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RESEARCH AGENDA FOR THE NEW DECADE: A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SCENE

ANSON BERTRAND

USDA, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Anson R. Bertrand was appointed Director of Science and Education for the USDA on July 20, 1979. In this position, equivalent to Assistant Secretary, Dr. Bertrand is a General Officer of the department and serves as policy advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture and is a member of the department's program and budget review board. He has the responsibility for evaluating and directing the department's role as the lead agency of the U.S. Government in the Food and Agriculture Sciences. Dr. Bertrand also serves as Head of the Science and Education Administration of the department, a position he assumed July 1978. The Sciences Education Administration combines under Dr. Bertrand's direction the department's major resources for agriculture research, human nutrition research, extension, higher education, and technical information systems, including the Nat. Agri. Library.

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF
SATELLITE ACQUIRED EARTH RESOURCE DATA -
A REPORT FROM THE GEOSAT COMMITTEE

G. WESLEY RICE
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At the 1977 Annual Meeting of the Geosat Committee, Inc., a subcommittee was proposed by the President that would address itself to the various aspects of the ground segment of satellite data collection systems. The establishment of this subcommittee was accepted by the Geosat Board of Directors. Charged with the objective of investigating the needs of the user community and conveying these findings, the Subcommittee has been active in these areas since May, 1978. During these past two years, these needs of the user community have been surveyed and the resulting information has been conveyed through the Geosat Committee to appropriate governmental agencies.

Key items of concern include the following:

- * Centralized inquiry and data distribution.
- * Archival and availability of both current and retrospective data.
- * Availability of unresampled data in digital form.
- * Data formats and distribution media.
- * Timely communication to the user community about all major changes.
- * Availability of data in a minimum time frame.
- * Mechanism to request data acquisition by the user community.
- * Combined Industry/Government Advisory Boards for key areas of data management.

Both U.S. and foreign agencies have welcomed our input and have been responsive in considering our needs.

These areas of data management have a significant impact on the processing and interpretation of remotely sensed data. For example, decisions on data format and archival media of current and future systems (both domestic and foreign) affect the utility of digital remotely sensed data by all user disciplines. Unresampled data is of key importance in performing radiometric and classification studies, yet policies were almost set which prohibited its availability.

This paper summarizes the major activities of the Geosat Committee in these areas, and the philosophies behind them. Significant progress has been made; much remains to be done.

WESLEY RICE is Coordinator of Computer Systems, Exploration Research Division of Conoco Inc., Ponca City, Oklahoma. He has worked in the field of digital image processing for the past fifteen years at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and at Conoco Inc., and is currently engaged in the research and development of computer and other digital techniques that relate to all facets of non renewable resource exploration. Rice is a member of the SEG, ASA, co-chairman of the Data Management Subcommittee of the Geosat Committee, and is currently serving as president of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

OWN SOIL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DONALD E. MCCORMACK AND GORDON DECKER

USDA/SCS, Washington, D.C.

DONALD E. MCCORMACK

Donald E. McCormack received a BS in Agricultural Science at the University of Illinois in 1953. Between 1953-1960, he worked as a field soil scientist for the SCS at several locations in Illinois. In 1960 he received a MS in Soil Science from the Univ. of Illinois and transferred to Michigan as Assistant State Soil Scientist. In 1963 he was transferred to Ohio as State Soil Scientist. Here he was closely involved in land use planning, waste disposal and surface-mine reclamation activities. In 1972 he became Assistant Director of Soil Survey Interpretations Division of SCS in Washington. In 1973 he received a Ph.D. in Soil Science from Ohio State University. In 1976 he became Director of the Soil Survey Operations Division of SCS then in 1977 he was reassigned to his current position as Director, Soil Survey Interpretations Division.

GORDON DECKER

Following High School in Sheridan, Wyoming, Gordon Decker went to Montana State College where he received his B.S. in Range Management in 1961. He served as a range conservationist with the Forest Service starting in 1962. After military duty with the U.S. Army in '64 and '65 he started with the SCS where he was mapping soils in the summers while completing his education. He received his Ph.D. in Crops and Soils from Montana State University in 1972. Dr. Decker was a Party Leader in 73-74 for a Soils Survey party then was on the MSU Soils Staff for a time. In 76-77 he was on the Soil Correlation Staff in Fort Worth working in the Southern Technical Service area. Since 1979 he has been a soil Conservationist on the Inventory and Monitoring staff of SCS in Washington.