Physiographic Map of Maryland

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2008

1:250,000

100000.
APPALACHIAN PLATEAUS PROVINCE

Plateau of moderately to thoroughly dissected roughly horizontal sedimentary rock; elevations rise from west to east; landscape varies with Section.

111000. Allegheny Mountain Section. Wide ridges separated by broad valleys; plunge direction on broad folds produces topographic basins ("canoe"-shaped valleys).

111100. Upper Potomac Gorge District. Generally steep-sided gorge cut into the Potomac River valley; in some places parallel to regional geologic structure, in other places transverse to structure.

111200. Allegheny High Plateau Region. Erosion of the folds produces both synclinal and anticlinal valleys bounded by homoclinal ridges.

112100. Allegheny Front District. A moderately dissected cuesta-like escarpment possessing a crest of basal Pennsylvanian sandstone; about mid-slope there is a "step" or bench called the Foreknobs that is underlain by basal Mississippian sandstone.

112200. Frostburg District. Moderately dissected, gently synclinal valleys, underlain by coal beds.

112311. Lower Savage Gorge Area. Steep-sided gorge; bedrock exposed in valley bottom; but little or no flood plain. Gorge is transverse to structural and lithologic strike.

112300. Ardina District. Well-dissected anticlinal valley. Topography markedly steeper, more intricately dissected than that of the Oakland District.

112311. Upper Savage Gorge Area. Steep-sided V-shaped gorge with incised meanders, but little or no flood plain. Gorge is parallel to regional geologic and lithologic strike. Includes co-linear Crabtree Creek.

112400. Oakland District. Moderately dissected anticlinal valley. Topography markedly less rugged with gentler slopes than that of the Ardina and Accident Districts on either side.

112401. White Meadow Run Area. Long, narrow strike valley floored by the Greenbrier Limestone.

112402. Pleasant Valley Area. Upland valley along the axis of a breached anticline; relatively flat to low, rolling hills within the valley.

112500. Grantsville District. A broad synclinal valley floored by the Conemaugh Formation; sandstones markedly less dissected than adjacent Ardina District.

112501. The Glades Area. Poorly drained marshy area, marked as much by the presence of peat as by standing water.

112600. Accident District. Breached anticline (anticlinal valley), more dissected that Grantsville District or Youghiogheny Highlands.

112700. Youghiogheny Highlands District. Dissected plateau; virtually all the land surface is in slopes, typically >8 degrees and commonly >12 degrees. District is bisected into two unequal parts by the Youghiogheny River Gorge.

112701. Youghiogheny Gorge Area. Steep-sided, asymmetric V-shaped gorge, the east side being slightly steeper and more rugged. Occupied by a reservoir downstream of the town of Friendsville.

112702. Crannesville Swamp Area. A relic of the Ice Age, a sphagnum and boreal forest bog nestled in a highland frost pocket.

200000.
RIDGE AND VALLEY PROVINCE

An "accordion-like" topography composed of alternating, subparallel ridges and valleys resulting from differential erosion of various folded and faulted lithologies.

210000. Folded Appalachian Mountains Section. Alternating, subparallel ridges and valleys; generally increase in elevation east to west; relative spacing and width of ridges and valleys relate to fold wavelength and amplitude and to attitude, thickness and erosional resistance of the rocks.

211000. Chesapeake Gorges Region. Varies between a steep-sided gorge and a broad, open valley; but still steep-sided, valley floors have flood plain development.

211100. Upper Potomac Gorge District. Steep-sided gorges, most slopes >15 degrees, some >20 degrees; cliffs common; limited flood plain; incised meanders; several levels of dissected terraces are developed. Gorge depth decreases downstream from 400-800 ft. to 150-250 ft.

212000. Cumberland Ridges Region. Ridges seem to dominate over valleys. Well-dissected folded terrane with most of Region in slopes, generally >15 degrees. Most (9 of 11) ridges are anticlinal; 2 are homoclinal. Average ridge height 630 ft. Narrow valleys underlain by basal rocks.

