The following definitions and exhibits are from:

**FGDC Proposal, Version 1.0**
**March 1, 2002**
**FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR DELINEATION OF HYDROLOGIC UNIT BOUNDARIES**

And can be found at:
http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/HUC/HU_standards_v1_030102.doc

Basin. The third level (6-digit) of the hydrologic unit hierarchy. Basins are nested within or are sometimes equivalent to sub-regions. Basins were formerly named "accounting units."

Classic Watershed. A land and water area that has all the surface drainage within its boundary converging to a single point.

Composite Hydrologic Unit. A land and water area that receives surface flow from an upstream watershed (s) and drains to one outlet.

Contiguous Boundaries. Hydrologic unit boundaries shared in whole or in part by different hydrologic units.

Hydrography. The scientific description, study and analysis of the physical conditions, boundaries, measurement of flow, investigation and control of flow, and related characteristics of surface water such as rivers, lakes and oceans.

Hydrologic Unit (HU). A hydrologic unit is a drainage area delineated to nest in a multi-level, hierarchical drainage system. Its boundaries are defined by hydrographic and topographic criteria that delineate an area of land upstream from a specific point on a river, stream or similar surface waters. A hydrologic unit can accept surface water directly from upstream drainage areas, and indirectly from associated surface areas such as remnant, non-contributing, and diversions to form a drainage area with single or multiple outlet points. Hydrologic units are only synonymous with classic watersheds when their boundaries include all the source area contributing surface water to a single defined outlet point.

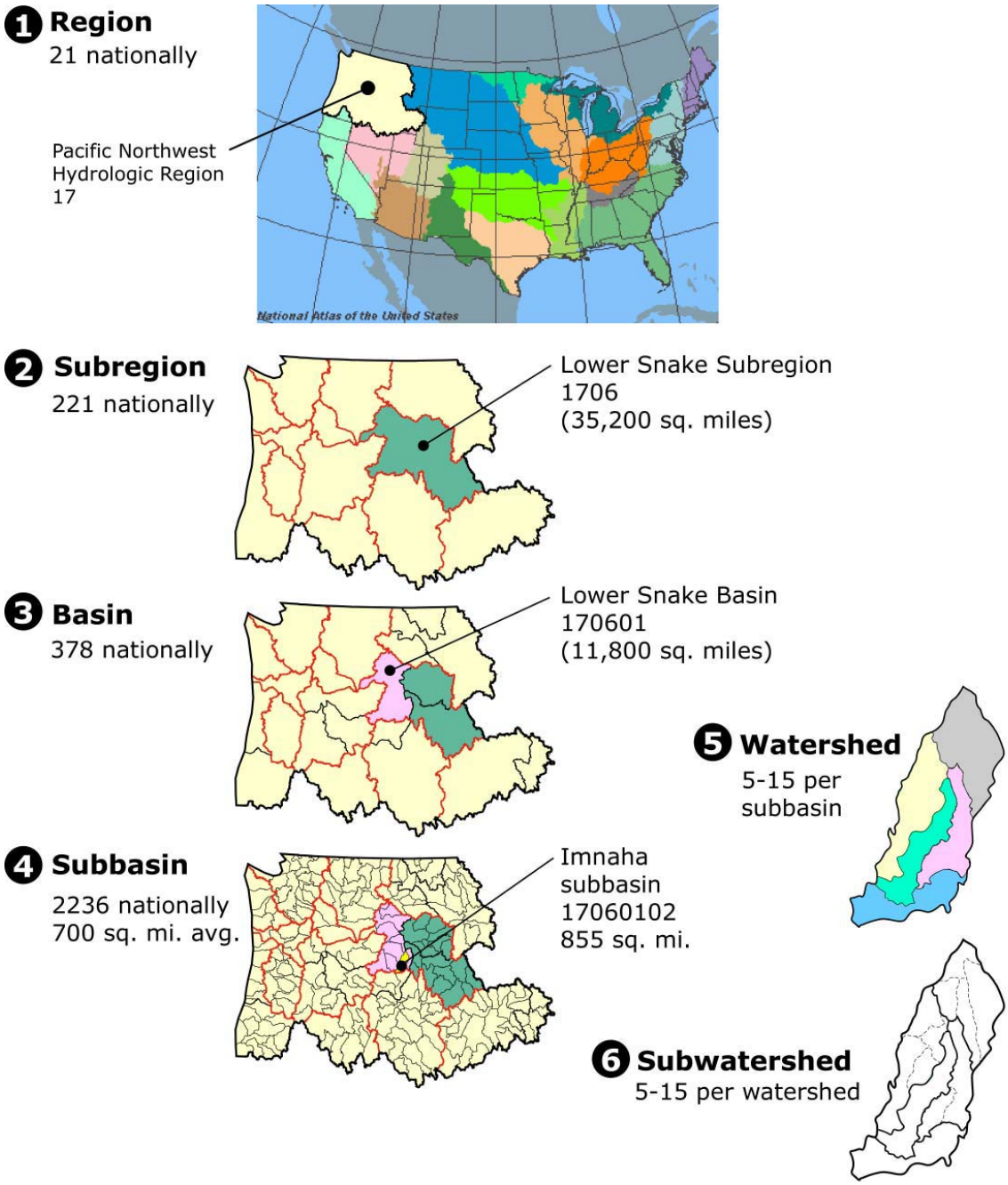
Subwatershed. Subdivisions within watersheds. Subwatershed is the sixth level (12-digit) in the hydrologic unit hierarchy. Subwatersheds generally range in size from 10,000 to 40,000 acres.

