Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

A. **Description of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program**
B. **Implementation of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program**
C. **Eligibility Criteria for Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Areas**
D. **Recommended Forest Legacy Areas**

This document, along with the Wisconsin Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy, are intended to meet the planning requirements of the Forest Legacy Program as outlined in the Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines, June 30, 2003. These documents update the Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need (AON) (http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/legacy/aon.htm), completed in November 2000 and approved by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture on January 16, 2001, acting as the guiding documents for implementation of the Forest Legacy Program within Wisconsin. The 2000 AON contains an assessment of Wisconsin's need for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program and will remain available for reference of need for the Program as well as the factors that drove Wisconsin to participate in the Forest Legacy Program.

This FLP Strategy document outlines how the program will be executed in Wisconsin.

A. Description of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program

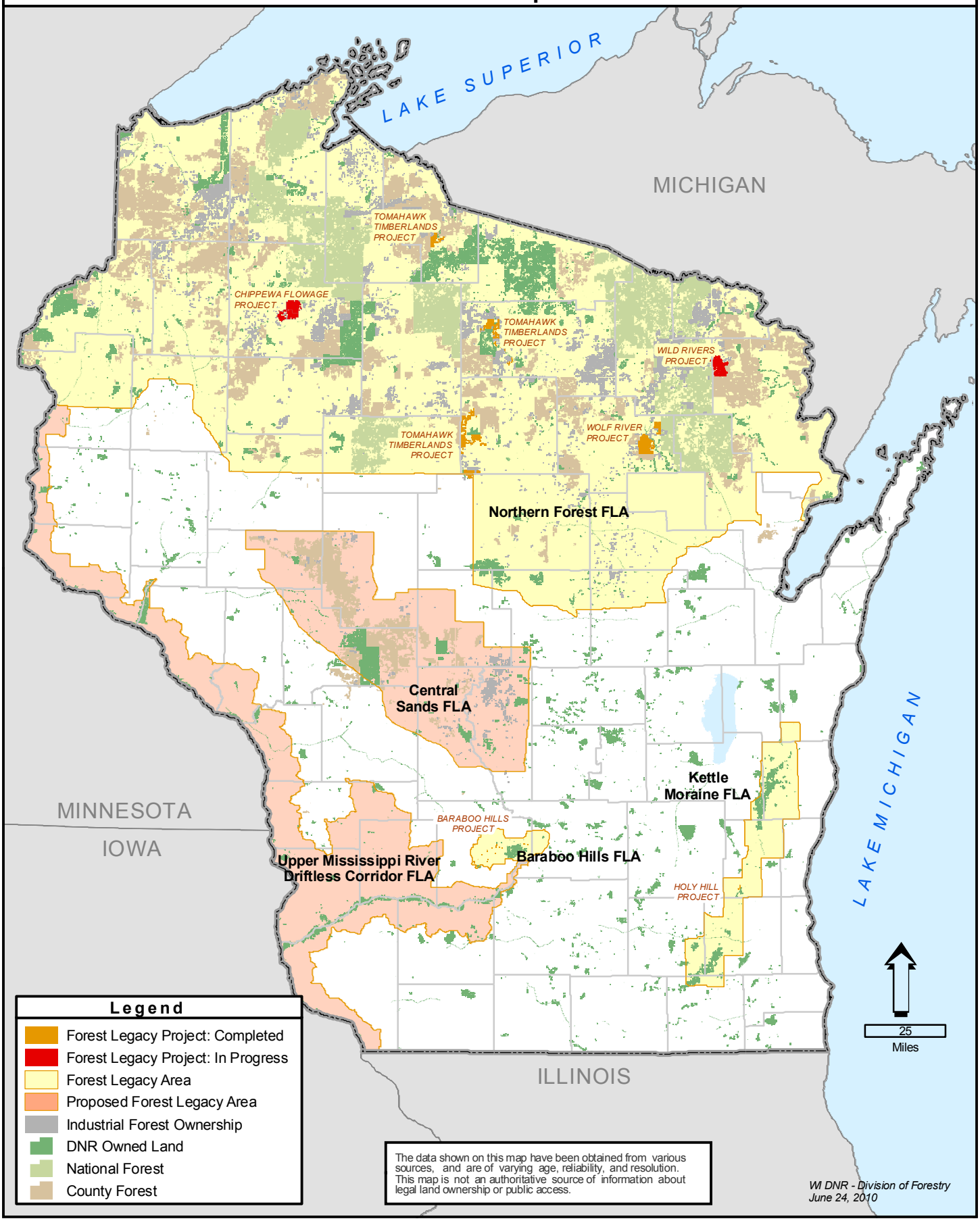
The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to identify and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Lands are protected through the acquisition of conservation easements or fee title purchases. The FLP is a partnership between participating states and the USDA Forest Service. The FLP was established under the authority of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978, as amended in the 1990 Farm Bill (Food, Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, [16 U.S.C.2103c et,seq.]).

The Forest Legacy Program in Wisconsin

The 2000 AON established an assessment of the state's forests and forest uses to document the need of FLP within Wisconsin. The Department, along with the Forest Stewardship Committee and public involvement, determined Wisconsin's FLP Eligibility Criteria to identify important forest areas to be proposed as Forest Legacy Areas (FLA), and act as a guide to implementation of FLP in the State. As a result of this process four FLAs were identified and approved through the 2000 AON: The Northern Forest FLA, The West Central and Central Sands FLA, The Baraboo Hills FLA, and The Kettle Moraine FLA. For the next ten years, Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program applied for funding to complete land transactions within these Areas. During this time, five different projects were completed resulting in the protection of over 70,000 acres of environmentally important forestland.

Forest Legacy Program

2001 - 2010 Accomplishments



Goal of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program:
As developed by the Forest Stewardship Committee, the goal of the Forest Legacy Program in Wisconsin is:

> "To minimize fragmentation and conversion of significant forested areas to non-forest uses, through the wise administration of conservation easements, that focus on the sustainable use of forest resources."

B. Implementation of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program in Wisconsin will be implemented through a State Grant Option, by which the State of Wisconsin will hold title to all conservation easements or deeds for acquired tracts of forest land entered into this program. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry is the lead agency for this program, with consultation by the Forest Stewardship Committee. The DNR may elect to delegate management and administration of individual tracts of land within the program to another division within the DNR. However, the DNR Division of Forestry is the only party that can enforce the terms of the conservation easement.