213000. Hancock Valley Region. Well-dissected, rolling to hilly region, but generally lacking high ridges--with most (except Polish Mtn) averaging less than half the height of those in other parts of the Ridge and Valley. Region lies in the rain shadow of the Allegheny Front.

214000. Town Hill Region. Comparatively narrow belt made up of two sandstone ridges with intervening shale valley. Well-dissected with most of land in slope. Slopes generally 15-20 degrees.

215000. Paw Paw Valley Region. Valley-dominant; ridges are relatively subordinate. Most of the valley floor (Anthony Sentinel and Big Ridge) average 250 ft in height. Most prominent physiographic feature is the Potomac River, which here exhibits large incised meanders.

216000. Hancock Ridges Region. Ridge-dominant; well-dissected with most of slopes >8 degrees.

217000. Licking Creek Valley Region. Alternating, strike-aligned, low hills and valleys. Ridge crests are the lowest of the Section, averaging 740 feet elevation and only 150 feet in height. Valleys underlain by sandstones of the Hampshire and the Mahantango Formations.

218000. Bear Pond Mountains Region. Ridge-dominant, differing from other ridge-dominant regions by its discontinuous ridges, plunging folds, reverse faults, and narrow, irregular valleys. Seven of nine hills or ridges are held up by Tuscarora Sandstone, and two by Oriskany Sandstone.

218001. Bluey Valley Area. Breached anticline (anticlinal valley) exposing Martinsburg Shale; valley floor is relatively flat and poorly drained; lies at the steeper (15-20 degrees) upper sideslopes underlain by Martinsburg and Juniata Formations.

220000. Great Valley Section. A broad, gently rolling lowland, developed on carbonate rocks; contains both bare and covered karst, characterized by pinnacle karst, numerous sinkholes, caves and subsurface drainage.

221000. Chesapeake Gorges Region. The Potomac River crosses relatively non-resistant carbonates and occupies a well-defined, but narrow flood plain flanked by bluffs 80 to 120 ft. high. Incised meanders and discontinuous terraces 100 ft. above river level are common.

222000. Mercersburg Region. Gently sloping coliivium-covered limestones of Fairview and Powell Mountains merge with the rolling floor of the Hagerstown Valley. Limestone outcrops common throughout.

222100. Clear Spring Foothills District. Transitional between the steep ridges of the Bear Pond Mtns to the west and the limestone valley to the east, as indicated by relief, slope, and the presence of both colluvial fans and aprons to rolling floor of limestone valley.

222200. Spickler Plain District. Plain of moderate relief, less than in adjacent Districts. Some karst features, but not abundant, except in the belt of Chambersburg Limestone on the east side. Limestone (including some karst) common in shallows; residuum of variable thickness.

223000. Martinsburg Dissected Plain Region. Distinctive dissected plain and incised meandering streams developed on shale.

223100. Conoocheague Creek District. In Maryland, this District coincides with the Martinsburg Dissected Plain Region, a dissected plain underlain mostly by shale and occupied by the incised meander belt of Conoocheague Creek.

224000. Hagerstown Region. Gently rolling terrain consisting of two Districts: the Charlestown District, a gently rolling lowland underlain by limestones, and the Elbrook District, a rolling plain with low NNE-oriented ridges underlain by Pennsylvania and into Virginia.

224100. Charles Town District. Broad, open, gently rolling karstic plain underlain by limestones and dolomites (Beekmantown and Conococheague Formations). Pinnacle karst and sinkholes are fairly common. Limestone residuum common to abundant; residuum of variable thickness.

224200. Waynesboro District. A dissected rolling plain with low NNE-oriented ridges that are due to relatively resistant beds within the Elbrook Limestone, the Tomstown Formation, and upper part of the Waynesboro Formation. Thick colluvial cover adjacent to South Mountain.

224201. Keedysville Area. Broad plain between a series of low ridges (Nippenose Sandstone) on the west and the base of South Mountain on the east. Sinkholes and caves fairly common. Eastern side is covered in many places by mountain wash and colluvium from South Mountain.

