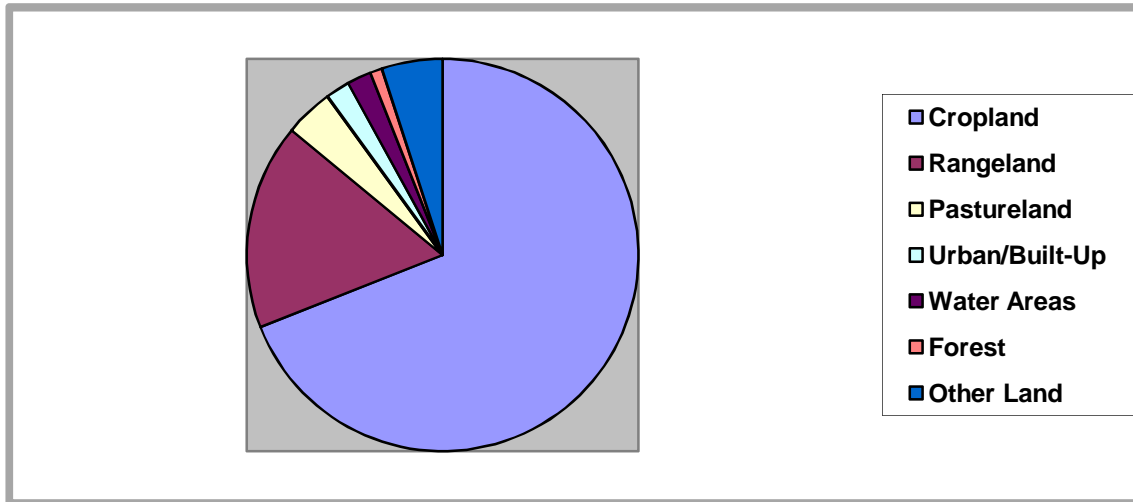


4.3.6 Current Land Use

Much of the land in North Dakota is devoted to agriculture. In fact, about 90 percent of the 70,655 square miles of land area is used for cropland, rangeland, or pastureland as shown in Figure 4.3.6A.

Figure 4.3.6A North Dakota Land Use Summary



The Red River Valley, with more precipitation, primarily has sugar beet, soybean, and corn farms. Cattle ranches are more common in the dry southwest part of the state, and dairy ranches are more common to the east. Honey is produced in central North Dakota. The relatively small industrial sector in the state includes electric power, food processing, machinery, lignite mining, petroleum extraction, and tourism. (Wikipedia, 2007a)

The state, with its agricultural economy, is primarily rural, however, several urban centers exist. The largest cities in North Dakota include Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Minot. These cities make up the majority of the urban land area. Map 4.3.6C shows the state’s land cover and Map 4.3.6D shows the federal and state government land ownership. Based on the gap analysis conducted by the US Geological Survey in 2004, North Dakota’s land can be generally classified as shown in Table 4.3.6B.

