RSSG Newsletter

Association of American Geographers
Remote Sensing Specialty Group

June 1994 Volume 15 Number 2

From the Chair

For the past two years, Tina Cary has served as Chair of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group. On behalf of the membership of the Specialty Group, I thank Tina for her leadership and efforts during her tenure. For the next two years (1995 meeting in Chicago and the 1996 meeting in Charlotte), I will serve as the Chair of the Specialty Group. In addition, Kevin Price (University of Kansas) was elected Vice-Chair; Doug Ramsey (Utah State University), Treasurer/Secretary; Mike Hodgson (Oak Ridge National Labs), Director; and Brad Rundquist (Kansas State University), Student Director. Please feel free to contact me at the address below with any concerns, recommendations, and issues that you judge important to the Specialty Group.

From May 16-20, 1994, a conference titled *Spatial Accuracy of Natural Resource Data Bases* was held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The conference was sponsored by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, Forest Inventory and Monitoring Subject Group and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and endorsed by the Geographic Information Systems Working Group of the Society of American Foresters. At the conference a number of geographers presented papers and entered into discussions. Some of those participating included Mike Goodchild (University of California, Santa Barbara), Dan Brown (Michigan State University), Peter Fisher (University of Leicester), and Daniel Griffith (Syracuse University). I, too, presented a paper at the conference. A special proceedings, organized by Russ Congalton (University of New

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CALL FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

ANNUAL AAG MEETING - CHICAGO

The 1995 annual meeting of the AAG will be held March 14-18, 1995 in Chicago, Illinois. Because the meeting is being held earlier next year, planning for the RSSG program must also be completed earlier. Abstracts are due in the AAG Central Office by **September 1, 1994**; therefore, ***RSSG session planning must be completed by August 22, 1994.***

If you are willing to present a paper, offer a workshop, or chair a paper session or field trip,

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RSSG SURVEY OF REMOTE SENSING JOURNALS

At the RSSG Business Meeting held in San Francisco, there was some discussion by RSSG members regarding the lack of information on how we, as remote sensing scientists, view the quality of various geography and remote sensing journals as outlets for our work. Many remote sensing geographers must function (and be evaluated) in departments that only value publications in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, or the Professional Geographer, for example. In order to clarify the perspective of remote sensing geographers on what they view as the key scholarly journals in their field, M. Duane Nellis, Kansas State University, has agreed to coordinate a survey of the RSSG membership. The survey will be sent to all RSSG members later this

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Chair...Continued from page 1.

Hampshire), is being published by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

During the Specialty Group's San Francisco Business Meeting, a discussion was held regarding publication outlets available to remote sensing scholars. The Chair was asked to solicit comment from the membership of the Specialty Group on the relatively recent changes in the style and format of the journal, **Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing**. Many members were concerned about the possible diminished scholarly nature of the journal as a result of publishing non-refereed articles, the backlog of accepted manuscripts awaiting publication, the increasing number of special issues, and so on. Please forward to me your thoughts regarding the journal and recommendations that might address your concerns. By September 1st, I'll pen a letter to the society citing our concerns and indicating some possible changes that might be implemented. Your assistance and opinions will be greatly appreciated so that my letter is truly reflective of the Specialty Group! On a related front, Duane Nellis (Kansas State University) is formulating a list of journals and a set of questions that may be used to rate the journals as to their applicability for, and publication of, quality remote sensing manuscripts. Your participation in the survey will also be appreciated!

Finally, don't forget to submit AAG abstracts by September 1st for the Chicago meeting (See May 1994 issue of the **AAG Newsletter**). Your participation in Specialty Group-organized sessions is encouraged. Doug Goodin (Kansas State University) is the Program Chair for the Chicago meeting. Bill Tyler (ERIM) will be assisting Doug with Program duties. Look for information in this issue regarding the upcoming Chicago Program and submission dates for abstracts sent to the Program Chair. Submission of abstracts directly to the Program Chair is preferred so that their proper placement in topical and methodological sessions can be accommodated.

