

March 2014

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

The National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (NSLRSDA) managed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center, is the largest civilian archive of remotely sensed land imagery in the world. The NSLRSDA was created to identify, collect, preserve, and make available land-based, remotely sensed imagery. The collection policy is based on the concept of maintaining imagery collections that serve environmental, agricultural, mapping, energy, economics, and global change research communities in addition to the general public. Once collections are formally accepted by the USGS for inclusion into the NSLRSDA, the records become the responsibility and property of the USGS. Accepted NSLRSDA collections 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 National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive focuses on collections that best support land research activities for the Nation.

Acquisition priorities, in order, include publicly available:

1. Long-term, consistent, and/or repetitive coverage collected systematically over U.S. land surfaces from multiple sources.
2. Long-term, consistent, and/or repetitive coverage collected systematically over land surfaces of various locations worldwide from multiple sources.

Additionally, land remote sensing collections meeting the following criteria may be acquired by the USGS. Those that:

- Provide a historical record of the land surface (base data for comparative analysis).
- Can be accepted within National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive funding limitations and processing capabilities. Cooperative funding agreements are welcome.
- Are of important informational or intrinsic value, or are in danger of loss or destruction.

Limitations:

- No classified imagery collections are accepted.
- No oceanic or atmospheric collections beyond those utilized for land applications are accepted.

**Appraisals and Dispositions**

Appraisals are a standard part of USGS work processes and are conducted on every collection considered or offered. Collections to be disposed of may be transferred to NARA, donated to another acceptable organization, or destroyed.