Means for Protection of Forest Legacy Area Tracts

The following standards will be considered by the Department when acquiring lands using federal Forest Legacy funds within these FLAs:

- Acquisition of conservation easements is preferred to full-fee acquisition. However, in situations where a conservation easement is not appropriate or possible the Forest Stewardship Committee will consider recommending full-fee acquisition.
- Acquire development rights on all tracts. This would include or limit the rights to subdivide, construct buildings, control utility right-of-way locations, and development of permanent access roads.
- Public access is preferred for most tracts, but will not be required, especially in cases where rare communities or species could be damaged by public access.
- All conservation easement tracts will have a current, State Forester (or designee) approved Forest Stewardship Plan or a comprehensive, multi-resource management plan in place prior to the Department acquiring the property.
- All fee title purchased tracts will have a management plan that ensures the interests of the Forest Legacy Program. This plan will be rolled into the property's Master plan when created or updated.
- Management plans will identify and protect the environmentally important values of the property.
- All properties will have a monitoring plan which identifies the monitoring agency, parameters to be measured and frequency of monitoring.
- Any timber or forest products harvesting will be subject to a harvesting plan approved by the State Forester or his designee. Timber rights retained by the landowner and should be conditioned:
    - As outlined in management plan
    - In consultation with a professional forester
    - Approved by the department

    - Not harm environmental values of land or the FLP purposes for which the land was entered into the FLP
- Restrict the development of mining, drilling of mineral, sand, and gravel pits to sole use by the property owner for forestry uses, and to locations and sizes where such mining or drilling would not damage or impair water quality or other protected resource values. Upon landowner completion of operation, the land shall be reclaimed as much as practical to its original state. No commercial development will be allowed.
- No disposal of waste or hazardous material will be allowed on properties.
- Generally prohibit improvements on the property including temporary or permanent residences, buildings, facilities, infrastructure or utilities, mobile homes, cell towers, signs, including advertising signs, billboards, or other advertising materials on the property (except for general information or regulatory signs appropriate for management, trails, or prevention of trespass)
- Industrial, commercial and residential activities, except forestry and limited mining (as referenced above), are prohibited.
- Water quality best management practices (BMPs) will be applied to all practices initiated on the property.
- Property must be 75% forested, as defined in Chapter NR 46, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Selecting Forest Legacy Projects

Forest Legacy Projects refer to the actual property(ies) being considered for purchase. Only lands within a Forest Legacy Area are eligible. Thus, all proposed tracts within the project will have met the state and national eligibility criteria established for Forest Legacy Areas. In addition, we anticipate that numerous projects may be offered concurrently and there will be a need for Wisconsin to prioritize the projects, in consultation with the Forest Stewardship Committee, for submission to the Forest Service for consideration.

A request for projects will be released from the Department annually. Landowners and interested parties can access the current application on the Forest Legacy website: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/legacy/index.html or from the Division of Forestry. Landowners will be encouraged to work with their local forester or a resource professional familiar with their land to complete the application.

The Forest Legacy subcommittee will review and rank the applications based on established scoring criteria, which consider the elements listed below, and by giving consideration to additional criteria and factors that are available to the Committee. Their recommended project ranking will be reviewed by the Forest Stewardship Committee.

Based on requirements from the 2000 AON, all proposed projects must meet three or more of the following scoring criteria:

- It is part of a large tract or block of environmentally important forestland and could add to the continuity of the forest area.
- Tracts have the ability, or potential, to produce forest products.

- Tracts contribute to maintaining or improving the water quality of the area.
- Tracts provide a variety of natural resource benefits such as fish, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.
- Tracts contain significant attributes such as public access that are at risk of being closed or lost if not protected.
- Tracts that connect existing protected areas.
- Tracts contain rare forest communities.
- Tracts that are at risk of being converted to non-forest uses.
- Landowners are willing to donate all or some of the property or property rights to the program.

The Forest Stewardship Committee may develop additional ranking information to best evaluate projects and consider all factors that may affect the viability of a project. State scoring and ranking guidelines may vary from the national scoring guidelines.

The Forest Stewardship Committee will rank the projects and recommend to the State Forester on the rank of the projects. Based on the Committee's recommendation the State Forester will determine if projects will be forwarded to the U.S. Forest Service for the national competition.

Public Involvement Process:

The "Assessment" and "Strategy" documents were reviewed in the public comment process as outlined in the "Review & Comment Process" Appendix of the "Assessment" and the Public Comment chapter of the "Strategy".

Additional public comment was sought on the addition of the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA. County Land and Water Conservation and Zoning department staff received the draft FLP Strategy document in each county within the new FLA. Additional maps were requested by two counties to clarify the location of the Area boundary within their counties. An addition to the "Important Environmental Values" section was made based on comment provided from one county.

The Forest Stewardship Committee also provided comments and input throughout the drafting of these documents which have been incorporated, particularly at the October 14, 2009 meeting held in Wausau, WI and the March 25, 2010 meeting held in Steven's Point, WI.

C. Eligibility Criteria for Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Areas:

These eligibility criteria satisfy both the national criteria set forth in the FLP Implementation Guidelines as well as the additional criteria developed by Wisconsin to further refine the state's FLP requirements.

To be eligible as a Wisconsin Forest Legacy Area, an area's forest land must meet the following criteria:

1. Environmentally Important Forests

- Environmentally important forest lands in Wisconsin are those areas having large forested blocks, including industrial forest blocks, that offer opportunities for the continuation of traditional forest uses such as timber harvesting and undeveloped recreation. Other contributing factors include protecting rare species of plants, animals and communities, sequestering carbon, conserving wildlife habitat, buffering streams and lakes, and conserving habitat diversity. These lands sustain productive high-quality forest ecosystems that can support commercial forest industries and other traditional economic enterprises or that contain forest resources deserving of protection. Such ecosystems and uses can best be sustained within large blocks of forest cover, which are reasonably intact. These large blocks often consist of multiple ownerships. The Forest Stewardship Committee is most concerned that these large blocks continue to remain as intact forest systems and are not converted to non-forest uses.

