

AAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP

Issue Number 5

March, 1982

1. Nominations of the 1982-1983 Remote Sensing Specialty Group

A call for nominations was made in the January, 1982, issue of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter. The nominations committee chaired by Steven Walsh, Ph.D. of Oklahoma State University reviewed the nominations. The committee's slate of nominations for officers in the Remote Sensing Specialty Group are:

Vice Chairperson: The person elected to this office in 1982-83 will become the Chairman of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group at the April Meeting of the AAG in 1983.

Ron Eyton. Associate Professor, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University. Ph.D. in Geography specializing in remote sensing from the University of Illinois in 1974.

Paul Mausel. Professor, Department of Geography, Indiana State University. Ph.D. in Geography specializing in soils and remote sensing from North Carolina in 1966.

Roger McCoy. Professor and Chairman, Department of Geography, The University of Utah. Ph.D. in geography specializing in remote sensing and geomorphology from the University of Kansas in 1967.

Director/Treasurer:

Joe Frasza. Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Sonoma State College, California. Ph.D. in Geography specializing in remote sensing from Oklahoma State University in 1979.

Lee Williams. Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Kansas. Ph.D. in geography specializing in soils and remote sensing from the University of Bristol in 1977.

Director:

James B. Campbell Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Virginia Polytechnic University. Ph.D. in physical geography, specializing in remote sensing from the University of Kansas in 1976.

Sam Goward. Research Associate/Lecturer at the Columbia University/NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Ph.D. in geography specializing in remote sensing from Indiana State University in 1978.

Student Director:

Susan Berta, BA in Geography from University of Michigan at Flint in 1980. Working on an M.S. degree in geography specializing in remote sensing at the Oklahoma State University under Dr. Stephen Walsh.

David Griffin, BS in Geography from Auburn University in 1977. Working on an M.S. degree in geography specializing in remote sensing at the University of Tennessee under Dr. John Rehder.

Peter Pace, BA in geography from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1979. Working on an M.S. degree in geography specializing in remote sensing at the University of South Carolina under Dr. John Jensen.

Please fill out a copy of the following ballot and send it to:

Stephen Walsh, Ph.D.
Chairman, Nominations Committee
Department of Geography
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater Oklahoma, 74078

Please vote for one person only in each position:

Vice Chairperson:

Ron Eyton _____
Paul Mause] _____
Roger McCoy _____

Director/Treasurer

Joseph Frasza _____
Lee Williams _____

Director:

James Campbell _____
Sam Goward _____

Student Director:

Susan Berta _____
David Griffin _____
Peter Pace _____

All official ballots must be received by April 20. The Chairman of the Nominations Committee will report on the vote at the Remote Sensing Specialty group business meeting, Monday, April 26, at 7:00 PM.

2. NOAA to Conduct Remote Sensing Forum at the AAG Meeting

Officials of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will present a forum at the AAG meetings titled 'NOAA's Proposed Landsat Basic Data Set' to explain and discuss their satellite remote sensing programs. The exact date and time have not been determined. NOAA has managed the civil operational environ-

mental satellite systems of the United States for the past two decades. On January 31, 1983, NOAA will become the manager of the interim operational Landsat system, responsible for operating the satellites and providing data products and services to Landsat users.

The status of NOAA plans for scheduling the operational collection of Landsat scene data will be the prime topic of the presentation. User feedback and advice about making the best use of the system's data processing capability are needed before long-term data collection objectives are programmed. Sheila Frye of the NOAA National Earth Satellite User Affairs Office invites all members of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group to attend and voice their opinions directly to NOAA personnel at this meeting. In addition, she provided the following information about other meetings during the next few months designed to assist NOAA to understand the user communities remote sensing requirements.

Public Meetings on NOAA's LANDSAT D-Data Collection Plans:

An interim, operational civil land remote sensing satellite system will be initiated on January 31, 1983, under the management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce. This system will be based upon the Landsat-D and Landsat-D' spacecraft now being built by NASA. A new ground system, being constructed at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Maryland, will be used to preprocess data from these satellites. Data products, both image and digital, will be produced and archived at the EROS Data Center (EDC), Sioux Falls, SD, under an agreement between NOAA and the U. S. Geological Survey. NOAA is funding the changes to EDC's product generation system that are needed to make it possible to handle Landsat-D data there.

