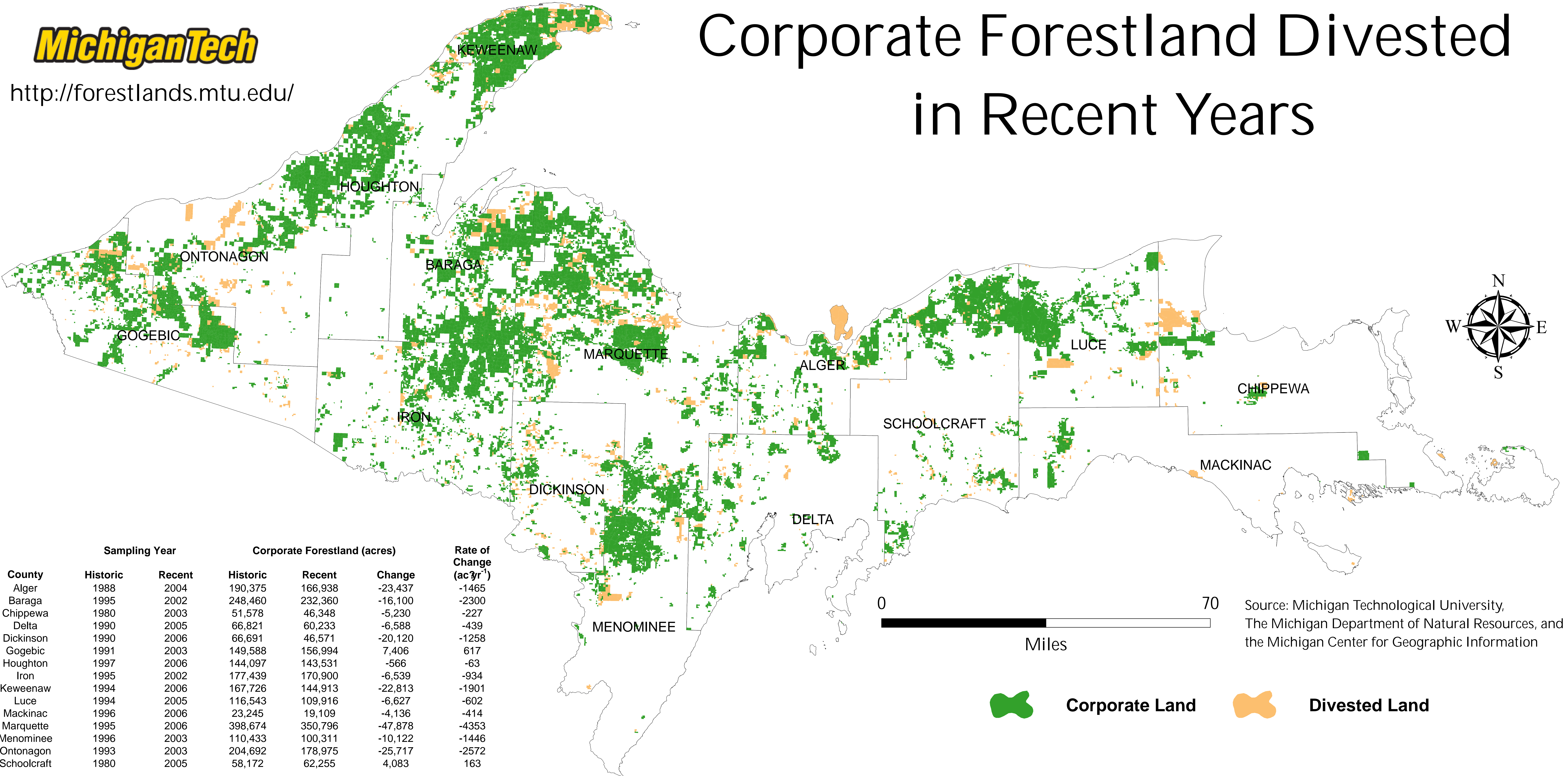


Corporate Forestland Divested in Recent Years



This figure shows large-tract corporate forestlands that have been divested sometime in the past 10-20 years. Because the effective date of the underlying data indicating past and present ownership varies by county this figure is indicative only of overall trends or arbitrary examples. The effective time period varies from 5-25 years, depending on the county.

Some important notes need to be made regarding this figure. First, divestiture from large-tract corporate owners does not necessarily imply that land is no longer actively managed for timber; it simply means the new owner is not a large-tract type. Also that while land has moved out of the large-tract corporate class, these owners also actively acquire forest as part of their core business operations. While much may be unknown of actual ownership motivation and future direction of large-tract corporate timberland owners, the majority of these owners currently hold third-party certification for sustainable forestry practice, such as SFI, FSC or both. Most lands are also enrolled in Michigan's CF Program, allowing certain levels of oversight and disclosure of management actions.

One of the primary questions arising from the recent corporate timberland sales is that contiguous forested lands might become more fragmented as a result of "parcelization," which is the subdivision of land under a single ownership into smaller parcels under a diverse ownership. Fragmentation refers more to physical landscape changes in the size and shape of forestlands. Parcelization has been shown to be a frequent precursor to fragmentation, which can negatively affect wildlife in a number of ways, including interfering with wildlife travel, decreasing habitat size, and reducing interaction with other wildlife communities.