2. Contain two or more of the environmental values detailed below:
    - Opportunities for Traditional Forest Uses- large expanses of forested areas, rich in diversity of species, habitat and topography, capable of supporting high-quality timber, recreational opportunities, hunting, wildlife viewing, and gathering of forest products.
    - Fish and Wildlife Habitat- large expanses of forested areas rich in diversity that are capable of supporting diverse populations, including wide-ranging mammals, forest interior bird species, fish and aquatic life, and a variety of forested habitats.
    - Known Rare Species- large expanses of forested areas diverse in species habitats and topography that increase the chance of offering the habitat requirements for rare species or, forests that contain known occurrences of State or Federally listed threatened, endangered or rare species.
    - Known Cultural Resources- large expanses of forested areas rich in diversity that encompass historical human migration routes such as rivers and old trails or forests that contain known cultural resources.
    - Riparian Areas- large expanses of forested areas rich in diversity that offer the opportunity to buffer and protect inland lakes and streams.
    - Scenic Values- large expanses of forested areas rich in visual diversity and topography that contain a corridor for viewing, such as a scenic byway, road, river, or lake.
    - Public Recreational Opportunities- large expanses of forested areas offering the opportunity for land and water-based recreation which may encompass regionally important trails or areas for which a trail system is planned.

3. Be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses including:
    - Residential development. There is excessive development pressure in the forested portions of the state, particularly where the presence of lakes and streams increase the recreational potential of these lands and in parts of the state with easy access to metropolitan areas.

- High property taxes. Forestlands are being assessed on the highest use value of that land rather than current use. High property taxes are forcing many private and industrial landowners to sell their land to developers.
- Rapid turnover of property. An increased rate of ownership transfer results in owners who have no long-term connection to the property and who are less interested in sustainable forestry practices and principles.
- Forest industry restructuring. Forest industries have been a major property owner in many areas of the state, particularly in the north. Companies are trending towards less land ownership and selling off their land holdings. This may further fragment forest ownership and forest cover.
- Urban sprawl. Metropolitan areas are expanding into Wisconsin's forests, further fragmenting forest cover.
- Deer population. When forest fragmentation occurs, the accompanying openings and landscapes, creates the ideal situation for deer populations to rise to abnormally high levels. This negatively impacts forest regeneration.

4. Large blocks of forest land are defined, for the purpose of the Forest Legacy Program, as those that are regionally or nationally significant or able to support diverse populations of wide-ranging mammals, forest interior bird species, and a diversity of communities and / or a variety of forest habitats.

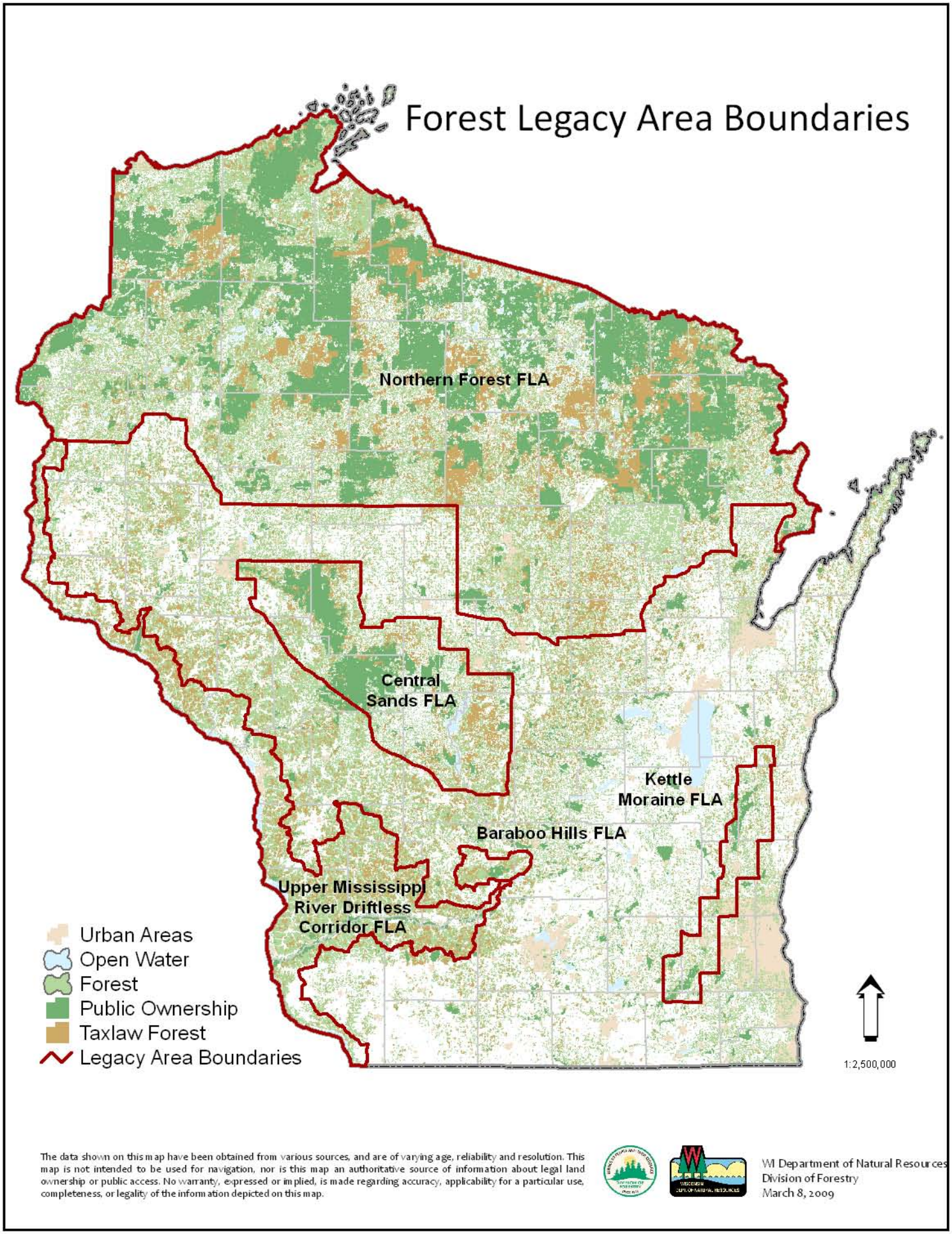
5. Areas that meet the above criteria and are deemed threatened by conversion at a regional level.

D. Recommended Forest Legacy Areas

The 2010 Statewide Forest Assessment and Resources Strategy provided an ideal time to reevaluate the state's Forest Legacy Program, in particular the Forest Legacy Areas. After discussions with Department specialists, US Forest Service Northeastern Area FLP staff and the Forest Stewardship Committee along with guidance from the Statewide Assessment, the Forest Stewardship Committee evaluated and approved a proposal to add the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA. The addition of a new area required an evaluation and prioritization of the existing FLAs to ensure the number of acres within the FLAs eligible for FLP funding did not substantially increase. The Forest Stewardship Committee determined the West Central portion of the West Central and Central Sands FLA was the best area to remove from the FLA.

