

Donald Ebert, Research Ecologist, in EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory

Systems Exposure Division

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Area of Expertise: Since joining the EPA in 1998, I have been involved in a number of studies that have investigated the correlation between measurements of landscape characteristics and patterns to ecosystem condition. To help aid in these studies, I have led the effort to develop an extension (i.e., ATtILA) to the ArcView desktop GIS software program to calculate numerous measures of spatial pattern. The software was officially released in 2004, but the beta version has been put to use by various scientists and resource managers throughout federal, state, tribal, and academic organizations and institutions both here in the United States and several countries abroad since 1999. Work was recently completed on porting the software to work with the latest generation of GIS software (ArcGIS 10.x).

Presently most of my research focus is on the continued development of geospatial models for monitoring environmental condition and change and incorporating this information into the EnviroAtlas in the Sustainable and Healthy Community Research Program.

Select Publications:

Ebert, D. [Percentage of Protected Area Amounts within each Watershed Boundary for the Conterminous US](#). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/C/12/510, 2012.

Ebert, D. [Riparian Zone Analysis for Forest Land Cover for the Conterminous US](#). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/C/12/003, 2012.

RYGIEWICZ, P. T., C. P. ANDERSEN, P. A. BEEDLOW, D. W. EBERT, M. G. JOHNSON, J. Maynard, R. B. MCKANE, D. L. PHILLIPS, AND N. H. SCHUMAKER. [Carbon Offset Forestry: Forecasting Ecosystem Effects \(COFFEE\) Project Implementation Plan](#). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-10/107, 2010.

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Education:

- M.S. in Biology, 1993, University of Nevada Las Vegas
- B.S. in Biological Science, 1984, University of Cincinnati

Professional Experience:

- Research Ecologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October, 1998 – Present
- Research Associate, University of Nevada Las Vegas, May, 1993–October, 1998
- Research Assistant, University of Nevada Las Vegas, August, 1989–May, 1993

- Biological Technician (Wildlife), U.S. NPS, Yosemite National Park, April, 1987–August, 1989

Honors and Awards:

- 2014 EPA Bronze Medal -For development of the EnviroAtlas, a multi-scale interactive web-based tool focused on ecosystem services.
- 2014 EPA GIS Work Group Mason Hewitt Award – For development of the EnviroAtlas, a multi-scale interactive web-based tool focused on ecosystem services
- 2011 EPA Scientific and Technological Achievement Award (Honorable Mention) – For development of an innovative watershed-scale monitoring and assessment technique to sustain the nation’s water resources
- 2010 EPA NERL Special Achievement Award – Goal 5: Anticipate Future Environmental Issues
- 2007 EPA Scientific and Technological Achievement Award (Level II) for New York City water supply research which demonstrated tangible environmental and economic impact
- 2005 EPA Bronze Medal – For modeling and quantifying the spatial extent of impervious surfaces for multi-scale studies of ecosystem health
- 2005 EPA Bronze Medal – For producing, ATtILA, an innovative, user-friendly tool to generate landscape metrics that enables all landscape scientists to improve their productivity and quality of research
- 2003 EPA ORD Award of Excellence for superior contributions in supporting the Landscape Investigations for Pesticides Studies; and lead programmer for the Analytical Tools Interface for Landscape Assessment software tool; and the co-lead for managing spatial data files on LEB’s central computer servers
- 2001 EPA GIS Work Group Mason Hewitt Award – For development of the Analytical Tools Interface for Landscape Assessments (ATtILA), an ArcView extension that allows users to easily calculate many common landscape metrics.