Blacks in Space: Land Tenure and Well-being in Perry County, Alabama

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Presentation Outline

Introduction

Background and Historical Aspects of Land Tenure and Well-being
Proposed Study
Data Collection, Analysis
Results
Conclusion

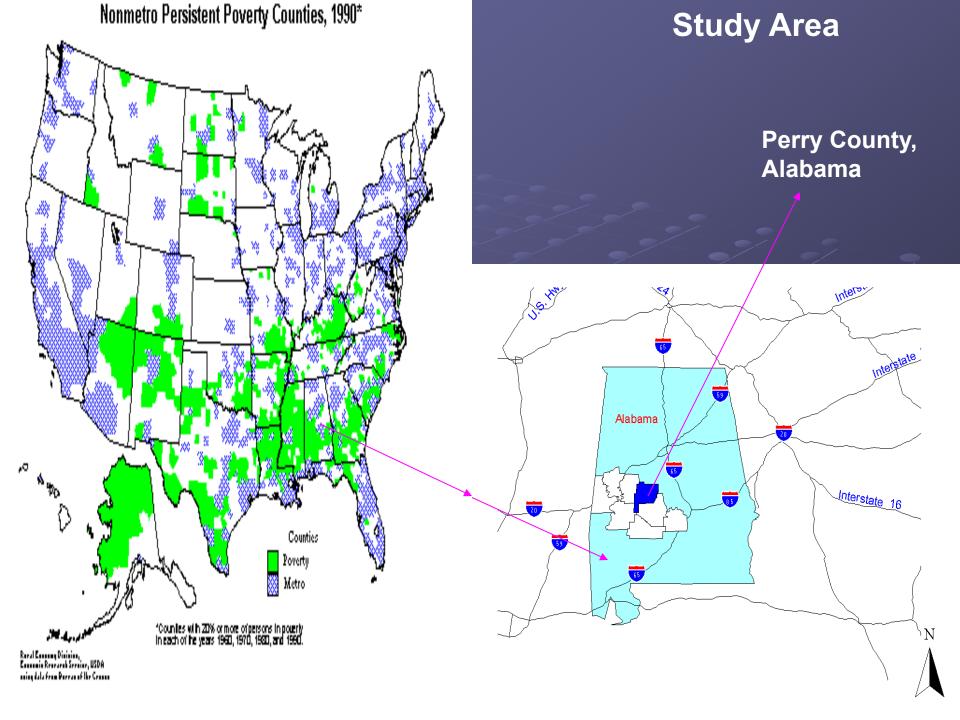
Introduction

 "In spite of the great socio-economic importance of forests in the South, we still know relatively little about the relationships between forests and minority and limited resource landowners"
 (Schelhas and Zabawa 2000).

 Previous efforts to understand persistent poverty in the south focused on the role of farm size, ownership type and the barriers related to institutions services, and racial discrimination

Importance of the relationship between spatial distribution of land tenure arrangement and wellbeing...needs to be explored (Bliss et al., 1998)

This study investigated the relationship between land tenure and well-being in a spatial perspective.



Land use land cover and Tenure changes

- 1. Pre-Colonial
- 2. Plantations and King Cotton
- **3. Reconstruction & Jim Crow**
- 4. Farm mechanization, Boll Weevil and WW1
- 5. New Deal Programs
- **6. Emergence of Forest Regime**
 - Conversion of agricultural land and intensive management of virgin forest land
 - Alabama legislation: balance agriculture with industry
 - Opening of Pulp and Paper industries
 - Single species plantation
 - Change in landscape and tenancy
 - Fragmentation or consolidation of land

Change in land use land cover and tenancy

yeoman farmer \rightarrow

plantation system \rightarrow

sharecropping \rightarrow

individual small farmers \rightarrow

commercial farmers \rightarrow

large forest plantations

Study Objectives

 Examined the relationship between land tenure and well-being in a rural, predominantly Afro-American County

 Examined the concentration of Afro-Americans and the well-being of the Afro-American Population at the block groups level.

 Explored the spatial relationship between well-being and land cover type and compared this relationship between whites and Afro-American groups

Data and Methodology

1. <u>Census 2000 Data</u>

Census Block Group (CBG) level. well-being measures population, race, income, education and poverty.

