

“...there is a general pattern of biological impoverishment of fragmented habitats compared with more intact ones.”



**For ecologists, it is widely accepted that the biological attributes of fragmented habitat suffer compared to intact habitats. We need to appreciate the importance of large unbroken tracts, which offer benefits that sustain life across the landscape. Intrinsic benefits like habitat also link to economic benefits for tourism and forestry. Large tracts protect our water, and provide us spiritual renewal. Environmental and economic features include wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreation, and timber opportunities while maintaining special places.**

**In the past decades, the state of Wisconsin has experienced dramatic housing growth and development, especially in Northwoods regions, threatening previously intact large tracts of healthy forestlands.**

**This demonstrates a very troubling progression for those of us who care about wildlife habitat! Within this context, we need to be creative about how to approach conservation strategies.**

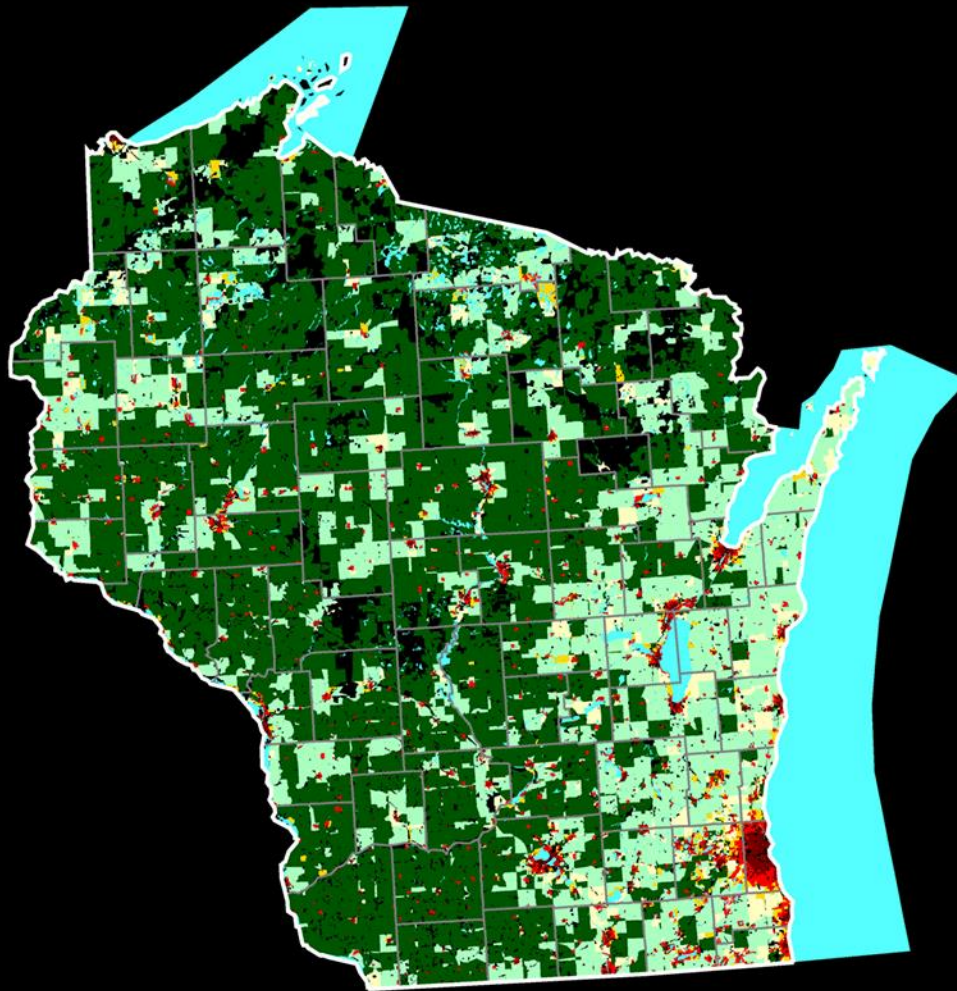
**(This progression of fragmentation was especially accelerated in the north in the past 20 years with the sell off of industrial forest lands to REIT's and TIMO's whose primary objective is fiscal return to their shareholders, and not long term forest management).**

