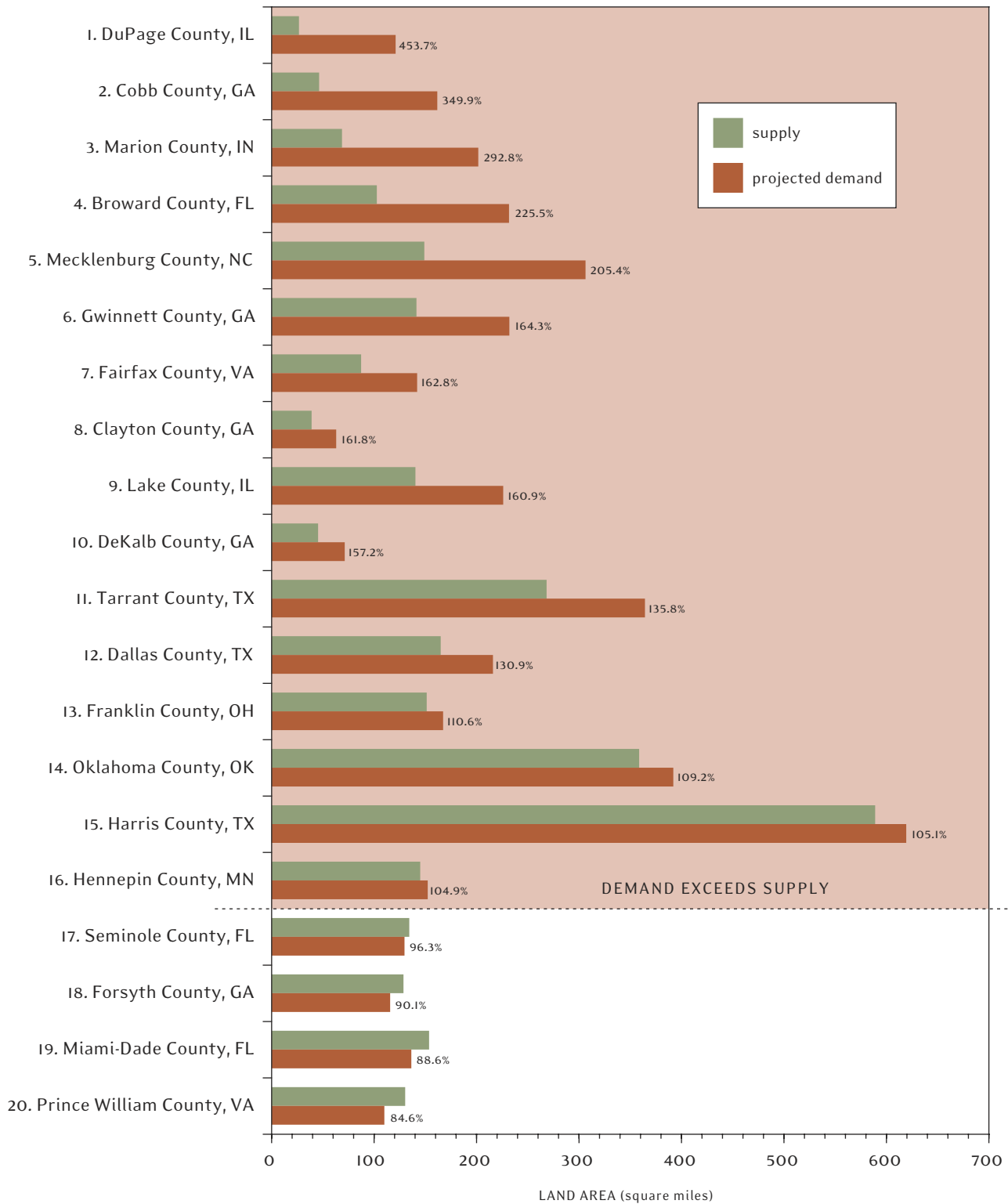


FIGURE I. Demand for Open Space is Quickly Outstripping Supply: Counties with Greatest Ratio of Projected Demand to Available Supply



In America's 35 fastest growing large metro areas, these 20 counties are projected to develop the largest proportion of their remaining open space through 2025. Large metro areas are metro areas with over a million people in 2000. Metro areas with the fastest growth are those with population levels projected to grow at the highest rates between 2000 and 2025. Development projections are based on Woods & Poole population projections and recent development densities derived from U.S. Census population data and land use data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Open space is defined to include the following NRI categories: cultivated and uncultivated cropland, pasture, rangeland and forestland. See Data Sources and Methodology, below. Counties with less than 20 square miles of remaining open space were excluded from this ranking.