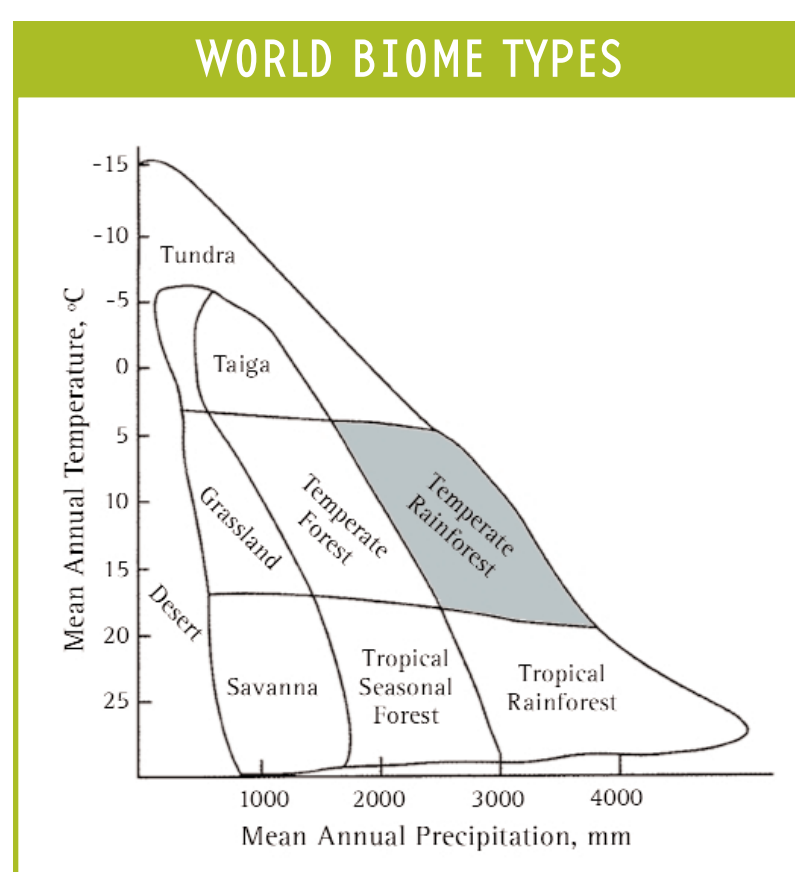


ECOTRUST GIS: PUTTING OUR BIOREGION ON THE MAP

A bioregion is a territory defined by its biological, social, and geographic coherence, rather than by political considerations. Since Ecotrust's inception in 1991, our mission has included an effort to survey and define the underpinnings of this region that we call "The Rain Forests of Home."