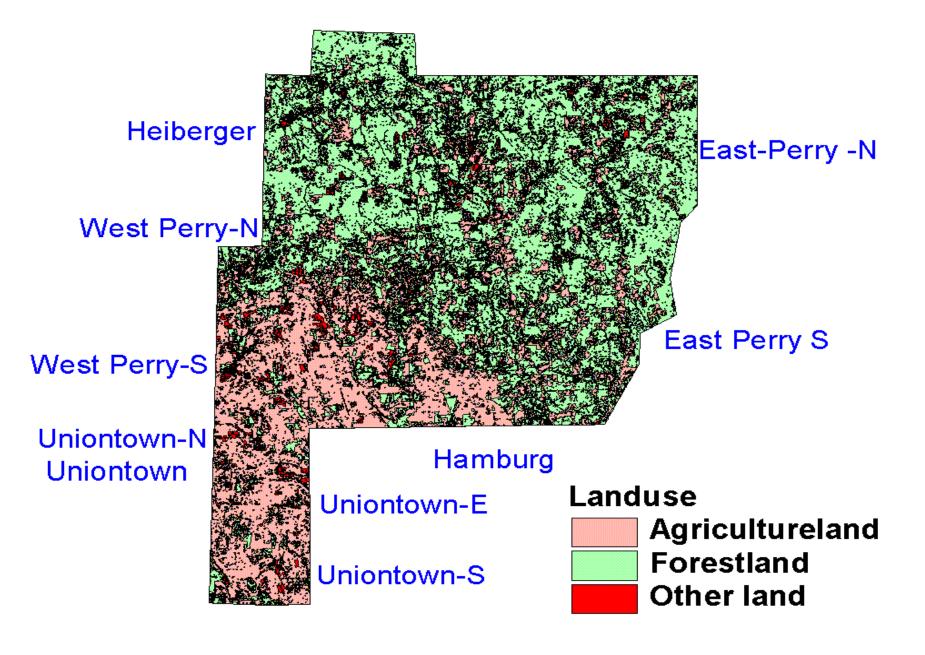
 Digitized Plat (Ownership) Maps Ownership maps were digitized - parcels for each landownership category (Forest Industry, National Forest, etc.)

3. Landsat ETM 2000 Satellite Data

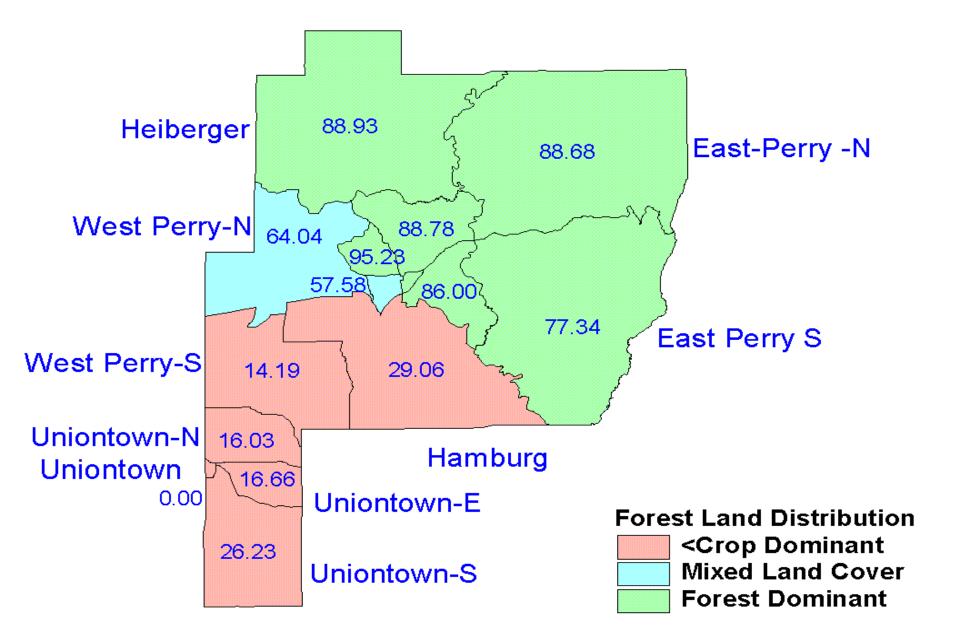
Image processed and classified into Cropland, Forestland and Other category using ERDAS Imagine 8.6 and ArcView 3.3

