Main points about current forests in the Great Lakes Basin

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## Main Points

1. Existing Vegetation Types
   1. ~30% of the basin is in agricultural land type, ~13% developed.
   2. Areas that have the most forested areas are most generally in the northern portions of the basin, particularly the northern areas of New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and the entire Minnesota area of the basin.
   3. Of the forested areas, the top types are Northern Hardwood Forests (~14%), Alkaline Conifer-Hardwood Swamp (~7%), and Aspen-Birch forests (~3%). Plantations and ruderal forests cumulatively add up to ~4% of the basin.
2. Existing Vegetation Height (EVH)
   1. Outside of agricultural/developed land cover types, the largest category of height was ‘trees, height 15-20m’ (~28%), followed by ‘trees, height 20-25’ (~12%) and ‘trees, height 10-15m’ (~8%).
   2. There were few areas mapped in the shortest tree categories (0-5m, 5-10m; cumulatively ~3) an no areas mapped in the >25m category. It is important to note that there are trees taller than 25m in the basin. These calculations are the mean height across 30m pixels.
   3. Of non-tree natural vegetation, herbaceous added up to ~10% and shrubs were virtually non-existent. Notably, due to a ‘fuels-focused’ mapping of vegetation height (and cover), the ‘herbaceous’ lifeform includes some agricultural types including ‘Pasture and Hayland’ and ‘Fallow cropland’ types. The Agricultural label is applied to types including ‘row-crops’, ‘close grown crops’, and ‘orchards’.
3. Existing Vegetation Cover (EVC)
   1. As noted with the EVH data, most of the area was mapped in the ‘tree’ life-form, with the 50-59%, 60-69% and 70-79% categories having the highest percentages (~12%, ~14% and ~13% respectfully; ~39% cumulatively).
   2. Relatively little area was mapped in the tree lifeform with > 90% canopy cover
   3. Within the ‘herbaceous’ lifeform, most was mapped in the tails of the data, < 30% or >90% (~2% and >1% respectfully).