

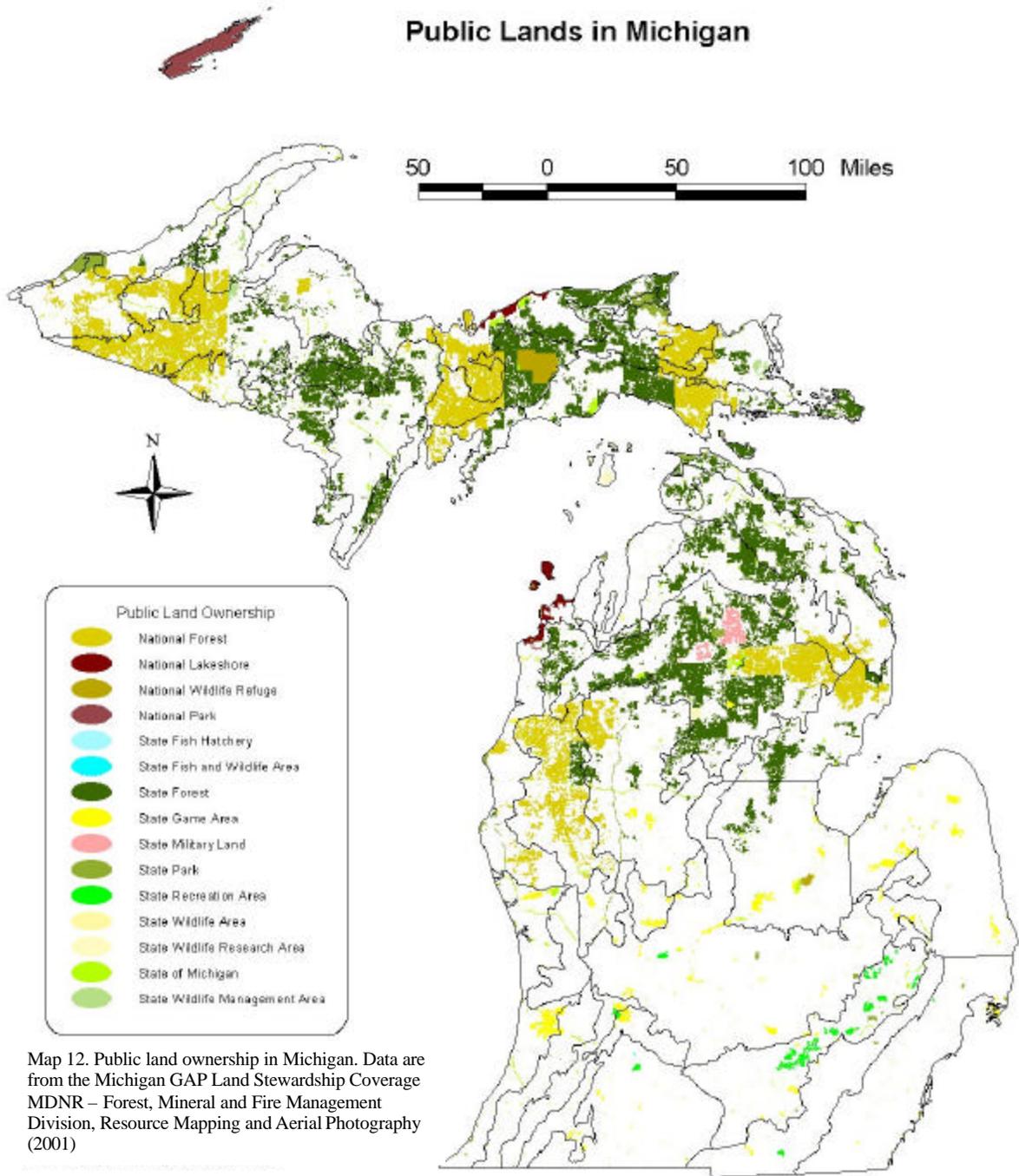
V. LAND TENURE

Michigan has a relatively large amount of public land (**Map 12**), but Michigan's forest resource is owned predominately by the private sector (65%; Michigan DNR, 2002). Non-industrial private owners and farmers collectively own 57% (farmers-4%, other private-53%) of the total forested acres, while the forest industry owns 8%. The remaining 35% is controlled by the public sector (21% State owned, 14% federally owned).

Private timberland ownership is spread among more than 353,500 individuals, and non-industrial private owners are the predominant group. Coupled with the trend towards increasing development and parcelization of private lands, it is clear that the private working forests of Michigan are in danger of serious reduction.

Preventing conversion of private forestlands to non-forest uses protects unique ecological, social and economic benefits that private forestlands provide. In addition, it is recognized that the habitat needs of threatened, endangered and other fish, wildlife and plant species of concern cannot be met on the public forest land base alone.

Public Lands in Michigan



Map 12. Public land ownership in Michigan. Data are from the Michigan GAP Land Stewardship Coverage MDNR – Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, Resource Mapping and Aerial Photography (2001)