

The Role of USGS in Providing Long Term Remote Sensing Data: Past, Present and Future

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The Land Remote Sensing Program provides and encourages the use of historical, current and future remotely sensed data and derived scientific information. The Program's three major segments, satellite mission operations, data preservation and access, and research and data utilization represent Program and Bureau leadership in civilian remote sensing activities.

More immediate direction within the Program involves maintenance of the Landsat 5 and 7 satellites and analysis of the satellite data gap problem. The Program is a sponsor of the development of an Antarctica mosaic for the International Polar Year and of wide ranging current applications research.

At the same time, Program staff are preparing for the next generation of remotely sensed satellite systems. Staff are preparing for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission and the longer term Operational Land Imager. A science team is being organized through the Program to provide technical and applications expertise as the new data source systems are developed.