These layers were overlaid for further Analysis

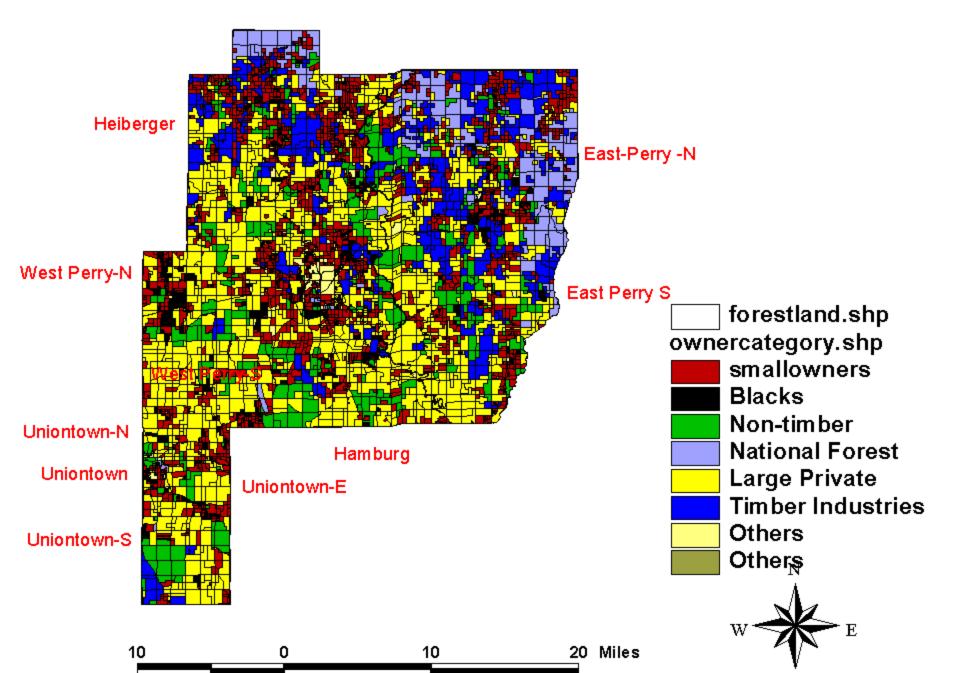
Classified Landsat ETM 2000 Image of Perry County



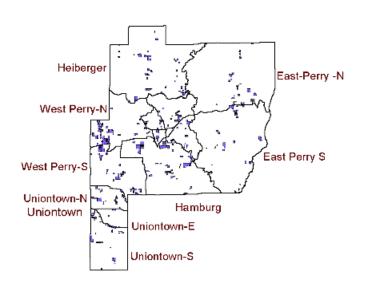
Forestland Distribution in 15 Block Groups



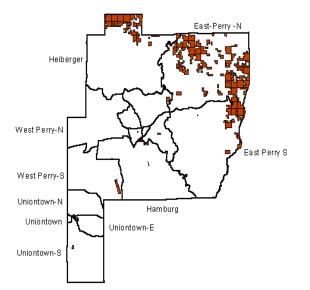
Landowners Category in Perry County

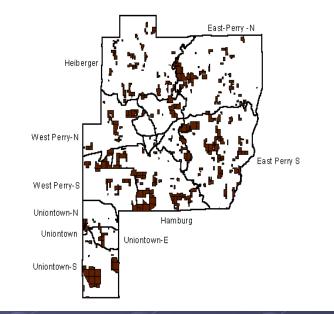


Spatial Arrangement of different landownership category in Perry County

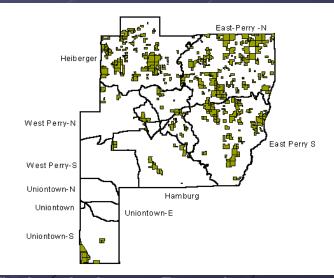


Afro-American Parcels





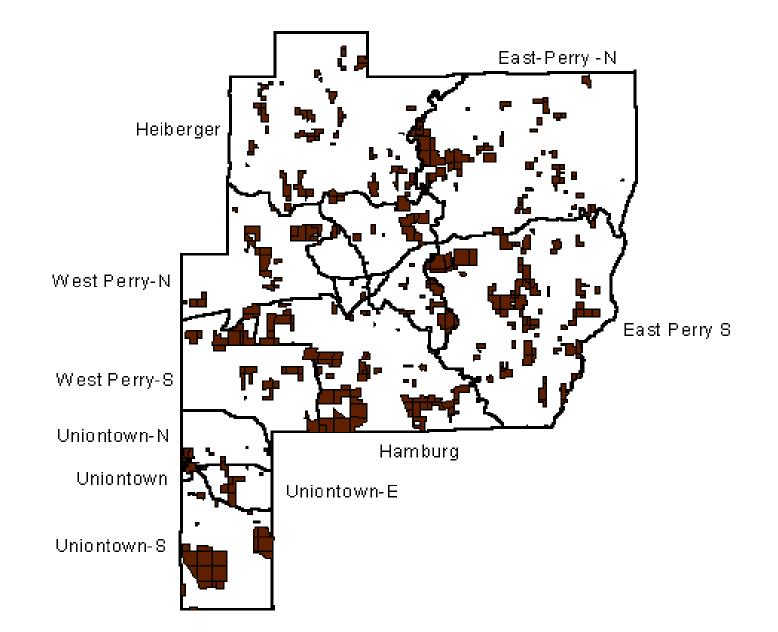
Non-Timber Industry Parcels



Timber Industry Parcels

National Forest Parcels

Spatial Arrangement of Non-Timber Industry Parcels in Perry Co.



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