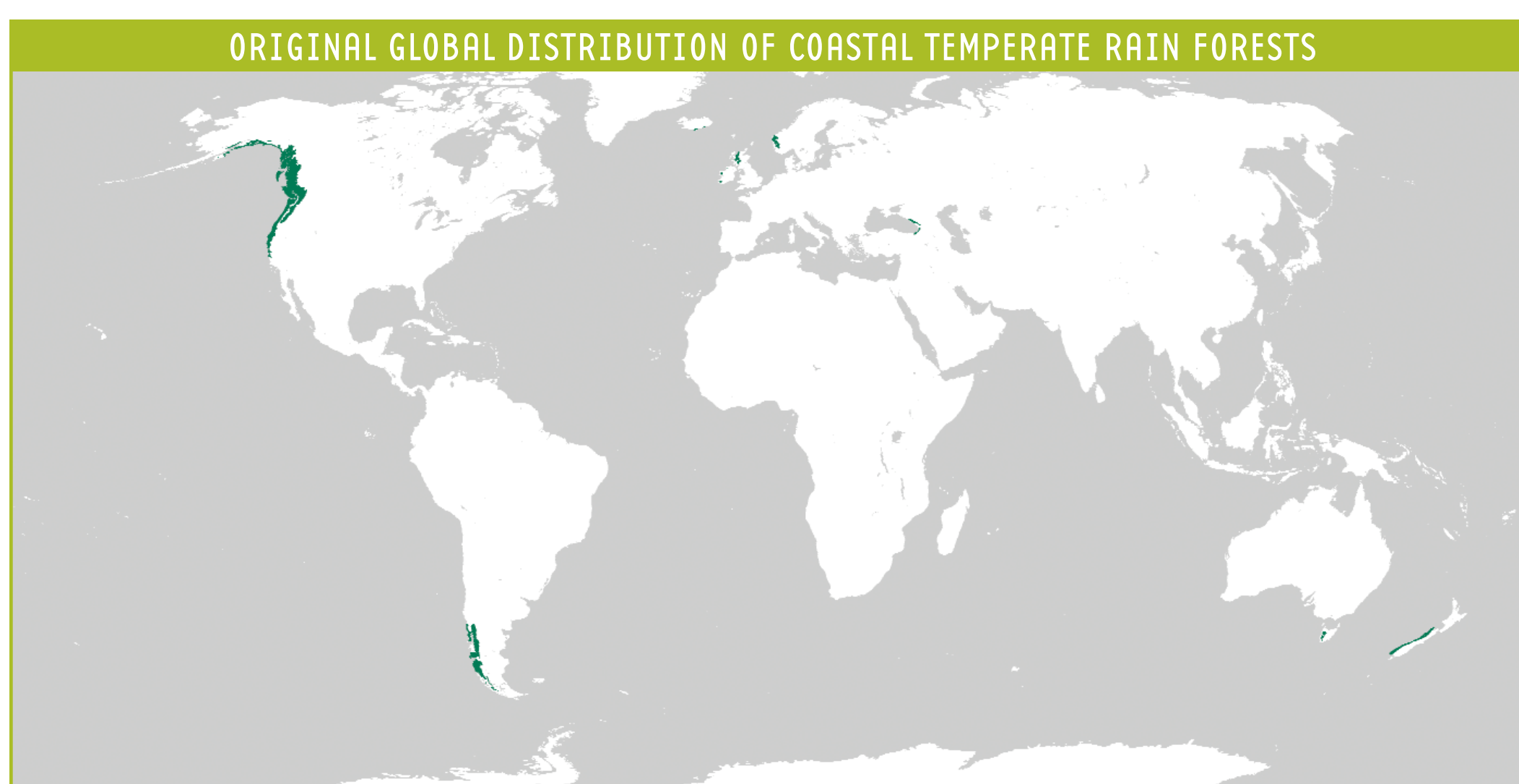
That first year we began research on the distinctive ecological characteristics of coastal temperate rain forests. Part of the



temperate rain forest biome, coastal temperate rain forests are distinguished by their proximity to oceans, the presence of coastal mountains and the high rainfall that results from the interaction between the two.

One outcome of this inquiry was the publication of the first maps of the original distribution of coastal temperate rain forests in North America and throughout the world. These maps demonstrated the significance of the coastal temperate rain forest on this continent – stretching from Alaska to Northern California, it remains the largest concentration of this forest-type in the world.

In 1998 we began to view the uniqueness of this region through another lens. Stepping beyond the administrative goals of any governmental agency, Ecotrust performed the first synthesis and mapping of data for the entire North American range of the six Pacific salmon and steelhead stocks. A daunting task of data compilation, this effort drew upon the work of dozens of fisheries biologists along the coast. The resulting maps define the lands and waters of our "Salmon Nation."



remind us how much of that two-fold bounty has now been lost. In the northern latitudes much remains, while to the south, our restoration work has just begun.

“Regionalism is an utterly organic phenomenon. It is never possible to tell a place that it is a region or to make it be a region: either it is a region inherently, by its own internal logic, or it is not a region at all.”

– Dan Kemmis
“Learning to Think Like a Region”

GIS DEFINED
GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems, a computer-based system for the storage, analysis and display of geographically-referenced data.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CONTACT:
GIS@ECOTRUST.ORG

