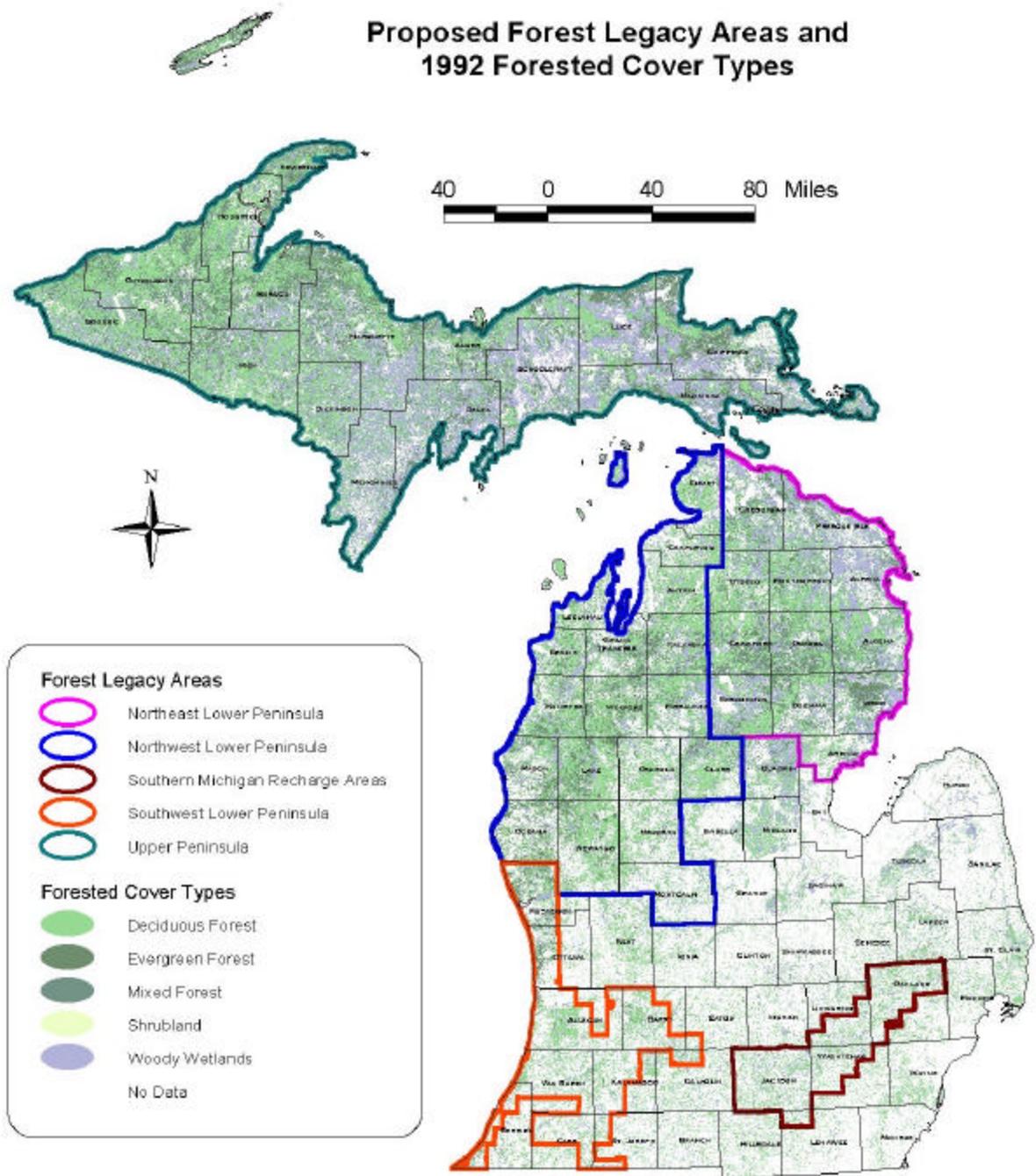


X. PROPOSED FOREST LEGACY AREAS

There are five areas that meet the Eligibility Criteria and are recommended as Forest Legacy Areas (**Map 13**). Some of these areas are contiguous, but were separated based on ecological, economic, cultural or aesthetic differences that relate to their inclusion among the FLA's. The FLA's are not entirely forested and include significant public lands. It is the private, forested lands within each FLA that would qualify for Forest Legacy Program funds. Each of the FLA's is described below in terms of its general character and the potential benefits of the Forest Legacy Program to that area.

The FLA's vary in size and in the percent of forest cover and public lands within them. The largest is the Upper Peninsula, which covers almost 10.6 million acres (it does not include Isle Royale National Park). The smallest is the Southern Michigan Recharge Area, which includes about 1.6 million acres. The total area of forest varies from 589,000 to 8.8 million acres, with corresponding percentages of 36.5% and 83.4% for the Southern Michigan Recharge Area and the Upper Peninsula, respectively. Both southern Michigan FLA's have less than 40% forest cover, whereas the others exceed 60%. It is the southern forests, though, that are most at risk.

Proposed Forest Legacy Areas and 1992 Forested Cover Types



Map 13. Proposed Forest Legacy Areas in Michigan, and 1992 Forested Cover Types

Table 3. Total acres and acres of five forest cover classes in the proposed Forest Legacy Areas (shrubland is included as land that could potentially be forested within ten years).

	Upper Peninsula	Northeast Lower Peninsula	Northwest Lower Peninsula	Southwest Lower Peninsula	Southern Michigan Recharge Area
Total Acres	10,598,689	4,546,572	6,278,646	2,204,023	1,261,999
Deciduous Forest	3,513,667	1,452,777	2,431,761	581,156	347,102
Evergreen Forest	1,392,008	443,021	640,340	94,378	14,512
Mixed Forest	1,138,709	501,791	285,191	50,719	1,660
Shrubland	0	0	5,651	785	0
Woody Wetlands	2,804,810	1,070,111	649,843	133,189	110,944
Total Forested Acres	8,849,194	3,467,700	4,012,785	860,227	474,218
Percent Forested	83.5%	76.3%	63.9%	39.0%	37.6%

The area of public land also varies dramatically among the FLA's. The Upper Peninsula has easily the most acres of public land, but the Northeast Lower Peninsula has an almost equally high percentage of public land. Public land in the two southern Lower Peninsula FLA's is below eight percent of the total area.

Table 4. Public ownership in the proposed Forest Legacy Areas (USFWS is the US Fish and Wildlife Service; USFS is the US Forest Service; NPS is the National Park Service; MI is the State of Michigan).

	Upper Peninsula	Northeast Lower Peninsula	Northwest Lower Peninsula	Southwest Lower Peninsula	Southern Michigan Recharge Area
USFWS	93,483	0	0	0	0
USFS	1,875,502	430,611	517,194	13,138	0
NPS	171,178	0	38,828	0	0
MI	2,167,099	1,202,959	907,247	127,999	99,365
Total	4,307,261	1,633,570	1,463,269	141,137	99,365
Percent Public	40.6%	35.9%	23.3%	6.4%	7.9%

Those items common to all Forest Legacy Areas are the government entities that may be assigned management responsibility and the means for Protection, addressed below.

Identification of Government Entity or Entities That May Be Assigned Management Responsibility

The Forest Legacy Program in Michigan will be implemented through a State Grant Option, by which the State of Michigan will hold title to all conservation easements or deeds for acquired tracts of forest land entered into this program. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest Mineral and Fire

Management is the lead agency for this program, with consultation by the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

The MDNR may elect to delegate management and administration of individual tracts of land within the program to another division within the MDNR or to another organization or government entity, including land trust, land conservancy or other conservation groups.