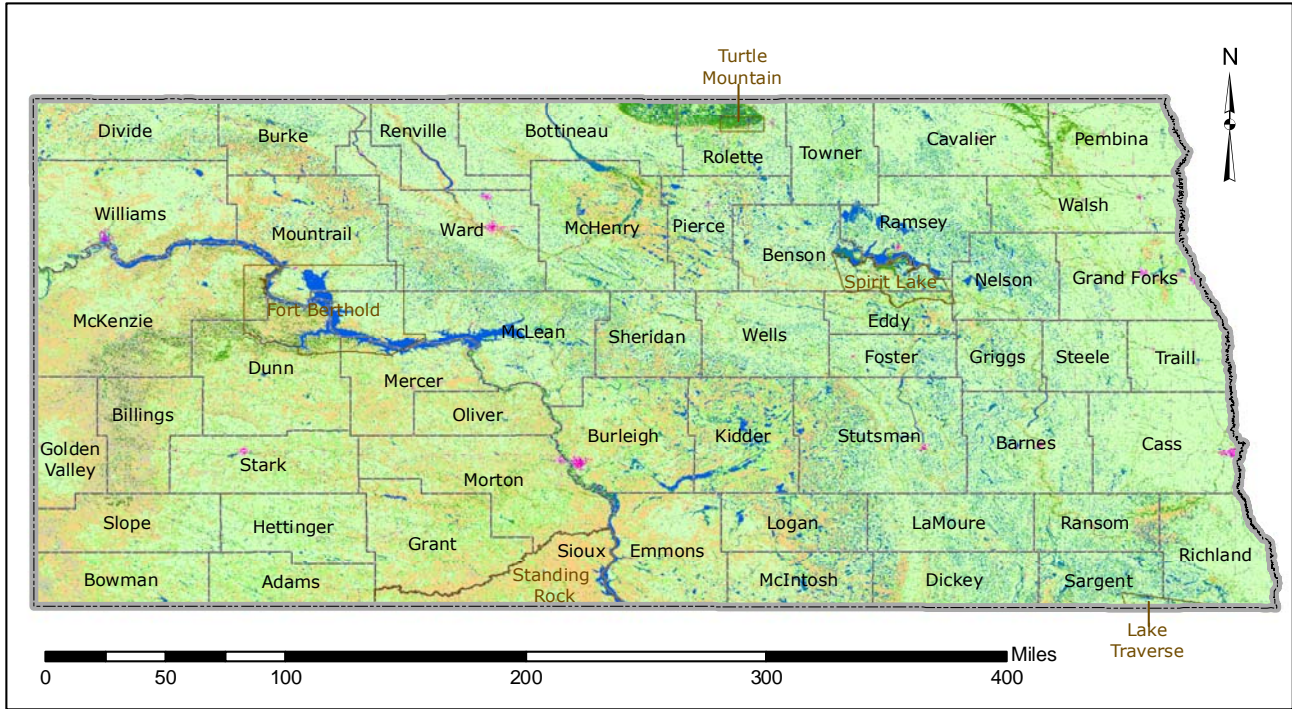
Table 4.3.6B North Dakota Land Cover Summary

General Category	Area
Cropland	34,041 square miles
Prairie	13,777 square miles
Planted Herbaceous Perennials	11,793 square miles
Wetland	6,293 square miles
Shrubland	2,039 square miles
Woodland	1,654 square miles
Barren/Sparse Vegetation	732 square miles
Developed	368 square miles

Source: US Geological Survey, 2004

Map 4.3.6C

Land Cover State of North Dakota



Land Classification

Cropland	Lowland Deciduous Shrubland	Palustrine Temporary Wetland
Planted Herbaceous Perennials	Sagebrush Shrubland	Palustrine Seasonal Wetland
Wet-Mesic Tall Grass Prairie	Ponderosa Pine Woodland	Palustrine Semipermanent Wetland
Mesic Tall Grass Prairie	Limber Pine Woodland	Water
Mesic Tall and Mixed Grass Prairie	Rocky Mountain Juniper Woodland	Barren Land
Bluestem	Mixed Deciduous and Conifer Woodland	Sparse Vegetation - Badlands
Wheatgrass Prairie	Floodplain Woodland	Sparse Vegetation - Riverine
Needlegrass Prairie	Deciduous Woodland	Developed - High Intensity Residential
Little Bluestem Bunch Grass Prairie	Green Ash Woodland	Developed - Low Intensity Residential
Fescue Prairie	Aspen Woodland	Developed - Commercial/Industrial/Transportation
Sand Prairie	Bur Oak Woodland	Developed - Urban Grasslands
Saline Prairie	Aspen-Bur Oak Woodland	Developed - Recently Developed Lands
Upland Deciduous Shrubland	Lacustrine Wetlands	
	Riverine Wetlands	