**The following slides show the progression from 1940.**

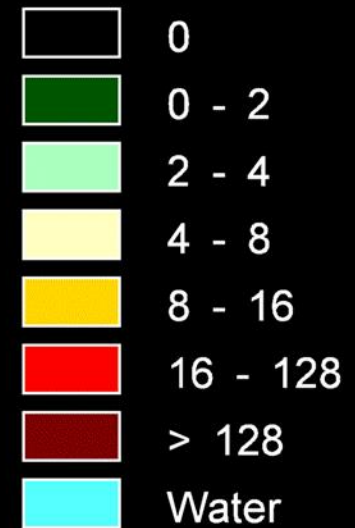


# 1940

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>

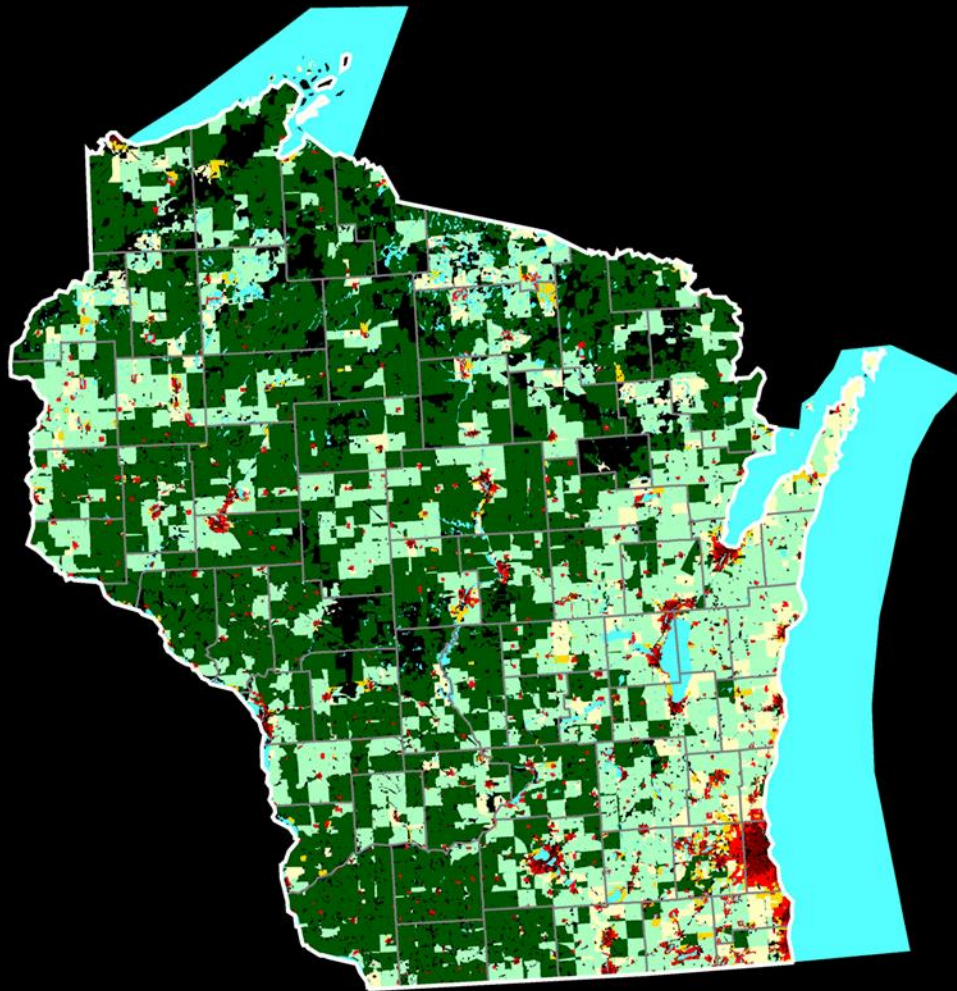


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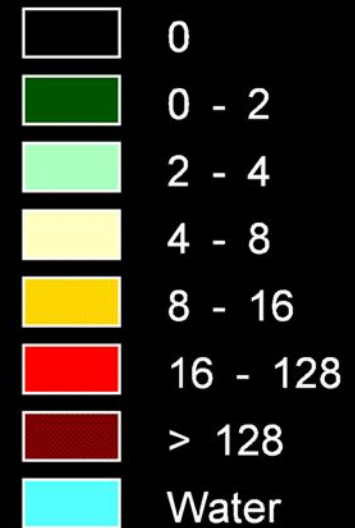


# 1950

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>



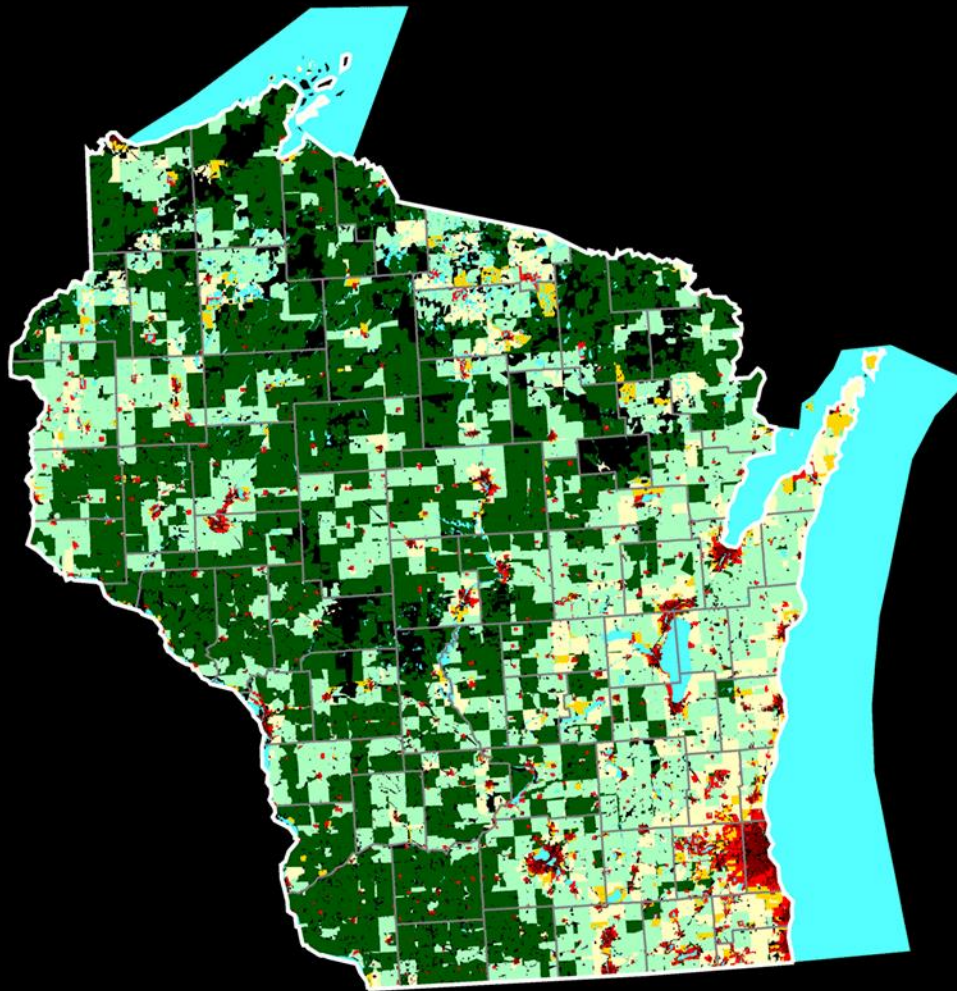
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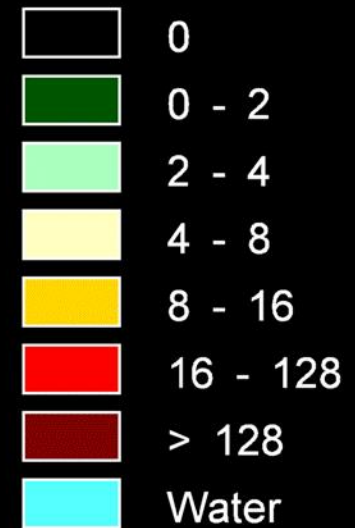