Stephen J. Walsh
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please AAG...Continued from page 1.

let us know your intention by **August 1, 1994**. Your completed abstract, program participation form, and payment are due Monday, **August 22, 1994**. Participants are invited to submit contributions to the following proposed RSSG sessions:

- o Remote Sensing of the Great Lakes
- o Applications of Remote Sensing in Climatology
- o Commercialization in Remote Sensing
- o Advanced Image Processing
- o Remote Sensing with Space Shuttle Photography
- o Remote Sensing in Developing Countries
- o Airborne Remote Sensing
- o Future Trends in Remote Sensing

Other paper topics and alternate session suggestions are welcome.

Program Chair:
Douglas G. Goodin
Department of Geography
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506-0801
Tel. (913) 532-6727
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e-mail: dgoodin@matt.ksu.ksu.edu

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Environmental Research Institute of Michigan
P.O. Box 134001
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4001
Tel. (313) 994-1200 Ext. 3609
Fax: (313) 665-6559
e-mail: tyler@erim.org

Survey...Continued from page 1.

summer, with responses requested by October 1, 1994. A paper summarizing the results will be available by the Chicago AAG meeting in March 1995. Please cooperate in this effort by completing the survey.

M. Duane Nellis
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Kansas State University
Dickens Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-0801
Tel. (913) 532-6727
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email: mdngeog@ksuvm.ksu.edu

REMOTE SENSING AND THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL CHANGE

Jeff Olsenholler (CIESIN) is attempting to organize a special session on ***Remote Sensing and the Human Dimensions of Global Change*** for the 1995 AAG-Chicago meetings. Persons interested in participating should contact Jeff as soon as possible.

Jeff Olsenholler
CIESIN, 2250 Pierce Road
Saginaw, MI 48710
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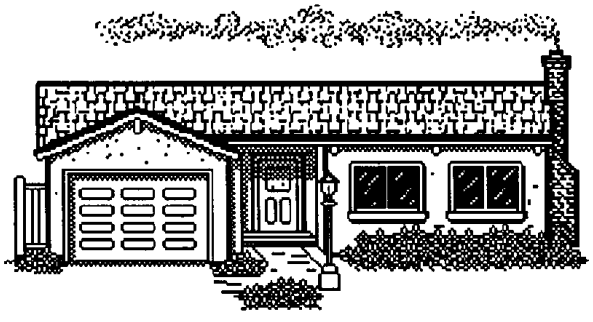

HONORS AND AWARDS

Thomas R. Loveland (USGS/EROS Data Center) was the recipient of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) 1994 Alan Gordon Memorial Award. The award is presented annually to one person to recognize significant achievements in remote sensing. Tom was honored for his accomplishments and leadership in using satellite remote sensing for land cover characterization.

Tina K. Cary (EOSAT) has been elected Vice President of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). **John R. Jensen** (University of South Carolina) is currently ASPRS President-elect.

John E. Estes (University of California-Santa Barbara) was recipient of an ASPRS Fellow Award in recognition of his exceptional service in advancing the science of remote sensing.

James B. Campbell (Virginia Polytechnic Institute) received the 1994 ASPRS Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his service as Chair of the ASPRS Publications Committee.

The 1994 ERDAS Award for Best Scientific Paper in Remote Sensing was presented to **Jesslyn F. Brown** (EROS Data Center), **Thomas R. Loveland** (EROS Data Center), **James W. Merchant** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), **Bradley C. Reed** (EROS Data Center), and **Donald O, Ohlen** (EROS Data Center) for their paper *Using Multisource Data in Global Land-Cover Characterization: Concepts, Requirements and Methods*, published in **Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing**, 59 (6), 977-987.

The 1994 ESRI Award for Best Scientific Paper in GIS was presented to **Eric R. Olsen, R. Douglas Ramsey** and **David S. Winn** (Utah State University) for their paper *A Modified Fractal Dimension as a Measure of Landscape Diversity*, published in **Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing**, 59 (10), 1517-1520.

