
WHAT IS A BIOREGIONION?

Bioregionalism is a philosophy and practice that identifies regional ecosystems and encourages a sense of belonging, understanding and adaptation to that landscape.

The bioregional movement, spanning decades, encompasses various aspects. It's both a mindset and a call to action. By recognizing natural landscape features like mountain ranges and rivers as foundational elements for defining political and cultural boundaries, bioregionalism challenges the conventional notion of territories outlined by arbitrary lines on maps. It's a holistic approach that merges political, cultural, and ecological perspectives.

At its core, bioregionalism advocates for organizing principals that respect and adapt to the unique characteristics of each region. Rather than molding landscapes to fit human needs, it encourages communities to evolve in alignment with the ecosystems they inhabit. In essence, bioregionalism offers a blueprint for cultivating sustainable relationships between people and their environments, fostering resilience and continuity for generations to come.





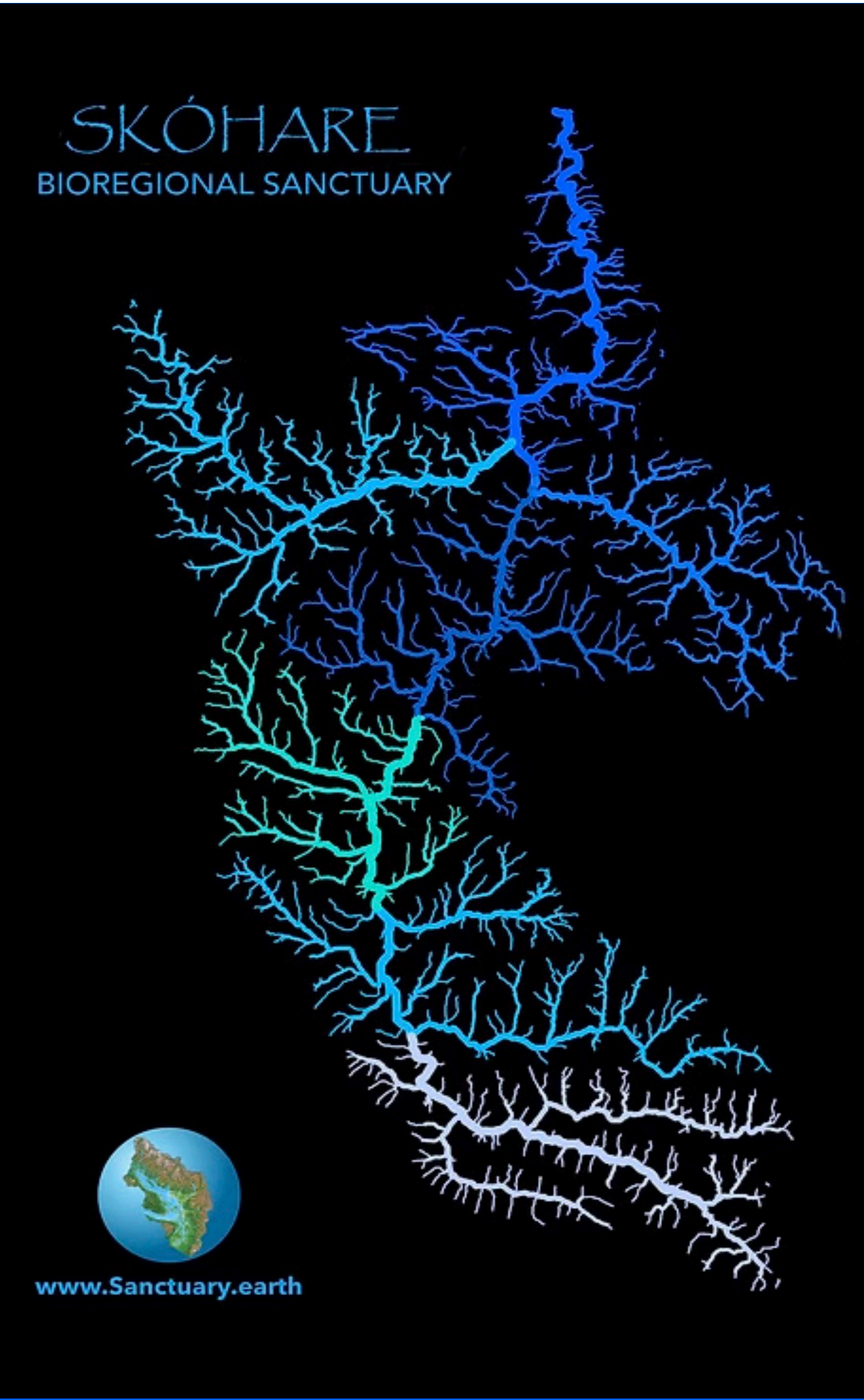
“Bioregion refers both to geographical terrain, and a terrain of consciousness - to a place and the ideas that have developed about how to live in that place”

- Peter Berg & Raymond Dassman



A bioregion can be defined along watershed and hydrological boundaries as well as historical and cultural identities. Some bioregional definitions begin with the oldest “hard” lines: geology, topography, tectonics, wind, fracture zones, and continental divides. From there, they work towards understanding the “softer” lines: living systems such as soil, ecosystems, climate, marine life, and flora and fauna. Finally, they can define the “human” lines: human geography, energy, transportation, agriculture, food, music, language, history, cultures, and ways of living within the bioregion.

“The borders between such areas are usually not rigid – nature works with more flexibility and fluidity than that – but the general contours of the regions themselves are not hard to identify, and indeed will probably be felt, understood, sensed or in some way known to many inhabitants, and particularly those still rooted in the land.” - Kirkpatrick Sale (early pioneer of bioregional thought)



The mission of the Waterfall Center for Bioregional Learning is to serve as a community information and organizing hub which will facilitate collaborations, partnerships, and collective decision making for the protection of the land, water, ecology, cultures and communities of Skóhare (the Schoharie Valley) and connected bioregions.

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THE WATERFALL CENTER FOR BIOREGIONAL LEARNING

We are honored to have you take part in this initial gathering and are excited to listen and learn about the important work you and your organization have been undertaking.

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