

3.1 LAND USE

The proposed project would develop ten vertical temperature gradient wells and access roads in the project area in Churchill County, Nevada. It would occur on approximately 40 acres of land (Figure 2-1). Although the proposed project would occur on both BLM and Reclamation lands, the BLM administers geothermal leasing on BLM and Reclamation lands.

The Carson Lake and Pasture area is immediately west of the BLM land. The proposal to transfer the federally owned Carson Lake and Pasture from the Reclamation to the State of Nevada was developed pursuant to Section 206(e) of Public Law 101-618, enacted in 1990 (Reclamation 2004). However, the transfer has not occurred, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife is managing the area (Grenier 2006). Carson Lake and Pasture is a 30,000-acre wetland within Reclamation's Newlands Project. The wetland is a component of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and is one of the most valuable in northern Nevada.

Surrounding lands are mostly BLM, Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Navy lands. There are also a few small inholdings of private land; the City of Fallon is approximately six miles northwest of the project area, and Naval Air Station Fallon is also west of the project area. Surrounding BLM land has been approved for more extensive geothermal development in the form of geothermal power plants and transmission lines, however no power plants have yet been constructed.