The 2010 Forest Legacy Program Strategy includes a proposal to create the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA and to amend the Central Sands FLA boundary. All other components required in the 2000 AON have remained the same.

The four FLAs from the 2000 AON were identified with the assistance of the Forest Stewardship Committee, a public comment process, and analysis completed by the Department based on the program's eligibility criteria. The Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA boundary was determined through consultation with regional DNR forestry staff, Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership maps and reports, water quality


Forest Legacy Area Boundaries
Northern Forest FLA
Central Sands FLA
Kettle Moraine FLA
Baraboo Hills FLA
Upper Mississippi River Driftless Corridor FLA
Urban Areas
Open Water
Forest
Public Ownership
Taxlaw Forest
Legacy Area Boundaries
1:2,500,000
The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.
WI Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
March 8, 2009

and fish/wildlife research, Driftless Area Initiative report, Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, and data from the Ecological Landscapes Handbook.

Five areas have been recommended to be targeted by the Forest Legacy Program in Wisconsin. Three of the FLAs were approved through the 2000 Assessment of Need (AON): The Northern Forest FLA, The Baraboo Hills FLA and The Kettle Moraine FLA. One of the FLAs from the 2000 AON has been amended: The Central Sands FLA. The Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA is a new FLA being submitted for approval in 2010.

For detailed maps on FLA boundaries visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/legacy/fla.htm this site contains 'click and zoom' maps of the FLAs to determine where the boundaries lie.

Public Benefits Derived from WI's FLAs

Protecting land, either through conservation easement or fee acquisition, within the FLAs using Forest Legacy funding will offer a variety of public benefits. Privately owned forests not only supply timber products, but also provide wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreation and aesthetic values. Reducing fragmentation and parcelization of forests will protect valuable ecosystems and the biological, economic and social values they provide. The FLP will help maintain the forestland base, protect special forest resources and provide opportunities for traditional forest uses for future generations.

Land acquisition will focus on areas surrounding land that is already protected, either through conservation easement or through governmental or conservation organization ownership. Buffering protected lands from development will ensure surrounding lands are not converted to incompatible uses.

Besides the already stated benefits, Areas provide unique benefits due to their specific location's characteristics. Public access rights will likely be purchased for tracts located in either the Northern Forest FLA or the Central Sands FLA, providing for either continued or increased public recreation opportunities. Projects within the Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA will provide protection and improvement in water quality for the watersheds and tributaries that drain into the Mississippi River. Projects within the Baraboo Hills FLA and the Kettle Moraine FLA will protect greenspace within urban and developed areas, protecting the aesthetic and scenic values of the Area, and protect these lands from further subdivision.

1. Northern Forest Legacy Area.

All or parts of the following counties are within this FLA:
Polk, Burnett, Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Washburn, Barron, Rusk, Chippewa, Taylor, Sawyer, Iron, Price, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Waupaca, Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas , Langlade, Forest, Florence, Marinette, Oconto, and Menominee.

Goals of the Northern FLA:

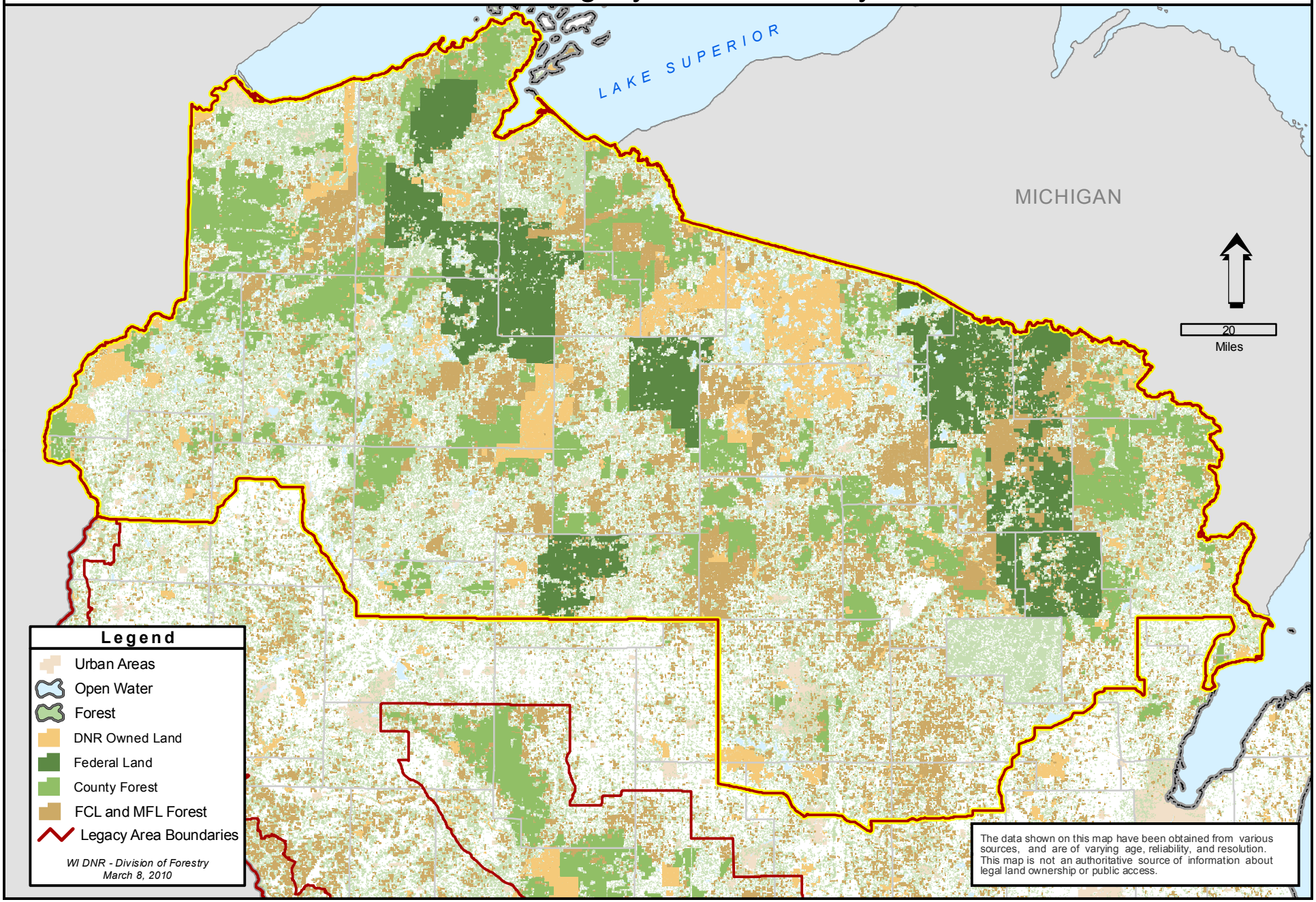
- Provide connectivity and environmental corridors with other protected lands
- Protect large blocks of forest, both industrial and non-industrial private forest (NIPF) ownership, from development and subdivision
- Protect forest resources
- Protect habitat for both rare and common species
- Protect public access for recreational opportunities in northern forests

