

Vegetation Departure

The information presented here is based on the LANDFIRE National Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Map. The term "vegetation departure" is used here rather than FRCC because it more accurately describes this measure of ecosystem condition.

Vegetation departure describes the difference between current vegetation structure and composition (as mapped from satellite imagery and plot data) and pre-European settlement reference conditions (described and modeled using literature, local data and expert input). The metric is divided into three categories:

0-33% - Low Vegetation Departure
34-66% - Moderate Vegetation Departure
67-100% - High Vegetation Departure

Vegetation departure may be caused by various factors including altered fire regimes, invasive species, and/or land use practices that alter ecological communities, such as grazing and incompatible forestry practices.



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LANDFIRE FRCC is a scale-dependent metric calculated for broad **regions**. The resolution of the **FRCC** data may not be sufficient to detect conditions on smaller **local** landscapes. LANDFIRE data are currently being **updated** and **revised** to address known issues. For more details, and to learn how you might contribute to LANDFIRE, visit www.landfire.gov

References

United States Forest Service. 2007. LANDFIRE Fire Regime Condition Classes: USDA Forest Service/Fire Science laboratory, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula, MT.

World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) Annual Release 2009 (web download version), February 2009. The WDPA is a joint product of UNEP and IUCN, prepared by UNEPWCMC, supported by IUCN WCPA and working with Governments, the Secretariats of MEAs and collaborating NGOs. For further information: protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org

Also:
www.landfire.gov
tncfire.org/landfire
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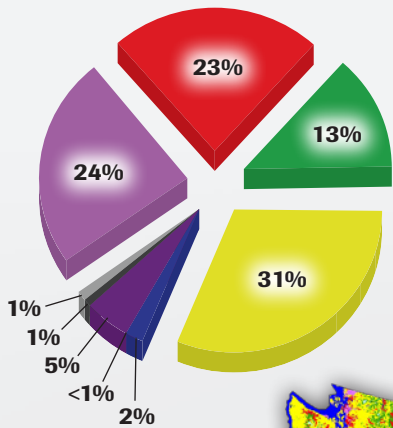
ECOSYSTEM CONDITIONS ACROSS THE LOWER 48 STATES



