



1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Nevada Division of Forestry (<http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/forestry>) is located within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) (<http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/>). The Division makes no use of RS, although it does use GIS and GPS for individual forestry applications. The Division receives data from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Division had contracted with the University of Nevada for data processing assistance in the past, but does not currently do so. The Division has no dedicated GIT staff, although it does have 10 personnel who use GIT on a very limited basis, with GIT use accounting for about one percent of their total work effort. This use is primarily GPS, although some use GIS occasionally. GIT is currently used by three people in the main Division office and seven people in regional offices. The position of Information Systems Specialist is one of the three positions at the main office, but it is currently vacant. In the past, this position was focused on the maintenance and management of computer hardware; however, a more encompassing role is envisioned. Changes in position responsibilities will include GIT hardware and software. It is anticipated that a new Specialist will be hired in the very near future. Interim data and technical assistance is being provided by the State Department of Information Technology. The Coordinator of the Statewide Fire Program serves as the acting GIT lead contact, and will supervise the position of Information Systems Specialist once it has been filled. The Coordinator administers the statewide fire program, but has no responsibilities for GIT. The Division has no policy for the use of GIT. Although the Division has had limited experience with GIT, even modest applications have provided increases in data usage and sharing. Major issues for the Division are the lack of trained staff and the lack of dedicated time instrumental for proficiency in GIT use.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

GPS is used for **forest characterization** such as stand typing, as well as **resource** management such as slope rates for thinning projects and **watershed** boundaries. The State Big Tree Program uses GPS and some GIS to map big tree locations. GPS is used fairly extensively for **forest health** in insect and disease outbreak in conjunction with some GIS use for mapping. GPS is the only form of GIT used for harvest system and road planning, harvest permitting and tracking, and mapping. These applications are mostly on **state lands** and **private lands**; however, some projects such as fire, are carried out on federal lands as well.

The Division also uses GIT for **fire** location and fuels mapping. This use is primarily GPS, but also some GIS as well. The Division's Western Region uses one Trimble Geo Explorer II GPS. Several different data dictionaries are employed depending on the nature of the GIS data that is going to be gathered. GPS is used to record objects such as fire size (in acres), hot spots, division breaks, types of fire lines (hand dug, bulldozer, existing roads, etc.). These data are used for fire response and post event rehabilitation and management. In the field, the information is downloaded into a laptop equipped with ArcView 3.2, allowing color maps to be printed for on site use by fire managers. Desktop PCs are utilized in both the main and regional offices for further GIS data input such as slopes, **watershed** boundaries, and calculations for how much seed is needed for rehabilitation. Maps are generated on an HP350C plotter in one regional office.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

Nevada does not have a designated statewide GI/GIT coordination office, but the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology at the University of Nevada (<http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/>) has served as the informal lead office for GI/GIT in Nevada since 1983, when the Bureau's Director and State Geologist became chairperson of the State Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). The Bureau also provides staff support

to SMAC. Nevada has two key GI/GIT coordination groups, including SMAC and the Nevada Geographic Information Society. SMAC was created in 1979 to advise the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on state priorities for map products and to inform maps users about the status of mapping programs and the availability of map products. The Nevada Geographic Information Society (<http://www.ngis.org/>) was formed in the late 1990s as a non-profit organization, and hosts annual state GIS conferences. Currently the Division does not participate in these groups, and communication is limited to occasions when the Division requires assistance.

The Virtual Clearinghouse for Nevada Geographic Information is a web site that was established by SMAC in 1998, and has links to organizations that provide GI, including GIS coverages (<http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/geoinfo/geoinfo.htm>). It is now managed by the Bureau. The Bureau has also completed an FGDC sponsored metadata grant to develop metadata, metadata workshops, and a clearinghouse node. The node is now being transferred to the Keck data depository (<http://keck.library.unr.edu/>), which is a new and still growing site that is being populated by multiple state and regional datasets. Currently the site has online complete State coverage of LANDSAT Thematic Mapper (TM) data for all bands dating from 1984-86. It also contains six bands of 1992-93 TM data and the DEM used to georeference the imagery. All of the Nevada 1:24,000, 1:100,000, and 1:250,000 scale digital raster graphic (DRG) maps are available.