

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive  
Advisory Working Group Meeting  
EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
April 2-3, 1998

**Working Group Members** (\*denotes meeting attendees)

**Academia**

Laboratory researcher-data user: Dr. Marion Baumgardner, Purdue Univ. (Retired)

Classroom educator-data user: Dr. Grady Blount, Texas A&M

**Government**

Federal data user: \*Mr. Glenn Bethel, USDA/Farm Service Agency

State data user: Ms. Amy Budge, Univ. New Mexico, EDAC

Local data user: \*Mr. Paul Tessar, Boulder County, Colorado

Science archivist: \*Dr. Annette Krygiel, National Defense University

**Industry**

Data management technologist: \*Dr. John MacDonald, Chairman, MacDonald-

Dettwiller

Licensed data provider: Mr. John Copple, CEO, Space Imaging EOSAT

Value-added or other data provider: \*Ms. Kass Green, President, Pacific Meridian

End user: \*Mr. Joseph Harroun, Cargill, Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Other:**

Non-affiliated individual at-large: \*Prof. Joanne Gabrynowicz, Univ. of North Dakota

Non-governmental organization: \*Ms. Prudence Adler, Associate Director, Research

Libraries

International non-U.S. representative: \*Dr. Edryd Shaw, Director General, CCRS

At-large from any sector: \*Dr. George Robinson, Robinson & Assoc. Law

Offices (General Council Smithsonian - Retired)

At-large from any sector: Dr. Anthony Janetos, NASA HQ

**Ex-Officio:**

Long-term land archive \*Mr. Thomas Holm, EROS Data Center

Long-term oceans and atmospheric archive \*Dr. Kenneth Davidson, NOAA

**Day 1 - Thursday, April 2, 1998**

**Introduction**

Donald Lauer, Chief, EROS Data Center welcomed the participants. He announced four milestones since the last workshop. (1) In November 1997, Tom Holm defended the NSLRSDA budget to the OMB Examiner. (2) In February 1998, \$2.5 million was included in the President's budget for the Archive initiative. (3) Tom Casadevall, Acting Director for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) defended the USGS budget in March 1998. The Archive initiative was one of six high priority initiatives for the USGS. (4) On March 24, 1998, the Secretary of the Interior signed the Charter for this NSLRSDA Advisory Committee (Archive Advisory Committee or AAC).

**Archive Advisory Committee Charter**

Tom Holm reported that since the Charter has been signed, the next step is for Secretary Babbitt to send letters to the individuals selected to be members of the AAC inviting them to serve. Ray Byrnes commented that he anticipates the letters will be sent soon. Authority for the Committee terminates two years from the filing date of the Charter, unless the Secretary of the Interior renews the Charter.

The AAC reports directly to the Secretary of the Interior. It consists of 15 members: 2 from academia, 4 from government, 4 from industry, and 5 others. Two co-chairs are voted upon by the Committee, one from the science and technology community and the other from policy and law community. Nominations were taken from the floor for co-chairs. George Robinson nominated Paul Tessar to represent science and technology. Nominations ceased and all ayes were received for Paul. Prudence Adler nominated Joanne Gabrynowicz to represent Policy and Law. Nominations ceased and all ayes were received for Joanne. Due to the slight possibility that different Committee members could be appointed by the Secretary of Interior, all present understood that the member and co-chair designations were pending receipt of the Secretary's letters.

Tom reviewed the primary objectives, purpose and charge of the AAC:

## ***Objectives***

- Assist in defining and accomplishing the NSLRSDA's archiving and access goals to carry out the requirements of the 1992 Land Remote Sensing Policy Act;
- Provide interdisciplinary guidance and serve as a resource to USGS/EDC on issues of archiving, data management, science, policy, and public-private partnerships.

## ***Purpose***

Solicit multidisciplinary advice for the NSLRSDA's long-term direction and goals.

## ***Charge***

Determine what the preservation priorities are in an era of limited resources.

Commit yourselves to advocate the highest practical level of authenticity and integrity in data stewardship.

Tom reviewed the suggested topics and issues for the AAC as determined at the previous workshops.

Tom then presented information on the content of the current archive. He suggested the AAC access the Global Land Information System (GLIS) to determine whether there are improvements that could be made to better serve this information. GLIS is an on-line interactive source for information about and access to data pertaining to the Earth's land surface and can be found at [Earth Explorer](#). It gets about 50,000 hits per month. Next Tom discussed the Landsat production capability, Landsat data policy, and USGS brokerage activity.

## **Landsat 7 Global Mapping Strategy**

R. J. Thompson, Chief of EDC's Satellite Systems Branch, began the afternoon session with a briefing on a long-term plan being developed to define the acquisition pattern for the Landsat 7 mission in order to create and periodically update a global archive of sun-lit, substantially cloud-free images of land areas.

## **Canadian Ground System**

Dr. Ed Shaw, Director General for the Canadian Center for Remote Sensing gave a briefing on the Canadian ground system infrastructure. Planned infrastructure improvements include online satellite data archive, online ordering and network delivery, improved data acquisition manager, high speed network connectivity, and desktop tools for the data users. Until the present time, the Canadian government had ownership of the archive. Agreements have now been signed with foreign satellites. The Canadian Space Agency has copyrights for Radarsat data. RSI, a private entity, holds monopoly for Landsat and SPOT sales; they will probably invest in Landsat 7. There is a 12 percent royalty on data sales when going to multi vendors.

## **Basic Data Set for the Archive**

The rest of the afternoon discussions related to the basic data set should be for the Archive.