Important Environmental Values of the Northern FLA:

- Large blocks of productive forests
- Forest communities including: northern wet forest, northern mesic forest, boreal forest, northern dry mesic forest, northern dry forest, and Pine Barrens.
- Contains regionally and globally important habitat, a diversity of communities and supports an array of species including interior forest birds, several mammals, such as elk, wolves, bear, bobcats, and pine martens as well as many birds like northern goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, and spruce grouse.
- Northwest portion of this FLA contains the state's greatest concentration of Pine Barrens, which are globally rare, as well as some unique indicator species including 15 herpitile species considered to be at the northern, northeastern or northwestern fringe of their habitat.
- Rare and endangered plant and animal communities
- Important habitat for breeding song-bird populations
- Non developed areas for recreational opportunities

Northern Forest

Forest Legacy Area Boundary



2. Central Sands Forest Legacy Area

All or part of the following counties are within this FLA:
Eau Claire, Clark, Jackson, Wood, Juneau and Adams

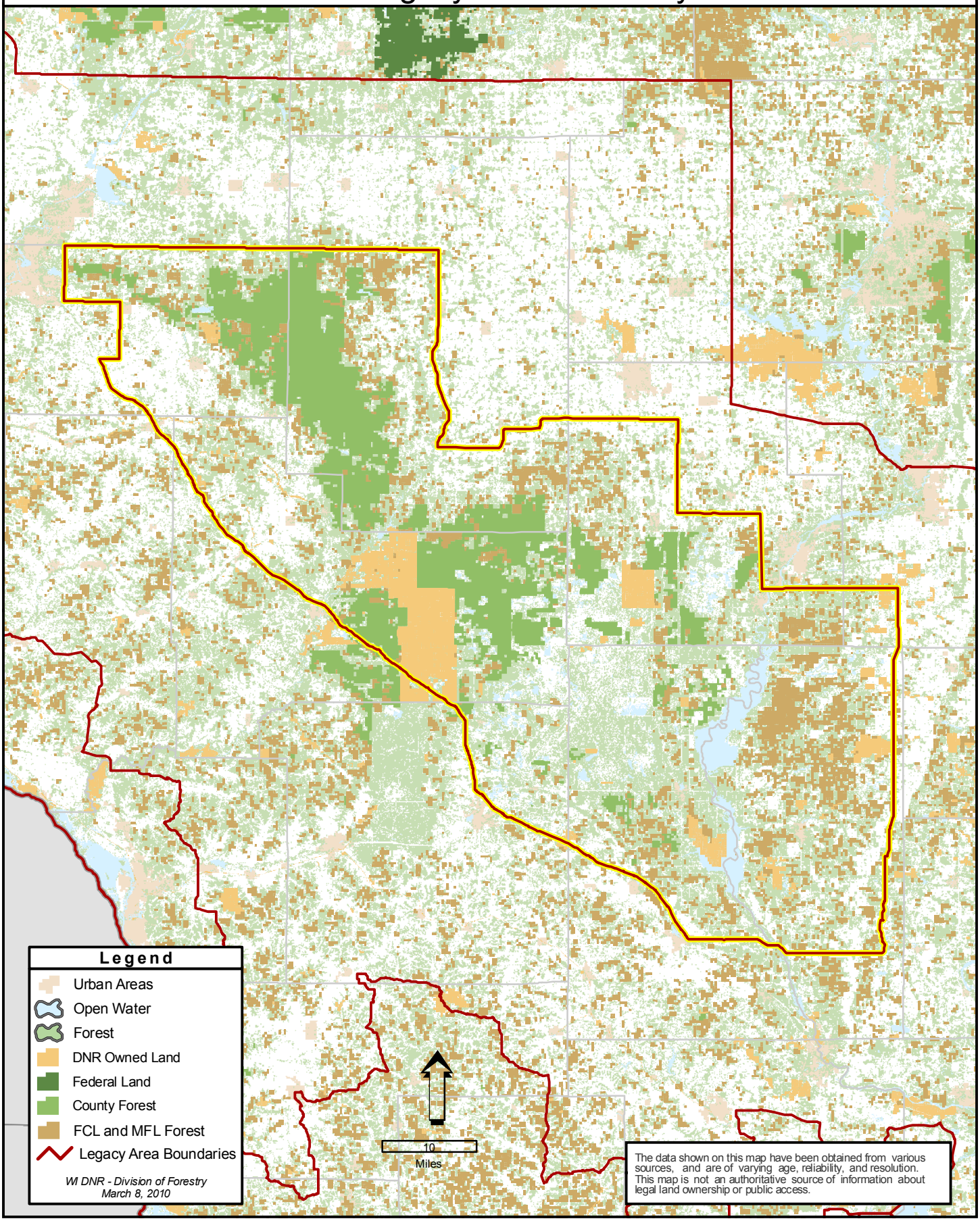
Goals of the Central Sands FLA:

- Protect productive timber lands
- Protect large blocks of forest, both industrial and NIPF ownership, from development and subdivision
- Create non-developed recreational opportunities
- Establish corridors and connection of forest where fragmentation is occurring
- Protect water quality

Important Environmental Values of the Central Sands FLA:

- Large wetlands
- Remnants of pine and oak barrens
- Rare habitats or communities
- Rare species

