

William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium  
**Pecora 17** "Future of Land Imaging...going operational"  
**Call for Abstracts**

### **Overview**

The Pecora Conference series was established by the USGS and NASA in the 1970s as a means of sharing ideas and experiences resulting from the use of remotely sensed data. The objectives of the Pecora Conferences are: 1) to foster the exchange of scientific information and results derived from the application of remotely sensed data; and 2) to provide a forum for discussing ideas, policies, and strategies on land remote sensing.

With an eye toward the future, the theme of Pecora 17 is "Future of Land Imaging...going operational." The conference will offer a program on applications of satellite and other remotely sensed data to study, monitor, and manage the Earth's land surface, as well as technologies to improve satellite data analyses, quality, access and preservation. Given the recent release of an Office of Science and Technology Policy report recommending the United States maintain a core operational capability for land imagery through the creation of a U.S. National Land Imaging Program, a special focus of Pecora 17 will be on the challenges of migrating satellite programs from research missions to operational capabilities.

### **Participation**

We cordially invite land remote sensing data users, researchers, applications scientists, producers, managers, and policy-makers to participate in this important conference by submitting an abstract for a paper, poster, or technology demonstration. Participants are encouraged to attend general and technical sessions, exhibits, and educational workshops on the very latest remote sensing research, applications, analysis techniques, and technologies. Enjoy the opportunity to make new friends and get reacquainted with old ones. **Be a part of one of 2008's most exciting conferences in your profession!**

### **Organization**

The Pecora 17 Conference will be held Monday through Thursday, November 17 to 20, 2008 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado. The program will be organized into four General Sessions with corresponding technical sessions, plus exhibits, and educational workshops. ASPRS is organizing the conference on behalf of the USGS and NASA in lieu of holding a normal ASPRS Fall conference in 2008.

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#### Categories and Topic Areas for Abstracts

In keeping with the conference theme, "Future of Land Imaging...going operational" the Pecora 17 Technical Program Committee seeks oral presentations and poster papers that highlight the current and future pathways to transition remote sensing technology and information access from experimentation and exploration to operational monitoring of land surface change. The conference topics are:

Advancing Scientific and Practical Applications of Remotely Sensed Data

Data Acquisition, Access, and Preservation for Land Surface Change Monitoring

Advancing the Technology of Land Imaging Data

Securing a Stable, Operational Future for Land Imaging Data

#### Advancing Scientific and Practical Applications of Remotely Sensed Data

The Pecora Conference originally was established to provide a forum where users of land remotely sensed data could exchange scientific and practical results of their studies. Pecora 17 honors that tradition by also seeking papers and posters that address a broad spectrum of interesting and innovative scientific studies with potential to benefit society in the following sectors:

##### Commerce and Earth Resource Management

- Agriculture, Forestry, and Sustainable Dev.
- Water Resource Assessment and Management
- Energy Resource/Mineral Wealth Assessment & Mgt.
- Foreign Agricultural Assessment
- Insurance Risk Management

##### Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

- Land Use Change
- Climate Variability and Change
- Habitat and Wetlands Mgt. & Ecological Forecasting
- Sea Ice, Glaciation, and Snow Pack Assessment
- Erosion Control and Hydrological Assessment
- Deforestation, Desertification, and Salinization
- Urban and Rural Geography and Human Ecology
- Air quality

**Source:** Executive Office of the President, National Science and Technology Council – August 7, 2007; A Plan for a U.S. National Land Imaging Program; Future of Land Imaging Interagency Working Group

##### Civil Operations and Applications

- Land Use Planning and Management
- Resource Conservation and Management
- Wildfire, Coastal Zone, and Flood Plain Assessment
- Natural Disasters Mitigation and Response
- Human Health and Well-Being
- Physical Infrastructure Assessment and Operation
- Navigation and Transportation Planning & Mgt.
- Property Valuation and Assessment

##### National Security

- Intelligence and Information Gathering
- Homeland Security
- U.S. Military Operations
- Health and Productivity of the U.S. Aerospace Industry

##### Treaty and Legal Compliance

- Boundary Control
- Property Rights and Assessment
- International Conventions and Treaty Management
- Tax Base Assessment
- Land Use Regulation

#### Data Acquisition, Access, and Preservation for Land Surface Change Monitoring

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"Going operational" requires routine and speedy access to current and historical remotely sensed data. Papers will explore the infrastructure requirements for operational monitoring programs which include data acquisition approaches and novel methods for data storage; preservation; and access. U.S. and international presentations on data policies to promote cost effective approaches for operational programs are encouraged.

- Novel data acquisition approaches to ensure global, repetitive coverage
- Requirements for, and provision of, data and information products
- Data archive and access solutions to enable operational land surface monitoring
- Data preservation policies and technology in the context of long-term land surface monitoring
- Data access policies to promote scientific exploration and operational programs

#### **Advancing the Technology of Land Imaging Data**

Papers will address development of new sensor technology carried on airborne, near-space, and space-borne platforms and the advanced systems that an increasingly educated user community will use to process the data acquired. Distinct from the other global priorities, "Advancing the Technology of Land Imaging Data" focuses on building the technical foundation to support life-cycle activities of the land imaging community.