300000.
BLUE RIDGE PROVINCE

In Maryland, the Province consists of two prominent ridges separated in the southern half by the rolling to hilly Middletown Valley.

310000. Northern Blue Ridge Section. Consists of two prominent ridges (South and Catoctin Mountains) that merge northeastward into a single hilly to mountainous area. In the southern part of the Section in Maryland, a central valley (Middletown Valley) occurs along the fold axis.

311000. Chesapeake Gorges Region. Generally a steep-sided gorge with very limited flood plain development.

311100. Middle Potomac Gorge District. Steep-sided gorge in quartzite at Elk Ridge and South Mtn; cliffs common; limited flood plain; incised meanders; several levels of dissected terraces are developed on flood plain across granitic Middletown and Pleasant (Robertville) Valleys.

312000. Catoctin-South Mountain Region. Two prominent, north-trending ridges (South and Catoctin Mountains) that merge northeastward into a single hilly to mountainous area.

312001. Shookstown Bench Area. A pronounced bench, or "step," along the eastern foot of South Mountain, between the base of the ridge at Shookstown, west of Frederick, in the vicinity of Shookstown, and Braddock Heights, two benches are present.

312002. Harbaugh Valley Area. An intermontane valley in the hilly upland approximately along the axis of the Blue Ridge.

313000. Middletown Valley Region. A moderately rolling to hilly valley along the axis of the Blue Ridge between South Mtn and Catoctin Mtn. The valley rises in elevation northward from the Potomac River, gradually merging with the South Mtn and Catoctin Mtn highland.

313100. Upper Middletown Valley District. Upper part of valley; rolling hills aligned more with topography than with structure.

313200. Lower Middletown Valley District. Moderately rolling valley floor; overall, has a bevel-sloped transverse profile, punctuated by incised valley of Catoctin Creek.

313201. Catoctin Creek Gorge Area. Lower part of Catoctin Creek, entrenched into a steep-sided gorge cut into alluvium and bedrock. Gorge is transverse to structural and lithologic grain; developed in ring due to alternating plain-terrace sectional asymmetry. Alluvium thickens downstream.

314000. Elk Ridge Region. A ridge composed of Elk Ridge and Red Hill, plus a small valley that joined the Robertsville Valley District) separating Elk Ridge from South Mountain. In Virginia, Elk Ridge becomes the dominant western ridge of the Blue Ridge Province.

314100. Robertsville Valley District. A breached anticlinal valley eroded into Precambrian gneiss, which is deeply weathered, and flanked mainly by quartzite ridges on either side.

400000.
PIEDMONT PLATEAU PROVINCE

Mostly a broadly undulating to rolling topography underlain by metamorphic rocks and whose relief is increased locally by low knobs or ridges and valleys. On the west are lowlands developed either on Mesozoic clastics or early Paleozoic carbonates.

410000. Piedmont Lowland Section. A valley consisting of both a limestone valley and parts of two Mesozoic rift basins.

411000. Chesapeake Gorges Region. Two major gorges comprise the Region, that of the Potomac and Susquehanna. In the latter originating in the Appalachian Plateaus Province. By the Piedmont, the Susquehanna has developed a well-defined flood plain.

411100. Middle Potomac Floodplain District. The Potomac River occupies a narrow flood plain, but has not developed a meandering stream habit. Several cobble-veneered bedrock islands occupy much of the channel.

412000. Mesozoic Lowland Region. Relatively flat to gently rolling lowland; distinctive red soils; diabase dikes form low ridges. Divisible into two Districts, the Culpeper Basin, extending into Virginia, resembling into Pennsylvania, and the Gettysburg Basin, extending into Virginia.

412100. Gettysburg Lowland District. Relatively flat to gently rolling surface; distinctive red soils; diabase dikes form low ridges. The District is the physiographic, structural, and lithologic equivalent of the Culpeper Lowland District. Sinkholes common in limestone conglomerate.

