

Ruffed Grouse Habitat Within Missaukee County's State land

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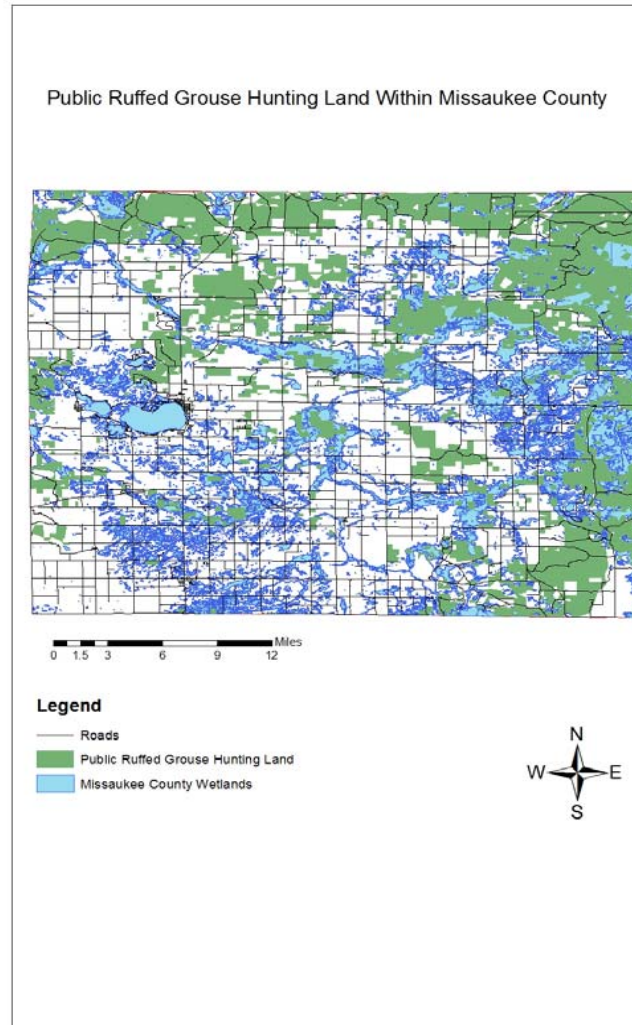
ABSTRACT

Ruffed grouse are a Northern Michigan game bird which prefer aspen and white birch forest as a habitat. Missaukee county is abundant with ruffed grouse's preferred habitat as well as having areas of public hunting land. Finding areas to hunt ruffed grouse can be somewhat challenging because both public hunting land and ruffed grouse habitat have to occur at the same place. This makes it necessary to find areas of public hunting land which contain preferred ruffed grouse habitat.

METHODS

- First I gathered data and shape files from the ESRI and Michigan GIS data bases. I gathered a vector land cover map of the Midwest from ESRI as well as a Michigan county map. From Michigan GIS I gathered Missaukee county roads, watersheds and public land data.
- I then selected the Missaukee county shape file from the Michigan county's layer and made a new layer from it. From there I clipped the land cover map to the new Missaukee county layer.
- Once the Missaukee county layer and land cover layer were clipped I selected all of the aspen/white birch forest and made a new layer from that, replacing the old land cover layer with the ruffed grouse habitat.
- Once I had the ruffed grouse habitat within the Missaukee county layer I added the roads, watersheds and public hunting land.
- I Finally clipped the ruffed grouse habitat to the public hunting land resulting only in ruffed grouse habitat contained within the public hunting land of Missaukee county.

RESULTS



CONCLUSION

Missaukee county is a great place for hunting ruffed grouse, There is a significant amount of public hunting land which contains ruffed grouse habitat. These areas are also accessible by roads, making it easy for the average hunter to go out and hunt wherever they prefer. This combination makes it easy to find populations of these game birds within accessible hunting areas.



DATA SOURCES

- ESRI
- Landcover data for the United States Midwest
 - Missaukee County Basemap
- Michigan GIS
- Missaukee County State land
 - Missaukee County Wetlands
 - Missaukee County Roads