



- Urban land circa 1976
- Urban land built 1976–1992
- Non-urban land 1992
- Water

Albers Equal Area Projection  
Scale: 1 : 12,000,000  
0 100 200 Kilometres  
0 100 200 Statute Miles

# SPRAWL

A Portrait From Space

This map reproduces data from the paper "Causes of Sprawl: A Portrait from Space", by Marcy Burchfield, Henry G. Overman, Diego Puga, and Matthew A. Turner, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 121(2), May 2006. The underlying data records the preponderant land cover in each of 8.7 billion 30x30 metre squares on a regular grid covering the continental United States. 1992 land cover (1992 urban land, land not developed, and water) is based on 1992 National Land Cover Data from the United States Geological Survey, derived mainly from Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper satellite imagery. Urban land circa 1976 is a subset of 1992 urban land identified on the basis of 1970s Land Use / Land Cover Data from the United States Geological Survey, derived mainly from high-altitude aerial photographs. Urban development 1976–1992 is 1992 urban land not in urban use circa 1976.