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1994 RSSG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The 1994 business meeting of the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group (RSSG) was held in San Francisco, CA. on April 1, 1994. Twenty-six persons attended the meeting. Chairperson Tina Cary (EOSAT) called the meeting to order.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Doug Ramsey (Utah State University) distributed copies of the 1993 business meeting minutes. A motion was made to accept these minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Doug reported on the financial standing of the RSSG. The treasury showed a balance of $1,702.48 as of March 20, 1994. Expenditures since the last meeting totaled $1,658.85 consisting of 4 issues of the RSSG newsletter. The only source of revenue for this year has been from membership dues paid to the AAG and transferred to the RSSG account. There is still some uncertainty about exactly how many members belong to the RSSG. However, the AAG reported a total of 359 individuals selecting the RSSG between November 1993 and February 1994. Membership dues from these individuals totaled $1,223.00.

Below is an itemized expense report for the calendar year 1994 (as of 3/20/94). The AAG requires expense reports on a calendar year basis. This report was submitted to AAG in mid-March 1994.

Calendar Year 1994: (to date)

Carryover: $1,347.58
Income:
Dues $1,223.00
Total: $2,570.00
Expenses:
Nov. 1993 Newsletters $440.80
Feb. 1994 Newsletters $427.30

Total $868.10

Balance: (as of 3/20/94) $1,702.48

Annual Meeting Report

Duane Nellis (Kansas State University) and Kevin Price (University of Kansas) reported that there were 14 sessions sponsored by the RSSG during the San Francisco meetings. Three additional sessions on remote sensing were not sponsored by RSSG. There were a total of 17 remote sensing oriented sessions. Duane and Kevin thanked everyone for supporting RSSG sponsored sessions and encouraged everyone to do the same next year.

A concern about scheduling conflicts between remote sensing related sessions was raised. Duane and Kevin reported that there were so many sessions that conflicts were inevitable. An option to reduce conflicts would be to jointly sponsor sessions between related specialty groups. Kevin Price and Bill Tyler (ERIM) were nominated as program chairs for the 1995 AAG meeting in Chicago. All RSSG members were asked to support the program chairs and submit presentations through them to ensure that papers are included in RSSG-sponsored sessions.

New RSSG Officers

New RSSG officers for 1994-1995 were announced. The officers are as follows:

Chair - Steve Walsh (University of North Carolina)
Vice Chair - Kevin Price (University of Kansas)
Secretary/Treasurer - Douglas Ramsey (Utah State University)
Director - Michael Hodgson (Oak Ridge National Laboratory)
Director - Dan Brown (Michigan State University)
Student Director - Brad Rundquist (Kansas State University)

Awards

Kamlesh Lulla (NASA), Awards Committee Chair, announced that both Jack Estes (University of California-Santa Barbara) and John Jensen (University of South Carolina) were given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the RSSG.

Continued on page 10...Business Meeting

REMOTE SENSING REVIEWS

The journal **Remote Sensing Reviews** is a publication outlet that has been virtually untapped by geographers performing remote sensing research. Although there is little mention of this journal in the U.S., **Remote Sensing Reviews** is well respected in Europe. I became aware of **Remote Sensing Reviews** last year while attending a workshop on thermal remote sensing in France. As a result of the workshop, **Remote Sensing Reviews** will be publishing a special issue dealing with thermal remote sensing. I have submitted two papers in response to this special issue and I have found the journal to be something that geographers should definitely consider as another outlet for their remote sensing research. The editor and publisher seek to strengthen the journal's presence in the U.S. and are looking for good research papers on topics germane to geographers. **Remote Sensing Reviews** is published by Harwood Academic Publishers, a division of Gordon and Breach Science Publishers located in Great Britain. Gordon and Breach also publishes a series of books on Current Topics in Remote Sensing which should be of interest to RSSG members. Recent titles of volumes in this series are: **Satellite Remote Sensing for Hydrology and Water Management: The Mediterranean Coasts and Islands, Remote Sensing for Hazard Monitoring and Disaster Assessment: Marine and Coastal Applications in the Mediterranean Region**, and a textbook entitled **Remote Sensing, Theory and Applications of Land Observation. Remote Sensing Reviews** publishes four issues per volume. Recent issues of **Remote Sensing Reviews** are: *Automated Target Recognition and Tracking, Instrumentation for Studying Vegetation Canopies for Remote Sensing in Optical and Thermal Infrared Regions, Satellite Remote Sensing for Operational Hydrology, Models of Vegetation Canopy Reflections and Their Use in Estimation of Biophysical Parameters from Reflectance Data*, and *Techniques for Laser Remote Sensing of the Environment.*