# 1960

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>

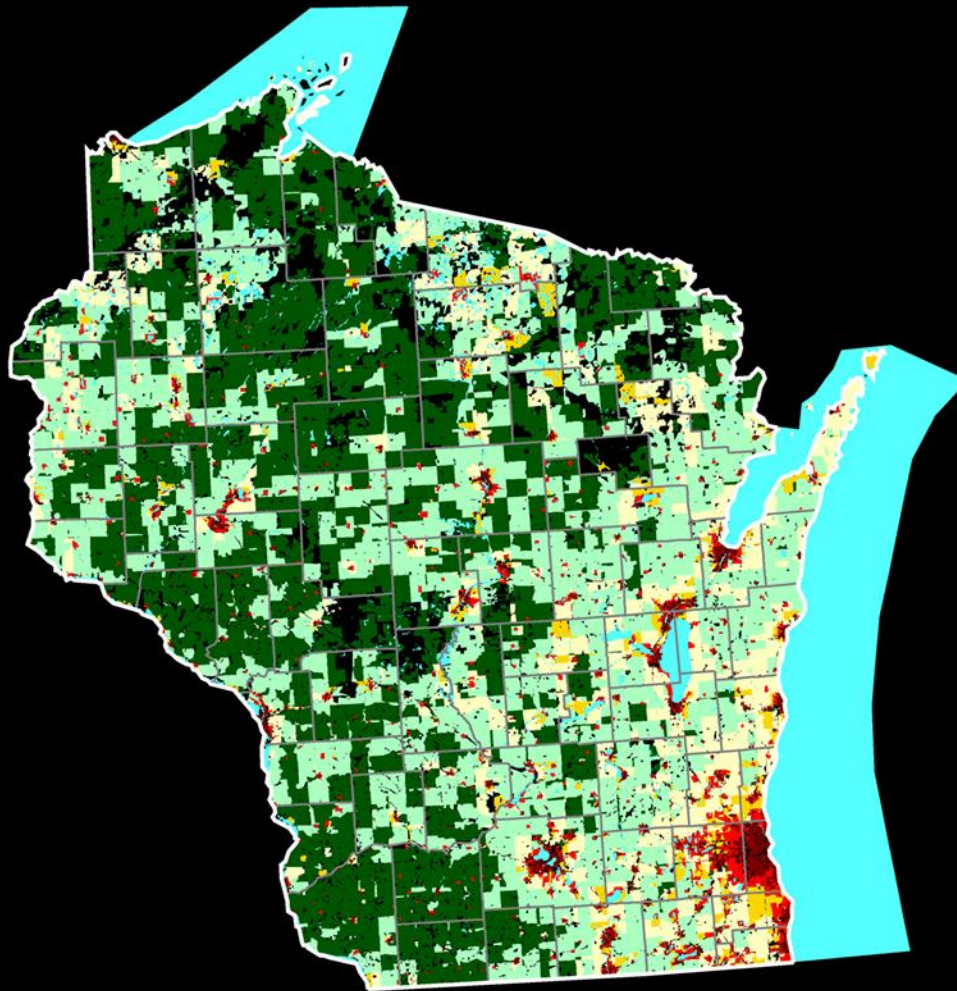


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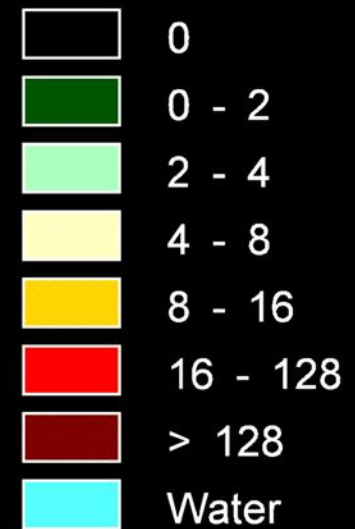


