

LANDSAT DATA DISTRIBUTION POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION

The Landsat Program is managed in partnership by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Landsat space and ground systems are operated by the USGS for the purpose of acquiring essentially cloud-free imagery of all the Earth's land areas on a recurring basis. In addition, Landsat data sets are augmented with data from other domestic and international satellite systems, including commercial sources. All of these data are stored in, and derived products are distributed from, the USGS National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (NSLRSDA).

II. SCOPE

This document establishes Landsat Program Management Policy for distributing products derived from Landsat data collected by the U.S. since 1972 and from Landsat augmentation data. This Policy supersedes all previous U.S. Landsat data policies and adheres to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources"; the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501 *et seq.*; the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, 15 U.S.C. §§ 5601 *et seq.*; USGS Data Policy; and other relevant laws, regulations, and guidelines.

Landsat Program Management will review this policy every five years or sooner, based on new legislation or revisions to the National Space Policy.

III. POLICY GOALS

This Policy extends principles of the Landsat 7 Data Policy to data collected from Landsats 1 through 5 and the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM):

1. Ensure that all data products are available to any user at no more than the cost of fulfilling user requests (COFUR). As described in 15 U.S.C. § 5602, COFUR basically means that Landsat Program Management will not price data based on the recovery of capital costs of satellites, ground systems, or other capital assets previously paid for by the U.S. Government.
2. Ensure timely and dependable delivery of data products to the full spectrum of civilian, national security, commercial, and foreign users, with no delays imposed between data reception, processing, and distribution;
3. Ensure that the United States retains ownership of all data generated by the Landsat series of satellites.

With possible exceptions imposed by commercial licenses or foreign government regulations, these three principles also apply to Landsat-augmentation data acquired by the USGS. Such exceptions may include pricing that is higher than that for Landsat products due to the cost of obtaining the Landsat-augmentation data.

IV. DATA DISTRIBUTION

A. The USGS provides non-discriminatory, unrestricted access to the NSLRSDA and disseminates, in Internet-accessible digital formats, selected data products generated from Landsat data and from Landsat-augmentation data. The USGS will use other dissemination technologies or methods as appropriate.

B. USGS Landsat data products comply with recognized Federal Geographic Data Committee standards, formats, and metadata descriptions to ensure these products can be used by a broad range of users.

C. The USGS promotes the open and unrestricted exchange and redistribution of Landsat data products and seeks to improve the availability and applications of the data.

D. When Landsat images, or portions thereof, obtained from the USGS are published or electronically posted, the following attribution is to be used in a caption: "USGS/NASA Landsat Program."

E. The USGS places no restrictions on users of Landsat data products obtained from the USGS or on users who create and sell or otherwise distribute products derived from Landsat products originally distributed by the USGS. However, such products are not to be licensed or placed under copyright unless the original Landsat data are digitally merged with other data or are otherwise altered significantly.

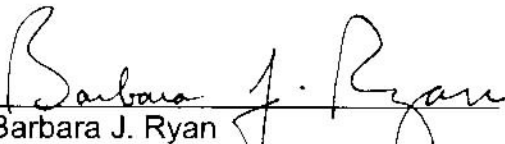
F. The USGS, in coordination with the Department of State, establishes agreements with foreign governments for the USGS to provide Landsat data via direct downlink or other direct-delivery means to the international Landsat data user community. Landsat images acquired by International Cooperators are, in return, made available to NSLRSDA to help the Landsat Program fulfill its mission to provide global observations. Direct-downlink or other direct-delivery arrangements can also be made with U.S. commercial entities.

G. The USGS establishes agreements for acquiring Landsat-augmentation data from domestic and foreign government or commercial providers for the purpose of distributing such data to the Landsat user community from the NSLRSDA.

H. The USGS, in accordance with U.S. Government rights and obligations, reserves the right to control, distribute, or use any Landsat data for any purpose deemed a function of Federal, State, local, or tribal government in the United States.

V. PRICING

In accordance with OMB Circular A-130 and USGS Data Policy, the USGS provides selected satellite data products for retrieval via the Internet at no charge to users. Other products that may be ordered by users from the NSLRSDA are provided at no more than COFUR; this includes special arrangements made for users who require higher volumes of Landsat data products than can be provided by standard USGS distribution mechanisms.


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