As noted in the Aims and Scope for the journal, **Remote Sensing Reviews** brings together the science, technology and engineering of remote sensing from space and selected aspects of space station programs. Each issue presents primary papers and invited review papers from the international remote sensing community on single or multiple topics. It is directed towards a range of scientists, engineers and technical managers from academic, industrial and government institutions involved in creating and using remote sensing. The journal spans a wide range of topics including the design and development of sensors and platforms, the communication and computation of remotely acquired data, automated target recognition and tracking, and environmental research, monitoring and management. The role of remote sensing in the latter is ever increasing and particular emphasis is given to the following: climatology and hydrological systems, oceanography, terrain evaluation, agriculture and vegetation, conservation and environmental management, hazard monitoring, urban planning, geology and mineral exploitation, engineering applications and geographic information systems, terrestrial biosphere, life sciences and material sciences related to space.

To receive additional information on **Remote Sensing Reviews**, including guidelines for manuscripts, contact the editor, Dr. Narendra S. Goel, Department of Computer Science, Wayne State University, 431 State Hall, Detroit, MI 48202; Tel. (313) 577-2478; FAX: (313) 577-6868; email: ngoel@cs.wayne.edu

Submitted by:

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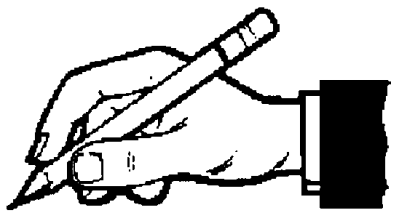

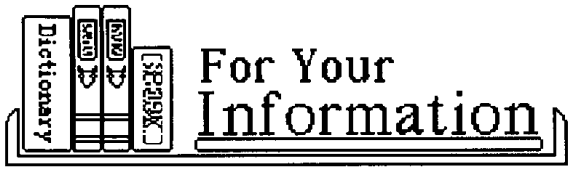

UTAH TM POSTER

The Department of Geography and Earth Resources, Utah State University has published a color Landsat Thematic Mapper mosaic of the state of Utah. Printed at a scale of approximately 1:1,000,000, the mosaic costs $10.00 plus $1.00 mailed rolled in a cardboard mailing tube. Quantities of 50 copies can be ordered for $250.00 plus shipping (flat). A box of 56 posters in tubes can be obtained for $308.00 plus shipping. Contact:

Department of Geography and Earth Resources
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-5240
Tel.: (801) 797-1790
FAX: (801) 797-4048

EOSAT TO SELL INDIA SATELLITE DATA

The Earth Observation Satellite Company (EOSAT) has become a distributor for data from the India Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS). IRS-1A was launched in 1988 and IRS-1B in 1991. The satellites collect data in four spectral bands at 36.25 m and 72 m spatial resolution. Revisit time is 22 days at the equator. For a limited time, interested persons can obtain free sample data acquired from the Indian IRS and Landsat. To obtain the sample package, or additional details, contact:

Earth Observation Satellite Company
Public Information Office
4300 Forbes Blvd.
Lanham, MD 20706-9954
Tel.: (301) 552-0560
FAX: (301) 344-9933

LANDSAT DATA FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Investigators funded by federal agencies affiliated with the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) and working on programs related to the U.S. Global Change research Program can now obtain Landsat TM data at a price of $2500 per scene. Once ordered, subsequent orders for the same scene will be filled at a rate of $150/scene for each copy. For more information contact:

