

The following excerpts are from National Space Policy, specific to the Department of the Interior, beginning with the Obama Administration (2010); Bush Administration (2006); and the Clinton Administration (1996).

Excerpt from the National Space Policy 2010

Land Remote Sensing

The Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), shall:

Conduct research on natural and human-induced changes to Earth's land, land cover, and inland surface waters, and manage a global land surface data national archive and its distribution;

Determine the operational requirements for collection, processing, archiving, and distribution of land surface data to the United States Government and other users

Be responsible, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, for providing remote sensing information related to the environment and disasters that is acquired from national security space systems to other civil government agencies.

In support of these critical needs, the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the USGS, and the NASA Administrator shall work together in maintaining a program for operational land remote sensing observations.

Excerpt from the National Space Policy 2006

The Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, shall collect, archive, process, and distribute land surface data to the United States Government and other users and determine operational requirements for land surface data.

Excerpt from the National Space Policy 1996

The Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), will maintain a national archive of land remote sensing data and other surface data as appropriate, making such data available to the U.S. Government and other users.