

INITIATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A USGS NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE (NBII) NODE FOR THE NORTHEASTERN U.S.

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) (<http://www.nbio.gov>) is a broad, collaborative program sponsored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) designed to increase access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. The NBII links diverse, high-quality biological databases, information products, and analytical tools and also works on developing new standards, tools, and technologies that make it easier to find, integrate, and apply biological resources information. In partnership with the USGS, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University will create regional on-line data and information services initially focused on: the Hudson River Corridor, New England's Northeastern forest regions, the New York City Metropolitan Area and the Hackensack River Watershed. Primary topic foci for this stage of the project will include Invasive Species, Wildlife Disease & Human Health, and Sustainable Forest Management. The web-based portal and Internet Map Services will provide information about urban impacts on environment and health and on natural resources in the surrounding regions.

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