412200. Culpeper Lowland District. Relatively flat to gently rolling surface; distinctive red soils; diabase dikes form low ridges. The District is the physiographic, structural, and lithologic equivalent of the Gettysburg Lowland District.

413000. Triassic Lowland Region. A series of carbonate valleys of low relief, punctuated with more than 1,000 sinkholes, but very few limestone caves.

413100. Frederick Valley Region. A series of low relief to very low relief valleys developed on limestone-floored valleys underlain by marble, and major tributaries incised into narrow, steep-sided valleys.

413200. Monocacy Valley Region. The Monocacy Valley is the widest of the Triassic valleys, and is underlain by limestone, marble, and major tributaries incised into narrow, steep-sided valleys.

413300. Westminster Valley Region. The Westminster Valley is the narrowest of the Triassic valleys, and is underlain by limestone, marble, and major tributaries incised into narrow, steep-sided valleys.

414000. Piedmont Upland Section. Rolling upland; herringbone texture due to intersection of thin sillstones and quartzites with stream reaches controlled by joints oblique to bedrock strike; streams often incised (e.g., Deer Creek, Bennet, Bush, Lingamore, and Israel Creek).

414001. Sugarloaf Mountain Area. A prominent, isolated hill (a monadnock).

414002. Liliputian Area. NNE-trending strike ridges made up of relatively resistant rock and valley of relatively non-resistant rock along the southwest side of Mt. Airy. Upland. Compare with Hill Region.

414003. Laurel Hill Area. A pair of NNE-trending ridges (relatively resistant rock) along the northwest side of the Mt. Airy Upland that are separated by a valley (relatively non-resistant rock). Compare with Liliputa Area.

414500. Glenwood Upland District. A rolling upland of low relief underlain by a felsic gneiss (Sykesville Fm.). The District is characterized by numerous, small, and crenriform litter many fields. The degree of dissection is significantly less than in the adjacent District.

415000. Patapsco River Gorge Area. A relatively narrow, steep-sided gorge that marks the beginning of the gorge-like character of the valley of the South Branch Patapsco River; side slopes are commonly >15 degrees, and are often >20 degrees. Flood plain is narrow to non-existent.

423000. Wakefield Valley and Ridge Region A topographically and structurally complex terrane underlain by polydeformed metamorphite, phyllitic metabasalt and quartzite, and bands of marble; subdivided into three Districts based on differing lithologic and structural imprints on topography.

423100. Dog Hill Ridge District. Characterized by a series of northeast-trending ridges and valleys, the most prominent of which is Dog Hill Ridge, a prominent ridge along the northwestern side Four. Sherman Mills to the Maryland-Pennsylvania border.

423200. Susquehanna Gorge District. The Susquehanna crosses the Piedmont Upland in a spectacular gorge marked by rapids, bedrock islands, and very steep (>25 degrees) to vertical valley walls. Conowingo Dam at the head of a large lake that has flooded the upper part of the Gorge.

423300. Unionville Upland District. Lithologic grain and weathering impart a NE linearity of subdued topography, but the District as a whole is not a lowland and does not produce the distinctive marble valleys that occur in the New Windsor Lowland and Timonium Valley Districts.

424000. Silver Run Region. Rolling upland NW of Silver Run; dissected upland S and E of Silver Run. Quartzite and conglomerate beds in phyllitic rock underlie NE-trending ridges; stream incision along NW-trending joints. Parts of Big Pipe Creek and Deep Run have cut to gneiss.

424001. Silver Run Valley Area. A narrow, steep-sided valley between two NW-side, similar to valleys of the Frederick Valley District. Chemical weathering of limestone results in the distinctive valley floor.

425000. Phoenix Domes Region. Four gneiss domes (Phoenix, Texas, Chattolanee, and Towson Domes) comprise gently rolling uplands underlain by Baltimore Gneiss, surrounded and separated by broad marble valleys; a steep slope (Setters Formation) separates upland from lowland.

425100. Chattolanee Upland District. Four interconnected, gently rolling to subdued hilly dome-like uplands underlain by Baltimore Gneiss; each upland dome is set off by and surrounded by steep (>15 degrees) slopes typically underlain by the Setters Formation (quartzite, schist).