Linda Hansen
USGS/EROS Data Center
Sioux Falls, SD 57198
Tel: (605) 594-6151

ACRES UPDATE

If you are interested in remote sensing activity in Australia, you will want to subscribe to **ACRES Update**, a newsletter published by the Australian Centre for Remote Sensing (ACRES). Recent issues describe research in several remote sensing centers Down-Under, review the proposed new South African GREENSAT satellite, provide information on resources for teaching remote sensing, and offer details on a broad range of other subject-matter. To have your name placed on the mailing list, contact:

Australian Centre for Remote Sensing
Dunlop Court, Fern Hill Park
Bruce ACT 2617PO Box 28
Belconnen ACT 2616 AUSTRALIA
FAX: (06) 251-6326

UP CLOSE FROM AFAR

The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) has recently published **Up Close from Afar: Using Remote Sensing to Teach the American Landscape**, an instructor's kit containing background essays, image samples, slides and instructional

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exercises. The kit, assembled by the NCGE Task Force on Remote Sensing, and edited by Paul R. Bauman, is designed to be used in teaching fundamentals of remote sensing in conjunction with physical and cultural geography. Costing only $17.50 plus $2.00 for postage and handling, the kit can be ordered from:

National Council for Geographic Education
16A Leonard Hall
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, PA 15707

GeoVu: A NEW TOOL FOR DATA ACCESS

NGDC software for data browsing, access, and visualization

Could you use a data management tool to help...
o Perform quality control and generate metadata?
o Graphically browse and extract data?
o Access data from many CD-ROMs, as well as your own data?
o Integrate data with metadata and documentation?
o Provide a data description facility that frees you from the need to deal with the intricacies of importing and exporting data in multiple formats?
If so, you may wish to learn about GeoVu and its FreeForm data management component, public domain software developed by the NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC). The initial version of GeoVu is designed to operate with Microsoft Windows. Other versions of GeoVu for UNIX and Macintosh platforms are under development.

GeoVu features include:
o Display grids and images with pan, zoom, profile, value look-up, color manipulation, and histogram support,
o Display tabular data sets as two-dimensional plots of any combination of parameters or as tabular lists,
o Display correlative documentation in the form of scrollable text boxes,
o Extract data in multiplatform representations with choices of data content and structure.

GeoVu for MS-Windows is available in the public domain via anonymous FTP. Downloading these files requires a computer connected to the Internet that supports the FTP command. At the prompt:

o Type: ftp ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov
o Login: anonymous
o Password: Enter your e-mail address
o Type: cd Access_Tools

This directory contains several subdirectories with information about GeoVu and FreeForm. All of these directories contain README files describing their contents.

The GeoVu directory contains the following documentation files:
(1) gvquick: ASCII, postscript, and Microsoft Word formatted files with GeoVu installation instructions, and
(2) gvhelp: Postscript and Microsoft Word version of the GeoVu Users Guide.

The most recent release of MS-Windows GeoVu is in a "PC" subdirectory of GeoVu. The files in this subdirectory comprise a "Windows Setup Disk" for GeoVu. In order to install GeoVu using these files, download all files in binary mode into a temporary directory. Then, with Windows running, execute the program setup.exe from that directory by double-clicking on it or using the File/Run menu item.

The GeoVu/Sampler directory contains a number of sample data sets which can be used to become familiar with GeoVu's features and the process of getting your data into GeoVu. Like GeoVu itself, these directories must be downloaded in binary mode into three separate temporary directories and installed using the setup.exe.program found in the directory DISK1.

UNIX and Macintosh versions of GeoVu are under development. Beta test versions will be available by the end of 1994.For information about GeoVu, FreeForm, CD-ROM data products implemented using GeoVu, or the GeoVu Data Sampler, contact Allen M. Hittelman at the NOAA National Geophysical Data Center. Telephone: 303/497-6591, Fax: 303/497-6513, Internet: amh@ngdc.noaa.gov.