Tom Holm referred to P.L. 102-555, which states that in determining the initial content of, or in upgrading, the basic data set, the Secretary of the Interior shall:

use as a baseline the data archived on October 28, 1992.

take into account future technical and scientific developments and needs, paying particular attention to the anticipated data requirements and global environmental change research.

consult with and seek the advice of users and producers of remote sensing data and data products.

consider the need for data which may be duplicative in terms of geographic coverage but which differ in terms of season, spectral bands, resolution, or other relevant factors.

include, as the Secretary of the Interior considers appropriate, unenhanced data generated either by the Landsat system, pursuant to subchapter I of this chapter, or by licensees under subchapter II of this chapter.

include, as the Secretary of the Secretary of the Interior considers appropriate, data collected by foreign ground stations or by foreign remote sensing space systems.

ensure the content of the archive is developed in accordance with section 5656 of this title.

## **Day 2 - Friday, April 3, 1998**

### **Basic Data Set Definition**

The committee continued discussion on the basic data set. Following is the definition of the basic data set as agreed upon by all committee members:

Consistent with P.L. 102-555, the following data acquisition priorities are recommended for the National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (NSLRSDA):

#### Priorities

1. Over U.S. land territory from any civil public or private satellite.
2. Over land anywhere from unclassified US satellite acquisitions.
3. Data collected by foreign remote sensing space systems, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

Criteria - Data that

- Provide an historical record of the land surface (base data for comparative analysis);
- Relate to environmental global change monitoring and research;
- Are in the public domain (see subcommittee assignment below);
- Are within the fiscal constraints of the archive;
- Establish processes and mechanisms to identify user information needs.
- Preserve datasets that are at risk of permanent loss.

### Exclusions:

Classified NTM data anywhere;

Oceanic and atmospheric data.

Discussion then evolved to the technical definition of the basic data set. Several members commented that the Archive should have flexibility with respect to policy. It was suggested that the AAC make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding Landsat 7 data policy. It was agreed that a Policy and Law Committee for Data Products be established (see Committees, Assignments, and Action Items below).

### **SPOT Data Opportunity**

Tom Holm and John Boyd sought advice regarding an opportunity for the Archive. With the successful launch of SPOT 4 and a new SPOT 4 processing system, SPOT Image is mandating conversion of the HDT archive to Sony media. The process will begin in 60 days and will be completed within a year. There will be 6,000 HDTs remaining that SPOT Image does not want. The Archive has an opportunity to obtain them under terms and conditions to be determined. Some of the questions and comments included:

- Is it in the interest of the Archive to create and stimulate a market that the vendor has not established.?

Is SPOT data user driven? Does the data have value?

What is collection process?

Look at close substitutes; i.e., does the Archive have data that is close; or, is SPOT data unique?

Think about some way to quantify historical value. Global change research criteria may be applicable.

Suggest having a speaker at our next meeting on historical data.

There is a timeliness issue with the SPOT data. How long will this opportunity will be available?

Is user need going to drive the collection process?

Can the data be acquired before acquisition details are ascertained at the time of purging? Is cost low to transport and store data?

Processing and distributing is the big step.

Does taking the tapes imply that the Archive will do something with them?

Determine value before acquisition, if acquired.

Could the tapes be stored without having to publicly announce they have been acquired?

Acquisition of the SPOT data is a short-term decision. A policy must be established for all opportunities in the long-term.

Develop a Collections Management Policy Committee (see Committees, Assignments and Action Items below).

EDC should hire a policy/law professional to address on-going Archive issues.

### **Committees, Assignments and Action Items for the AAC**

The following committees, assignments and actions were assigned to deal with specific issues before the next meeting:

Policy and Law Committee for Data Products (A-76, A-130, commercial competition)

*Joanne Gabrynowicz (Chair), Annette Krygiel, Prue Adler, George Robinson*

Public Domain vs. Restricted Data

*Ken Davidson (Chair) and Prue Adler*

Advisory Committee Meeting Report (and Briefing?) - To Babbitt

*Joanne Gabrynowicz, Paul Tessar, George Robinson*

Maintain momentum.

Only important findings and information will be forwarded.

Policy Advisor and Position Description at EDC

*Ray Byrnes (Chair), R.J. Thompson, Tom Holm, John Boyd reporting to Paul Tessar and Joanne Gabrynowicz*

Collections Management Policy Committee

***EDC Personnel - (Tom Holm, Chair)***

Establish a "collections acquisition and de-accession" team and develop a draft straw position - review by AAC next meeting

Pass the SPOT archive, and other opportunities, through this mechanism.

Establish processes and mechanisms to identify user information needs:

- ***Ray Byrnes*** will provide info on NMD/External Affairs Office review process for user requirements review.

reviewed/revised by ***Joe Harroun, Glen Bethel, Kass Green, Grady Blount, Marion Baumgardner and Tony Janetos*** to be further revised/reviewed at the next meeting.

To insure coordination with USGS/EDC, inquire as to declassification process for NTM..

***Annette Krygiel*** (Information was provided to Tom Holm.)

***Tom Holm*** will set up an AAC listserver - use for review (3 weeks) of minutes.

**Conclusions**

The AAC concluded that meetings should be scheduled for three days rather than two. A conflict exists with the October 21-22, 1998 meeting dates. AAC should check calendars for the week of October 25 and notify Becky Foster ([foster@usgs.gov](mailto:foster@usgs.gov)) within one week of any conflicts during that week. Meeting dates for the remaining Charter period are scheduled for April 21-23, 1999; October 20-22, 1999; and April 22-24, 1999. The October 1998 meeting will be held at EDC. Location of other meetings will be determined at a later date. Note that these are public meetings. The announcement for the meetings will go into the CBD.