425101. Western Run Area. Located in the Phoenix Dome, an outlier of Loch Raven Schist rests on Cockeysville Marble, creating a ridge surrounded by a marble valley. Along the ridge, relief ranges from 100 to 200 feet.

425102. Gunpowder Falls Gorge Area. The Gunpowder Falls is incised into bedrock in a steep-sided, sideslopes commonly >12 degrees and in places >20 degrees; boulder-strewn channel, the flood plain, where present, is narrow; rapids are common.

425103. Patapsco Gorge Area. The Patapsco River is incised into bedrock in a steep-sided valley; sideslopes commonly >12 degrees and in places >20 degrees; boulder-strewn channel; the flood plain, where present, is narrow; rapids are common.

425104. Hunting Hill Area. The largest of several mafic and ultramafic bodies in the southern part of the Piedmont Upland, it is a prominent hill because it is less dissected and has broader, gentler slopes than the surrounding upland.

425105. Mt. Airy Upland District. Rolling upland; herringbone texture due to intersection of thin sillstones and quartzites with stream reaches controlled by joints oblique to bedrock strike; streams often incised (e.g., Deer Creek, Bennet, Bush, Lingamore, and Israel Creek).

425106. Elk Neck Peninsula District. With elevations exceeding 200 feet, the peninsula is a prominent feature dividing the drowned reaches of the Northeast and Elk Rivers. Cliffs with multiple slumps and landslides characterize several miles along the Chesapeake Bay and Turkey Point.

511101. Grays Hill Area. An erosional inlier of the Piedmont, surrounded by Coastal Plain sediments; Grays Hills is one of three hills in prismatic through the sediment cover near Elkton (also see nearby Iron Hill and Chestnut Hill in Delaware).

511200. Middle River Lowland District. A narrow (1.5-3 miles), gently rolling to nearly flat transition between the Fall Zone Region and the Aberdeen Lowlands District. The District is underlain by dissected moraths of the Gunpowder, Eden, and Back Rivers.

511101. Lower Gunpowder River Area. Between the Fall Zone and the Chesapeake Bay, the Gunpowder River flows in a broad, largely drowned valley of low relief.

511300. Glen Burnie Rolling Upland District. An undulating upland with slopes typically <8 degrees, separated from the Lowland to the west by the Fall Zone and the Prince Frederick Rolling Upland.

511301. Lower Patapsco River Area. Between the Fall Zone and the Chesapeake Bay, the Patapsco River flows in a broad, largely drowned valley of low relief.

511302. Upper Patuxent Valley Area. In this Area, the Patuxent to the south and the Little Patuxent on the north flow in well-defined flood plains and exhibit numerous and convoluted meanders. (Note: similar to the Middle Patuxent Valley Area, Crownsville Upland District.

511303. Anacostia Valley Area. A submerged valley that is the upland equivalent of Southern Maryland's Anacostia River estuary; alluvium and Tertiary terranes adjacent to the main channel.

511400. Crownsville Upland District. An undulating upland with slopes typically <8 degrees, somewhat more dissected than the Glen Burnie Rolling Upland District.

511401. Middle Patuxent Valley Area. Near the boundary between the Glen Burnie Rolling Upland and the Crownsville Upland, the Patuxent and Little Patuxent join to flow in a single valley, exhibiting a broad, well-defined flood plain and intense meandering.

511500. Waldorf Upland Plain District. A relatively flat upland surface comprised of alluvial plains and fluvial-estuarine terraces, at typically 40-60 ft elevations of Southern Maryland. Stream incision creates steep-sided valleys. Much of the upland soils contain a fragipan.

511501. Piscataway Creek Area. The inland extension of the drowned mouth of Piscataway Creek above tidewater; valley is typically sediment-choked; much of the flood plain is marshy; valley sides are generally blanketed by fluvial-estuarine terraces.