# 1970

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>



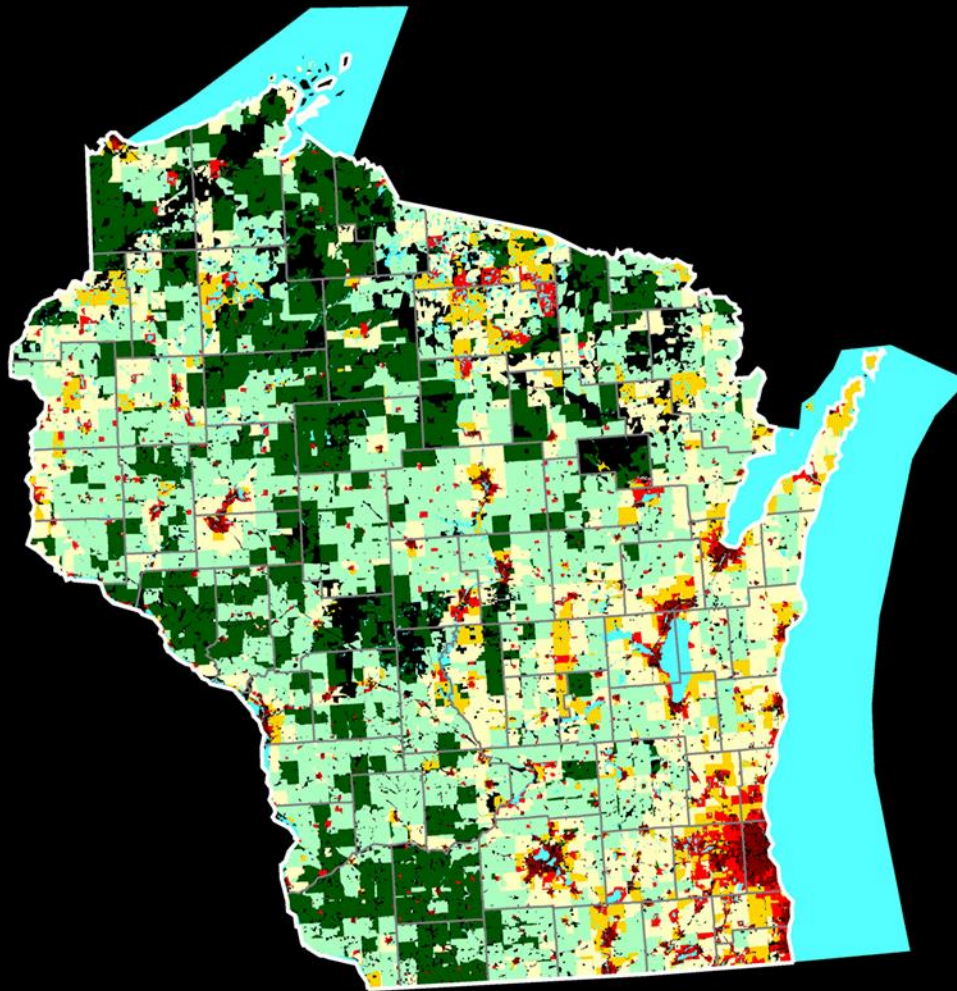
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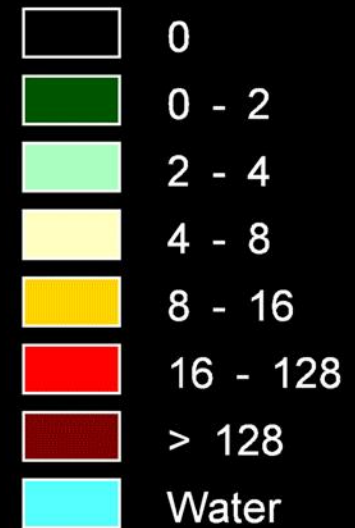


