Nitrogen	How much nitrogen leaves watersheds across the country, and how much is delivered to coastal waters?	Trends
①	Chemical Contamination	How frequently are chemical contaminants found in ecosystems, and how often do they exceed standards and guidelines for the protection of human health and aquatic life?	Current data only, federal standards and guidelines
BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS			
①	At-Risk Native Species	How many native species are at different levels of risk of extinction?	Current data only
②	Condition of Plant and Animal Communities	What fraction of U.S. lands and waters are highly managed or highly altered, and what levels of disturbance are found on natural/semi-natural lands?	No data reported
●	Plant Growth Index	What are the trends in plant growth in different regions and different ecosystems?	Trends
HUMAN USES			
●	Production of Food and Fiber and Water Withdrawals	How are the quantities of key ecosystem-related commodity goods changing over time?	Trends
①	Outdoor Recreation	How often do people take part in outdoor recreation activities, and which kinds?	Current data only
②	Natural Ecosystem Services	What other services, such as soil building and flood protection, are provided by natural ecosystems?	No data reported

● All Necessary Data Available
 ① Partial Data Available
 ② Data Not Adequate for National Reporting
 ③ Indicator Development Needed