Watershed. Subdivisions within a sub-basin. The 5th level (10-digit) in the hydrologic unit hierarchy. Watersheds range in size from 40,000 to 250,000 acres.

# 1. APPENDICES

**Appendix A:** Illustrations.

**Exhibit 1.** Hydrologic Unit Hierarchy.



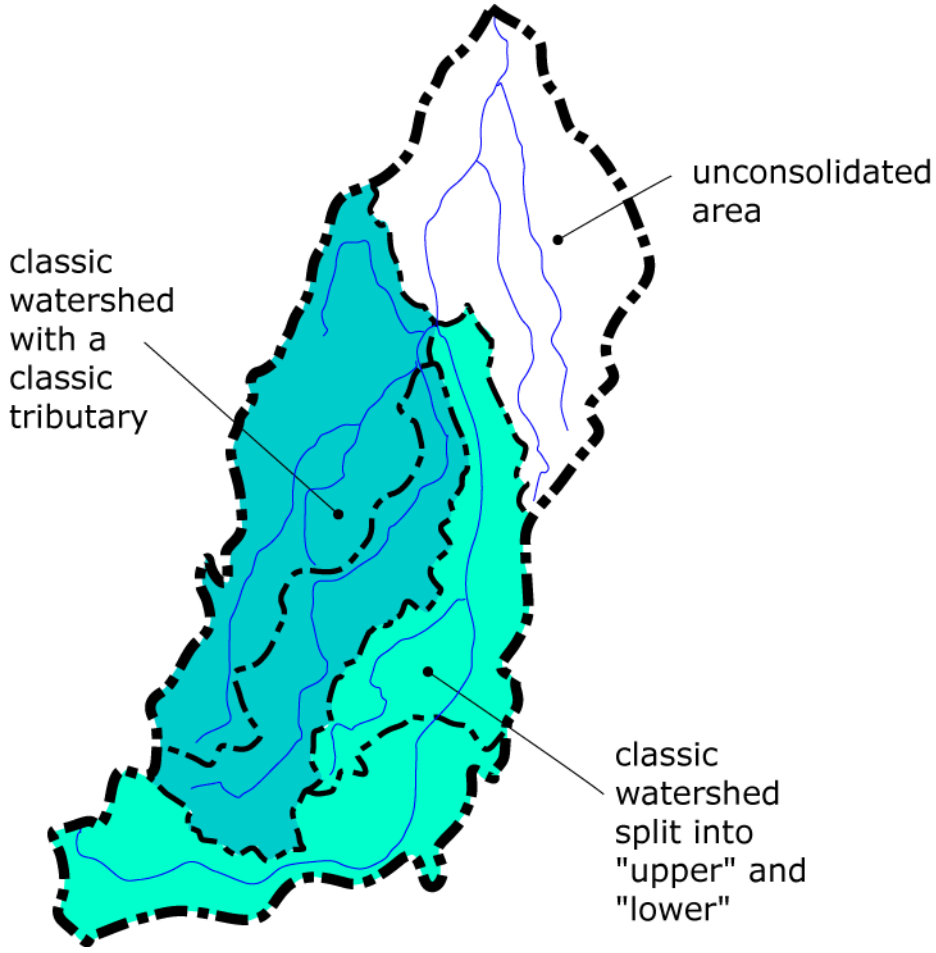



Exhibit 2. **Sample of classic watershed.**