# 1980

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>



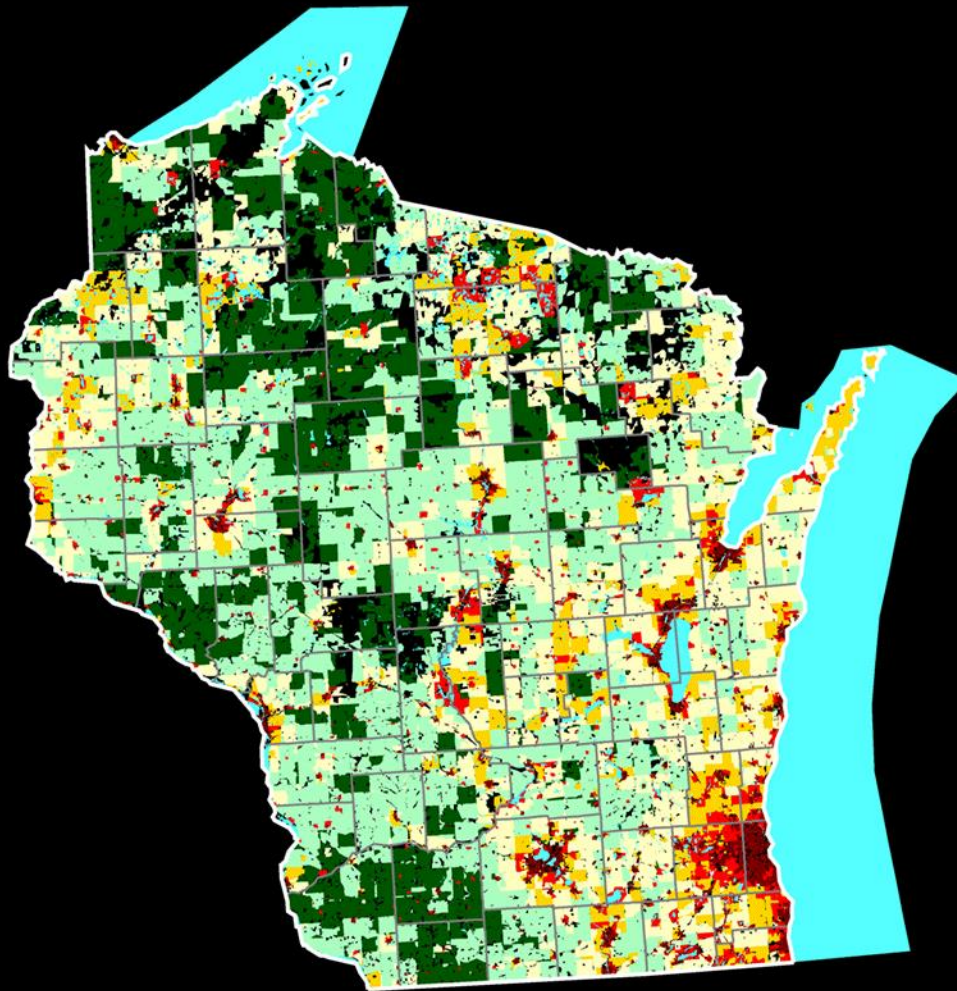
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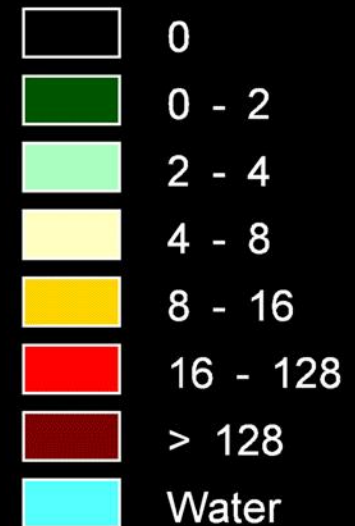


# 1990

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>

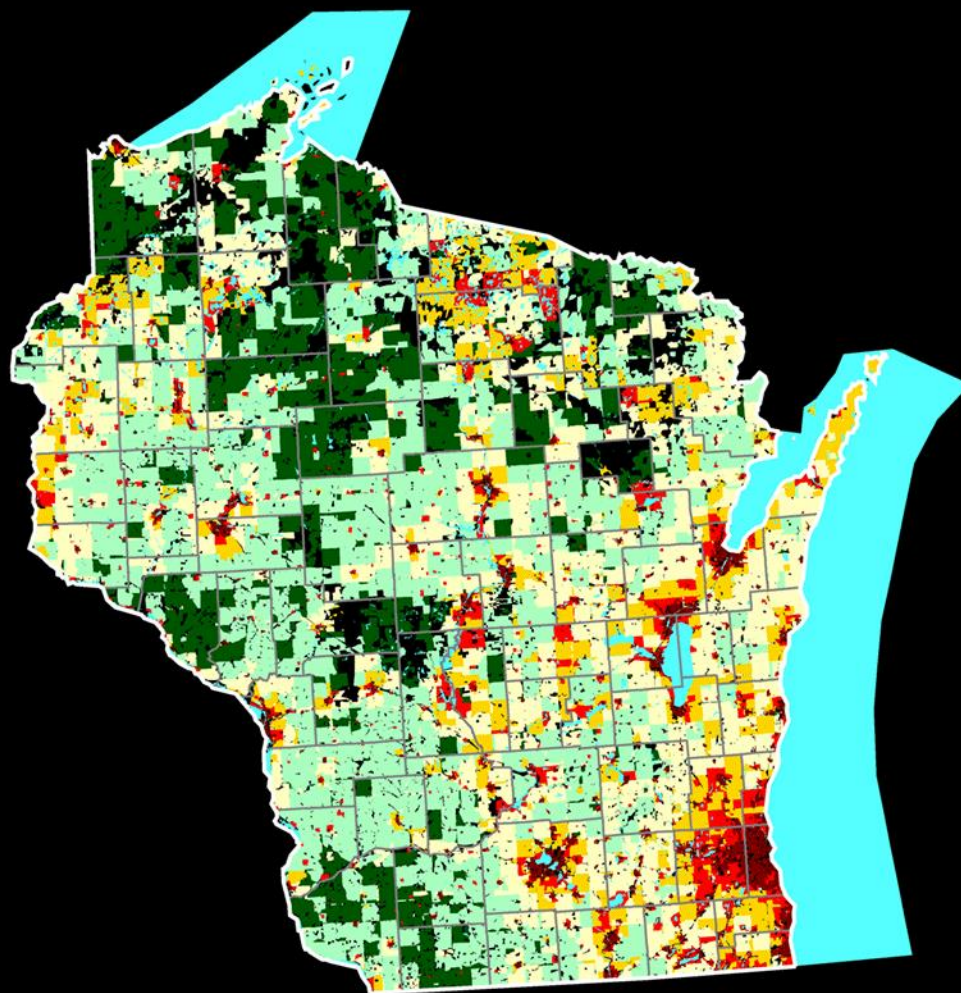


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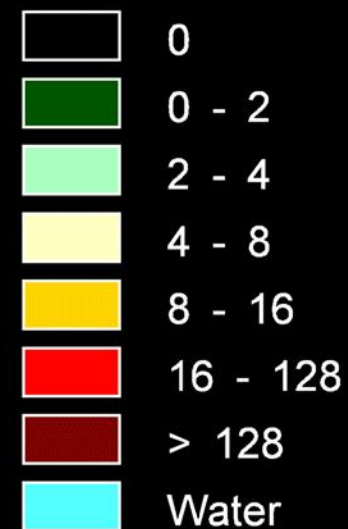


