

Global Land Information System

The Global Land Information System (GLIS) is a World Wide Web-based query tool developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide data and information about the Earth's land surface. Examples of holdings available through the GLIS include cartographic data, topographic data, soils data, aerial photographs, and satellite images from various agencies and cooperators located around the world. Both hard copy and digital data collections are represented in the GLIS, and preview images are available for millions of the products in the system.

GLIS Address

<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/webglis/>

The GLIS requires the use of a browser that supports tables.

GLIS Interface

The GLIS provides three levels of information, including abstracts, descriptions, and searches. The GLIS also supports an image preview function and ordering services.

GLIS Abstracts

The abstracts in the GLIS summarize data sets. Examples of information found in a GLIS abstract include a data set narrative, references, geographic coverage coordinates, data collection platforms and sensors, points of contact, data access and use constraints if applicable, and distribution media.

GLIS Descriptions

The data descriptions in the GLIS are designed to provide more indepth explanations about GLIS data sets. Data descriptions provide users with background information, as well as information on coverage, acquisition,

data characteristics, data organization, data availability, and applications. When applicable, GLIS descriptions also contain links to data user guides.

GLIS Searches

Both nonsearchable and searchable inventories reside in the GLIS:

- Nonsearchable inventories either contain listings of orderable data products, such as sets of compact discs, or contain an interface for requesting information on data that cannot be directly ordered online.
- Searchable inventories are, as the name implies, complete with graphical area selection, graphical coverage display, and preview images. Availability of preview images varies by data set. Online forms and a shopping basket for ordering services complement the followup contact that Customer Services representatives provide by telephone, electronic mail, and fax.

Data Availability

Depending upon the data set, customers may download free versions of the data, place orders for data online, or submit requests for more information to Customer Services.

Applications

The applications for GLIS data may be as varied as the data sets that are represented in the system. The following are examples of data applications:

- Assessing crop conditions, deforestation, drought, and desertification
- Building computer models
- Conducting automated spatial analyses

- Mapping land cover
- Obtaining paper topographic maps for school projects or camping trips
- Ordering aerial photographs over hometowns for offices or as gifts
- Populating geographic information systems
- Producing cartographic products
- Studying natural or manmade environmental issues

Information

For more information about the GLIS or for assistance, contact:

Customer Services
U.S. Geological Survey
EROS Data Center
47914 252nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57198-0001
Voice: 605-594-6151 or 1-800-252-GLIS
Email: custserv@edcmail.cr.usgs.gov
Fax: 605-594-6589

GLIS Home Page:
<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/glis/glis.html/>

Earth Science Information Center Home Page:
<http://mapping.usgs.gov/esic/esic.html/>

For information on other USGS products and services, call 1-800-USA-MAPS, or use the EARTHFAX fax-on-demand system, which is available 24 hours a day at 703-648-4888.

Please visit the USGS home page at <http://www.usgs.gov/>.