

## Land Characteristics Data

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) publishes land characteristics data on CD-ROM. The following lists the types of products and their contents and specifications. The discs cost \$32 each, plus a \$5.00 handling fee per order mailed.

### Conterminous United States AVHRR Biweekly Composites

This annual series of advanced very high resolution radiometer (AVHRR) data covers the period 1990-95 and is organized in 2-week periods for the United States growing season (March-October). The data consist of composited mosaics—that is, images pieced together from different acquisitions for cloud-free coverage of maximum greenness. A single 2-week composite is available for each of the winter months (November-February). A complete set of mosaics for a year will fill five to seven CD-ROM's.

Data for 1989 and the years after 1995 are available as custom products on compact disc-recordable media.

AVHRR satellite mosaics were created from NOAA-11 daily observations. Each 2-week composite image includes 10 bands of information: AVHRR channels 1-5 afternoon acquired coverage, maximum normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) information, satellite zenith, solar zenith, relative azimuth, and acquisition date.

### Conterminous United States AVHRR Companion Disc

This disc contains geographic information system (GIS) data layers in both raster and DLG-3 (optional) vector format. These data layers were chosen to complement the Conterminous U.S. AVHRR Biweekly Composites on CD-ROM. The GIS data are cast in the Lambert Azimuthal Equal-Area projection (1-km pixels in the raster files). The following data files are on this disc:

- USGS hydrologic units
- USGS digital line graph (DLG) State/county boundaries with attribute codes
- National Geophysical Data Center 30-arc-second digital elevation models
- Soil Conservation Service land resource areas
- Environmental Protection Agency ecoregions
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climatic regions
- Conterminous U.S. AVHRR Biweekly Composite and Vegetation Index for July 5-18, 1991.

### Conterminous United States Land Characteristics Data

This CD-ROM contains the land characteristics data base for the conterminous United States and is intended to give users the flexibility to tailor data to various applications. The land cover classes represent seasonal regions developed through the analysis of March-October 1990, 1-km AVHRR mosaics or composites, along with elevation, ecoregion, and climate data. A seasonal land cover region has unique combinations of vegetation mosaics, seasonal properties (onset, peak, and length of green period), and annual production. For each seasonal land cover, there are corresponding sets of attributes for land characteristics (vegetation components, season properties, spectral measures, elevation, soils, and climate).

The data consist of the 1990 AVHRR data used in the analysis, the initial and final interpretations of the land cover regions, descriptive and quantitative attributes of the land characteristics for each land cover region, and derived thematic interpretations of the land cover regions.

Display software compatible with PC-DOS is provided for each disc either on floppy disc or directly on the CD's.

### Alaska AVHRR Data Set

This series of AVHRR data begins with 1990 and is organized in twice-monthly periods for the Alaska growing season (April-October). The data consist of composited mosaics similar to those on the Conterminous United States disc. A set of two CD-ROM's will typically hold a complete year's data.

### Northern Great Plains AVHRR Data

These weekly composite images of NOAA-9 AVHRR 1-km data for bands 1-5 afternoon satellite coverage were taken during June and August 1987 and March through October 1988. On the disc are NDVI images for each of the 33 composites; satellite and solar azimuth and zenith data for each image pixel; and miscellaneous State, county, and ecological region polygon linework for the entire study area.

### Information

For further information or for specific dates and areas of coverage, contact:

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For information on other USGS products and services, call 1-800-USA-MAPS, e-mail: [esicmail@usgs.gov](mailto:esicmail@usgs.gov), or fax 703-648-5548.

The EARTHFAX fax-on-demand system is available 24 hours a day, at 703-648-4888.

The address for the USGS home page is <URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/>>