# 2000

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>



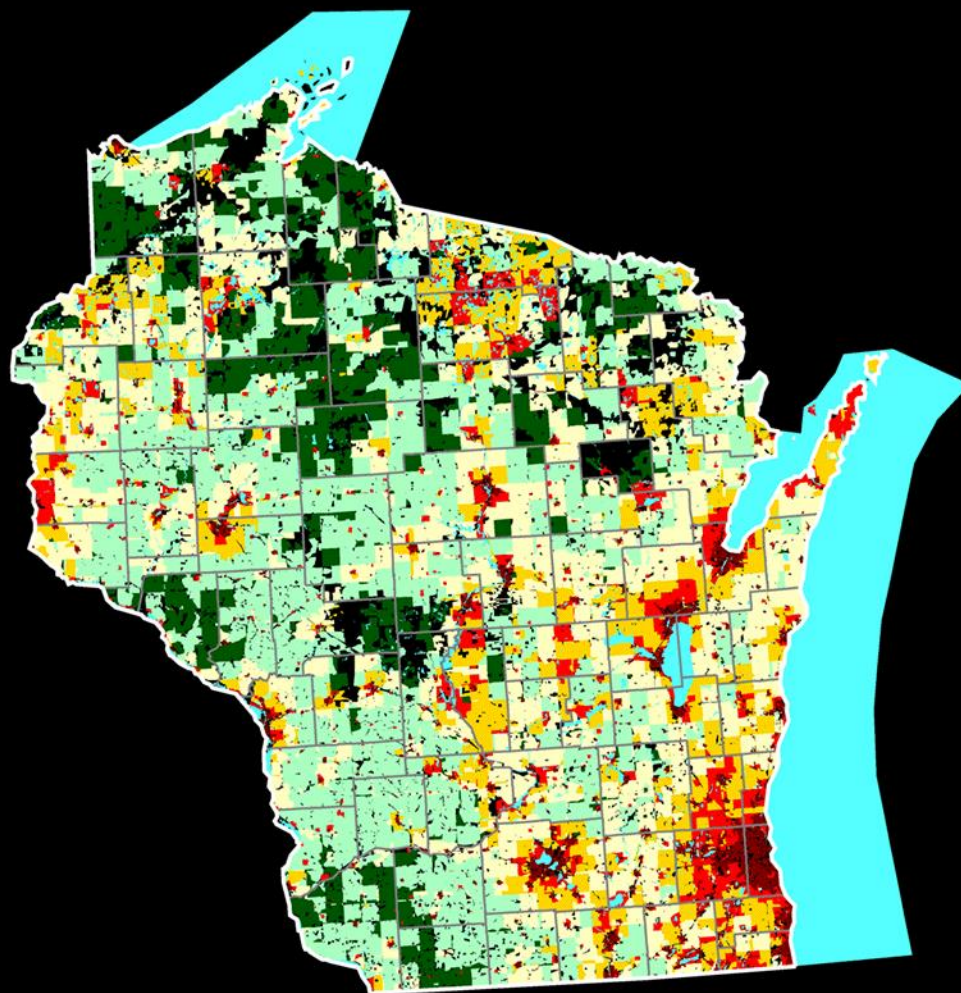
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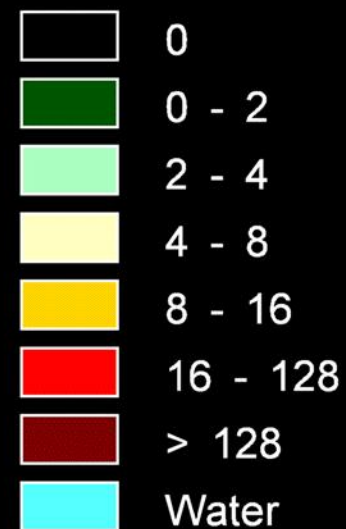


