

derive the best description of the landuse in Lake Tahoe watersheds by the amount and location of the various types of vegetation.

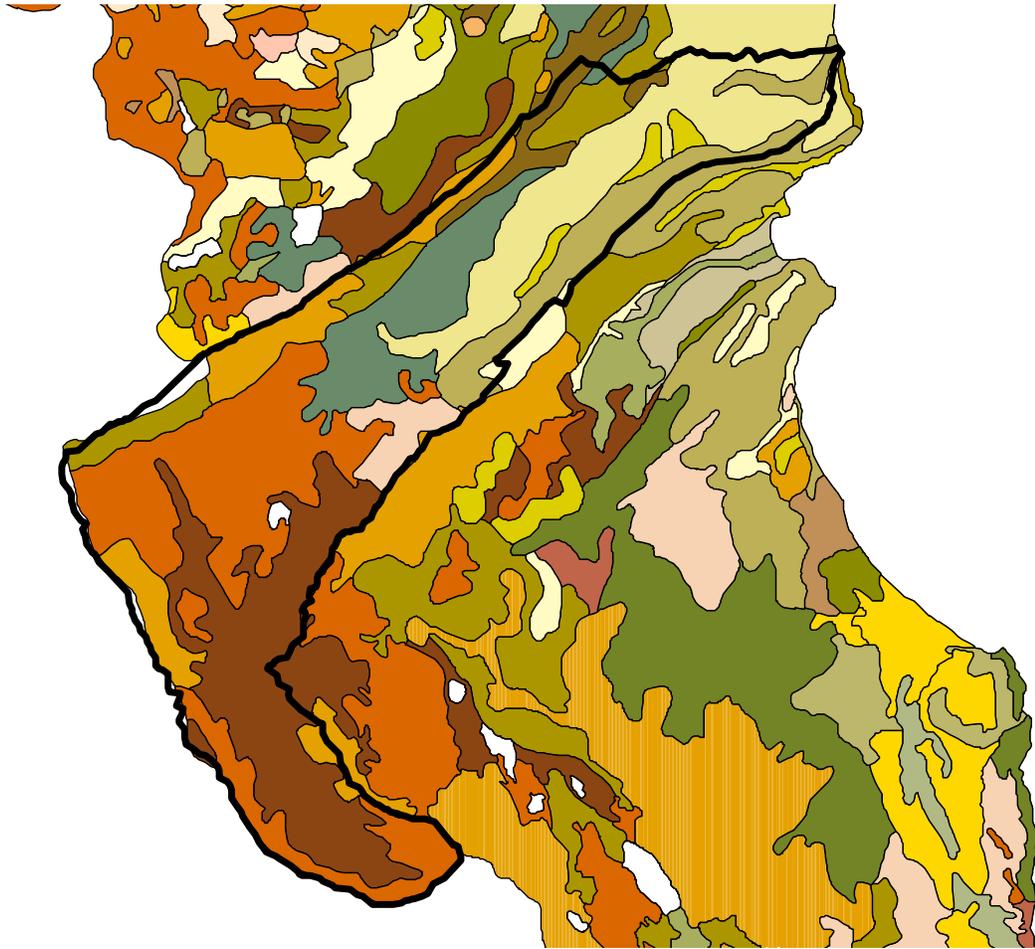


Figure 5-2. The Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) GIS layer for General Creek watershed obtained from the USDA-NRCS.

There were two types of landuse information available for Lake Tahoe. One was the National Land Cover Data (NLCD) and the other was from the University of California at Davis, Tahoe Research Group (TRG). Generally, the NLCD data provided good definition of the non-urban areas, while the TRG data provided good definition of the urban areas. For this study a combination of both landuse GIS layers were used to determine the appropriate landuse to apply to each AnnAGNPS cell. NLCD data were ultimately used for the entire watershed, with the exception of urban areas, which were defined by TRG data. The NLCD was developed by the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium that was sponsored originally in 1992 by various federal agencies. The data can be obtained at the Internet Web address: <http://www.epa.gov/mrlc/nlcd.html>.