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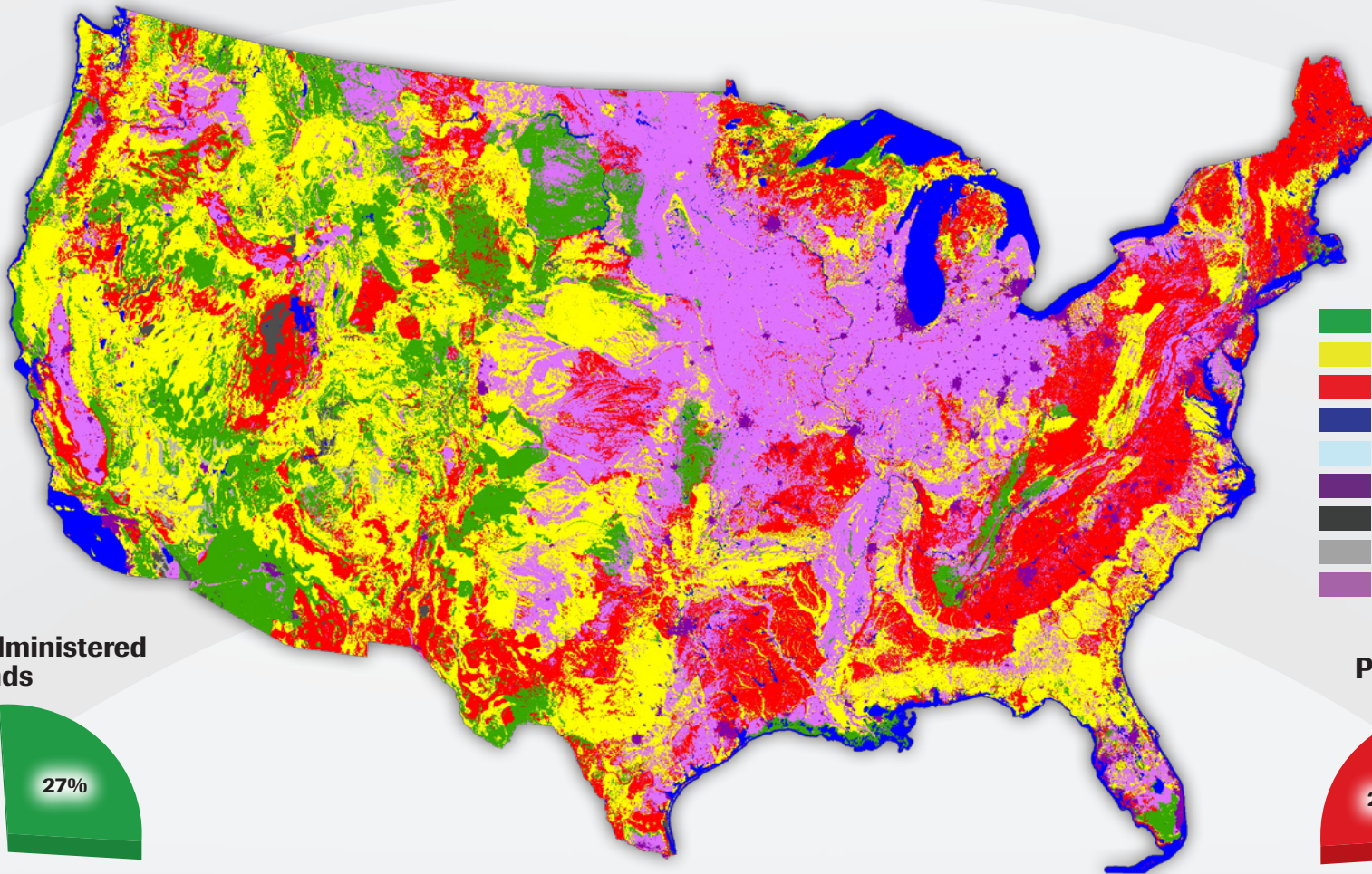
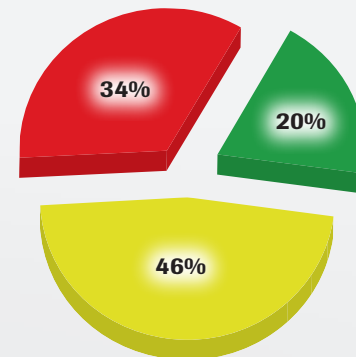
All Categories



Left: Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the conterminous U.S. is naturally vegetated and therefore is assigned a departure value. Approximately 29% of the area has been converted to agricultural or urban land uses with the remainder in water, snow/ice, barren or sparsely vegetated categories.

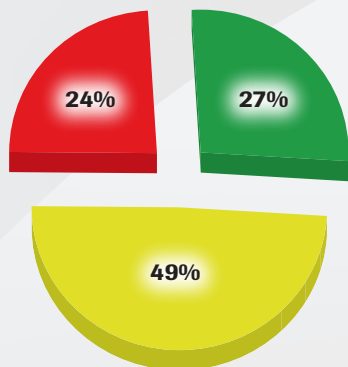
Right: Within only naturally vegetated areas, 80% of the conterminous U.S. is moderately to highly departed from its reference condition. (Data not yet available for Alaska and Hawaii.)

Naturally Vegetated Areas



- Low Vegetation Departure
- Moderate Vegetation Departure
- High Vegetation Departure
- Water
- Snow/Ice
- Urban
- Barren
- Sparsely Vegetated
- Agriculture

Federally Administered Lands



Vegetation departure is slightly lower when considering only federally administered lands (left) and protected areas (right).

Protected Areas