# 2010

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>



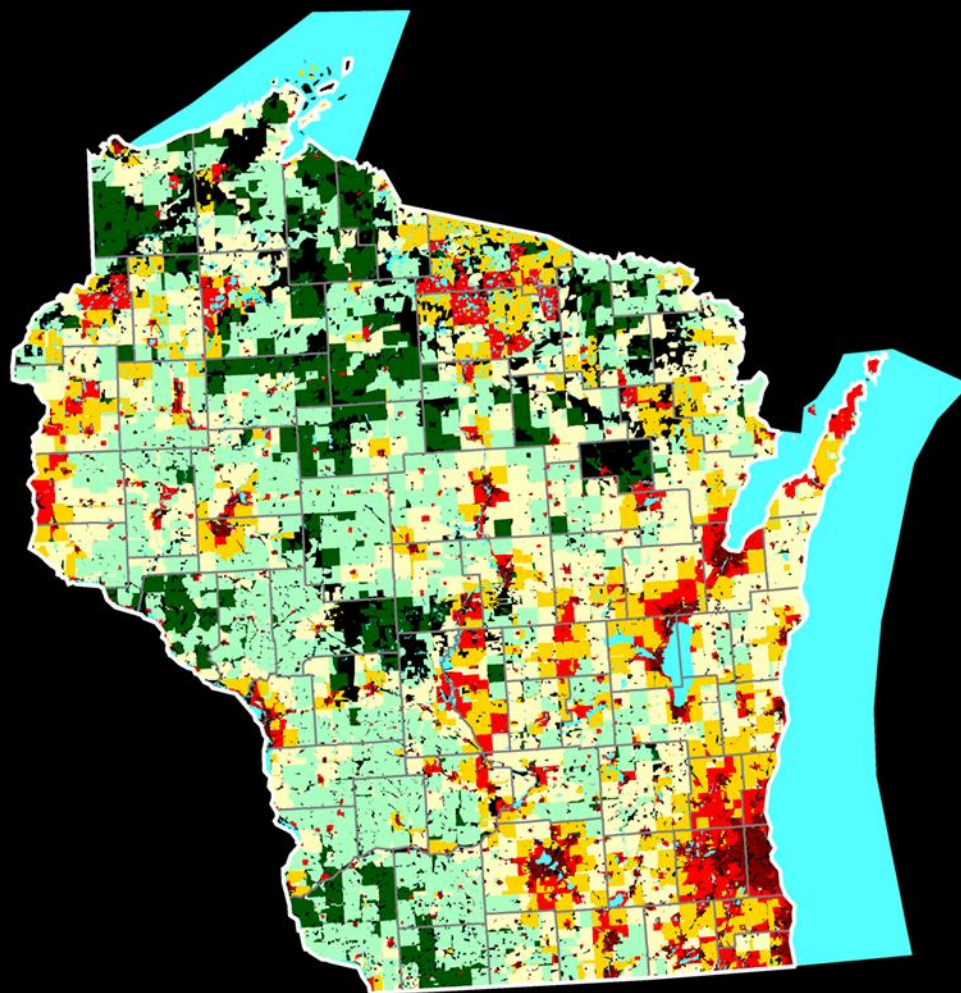
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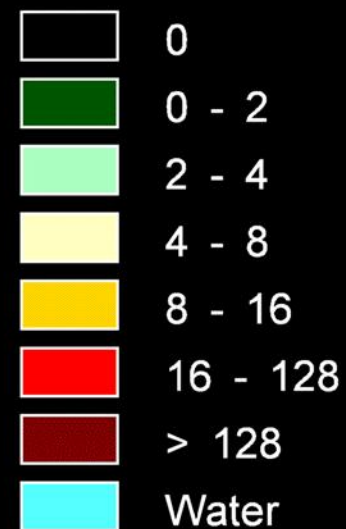