NOAA already has announced the planned availability of new services and faster reaction to customer orders for Landsat data. New NOAA prices for Landsat data, that are about 2.5 times present prices, will go into effect on October 31, 1982. The policy of both the Carter and the Reagan Administration calls for the shifting of responsibility for U.S. satellite land remote sensing activities to the private sector. A commercial system is expected to replace the NOAA system in the 1980's.

Landsat data users are concerned about the data coverage and timeliness that will be provided during the NOAA Landsat operation. NOAA intends, late in March, 1982, to release its tentative plans for accepting requests for special data acquisitions and for scheduling routine data collections by the Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS) instrument aboard Landsat-D. Before these plans can be fixed, feedback and advice from the user community will be needed. First-hand opportunities to comment on the proposed data collection scheme will be offered through a series of public meetings on the subject that NOAA will host at several locations around the country. An announcement campaign, by letters, trade journals and professional society publications, will follow. These meetings will begin in Washington, D. C. on April 20th and conclude on the West Coast in mid-June.

NOAA officials will be at the following locations on the dates indicated:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| April 20, 1982 | Department of Commerce Auditorium 14 and Constitution Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. |
| April 30, 1982 | William Marsh Rice University Department of Space Physics & Astronomy Sewall Hall, Room 301 Houston, Texas |
| May 4, 1982 | NASA/MSFC Michoud Assembly Facility (Auditorium) New Orleans, La. |
| June 3, 1982 | National Bureau of Standards Auditorium 325 Broadway, Radio Building Boulder, CO |
| June 8, 1982 | Presidio of San Francisco Presidio Post Theatre, Building 99 San Francisco, CA |

Registration for each meeting will begin at 8:00 AM. The meeting will open at 8:45 AM. In order to make the appropriate accommodations, please call NOAA's User Affairs Office -- 301-763-7822 and inform them which meeting you will attend.

3. Proposed Fee Schedule for Landsat MSS Data

NASA and the EROS Data Center now recover only the cost of certain near-real-time services provided by NASA and the direct and indirect costs of data reproduction by EDC. This approach will change after the launch of Landsat D. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who will assume managerial responsibility for the U.S. civil land remote sensing system in fiscal year (FY) 1983, will recover the full cost of operating and maintaining the Landsat D program.

NOAA's goal of full recovery of the operating and maintenance costs of the Landsat D multispectral scanner (MSS) program includes meeting the direct, and associated indirect, costs of the following activities:

- o Satellite command and control.
- o Data acquisition and preprocessing at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).
- o Transmission of data to EDC or to those users who elect to use preprocessed data.
- o Data processing and preparation of digital and imagery products for archiving.
- o Retrieval of data from the archives and preparation of products for retrospective sale to users.

Thus, NOAA's costs will include all activities at GSFC, whether performed by NOAA personnel or support contractor staff; all direct and indirect costs at EDC; and all associated satellite communications costs.

NOAA has established fees for Landsat MSS data and data products, effective October 1, 1982, as follows:

- o Data retrieved from the existing archives, or acquired by NOAA, as part of a Basic Data Set of worldwide MSS data:
 - Digital data at \$650 per scene.
 - Imagery at an average of \$47 per frame.
- o Special acquisitions made at the request of the users:
 - Delivery of preprocessed digital data from GSFC via a communication satellite at \$790 per scene.
 - Delivery of a frame of imagery from EDC at \$880 per scene.
 - Delivery of a computer compatible tape (CCT) or high density data tape (HDT) from EDC at \$1,000 per scene.

A breakdown of prices for specific products and services is presented in tabular form below. Except where noted, the prices will apply to U.S. produced data from all Landsat series satellites (Landsats 1,2,3, and D).

