

LANDSAT Images to be Released at No Charge

Under a transition toward a National Land Imaging Program sponsored by the Secretary of the Interior, the United States Geological Survey is pursuing an aggressive schedule to provide users with electronic access to any LANDSAT image held in the USGS-managed national archive of global scenes dating back to LANDSAT 1, launched in 1972.

By February 2009, any archive scene selected by a user – with no restriction on cloud cover – will be processed automatically to a standard product recipe, using such parameters as the Universe Transverse Mercator projection, and staged for electronic

retrieval. In addition, newly acquired scenes meeting a cloud cover threshold of 20% or below will be processed to the standard recipe and placed on line for at least six months, after which they will remain available for selection from the archive.

By the end of December of 2008, both incoming Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) data and all Landsat 5 TM data acquired by the USGS since launch (1984) will become available, with all Landsat 4 TM (1982-1985) and Landsat 1-5 Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS) (1972-1994) data becoming available by the end of January 2009. All Landsat data purchasing options from the USGS will be

discontinued by February 2009, once the entire Landsat archive can be accessed at no charge.

LANDSAT scenes can be previewed and downloaded using the USGS Global Visualization Viewer at <http://glovis.usgs.gov> [under "SelectCollection" choose LANDSAT archive: L7 SLC-off (2003-present)]. Scenes can also be selected using the USGS Earth Explorer tool at <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov> [under "Select Your Dataset" choose LANDSAT Archive: L7 SLC-off (2003-present)]. For further information on LANDSAT satellites and products, see <http://landsat.usgs.gov>. ■