EXPLORE THE INTERNET WITH MOSAIC

MOSAIC is a software package designed for information discovery and retrieval over the Internet using a graphical user interface. The package, developed by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), is available free. MOSAIC operates in a client/server mode that allows a MOSAIC client located anywhere on the Internet to interact with different types of servers using one consistent interface. Among the protocols supported are FTP, Telnet, Gopher, Archie, WAIS, and the HTTP protocol for World Wide Web (WWW).

The interface to information via MOSAIC is through the use of hypertext. Clicking on a word or phrase marked with underlining or highlighted with color (indicating a hyperlinked term) will cause the client to connect to the appropriate server to retrieve and display referenced document. Servers, may contain plain or formatted text, graphics, sound, and other multimedia and scientific data. For example, you can connect to the U.S. Geological Survey Home Page. From there you can read many different Open File Reports, acquire some new mapping software, view a pictorial description of the USGS mission, or link to other Servers at NOAA, NCAR, NASA, EROS Data Center and so forth. You can view images from the Shuttle Imaging Radar within days (hours?) of acquisition, obtain GOES, DMSP or AVHRR data and many other types of imagery. Or, you can explore the Vatican Exhibit at the Library of Congress or the Berkeley Museum of Paleontology, obtain news and information on history, business, finance or hundreds (thousands?) of other topics.

The software is available for XWindows (Motif), Microsoft Windows, and Macintosh. Copies are available for FTP from FTP.NCSA.UIUC.EDU.

Contact: Software Development Group, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, 605 E Springfield, Champaign, IL 61820; (217) 244-0072; e-mail: mosaic@ncsa.uiuc.edu.

MOSAIC *Uniform Resource Locators*

Compiled by
J.W.Merchant
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is an address that can be used with MOSAIC to access information and data. Some URLs of particular interest to remote sensing specialists are listed below.

U.S. Geological Survey Home Page
http://info.er.usgs.gov/

USGS/EROS Data Center Home Page
http://sun1.cr.usgs.gov/eros-home.html

Global Land Information System (GLIS)
http://sun1.cr.usgs.gov/glis/glis.html

NASA HQ Home Page
http://www.mtpe.hq.nasa.gov/HQ_homepage.html

NASA WWW Information Services
http://hypatia.gsfc.nasa.gov/

NASA Earth Observing System Home Page
http://eos.nasa.gov/

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Home Page
http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/

NOAA Home Page
http://www.noaa.gov/

Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) Data Archive
http://web.ngdc.noaa.gov/dmsp/dmsp.html

UNEP/GRID
http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/grid/grid.htm

European Space Information System
http://mesis.esrin.esa.it/html/esis.html

European Space Agency Earth Observation Guide and Directory Service
http://tracy.esrin.esa.it/root

IONIA AVHRR Browser
http://shark1.esrin.esa.it/

RECENT REMOTE SENSING CD-ROMS

CD-ROMs have become increasingly important media in remote sensing. Some recent discs are listed below. Thanks to Tom Loveland (USGS/EROS Data Center) for bringing most of these to my attention. **RSSG Newsletter** readers are invited to send information about new CD-ROMs to the editor. Reviews are welcome.

Jim Merchant (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
Editor, RSSG Newsletter

AUSTRALIA FROM SPACE

A new CD-ROM from Australia includes over 500 Mb of full-resolution satellite data and a copy of the TerraScan image processing software. TerraScan runs under Windows 3.1 on IBM-compatible computers. The disc includes a wide variety of SPOT, Landsat, and ERS-1 imagery, and a tutorial on GPS. The CD sells for $300.00 (AUS). For additional details contact:

Resource Industry Associates
538 Brunswick Street
Fitzroy North Victoria 3068
AUSTRALIA
FAX: (03) 482-4956

AUSWATCH: DATA SETS FOR AUSTRALIA

The CD-ROM **AusWatch: Data Sets for the Study of Landcover Change** contains over 200 satellite images (Landsat, AVHRR) of Australia and selected overseas locations. Many scenes are covered on multiple dates so change can be assessed. The disc includes display software running on IBM-compatible computers under Windows 3.1 or on Macintosh computers. The disk sells for $25.00 (US). Make checks payable to "Collector of Monies, COSSA. For details, contact:

CSIRO Office of Space Science and Applications
P.O. Box 3023
Canberra ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA
FAX: +61 6 2790 812

AVHRR CD-BROWSER IONIA

Ionia is a CD-ROM issued by the European Space Agency that allows users to search for, view and order AVHRR imagery of Europe, Africa and Asia. Over 2000 browse images are included, along with query and display software that operates under Windows 3.1 on an IBM PC.
To request a copy of the CD, contact:

European Space Agency/ESRIN
Via Galileo Galilei CP64
00044 Frascati, ITALY
FAX: (+39-6) 941-80361

NORTH AMERICAN AVHRR COMPOSITE

An AVHRR 1-Km North America Data Set is now available on CD-ROM. Prepared by the USGS/EROS Data Center and the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, the data were acquired in August 1990. Raw data, false color and natural color composites, and Normalized Difference imagery is provided. Software for viewing the data on IBM PCs or compatibles is included. To obtain the CD-ROM contact:

Customer Services
USGS/EROS Data Center
Sioux Falls, SD 57198
Tel.: (605) 594-6151

Continued on page 10...CD-ROM

Business Meeting...Continued from page 4.

There was no formal RSSG student paper competition this year. However, Wiley Publishers has donated 3 books as awards if we could identify deserving students. There may be a possibility of a formal student paper competition next year.

Other Business

Ron Abler was appointed as the AAG representative to the Federal Geographic Data Standards Committee. One person has been asked to represent the RSSG at this meeting. Tina Cary was nominated, the motion was seconded and carried, and Tina accepted.

Tina Cary reported on the AAG Specialty Group Chairs Luncheon. Questions raised at the meeting included: Should the AAG become more active in public issues? and Should geographers participate in the National Security Education Program? The issue of annual meeting dates that avoid the Easter and Passover holidays was also discussed along with methods for avoiding session scheduling conflicts, conference fee waivers awarded on a competitive basis, and encouragement of student participation. Tina also encouraged RSSG members to review and submit materials for the NCGIA core curriculum in remote sensing.

There was concern about professional advancement through publication. Better data on journals which are main outlets for geographers are required. There needs to be a ranking of which journals are most important relative to the promotion issue. Dale Quattrochi (NASA) mentioned that there are some very good European remote sensing journals such as **Remote Sensing Reviews**. Several members voiced concern over the format change in **Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing** (PE&RS) and the dissatisfaction with including non-peer-reviewed articles. It was proposed that the RSSG chairman write a letter to PE&RS expressing these concerns.

Submitted by Douglas Ramsey (Utah State University)
RSSG Secretary/Treasurer

Honors...Continued from page 3.

Thomas Allen (University of North Carolina) received the 1994 ASPRS Ta Liang Memorial Award. The award will fund field work in support of his Ph.d. dissertation research in Glacier National Park.

C.P. Lo (University of Georgia), **Rolland N. Fraser** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and **David A. Waits** (Oklahoma State University) were recipients of Landsat TM data grants from the Earth Observation Satellite Company. The grants are provided to support inovative research with Landsat data. Only 30 awards were made from a total of 180 proposals submitted.

SIR-CED RADAR IMAGERY

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory has prepared a CD-ROM dealing with the SIR-C spaceborne imaging radar and its applications. Designed for middle and high school students, the package contains a broad array of images, maps, text, teachers guides and display software for a wide variety of computers. The disc is available free from:

Annie Richardson or A. Freeman
Radar Data Center, MS 300-233
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109
Tel.: (818) 354-4321
FAX: (818) 393-2640

From *EOS.News*

LANDSAT DECISION

On May 10, the Vice President announced the President's decision to continue the Landsat remote sensing satellite program and to restructure Federal agency responsibilities for acquiring and operating the next satellite, Landsat 7. Acquisition responsibilities will transfer from DoD to NASA. The Department of Commerce will operate the satellite and its ground system in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, which will maintain the national archive of Landsat data. This decision supports the continuity of the only source of global, calibrated, high-spatial-resolution measurements of the Earth's surface that can be compared to the current 20-year Landsat data set.