Central Sands
Forest Legacy Area Boundary



3. Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area Forest Legacy Area

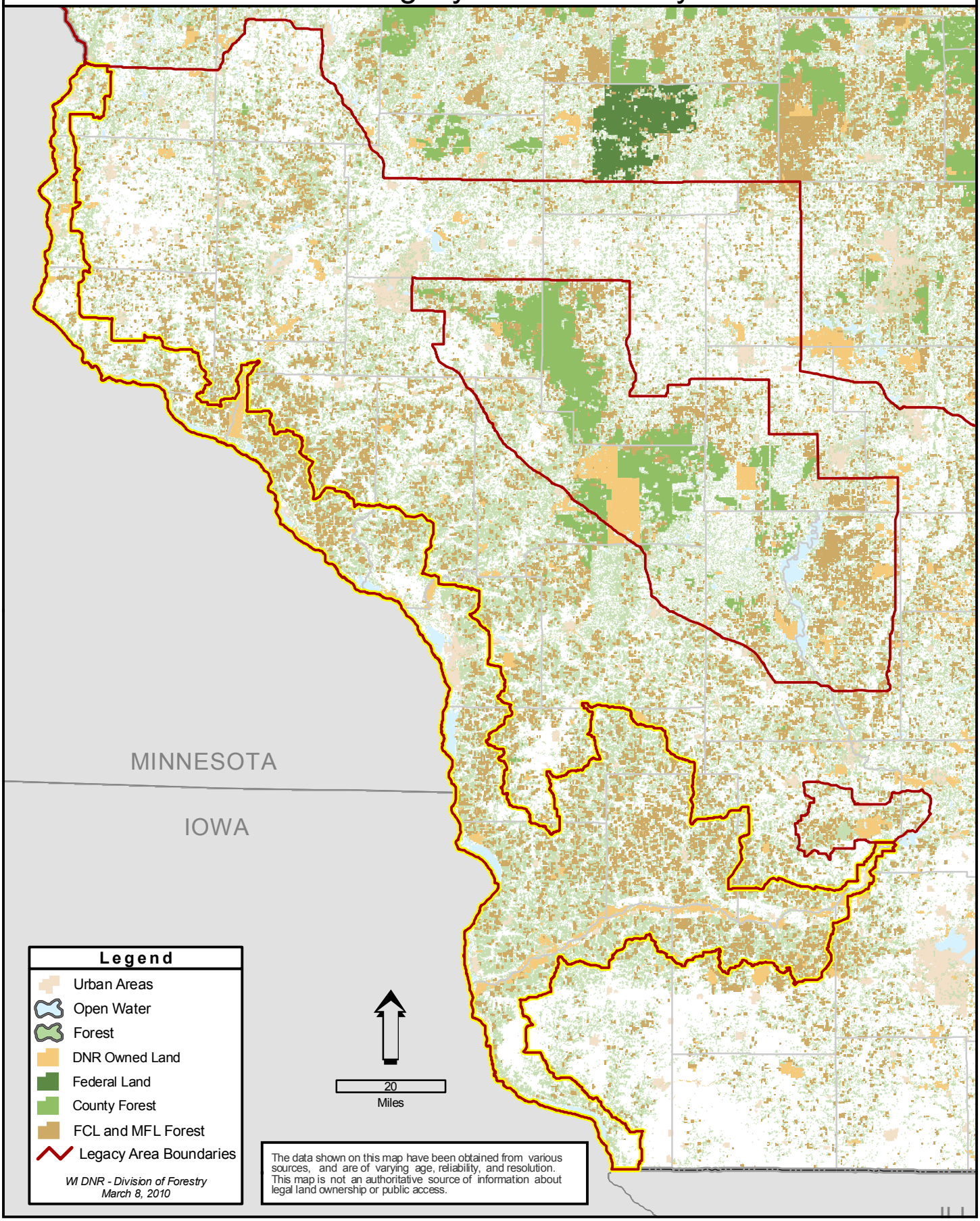
All or part of the following counties are within this FLA:
Grant, Iowa, Crawford, Sauk, Dane, Columbia, Richland, Vernon, La Crosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk

Analysis used to identify the Upper Mississippi Driftless Area FLA and its consistency with FLP Eligibility Criteria:
The Driftless Area/Mississippi River Corridor Forest Legacy Area meets both the national and state criteria for inclusion as a Forest Legacy Area.

1. Environmentally Important Forests
   - While the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA is mainly rural, it contains the majority of southern Wisconsin's forestland.
   - Some of the Upper Midwest's most extensive areas of Floodplain Forest occur in this FLA along the Wisconsin, Chippewa and Black Rivers. Large stands of Floodplain Forest are highly significant to forest-interior birds and other species, especially when they adjoin extensive areas of upland forests.
   - This FLA's predominant forest cover type group is oak-hickory followed by northern hardwood, lowland hardwood and aspen-birch. Common habitat types groups include: dry-mesic, dry mesic to mesic and mesic.
2. Environmental Values
   a. Opportunities for Traditional Forest Uses
      - The steep-sided valleys within this FLA are heavily forested and are often managed for hardwood production.
      - This FLA will focus on protecting remaining significant blocks of forest that provide connectivity to other protected lands, provide quality habitat for both rare and common species, protect water quality and forest management opportunities.
      - The landscape within this FLA offers opportunities to pursue landscape scale management for several forest types, most notably southern dry forest dominated by white and black oak, southern dry-mesic forest with red oak as a principal component, and southern mesic forest consisting primarily of sugar maple and basswood.
   b. Fish and Wildlife Habitat
      - This FLA has the highest densities of Wild Turkey in Wisconsin, providing excellent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.
      - Spring fed, coldwater streams, that support robust grown and brook trout fisheries are common throughout this FLA.
      - The Driftless Area and Mississippi River Corridor create a critical migration corridor for more than half of North America's bird species.
      - The Floodplan Forests within this FLA support a rich assemblage of reptiles and amphibians along with providing habitat for resident and migratory birds.
   c. Rare Species

Upper Mississippi River Driftless Corridor

Forest Legacy Area Boundary



- The rugged hills that typify the area harbor the world's largest concentration of hillside prairies, which often support many species of rare plants, insects and reptiles.
- This FLA contains numerous identified sites that would provide excellent opportunities to restore and expand remnant oak openings, a globally rare natural community.
- Wisconsin's best remaining examples of pine and hemlock relicts are found within this FLA, typically in association with three river systems-the Kickapoo, Pine and Blue. These habitats are of conservation interest due to their relative rarity, unique assemblage of northern plant species, and the overall biological diversity they contribute to this region of the state.
- Stands of Southern Mesic Forest within this FLA are capable of supporting rich assemblages of herbs. Besides well-known and showy groups such as the spring ephemerals, the rare flora of the mesic hardwood forests here includes Carey's sedge, the snow trillium, nodding pogonia, putty root orchid, twinleaf, glade fern, and oval-leafed skullcap.