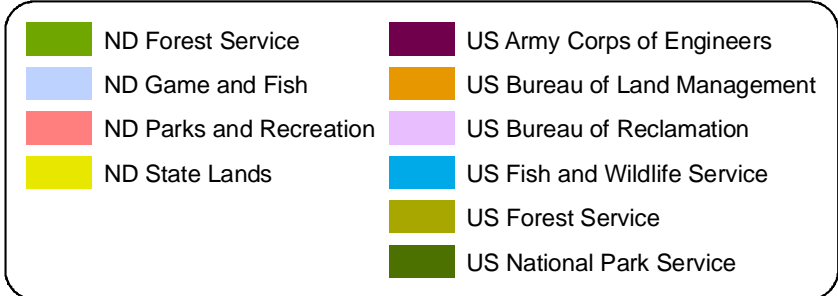
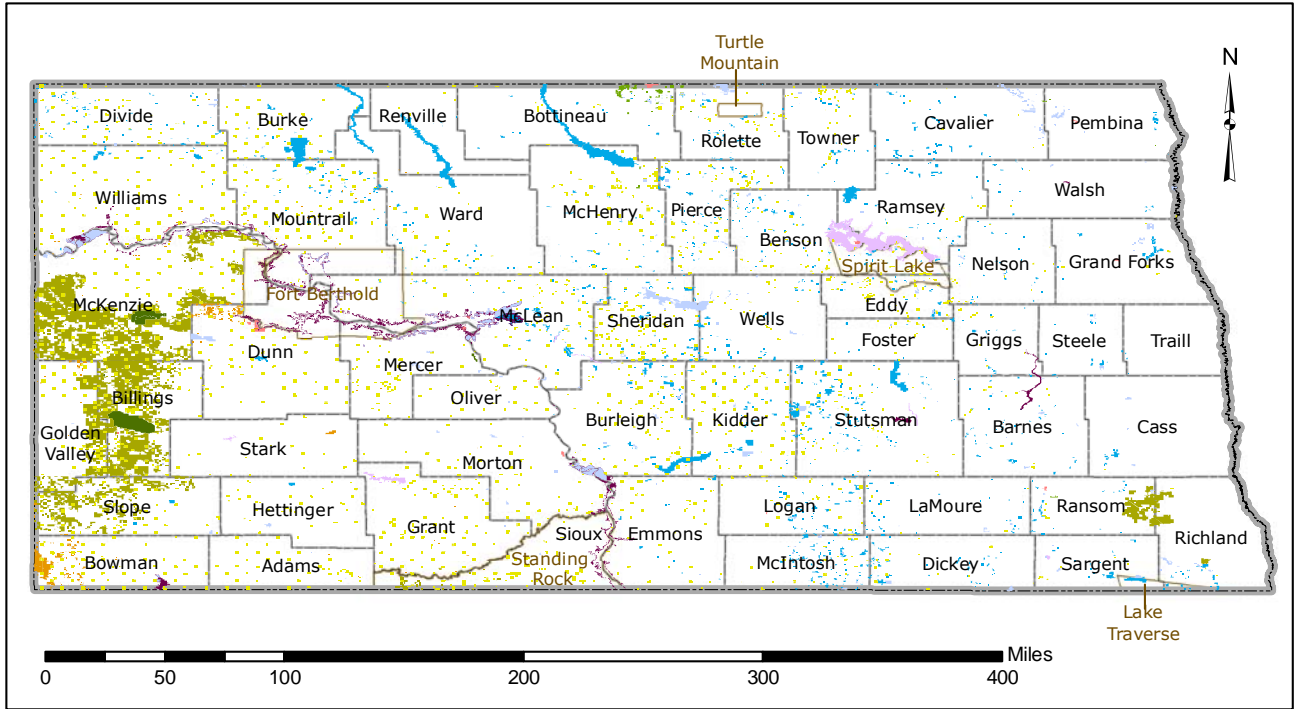
Data Source: US Geological Survey
Data Date: August 2004
Map Coordinates: NAD 1983

Map Created By:
Pam Shrauger, September 2007



Map 4.3.6D

State and Federal Managed Lands State of North Dakota



Data Source: Various Agencies; North Dakota State Water Commission
 Data Date: Varied
 Map Coordinates: NAD 1983

Map Created By:
 Pam Shrauger, September 2007