LANDSAT PLANS

The U.S. Government will: (a) provide unenhanced data which are sufficiently consistent in terms of acquisition geometry, coverage characteristics, and spectral characteristics with previous Landsat data to allow quantitative comparisons for change detection and characterization; (b) make government- owned Landsat data available to meet the needs of all users at no more than the cost of fulfilling user requests consistent with data policy goals of P. L. 102- 555; and (c) promote and not preclude private sector commercial opportunities in Landsat-type remote sensing.

The Landsat strategy is composed of the following elements: (1) ensuring that Landsat satellites 4 and 5 continue to provide data as long as they are technically capable of doing so; (2) acquiring a Landsat 7 satellite that maintains the continuity of Landsat-type data, minimizes development risk, minimizes cost, and achieves the most favorable launch schedule to mitigate the loss of Landsat 6; (3) maintaining an archive within the United States for existing and future Landsat-type data; (4) ensuring that unenhanced data from Landsat 7 are available to all users at no more than the cost of fulfilling user requests; (5) providing data for use in global change research in a manner consistent with the Global Change Research Policy Statements for Data Management; (6) considering alternatives for maintaining the continuity of data beyond Landsat 7; (7) and fostering the development of advanced remote sensing technologies, with the goal of reducing the cost and increasing the performance of future Landsat-type satellites to meet U.S. Government needs, and potentially, enabling substantially greater opportunities for commercialization.

Affected agencies will identify funds necessary to implement the National Strategy for Landsat Remote Sensing within the overall resource and policy guidance provided by the President. In order to effectuate the strategy enumerated herein, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior are hereby designated as members of the Landsat Program Management in accordance with section 101(b) of the Landsat Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, 15 U.S.C. 5602(6) and 5611(b). Specific agency responsibilities are provided below.

DOC/NOAA will: (1) in participation with other appropriate government agencies arrange for the continued operation of Landsat satellites 4 and 5 and the routine operation of future Landsat satellites after their placement in orbit; (2) seek better access to data collected at foreign ground stations for U.S. Government and private sector users of Landsat data; (3) in cooperation with NASA, manage the development of, and provide a share of the funding for, the Landsat 7 ground system; (4) operate the Landsat 7 spacecraft and ground system in cooperation with the DOI; (5) seek to offset operations costs through use of access fees from foreign ground stations and/or the cost of fulfilling user requests; (6) and aggregate future Federal requirements for civil operational land remote sensing data.

NASA will: (1) ensure data continuity by the development and launch of a Landsat 7 satellite system which is at a minimum functionally equivalent to the Landsat 6 satellite in accordance with section 102, P. L. 102-555; (2) in coordination with DOC and DOI, develop a Landsat 7 ground system compatible with Landsat 7 spacecraft; (3) in coordination with DOC, DOI, and DoD, revise the current Management Plan to reflect the changes implemented through this directive, including programmatic, technical, schedule, and budget information; (4) implement the joint NASA/DoD transition plan to transfer the DoD Landsat 7 responsibilities to NASA; (5) in coordination with other appropriate agencies of the U. S. Government develop a strategy for maintaining continuity of Landsat-type data beyond Landsat 7; (6) and conduct a coordinated technology demonstration program with other appropriate agencies to improve the performance and reduce the cost for future unclassified Earth remote sensing systems.

DoD will implement the joint NASA/DoD transition plan to transfer the DoD Landsat 7 responsibilities to NASA. DOI will continue to maintain a national archive of existing and future Landsat-type remote sensing data within the United States and make such data available to U. S. Government and other users. All the agencies affected by these strategy guidelines were directed to report within 30 days to the National Science and Technology Council on their implementation. The agencies will address management and funding responsibilities, government and contractor operations, data management, archiving, and dissemination, necessary changes to P. L. 102-555 and commercial considerations associated with the Landsat program.

RSSG Newsletter
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