

Using Filter Criteria

The [BioData Retrieval System](#) uses filters to help you construct the data set that you are looking for.

- The user starts with the entire data set and then reduces it in a stepwise fashion to the exact content they are looking for.
- This is in contrast to starting with no data and adding data according to criteria you specify. This is a subtle, but important difference because your data set gets smaller as you filter it not larger as you search.
- The individual filter criteria sections function very similarly, but vary in their available options

The screenshot shows the 'Geographic Location Filter' interface. On the left, a vertical list of filter categories includes 'No filter selected in this section', 'State', 'County', 'Latitude/Longitude', 'Drainage Basin/Hydrological Unit Code (HUC)', 'Ecoregion', and 'Sites'. The 'Ecoregion' category is selected. The main area displays 'Ecoregion Level' with radio buttons for 'NA I', 'NA II', 'NA III', 'US III', and 'US IV'. Below this is a search box containing 'midd' and a 'Search' button. A list of 'Available Ecoregion' codes is shown, with '8.5.1 - Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain' selected. To the right, a 'Selected Ecoregion' list shows '5.2.2 - Northern Minnesota Wetlands' and '6.2.10 - Middle Rockies'. A 'Move ALL' button is positioned between the two lists, and a 'Move SELECTED' button is below it. Annotations with arrows point to various elements: 'Filter Category Radio Buttons' points to the left-hand list; 'Additional Radio Buttons' points to the 'NA I' through 'US IV' buttons; 'Search Box' points to the search input and button; 'Double Click OR Drag to Move between boxes' points to the 'Available Ecoregion' list; 'Move ALL' points to the 'Move ALL' button; and 'Move SELECTED' points to the 'Move SELECTED' button.

When creating complex - or even simple - filter sets...

- you can save and upload previously created filter sets
- this feature can save a lot of re-work and allow you to aid colleagues in downloading the exact same data that you did without sending large files back and forth

Upload saved filter set:

Filtering by Biological Community

Filtering by Sample Type

Filtering by State

Filtering by County

Filtering by Latitude-Longitude

Filtering by Hydrologic Unit

Filtering by Ecoregion

Filtering by USGS Site

Filtering by Site Characteristics

Filtering by Temporal Criteria

Filtering by Organization/Program

Using Taxon-Specific Filters

Using Sample-specific Filters