LANDSAT PRICE LIST
(TO BE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1982)

| A. Archival Products: | Price |
|---|----------|
| Photographic Products | |
| 70mm Film Positive (B/W) | \$26 |
| 70mm Film Negative (B/W) | 32 |
| 10-in. Film Positive (B/W) | 30 |
| 10-in. Film Negative (B/W) | 35 |
| 10-in. Paper (B/W) | 30 |
| 20-in. Paper (B/W) | 58 |
| 40-in. Paper (B/W) | 95 |
| 10-in Film Positive (color) | 74 |
| 10-in Paper (color) | 45 |
| 20-in Paper (color) | 90 |
| 40-in Paper (color) | 175 |
| 16mm Microfilm (B/W) | 60 |
| 35mm Slide (color), from existing collection | 4 |
| 16mm Microfilm (color, 100 ft. roll) | 150 |
| Digital Products: | |
| 9 track, 800 bpi CCT (MSS scene all avail. bands) | 650 |
| 9 track, 1600 bpi CCT (MSS scene, all avail. bands) | 650 |
| 9 track, 6250 bpi CCT (MSS scene all avail. bands) | 650 |
| 9 track, 800 bpi CCT (RBV single subscene) | 650 |
| 9 track, 1600 bpi CCT (RBV single subscene) | 650 |
| 9 track, 800 bpi CCT (RBV set of 4 subscenes) | 1300 |
| 9 track, 1600 bpi CCT (RBV set of 4 subscenes) | 1300 |
| 14 track, High Density Tape (variable content) | Variable |
| Generation of Color Composite (false color infrared): | |
| Surcharge on product price | \$195 |

B. Special Acquisitions:

(Special Acquisitions signify Landsat D MSS scene data that are not scheduled for routine collection, but which are provided upon user request).

| | |
|--|--------|
| Delivery of preprocessed digital data to the requestor's site via communication satellite, per MSS scene collected at a time and place specified by the requestor. | \$790 |
| Delivery to the requester of a frame of standard MSS imagery (not a color composite) per MSS scene collected at a time and place specified by the requestor. | \$880 |
| Delivery to the requester of a CCT or HDT per MSS scene collected at a time and place specified by the requestor. | \$1000 |
| Surcharge for delivery of a color composite to the user originally requesting the special acquisition of an MSS scene, per scene. | \$150 |
| Surcharge applied when the requester establishes a maximum allowable cloud cover condition for the collection of an MSS scene per scene. | \$250 |

Source: Landsat Data Users Notes, January, 1982).

C. New Media for Digital Products

The EROS Data Center plans to start offering full Landsat scene in tape cartridge format soon. The price of each cassette will be \$300, the same as currently charged for CCT's. Production capacity will be limited initially, but plans have been made to expand production quickly if user demand indicates a need.

Also, 8 inch floppy disks containing Landsat data will be offered. These will be single-sided, single density, CP/M compatible disks containing subsets of Landsat scenes which will be selectable by area.

The techniques used to format Landsat data on tape cartridges and floppy disk media were developed in conjunction with the designing of the EDC Remote Image Processing System (RIPS). This is a microprocessor based image analysis system whose primary advantages are low cost and portability. Its use of advanced data storage techniques had obvious implications for new product development.

Readers may direct any questions to the Computer Services Branch, U.S. Geological Survey, EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD 57198, telephone: (605) 594-6555.

4. Pecora VII Symposium

Approximately 300 geographers, natural resource managers, and cartographic, computer, and Earth scientists attended the 7th Annual William T. Pecora Symposium, in Sioux Falls, S. Dak. October 18-21, 1981. The theme of the symposium was "Remote Sensing: An Input to Geographic Information Systems in the 1980's." The Association of American Geographers (AAG), the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), and the American Society of Photogrammetry (ASP), sponsored the symposium in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Numerous geographers took part in the planning and execution of the symposium including Benjamin Richason (General Chairman and Editor), Floyd Henderson, John Jensen, Gary Johnson, John Place, Robert Rudd, and Roy Welch. The 619 page Proceedings, are now available from the American Society of Photogrammetry.

A special Pecora Award is presented jointly every year by the Department of the Interior and NASA to honor the memory of Dr. Pecora who was Under Secretary of the Interior, Director of the Survey, and a leading figure in the establishment of the Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Program and the EROS Data Center (EDC).

Two scientists credited with "outstanding contributions to the understanding of the Earth by means of remote sensing" shared the 1981 Pecora Award:

Dr. James R. Anderson, who died in December 1980, was honored posthumously for his work, which resulted in the first practical application of remote sensing technology to a national land use classification system. Prior to his service with the U.S. Geological Survey, he was Chief Geographer and scientific advisor to the Director.

Leonard Jaffe, who held key positions for more than 30 years with NASA and its predecessors, was honored for being instrumental in the development of the Landsat Program.

(Source: Landsat Data Users Notes, January, 1982).