LANDSAT MONTHLY UPDATE

The Landsat Program is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Editor's Note:

In the February issue we announced plans for a new product line of Landsat 7 data. A similar announcement follows and is given, in large part, because of the interest in Landsat 7 data shown by the user community.

Landsat 7 Completes Five Years of Observations

It is worth noting that, on April 15, 2004, Landsat 7 completes five years of operation and will have completed the original planned mission life. In spite of difficulties, Landsats 5 and 7 continue to provide useful observations of a changing planet.

USGS Announces New Product Line

A technique to estimate radiometric values in Landsat 7 data gaps has been selected, and the resulting new products will be available to customers by June 2004.

The USGS Landsat Project at the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota has been taking steps to increase the utility of the ETM+ data that includes non-functional scan line corrector (SLC) artifacts. The SLC on the Landsat 7 ETM+ instrument failed May 31, 2003.

In the initial Gap-filled product release, the gap pixels are replaced with data from a previously acquired SLC-on scene that is registered and histogram matched to the SLC-off image. The histogram matching technique is a localized linear transform performed in a moving window throughout the missing pixels. Pricing for the new products has not yet been determined and will be announced at a later date. A sample product along with further information can be found at http://landsat7.usgs.gov/slc_enhancements/.
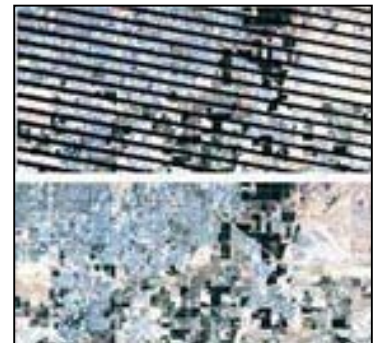
User Selectable Interpolation Now Available for Landsat 7 SLC-off Scenes

The U.S. Geological Survey has recently released ETM+ SLC-off products to the public with a user-selectable amount of interpolation to replace missing gap pixels. Allowable interpolation values range from 0 to 15 pixels, with each pixel representing 30 meters. The default value for interpolation is 2 pixels, which is the heritage value for Level 1G processing of previous Landsat 7 SLC-off data. A sample product along with further information can be found at http://landsat7.usgs.gov/slc_enhancements/.

Landsat 7 ETM+ Dataset Transition

As of March 31, 2004, Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) data will no longer be available for search and order through the Land Processing Distributed Active Archive Center (LP DAAC) and the Earth Observing System (EOS) Data Gateway (EDG). All orders submitted to the LP DAAC prior to this date will be filled, provided payment is received within a reasonable amount of time. Search, browse, and order capability for most of these datasets will be migrated to the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Explorer (http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov) on March 31, 2004.

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This change is driven by long standing agreements to transfer land remotely sensed data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to the USGS for long-term archiving, as well as specific agreements made between NASA and the USGS for management of the Landsat Project. Both agencies are working to make the transfer as seamless to the user as possible and to continue the current high level of service.

Although the method of data access will change, there will be no other change to the processing, format, or other details of the products. Level 1 and Level 0 products that were previously available through the EDG will now be accessed through Earth Explorer (http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov) or the Global Visualization Viewer (GloVis) (http://glovis.usgs.gov). Level 1 products, will continue to be available through both processing systems currently in use (LPGS or NLAPS), with the temporary exception of floating scenes.
Until a search and order capability for floating scene products is released on Earth Explorer, all floating scene and multi-scene orders must be placed by contacting USGS EDC Customer Services and will be processed only through the NLAPS processing system and will be processed only through the NLAPS processing system. (http://edc.usgs.gov/includes/contactform.html)

If you have any questions, please contact USGS EDC Customer Services (1-800-252-4547, 605-594-6151) (http://edc.usgs.gov/includes/contactform.html).

Landsat Technical Working Group Meeting

The next LTWG meeting will be held in Cordoba, Argentina from April 26 through April 30, 2004. A preliminary agenda was recently distributed to all International Cooperator contacts, and work to coordinate the details of the meeting is continuing. It is important that those planning to attend contact Brad Heegel (Heegel@wise.augie.edu) in the near future to confirm your attendance at the meeting and secure your hotel accommodations. Brad can also be contacted to obtain a copy of the draft agenda should you need one. The USGS Landsat Project plans to distribute the 'IC Station Report' template to the IC contacts in the near future. It should be fairly similar to those used in the past and will certainly highlight the current and planned future activities of the international ground stations.

As the preliminary agenda suggests, there are many important and on-going activities with both the Landsat 5 and Landsat 7 missions that will be shared with the IC community. We, and our hosts from CONAE, look forward to a busy and productive meeting. Any specific questions on the meeting can be addressed to Brad Heegel or the Landsat Project International Coordinator, Steven Covington (steven.covington@gsfc.nasa.gov).

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