

Reprinted from

Ninth International Symposium

Machine Processing of

Remotely Sensed Data

with special emphasis on

Natural Resources Evaluation

June 21-23, 1983

Proceedings

Purdue University
The Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907 USA

Copyright © 1983

by Purdue Research Foundation, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907. All Rights Reserved.

This paper is provided for personal educational use only,
under permission from Purdue Research Foundation.

Purdue Research Foundation

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM

T.M. LILLESAND

University of Wisconsin-Madison/
Environmental Remote Sensing Center
Madison, Wisconsin

To say that this is a critical time in shaping the future of remote sensing in the U.S. is an understatement. In theory, Landsat D' is scheduled to operate until 1988. At this juncture there are no government operated systems planned thereafter. With the lead time needed for system development, this situation will result in a gap in data continuity unless construction of a new system begins soon.

On March 8, 1983 President Reagan announced his decision to evaluate mechanisms for transferring the U.S. land and/or weather satellite systems to the private sector--as well as the responsibility for any future ocean observing system. The Land Remote Sensing Satellite Advisory Committee has formulated a series of recommendations and guidelines within which the feasibility and appropriate form of the prospective commercialization of the land observation system should be evaluated. This presentation outlined these recommendations and summarized the fundamental issues surrounding the commercialization decision.

In addition to the commercialization question, the status of the remote sensing educational system in the U.S. was discussed. These two factors were then placed into the context of the increasingly important role remote sensing will play in monitoring global environmental change.

Because of the timeliness of the developments highlighted in this presentation, it was impossible to formulate a complete paper to include in these proceedings. However, much of the background for the oral comments presented can be found in the following papers published by the author.

1. "Trends and Issues in Remote Sensing Education," Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, November, 1982, pp. 1713-1717.
2. "Issues Surrounding the Commercialization of Civil Land Remote Sensing from Space," Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, April, 1983, in press.

Thomas M. Lillesand is the Director of the Environmental Remote Sensing Center within the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a Professor of Environmental Studies, Forestry, and Civil and Environmental Engineering. He is the author of many technical publications on remote sensing and the senior author of the book Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation. He is a past Director of the Remote Sensing Applications Division of the American Society of Photogrammetry. He has received the Alan Gordon Memorial Award for significant achievement in remote sensing and image interpretation and he serves on the Land Remote Sensing Satellite Advisory Committee.