Biogeography

Biogeography is the study of species distribution and their environments currently and throughout geologic time. Species and communities vary along geographic gradients of latitude, elevation, and habitat.

Climate

Climate is a region’s general pattern of atmospheric condition over a long period of time (at least 30 years). The two major factors contributing to a region’s climate:
1. average temperature
2. average precipitation

Weather

Weather is a short-term atmospheric condition in an area. They include:
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Precipitation
- Cloud cover

Gulf Stream

The Gulf Stream is driven largely by wind, but as it branches into the North Atlantic Drift, it is largely thermohaline circulation driven.
Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an international treaty that sets binding obligations on industrialized countries to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Greenhouse Effect

Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variation of life. It can include:
- species
- genetic
- ecosystem variation

Pacific Northwest

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act provides a means for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats.

CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.

Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act

The Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, also known as the Ocean Dumping Act, prohibits the dumping of material into the oceans that would unreasonably degrade or endanger human health or the marine environment.