511502. Mattawoman Creek Area. The inland extension of the drowned mouth of Mattawoman Creek above tidewater; valley is typically sediment-choked; much of the flood plain is marshy; valley sides are generally blanketed by fluvial-estuarine terraces.

511503. Port Tobacco Creek Area. The inland extension of the drowned mouth of Port Tobacco River above tidewater; valley is typically sediment-choked; much of the flood plain is marshy; valley sides are generally blanketed by fluvial-estuarine terraces.

511504. Zekiah-Gilbert Swamps Area. The inland extension of the drowned mouth of the Wicomico River via Zekiah Swamp and Gilbert Swamp; valley is typically sediment-choked, marshy, and densely vegetated; valley sides are generally blanketed by fluvial-estuarine terraces.

511600. Prince Frederick Knobby Upland District. Characterized by numerous, small, knobby hillocks, in large part occupying an interfluve between Patuxent and Chesapeake watersheds. Stands in stark contrast to the gently rolling Glen Burnie surface and the relatively flat Waldorf surface.

511601. Lower Patuxent River Area. Downstream of the confluence with Western Branch, the Patuxent River flows in a relatively narrow, wides and include several broad, shallow "bays" (e.g., Jug Bay) alternating with fringing marshes and a markedly constricted but meandering channel.

511602. Calvert Cliffs Area. High cliffs and an eroding shoreline made up of mainly Miocene marine strata. Cliff retreat is primarily by mass wasting, with its steepness at Long Beach and Chesapeake Beach, where it rises on beach along nearly the entire length of the Area.

512000. Western Shore Lowlands Region. A series of low (generally below 50-ft elevation) fluvial and estuarine terraces, beaches, and drowned river mouths that fringe the Western Shore Uplands. The Region extends some distance up the valleys of the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers.

512100. Aberdeen Estuaries and Lowlands District. A relatively featureless lowland (mostly <50 ft elevation) at the head of the Chesapeake Bay. The District has a very irregular coastline indented by the flooded mouths of the Bush, Bird, Middle, Back and Patapsco Rivers.

512200. Annapolis Estuaries and Lowlands District. A relatively featureless lowland (mostly <50 ft elevation) along the west-central shore of Chesapeake Bay; it is slightly more dissectible than the Aberdeen Lowlands due to narrower moraths of the Magothy, Severn, South, Rhode, and West Rivers.

512300. Patuxent Estuaries and Lowlands District. Broad (4-5 miles) flat-bottomed valley flanked by fluvial-estuarine terraces; main river channel approaches 2 miles in width, reflecting the estuarine nature of this reach of the Patuxent River.

512400. St. Jerome's Neck Lowlands District. A very gently sloping, terraced lowland of Pleistocene estuarine deposits. Three of the four terraces recognized in the Region are present. The terraces are well developed. Maximum elevation decreases southward from about 40 to 20 feet.

512500. Potomac Estuary & Lowlands District. The Potomac River and its terraced lowlands and estuaries extend from the Fall Zone to Point Lookout. Drowned rivers include Piscataway, Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, Port Tobacco, Wicomico and St. Marys Rivers and St. Clements and Breton Bays.

512501. Fuggy Bottom Area. This low-relief surface consisting of low terraces, alluvium, and estuarine deposits is the largest area in the Region. Protrusion to more than 800 ft. on the north side. Much of the southern part of the Area had originally been poorly drained and swampy.

512502. Indian Head Area. An isolated exposure, or inlier, of upland sediments (Park Hall Fm.) rising above the surrounding lowlands; probably an erosional remnant from the Waldorf Upland Plain.

513000. Chesapeake Estuary Region. The drowned valley of the Chesapeake Bay estuary system, consisting of the body of water known as Chesapeake Bay and the sediments and features on the tiny bottom; excludes most islands, flooded estuary mouths, and other marginal water bodies.

514000. Delmarva Peninsula Region. A large peninsula extending south of the Elk River and separating Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay-Atlantic drainages; has grown by southward accretion during the Neogene. Consists of an axial "upland" bordered by a series of lowlands.

