

**U.S. Geological Survey**  
**National Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science**  
**Land Remote Sensing Archive Collection Policy**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Land Remote Sensing Archive is the largest civilian archive of remotely sensed imagery in the world. The USGS EROS Archive was created to identify, collect, preserve, and make available land-based, remotely sensed imagery. The collection policy is focused on the imagery collections that serve many communities including environmental, agricultural, mapping, energy, economics, and global change research communities in addition to the general public.

Once collections are formally accepted and accessioned by the USGS, the records become the responsibility and property of the USGS. Collections accepted by the USGS may ultimately be transferred to other entities such as the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), when deemed appropriate by the USGS.

**Collecting Scope, Priorities, and Limitations**

The collection scope of the USGS EROS Land Remote Sensing Archive focuses on collections that best support land research activities for the Nation.

The USGS EROS acquisition priorities include publicly available:

1. Long-term, consistent, and repetitive coverage collected systematically over U.S. land surfaces from any satellite source.
2. Long-term, consistent, and repetitive coverage collected systematically over land surfaces anywhere in the world from any satellite source.
3. Long-term, consistent, and repetitive coverage originally collected by any classified satellite source, now unclassified, over land surfaces anywhere in the world.

Additionally, land remote sensing collections meeting the following criteria may be acquired:

- Those that provide an historical record of the land surface (base data for comparative analysis).
- Can be accessioned within the USGS EROS Archive funding limitations and processing capabilities. Cooperative funding agreements are welcome.
- The USGS EROS Archive may acquire collections under extraordinary circumstances, for example, records that are of important informational, intrinsic value, or are in danger of loss or destruction.

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### Limitations:

- No National Technical Means imagery collections still classified are accepted.
- No oceanic and atmospheric collections beyond those collected primarily for land applications are accepted.

### **Levels of Acquisition Activity**

Many of the land remote sensing collections are dynamic in that new records are received on a regular basis. The remotely sensed orthoimagery records are added to, on a daily basis, while additions to the other collections are generally received on a monthly or irregular basis.

### **Disposition Statement**

Re-appraisals are a standard part of USGS's work processes and the USGS EROS Archive has disposition procedures in place. Collections identified to be disposed of may be transferred to NARA, donated to another acceptable organization, or destroyed.