d. Cultural Resources
   - This FLA contains the largest concentration of Indian Mounts in North American and possibly the world.

e. Riparian Areas
   - Large meandering rivers with broad floodplans are characteristic of this landscape. These rivers include the Mississippi, Wisconsin, Chippewa, Black, La Crosse, and Kickapoo. The floodplan forests associated with these riverine systems are among the largest in the upper Midwest.
   - Forests, along with prairies, are the most beneficial land use in the Upper Mississippi River Basin in terms of protecting watershed and water quality.
   - The Upper Mississippi River Floodplans have been designated as a Wetland of International Importance. These floodplans, including those located within this FLA, support more than 200 nesting pairs of bald eagles, 120 species of fish, 42 species of mussels, and provide migration habitat for up to 50 percent of the world's population of canvasback ducks.

f. Scenic Values
   - This FLA is characterized by its lack of glaciation and is part of the multi-state Driftless Area because its lack of glacial deposits. The topography is unique in Wisconsin due to the long period of erosion, with dissected ridges, steep-sided valleys and extensive network of streams.

g. Public Recreational Opportunities
   - Public ownership within this FLA is focused around the major waterways, including the Mississippi River and the lower Wisconsin Riverway.

3. Threats to Conversion
    a. Residential Development
        - Dispered residential development has occurred and is increasing through this FLA, especially near larger cities. Dispersed development is a permanent change that can alter large parts of the landscape and results in habitat fragmentation and loss of habitat connectivity. Destruction of remaining prairie remnants and loss of forest habitats are a threat from residential development.
    b. High Property Taxes
        - Forestlands are being assessed on the highest use value rather than current land use statewide. This is causing many forestlands to be converted to agricultural or residential.
    c. Urban Sprawl
        - This FLA covers over half of the state's western border and is in close proximity to many urban centers including: Minneapolis/St.Paul, Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Madison.
    d. Deer population
        - Despite the value that white-tailed deer provide for wildlife viewing and hunting within this FLA, this super abundant species has had a profound influence of forest communities through selective browsing of preferred species of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.
4. Large Blocks of forest land
    - Similar to the Baraboo Hills and Kettle Moraine Forest Legacy Areas, tract size within this Area will be smaller than in northern Wisconsin. This landscape is already highly paraclized and lacks the industrial large block ownership in Northern Wisconsin. Projects within this area will be consider large block in relation to other tracts within this same FLA.

This FLA is also being affected by forestland being converted into agricultural uses. These threats play a large role in the fragmentation of this area and were factors in including this area as a Forest Legacy Area.

- Hardwood-dominated forests are more extensive here than in other areas of southern Wisconsin, but they are often highly dissected and characterized by a great amount of hard edge, usually to residential development and agricultural uses. In many parts of this FLA forests are being limited to steeper slopes, while ridge tops and valley bottoms have been cleared and the land has been converted to agricultural uses.
- This FLA has high levels of fragmentation resulting from land use practices where agricultural lands are intermixed with small woodlots and pastures.

Goals of the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area Corridor FLA:

- Protect important habitat and create environmental corridors for migratory birds
- Protect FLA's remaining productive forestland including floodplain forests
- Protect and improve state's oak resource
- Reduce forest fragmentation
- Protect and Improve water quality

- Protect historical and cultural resources
- Protect rare and endangered species and communities, including non-forest areas where appropriate
- Complete multi-state projects

Important Environmental Values of the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Area FLA:

- Forest communities including: southern dry and southern dry mesic.
- Important habitat for migratory birds
- Extensive floodplain forests
- Unique geological landscapes
- Rare and endangered species and communities

4. Baraboo Hills Forest Legacy Area

All or part of the following counties are within this FLA:
Sauk and Columbia

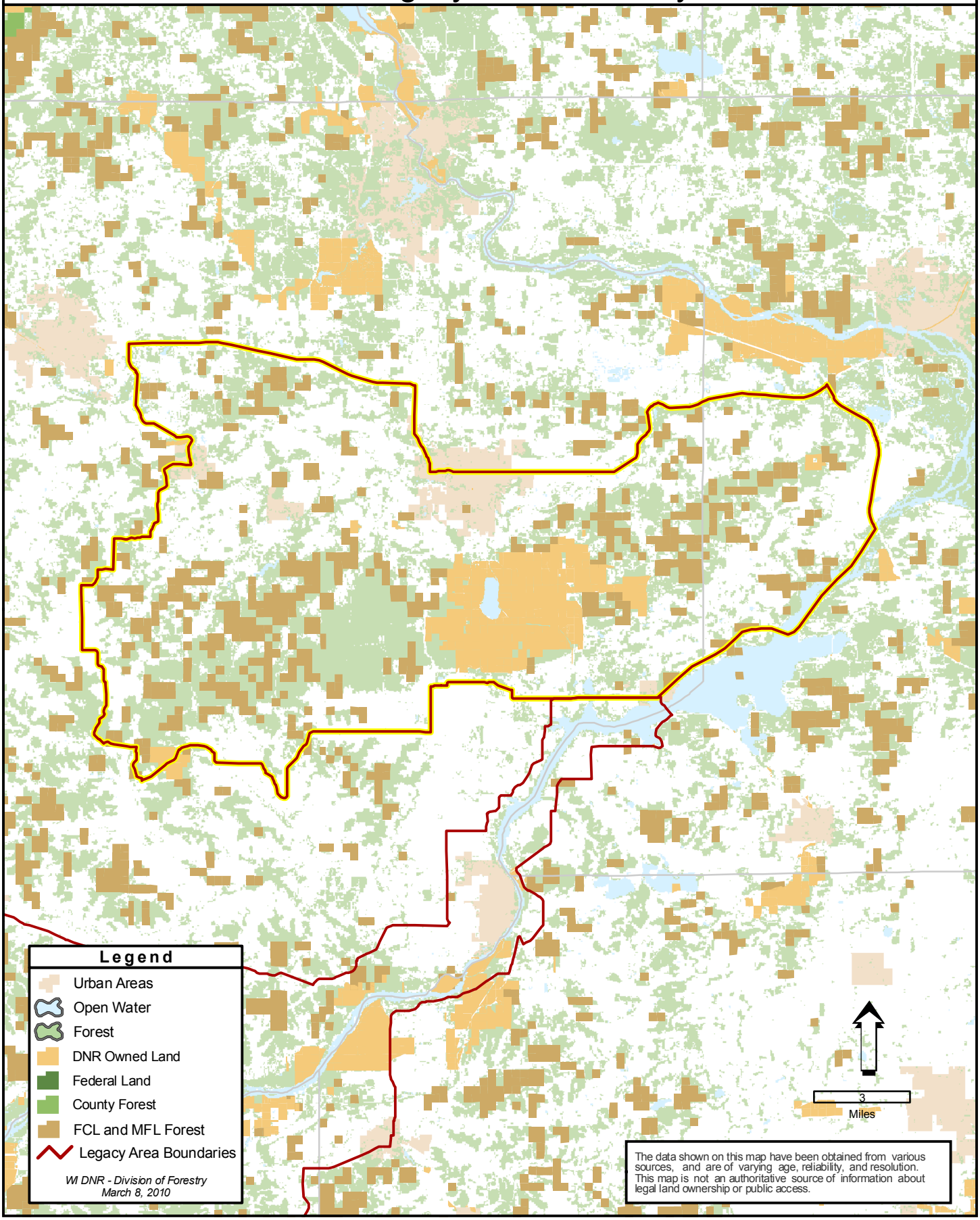
Goals of the Baraboo Hills FLA:

