







# Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin, Southeast Minnesota, Northeast Iowa, and Northwest Illinois

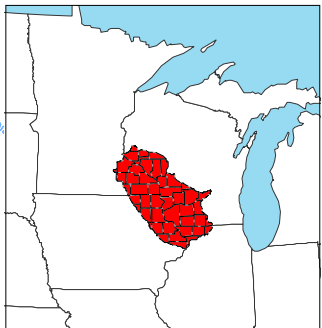
## Forest Cover

Rich woodlands covering steep hillsides are a distinctive feature of the Driftless Area landscape. These forests provide countless opportunities for wildlife and outdoor adventure. Oak, hickory, and a mixture of northern and central hardwoods provide some of the best remaining habitat for neo-tropical migratory birds in the region. Although fragmentation arising from human development is a primary concern, large blocks of forest continue to absorb rain and snowfall, and provide critical habitat for interior forest dependent birds in this landscape.

## Legend

- Features**
-  Driftless Area Boundary
  -  Cities
  -  County Boundary
  -  Major Lakes & Rivers
- Forest Cover (2001)**
- Percent Canopy**
-  High : 100
  -  Low : 0

## Focus: Driftless Area



The Driftless Area is a unique region in the Upper Mississippi River Basin encompassing southeast Minnesota, southwest and westcentral Wisconsin, northeast Iowa, and northwest Illinois.

The glaciers that covered much of the Midwest bypassed the Driftless Area, giving rivers time to cut down into ancient bedrock and create distinctive landforms.

Many of the soils that cover the steep slopes are fragile, ecosystems are diverse, and most of the cold-water streams are recognized on a state and national basis for their economic, environmental, and recreational importance.



Based on NLCD 2001 Forest Canopy Dataset

Cartographer: David C. Wilson  
 Driftless Area Initiative Coordinator  
 November 27th, 2006

Projection: UTM Zone 15N NAD 83