

Steps for Creating a Layer of FWS Ecoregions

- Download FWS ecoregions by FWS region from <http://www.fws.gov/stand/standards/allshape.html>.
- Some of the regions (R2, 3, 4, and 5) have multiple polygons per ecoregion, and require a dissolve function to create one record per ecoregion in the attribute table.
- The borders for each region do not match perfectly, so when the regional files are appended, there are sliver polygons. Each sliver is assigned to one of the bordering ecoregions (either randomly or through best judgement). Procedure for random assignment: slivers with an ID number that ends in an even integer are assigned to the ecoregion on the western/northern border. Slivers with an odd ID number are assigned to the ecoregion on the eastern/southern border.
- Append R1 and R6 (including topology building) and assign slivers to ecoregions randomly.
- Append R3 and R5 and assign slivers to ecoregions.
- Append R2 and R4, and assign slivers to the Lower Mississippi River ecoregion, based on the detail contained in the shapefile for Region 4.
- Append the R1/R6, R3/R5 and R2/R4 files. R1/R6 and R3/R5 match perfectly. R2/R4 do not match up to the others at the border nearly as well, so cleanup of the slivers is less pragmatic – slivers are assigned to the ecoregions based on best judgement and random assignment across a border.
- Assign any remaining slivers by checking the polygons that intersect each ecoregion block.
- Dissolve polygons based on ecosystem name.