- Protect forest blocks that provide connectivity and environmental corridors between other protected properties.
- Reduce fragmentation to protect interior forests
- Protect rare and sensitive species and communities

Important Environmental Values of the Baraboo Hills FLA:

- One of the largest contiguous upland hardwood forests in the Midwest
- Incredible diversity of species, including more than 1,800 different kinds of plants and animals
- Scenic vistas and waterfalls
- One of the most ancient rock outcrops in North America, the Baraboo quartzite

Baraboo Hills
Forest Legacy Area Boundary



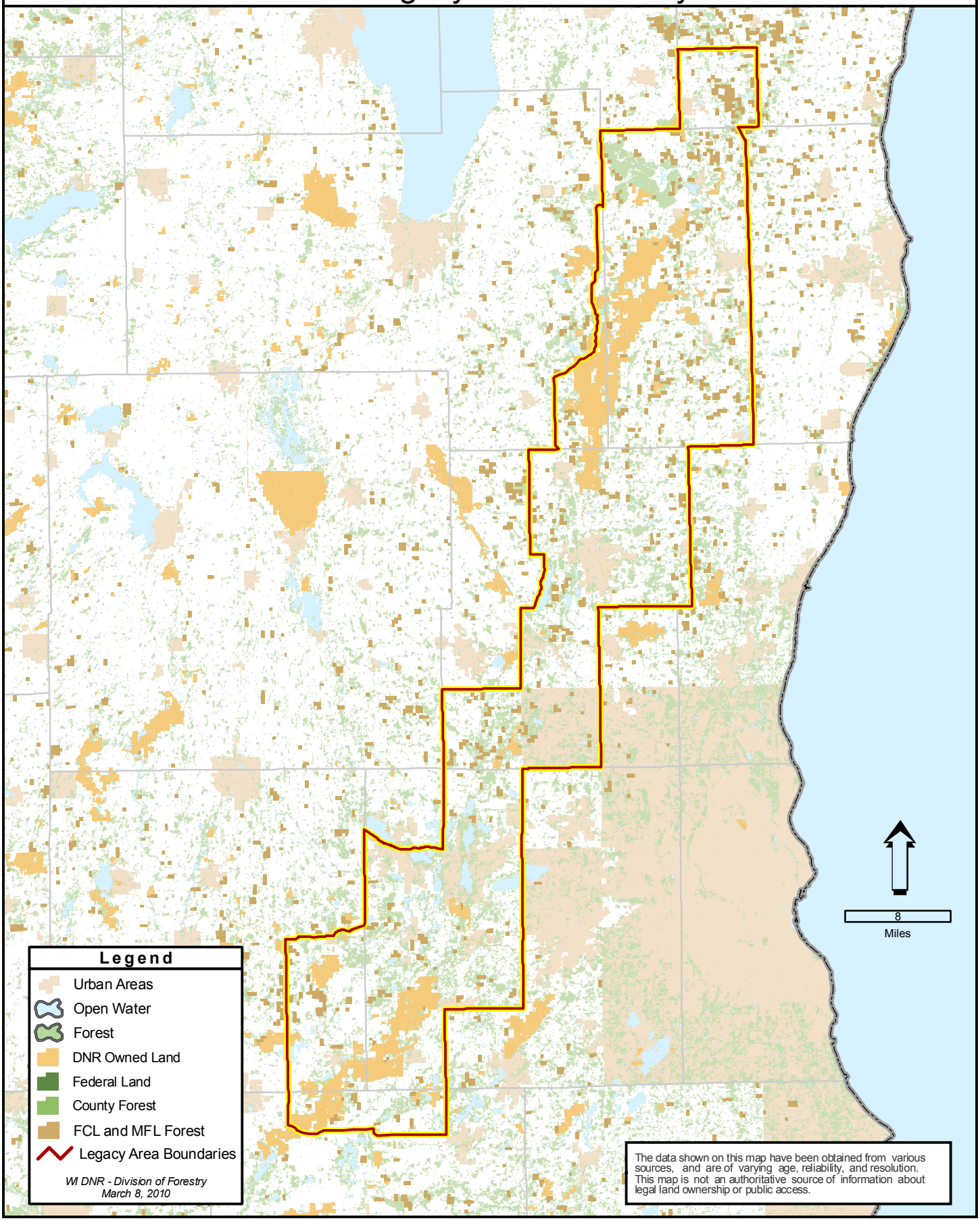
5. **Kettle Moraine Forest Legacy Area**

All or part of the following counties are within this FLA:
Walworth, Jefferson, Waukesha, Washington, Fon du Lac, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc

Goals of the Kettle Moraine FLA:

- Establish environmental corridors and connectivity between the Northern and Southern units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
- Provide buffers around public lands to ensure compatible uses on lands surrounding public lands
- Protect remaining blocks of productive forest lands
- Protect water quality and associated kettle lakes

Important Environmental Values of the Kettle Moraine FLA:

- Only remaining contiguous forest in Southeastern Wisconsin.
- Important habitat for rare and endangered neotropical songbirds
- Critical landscape for both uncommon and rare species

Kettle Moraine
Forest Legacy Area Boundary