The Southwest Regional Gap Project:
LAND OWNERSHIP IN NEVADA

William G. Kepner1, Andrea Ernst2, Todd D. Sajwaj3, and David F. Bradford1

1U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

2New Mexico State University, NMCFWRU, Las Cruces, NM 88003

University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Moscow, Idaho 83844

Approximately 86% of Nevada is held in the public trust. The largest land manager in Nevada is the Bureau of Land Management. Other extensive land management agencies in the state include the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy. These public lands serve a variety of purposes including livestock grazing, military training/homeland defense, recreation, timber harvesting, mining, and biological research and conservation. A primary objective of the Gap Analysis Program is to provide an assessment of the management status for certain elements of biodiversity (vegetation communities and animal species throughout their U.S. range) and to provide land stewards with information on the representation of these elements as they can make informed decisions about their management practices regarding biodiversity. To accomplish this, the mapped distributions of vegetation communities are compared to a map of land ownership. Though we record the ownership entities of public lands and privately owned conservation lands, we also acknowledge that these attributes are complex and rapidly changing. This state land ownership map and other geospatial data for Nevada can be found online at: http://www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/land-sci/gap.htm