514100. Denton Plain District. An upland surface of very low relief that occupies an axial position along the Delmarva Peninsula, thus forming the poorly defined drainage divide between the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay.

514101. Upper Choptank River Valley Area. That part of the Choptank River valley that is above the limit of tidal influence; characteristics of the river valley are those of the Coastal Plain.

514200. Salisbury Plain District. Broad lowland plain, little modified by erosion, with widespread aeolian sand sheets and low-amplitude sand dunes, fluvial sands, and marine back-barrier and lagoon muds.

514201. Upper Pocomoke River Area. Largely swamp and marsh occupying the flood plain of the upper reaches of the Pocomoke River within the Salisbury Plain.

514300. Princess Anne Lowland District. A lowland, gently sloping to nearly flat, largely dissected by estuaries, similar to the St. Michaels Lowland District.

514301. Lower Pocomoke River Area. Largely swamp and marsh occupying the flood plain of the lower reaches of the Pocomoke River within the Princess Anne Lowland.

514302. Nanticoke River Area. Largely swamp and marsh occupying the flood plain of the Nanticoke River within the Princess Anne Lowland.

514400. St. Michaels Lowland District. Coastal lowland of very low relief, including salt marshes and fringing sand marshes, that is deeply dissected by the estuaries of the Delmarva Peninsula north of the Choptank River.

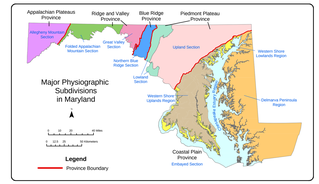
514500. Crisfield Islands and Marshes District. Discontinuous coastal salt marshes and low islands of various sizes and shapes along the southwest shore of the Delmarva Peninsula.

514600. Atlantic Bays and Barriers District. The barrier island system of Fenwick and Assawoman Islands, which includes barrier islands, back-barrier bays and lagoons fringing salt marshes, and sand sheets.

514601. Berlin-Scarp Area. A generally distinct topographic drop marks the transition between the Salisbury Plain and the lowlands adjacent to the Coastal Bays; is most clearly expressed to the south, becoming humanocky and indistinct north of the town of Berlin and U.S. 50.

514602. Barrier Beaches Area. Coincident with the sand dunes and beaches of the barrier islands from Assawoman Island to the south end of barrier beaches. Barrier islands from New Jersey to Georgia.

514603. Coastal Bays and Marshes Area. Back-barrier bays or lagoons and fringing salt marshes; greatly influenced by tides.



Explanation of the 6-digit numbers

Each Province, Section, Region, District, and Area has been assigned a six-digit number for identification. These numbers are intended to help keep track of the hierarchical organization of the physiographic subdivisions. The first digit (at the extreme left of the digit sequence) is a Province; the second represents a Section, the third a Region, the fourth a District, and the last two an Area:

P00000	1st digit:	Province, 100000 = Blue Ridge Province)
P00000	2nd digit:	Section (e.g., 310000 = Northern Section of the Blue Ridge Province)
P00000	3rd digit:	Region (e.g., 313000 = Middletown Valley Region)
P00000	4th digit:	District (e.g., 313200 = Southern Middletown Valley District)
P00000	5th & 6th:	Area (e.g., 313201 = Catoctin Creek Gorge Area)

In the simplest scheme, an Area is part of a District; a District is part of a Region; a Region is part of a Section; and a Section is part of a Province.

The total of all Provinces, Sections, Regions, Districts, and Areas in Maryland is about 150. Of these, about 115 appear on the map as discrete units bearing six-digit numbers.

For more information about the numbering scheme utilized on this map, see the accompanying report. That report also contains more details about all 150 physiographic units.

Copies of this map are available in PDF format from
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Physiographic field mapping was completed in 1999 at a scale of 1:62,500 or, in some cases, 1:24,000. The physiographic map was compiled at 1:100,000 by the lead author and in digital form at 1:250,000 by Catherine Garcia, Jaime Alvarez, and Mary Valentino of Towson University, Center for Geographic Information Sciences. The authors are solely responsible for the map's content.

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