



Plowprint

Key Terms & Definitions

Term	Sub-category	Description
Plowprint	Plowprint	The cumulative footprint of row-crop agriculture on lands converted from grasslands, starting from a baseline of existing cropland in 2008 in the U.S. and 2009 in Canada based on annual Cropland Data Layer (USDA-NASS) and Annual Crop Inventory (AAFC) data. Once an area has been identified as “Plowprint,” it remains in perpetuity, recognizing that it can take generations to restore the full functionality of native grasslands.
	New Plowprint	The expansion of the Plowprint from the previous year of analysis, reflecting new conversion to row-crop agriculture. A 2-year validation rule eliminates the majority of misclassifications to ensure accurate representation of changes on the ground.
	Plowprint Composition	The current land cover of the Plowprint identified by that year’s Cropland Data Layer or Annual Crop Inventory classes and grouped into five categories: Crop/Fallow, Alfalfa (includes switchgrass/hay), Barren/Developed, Forest, and Wetland/Shrubland/Grass. This allows tracking of active row-crop agriculture and areas currently in other cover types, including perennial cover.
	Mexico	The Plowprint analysis for the Great Plains region of Mexico based on a supervised classification of Sentinel-2 imagery and supplemented with INEGI land cover data.
Intact Habitat		Grassland, wetland, shrubland, forest and other perennial land covers that have not been in row-crop agriculture cover since 2008/2009, the start of Plowprint tracking. The extent is determined by subtracting Plowprint, developed areas, and open water from the ecoregion boundary. “Intact” does not equate to “native” or “never plowed” grassland since areas may have been plowed and restored/regenerated to some extent prior to the start of the Plowprint analysis.
Conversion Risk		Plowprint or Intact data overlaid with Olm and Robinson (Ecological Indicators, 2019) cropland conversion risk assessment to identify lands at risk of conversion or lands more suitable for restoration activities.
Other land cover designations	Developed	Mask of roads and urbanized areas. Road data is from 2019 TIGER (US) and 2018 Canada Road Network, buffered to 30m. Urbanized areas are extracted from Cropland Data Layer and Annual Crop Inventory data.
	Open Water	Open or permanent water based on multiple years of National Land Cover Data (US) and Canada Land Cover/Agriculture and Agri-food Canada Land Use data.