# 2020

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>

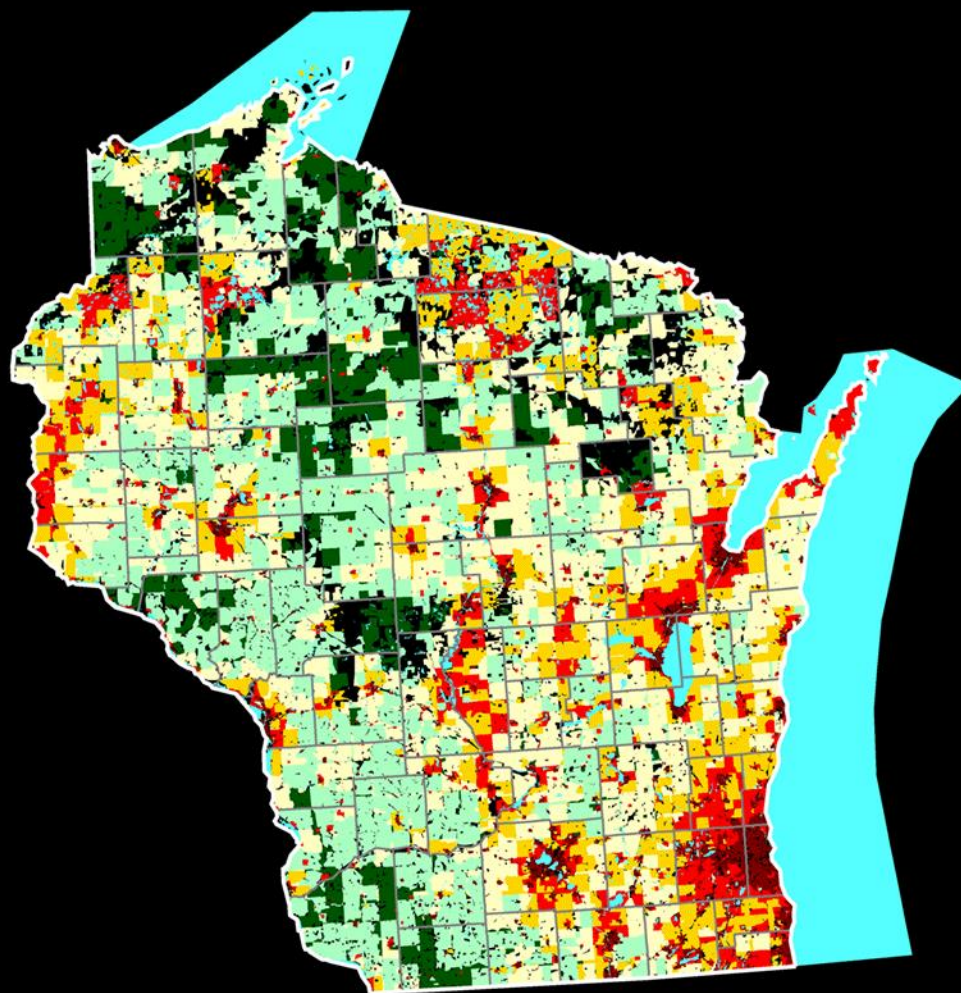


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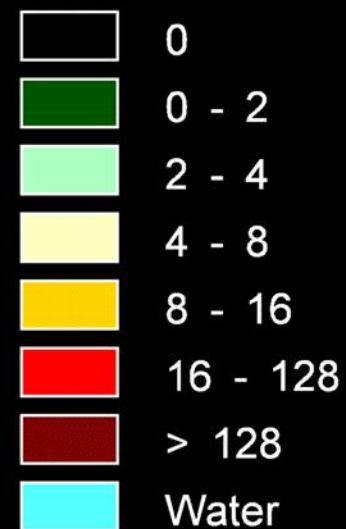


# 2030

Housing density  
Census partial block groups



Housing units / km<sup>2</sup>

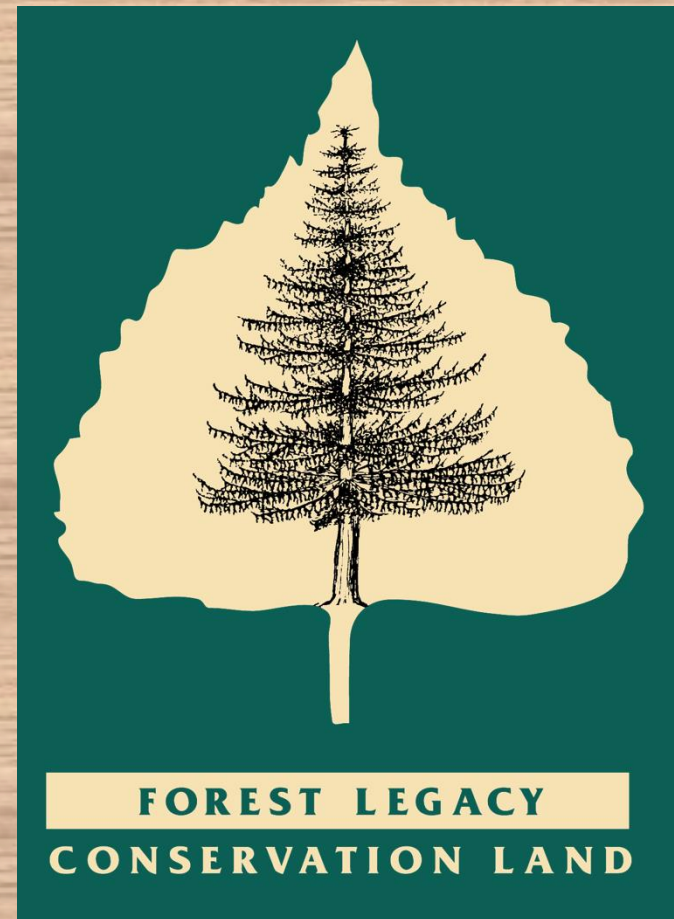


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**A little-known but very important program that addresses some of the challenge of forest fragmentation and habitat loss is the Forest Legacy program, a unique partnership between USFS, participating states and private landowners. Most often Legacy lands remain private, with the development rights and public access rights held by the state.**





**Forestlands and large, intact habitat units have demonstrated their remarkable value to our state and all of its citizens. An endorsement of conservation lands is an endorsement of our Northwoods as a legacy for future generations.**

**Because of the great sacrifices of our predecessors, these ecologically intact lands and the riches they hold belong to us all. For this we can be very proud. Will future generations judge our stewardship of this resource with pride? It is up to all of us!**

**The following chart illustrates the work that has been done to date.**

Project Name	Funding Source	Acreage	Year Acquired
Tomahawk Timberlands	Federal and state	36,883	2002-2009
Baraboo Hills	Federal and state	925	2004-2006
Wolf River	Federal and state	18,511	2005
Wild Rivers	State only	44,475	2006
Holy Hill	Federal and state	199	2008
Wild Rivers	Federal and state	14,576	2009
Connor Timber Associates	State only	18,438	2010
Chippewa Flowage Forest	Federal and state	18,179	2010-2011
Brule-St. Croix	State only	44,679	2012
Beauregard Lake	State only	2,267	2012
Central Sands Pines	Federal and state	9,168	2013
Twin Lakes	State only	13,692	2014
Brule-St. Croix 2	Federal and state	21,189	pending approval 2015
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>243,181</b>	



**FOREST LEGACY  
CONSERVATION LAND**



**Another funding body, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, is set to sunset, and will expire in September after 50 years of being the premier conservation and recreation fund in this country.**

**LWCF is NOT taxpayer funding, but uses a portion of off shore oil and gas revenues as mitigation, providing conservation on shore. In addition, our own Wisconsin Stewardship fund has suffered major hits in the past 2 budget cycles.**

**After standing at almost \$90 million in 2010 it was barely recouped at \$33 million when the governor's February budget attempted to eliminate the program for 13 years**





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