

file. Del Office

Date: February 9, 1989

To: "Remote-Sensing Acquisition Team"  
 Drs. Mark MacKenzie, Tom Lillesand, John Magnuson

cc: Dr. Jerry Franklin, chair LTER Coordinating Comm.  
 Dr. James Gosz, chair LTER Scientific &  
 Technological Planning Committee

From: Caroline Bledsoe, LTER Research Coordinator

Re: Purchase of Thematic Mapper satellite data for  
 remote sensing of 17 LTER sites, summer 1989

The following is a collection of notes and general information regarding the purchase of remotely-sensed thematic mapper data. I assume that Mark MacKenzie will be the person in charge of making the final arrangements, and that my role is to work out the initial, mostly non-technical details.

(608-262-1585, or -3088)

Conversation with MacKenzie, approx Feb. 1:

Mark recommends purchase of quarter scenes for half the sites and full scenes for the other half, since he doesn't yet know how much area needs to be covered at each site.

Cost Estimate from Eosat Corp.:

- (1) \$1,800@ for quarter-scenes + \$275 cloud cover surcharge
- (2) \$3,600 " full " " "

Data from a quarter-scene can be stored either on a single tape with 6,250 bytes/inch or on three tapes with 1,600 bytes/inch.

Mark says he will put together a questionnaire for all the sites in order to find out the necessary details of location, etc.

Conversations with UW Researchers:

Drs. John Adams in Geology (543-6221) and Frank Westerland, Co-Director of the Remote Sensing Applications Lab (543-4912) were both interested in learning how we work out the "user group" definition in a purchase agreement with Eosat.

Conversation with Jim Ebby Feb 7:

Ebby (206-586-1449) works for the WA state Dept of Wildlife and has purchased TM data. In developing a purchase agreement, he suggested that we try to define the "user group" as broadly as

possible, to include all persons working on the data within the LTER network, so that all members have equal access to the data, which is a common resource. He thought that Eosat would be agreeable to this; what they object to is multiple copies of the data, beyond a second archived copy. He said that after the data has been "irreversibly modified", Eosat has no objection to proliferation of the data. However, it seems likely that LTER researchers will want access to the raw data, not just to modified data.

Conversations with Lillesand Feb 6 & 8: (608-262-1585)

Tom referred me to Dr. Richard Mroczynski, Director of Public Affairs, Eosat Corporation, (301) 552-0500 or -0545, 4300 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham MD 20706. He suggested that I discuss a possible discount for purchase of "group shoots", or multiple TM shots, stress the need for intersite use of the data, mostly in digital form. Lillesand thought that most sites would want to work with the raw data for their own site initially and that intersite work (eg. analyses of "patchiness", etc.) would proceed more slowly.

Lillesand thought it might be difficult to remote-access the TM data via computer networks, due to the large size of the data base (300+ MB/tape).

Conversation with Richard Mroczynski, Feb 8:

Dr. Mroczynski was quite agreeable - particularly since LTER is interested in purchasing a number of TM scenes! He thought that a standard purchase agreement with some modifications would suffice. He seemed agreeable to the notion of an expanded user group which would include a number of scientists at 17 LTER sites, but we didn't get into details. He said that we could make one additional copy for "internal" use and that internal could be defined loosely. However, he seemed disturbed at the thought that we might mail tapes to various sites.

He mentioned that there was, in addition to quarter-scenes and full-scenes, a "geo-coded" quarter scene. This type costs \$2,500 but is larger than the standard quarter scene and can move with the path and cross row boundaries (I rely on MacKenzie and Lillesand to explain that jargon - CB).

He also said that if we would give him a list of the LTER sites and their locations, Eosat would search their files and tell us what kind of scenes they have stored from past years.

Landsat 5 is still running well, but NOAA wants to turn it off by April 1. Eosat would like some help from some users (to speak as interested persons to agencies in Washington DC) to help convince NOAA, etc. to keep the satellite turned on. Mroczynski was optimistic that Landsat 5 would be kept in business and might even be running by the time Landsat 6 was put into space. Thus there would be no "satellite-gap" and TM data would be available

continuously.

In summary, I plan to contact Mroczynski next week (Feb 13-17) and discuss the purchase agreement further. If things seem smooth, I'll call Mark MacKenzie and turn things over to him.

I anticipate that we will purchase the data in the name of the LTER Network Office at the University of Washington, that the tapes will be sent here initially and then transferred (somehow) to sites who request them. The Network Office will keep an archived backup copy for safety. The users group would probably include researchers at the major institutions who are associated with LTER sites. We would have to work out some provision for adding persons to the users group.

Jerry Franklin has requested funds from NSF for purchase of this data. If NSF approves his supplemental request to the Coordinating Committee grant, funds will be available.

If any of you who receive this memo have any suggestions or reservations to this plan of action, please call me at NSF, (202) 357-7332 or via Electronic Mail at "cbledsoe@note.nsf.gov".

filename = remote.mmo

FAX: 603-862-1915

# UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Complex Systems Research Center  
Institute for the Study of  
Earth, Oceans, and Space  
Science and Engineering Research Building  
Durham, New Hampshire 03824  
(603) 862-1792

18 September 1989

To All Participants in the LTER Remote Sensing Meeting:

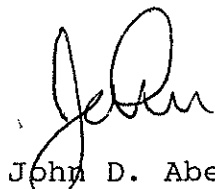
OOPS! Your host had been working under the incorrect assumption that the LTER central committee would be covering all of the costs of our gathering. Actually, we have a budget of about \$6000. This will cause some belt-tightening. I apologize for this ninth-inning change, which resulted from poor communications on both sides.

Working with Stephanie Martin in Seattle, here is what we have done. All of the money, which initially included some funding for on-site costs such as renting a room, paying support folks, etc., has been put instead into travel. Our goal is to pay everyone's air fare. Room and board costs will not be excessive (2 nights at the New England center = \$130, less if you double up, plus food). I hope that the LTER sites will be able to pick up these costs. Stephanie suggests that we pay room and board for anyone who might be able to drive to the meeting.

So, it should be possible for each of you to make your plane reservations now, as planned. If you have any trouble, please let me know. If this change will affect your ability to attend, please let me know that as well.

Again, my apologies for this late change. I still look forward to greeting you all here in Durham.

Sincerely,



John D. Aber  
Associate Professor

Stephanie -  
Here is what I sent. Hopefully  
they won't think too kindly  
of us!

John