- Future platforms (UAV's, High Altitude Endurance, Near-Space Aerobodies, Microsats)
- Advanced sensors (e.g., LIDAR, IFSAR, HSI/MSI, EO, RADAR, etc.)
- Advanced processing (e.g., systems architecture, hardware, software, techniques, etc.)
- Data mining and change detection techniques for land surface change monitoring

#### **Securing a Stable, Operational Future for Land Imaging Data**

The time is right to examine the future of land imaging! Given the recent release of an Office of Science and Technology Policy report recommending the United States maintain a core operational capability for land imaging through the creation of a U.S. National Land Imaging Program, a special focus of Pecora 17 will be on the challenges of migrating satellite programs from research missions to operational capabilities and their roles in the global community.

- International collaboration and the International Working Group for Earth Observations (GEO/GEOSS)
- Land imaging beyond LDCM and other operational government systems
- The future of commercial remote sensing
- Planned land imaging missions: missions in formulation or implementation phase, particularly as relates to virtual constellations of data collection systems
- Workforce development, education, and outreach

#### **ASPRS Workshop Proposals**

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ASPRS, as a co-organizer of the Pecora Conference, will sponsor workshops on Monday, November 17, 2008. These workshops are intended to be educational and not for promoting vendor software or hardware. Workshops should be impartial and cover a wide range of commercial sources even if a specific commercial vendor employs the instructor. Workshops can be taught as either half-day (4 hour) or whole-day (8 hour) courses. Workshops may not have more than two paid instructors. If there is more than one instructor, only one instructor will be the point of contact for the workshop.

Anyone wishing to propose a workshop for presentation (this would be the person who would be the instructor) must provide the following information to the ASPRS Workshop Director by April 11, 2008:

- Workshop title
- 500 word abstract describing the length of the workshop (half or whole day); the goals/objectives and content of the workshop; the intended audience of the workshop including whether it is introductory, intermediate, or advanced material; and, names of instructors
- Instructor(s) vitae
- Whether this is an established or a newly developed workshop and whether the instructor(s) have given this workshop in the past
- If it is an established workshop, provide a copy of the most current workbook/materials

All workshop proposals will be considered for this meeting and the ASPRS Workshop Director will notify those selected for inclusion in the Workshop Program.

In addition to considering new proposals, the Workshop Director will recruit additional workshops to complete a well-balanced program, minimizing subject overlap and maximizing the quality of the overall Workshop Program. Anyone wishing to propose a workshop for consideration should contact ASPRS Workshop Director Russ Congalton at 603-862-4644 or [russ.congalton@unh.edu](mailto:russ.congalton@unh.edu) for instruction. ASPRS reserves the right to cancel any workshop that does not have sufficient enrollment 30 days prior to the start date.

### **Selection Criteria**

All abstracts will be evaluated by no less than three technical reviewers, and selections will be based on overall quality of the abstract and its responsiveness to the conference theme. **Abstracts are due April 11, 2008, and strict adherence to submission deadlines is requested.** Upon notification of acceptance, authors will be expected to sign and return the acceptance letter verifying their intent to attend and make a presentation at the conference.

Papers accepted for oral presentation will be assigned to a concurrent session based on topic. Authors sharing common interests are encouraged to coordinate submission of papers that could form a session on a specific topic. Concurrent sessions will be 75 minutes in duration, consisting of three or four oral presentations, each of which will be 15-20 minutes in length.

### **Submission of Abstracts**

**Abstracts should be submitted electronically using the form available at the conference web site, [www.asprs.org/Pecora17](http://www.asprs.org/Pecora17).** Authors will be asked to select a category for their paper according to the

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categories and topic areas listed on the web site, and they will be asked to state a preference for oral or poster presentation. Abstracts may not exceed 300 words in length. Abstracts also should include 3-5 key words and contact information for the senior author.

If electronic submission using the web site is not possible, abstracts and required information may be mailed to the Pecora 17 Steering Committee Chairman, Mr. Tom Holm, U.S. Geological Survey, EROS Center, Sioux Falls, SD 57198 or emailed to [holm@usgs.gov](mailto:holm@usgs.gov).

**Conference Registration and Deadlines**

Speakers must complete a speaker registration form, audio video form, and include the appropriate speaker registration fee no later than July 15, 2008 to receive the discounted speaker rate. Speakers who intend to submit a paper for the final Conference Proceedings must do so by September 12, 2008.

**Important Dates**

**Abstracts Due – April 11, 2008**

**Workshop Proposals Due – April 11, 2008**

**Notice of Acceptance – May 15, 2008**

**Paper Deadline (for inclusion in Proceedings) – September 12, 2008**

**Speaker Registration Date: July 15, 2008**

**See the ASPRS web site for more information**

**[www.asprs.org/Pecora17](http://www.asprs.org/Pecora17)**