

## Geography - Land Remote Sensing

# The AmericaView Project - *Putting the Earth into Your Hands*

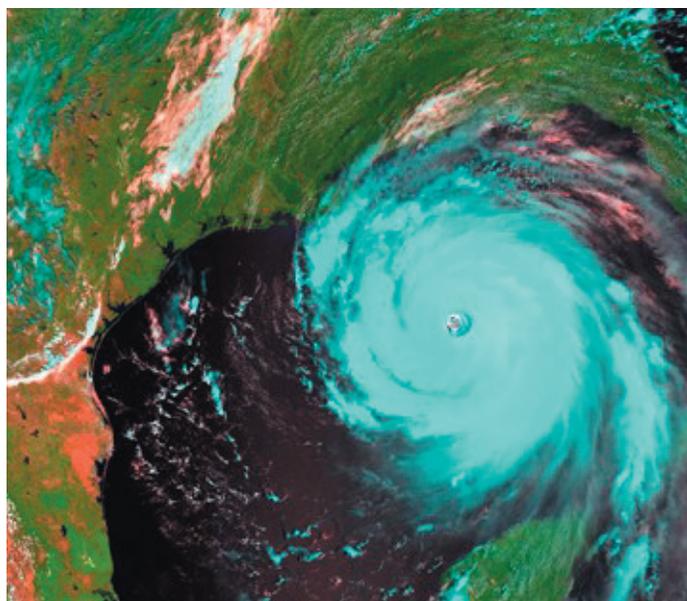
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is a leader in collecting, archiving, and distributing geospatial data and information about the Earth. Providing quick, reliable access to remotely sensed images and geospatial data is the driving principle behind the AmericaView Project.

A national not-for-profit organization, AmericaView, Inc. was established and is supported by the USGS to coordinate the activities of a national network of university-led consortia with the primary objective of the advancement of the science of remote sensing. Individual consortia members include academic institutions, as well as state, local, and tribal government agencies. AmericaView's focus is to expand the understanding and use of remote sensing through education and outreach efforts and to provide affordable, integrated remote sensing information access and delivery to the American public.

USGS's Landsat and NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) satellite data are downlinked from satellites or transferred from other facilities to the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) ground receiving station in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The data can then be transferred over high-speed networks to consortium members, where it is archived and made available for public use.



Shown above is a July 10, 2005 Landsat 7 ETM+, SLC-off interpolated acquisition of Path 33 Row 20, covering the Ricco Fire in the Black Hills National Forest near Rapid City, SD. (Bands 7,5,3)



The Terra MODIS image above shows Hurricane Katrina acquired on August 28, 2005. MODIS Terra and Aqua data of the continental United States is directly broadcast to USGS EROS in Sioux Falls, SD, from the NASA EOS, providing the ability to process and distribute real-time MODIS data.

The goals of AmericaView include:

- Creating and implementing a national public access system for real-time geospatial data from the U.S. Government.
- Promoting the availability, timely distribution, and use of satellite data to the general public, educators, scientists, and community leaders via high-speed networks.
- Transferring remote sensing tools and technology to universities and federal, state, local, and tribal governments for research.
- Encouraging growth in the applications of remote sensing data in areas such as agriculture, forestry, geology, cartography, hydrology, and urban planning.
- Facilitating access to commercial hardware and software for remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and promoting the application of this data to expand the market for commercial image providers.
- Leveraging existing state and federal resources and enhancing regional consortia strengths and partnerships.
- Providing opportunities to improve and develop additional infrastructure for current and future satellite missions.

For more information:

USGS AmericaView - <http://americaview.usgs.gov>

AmericaView, Inc - <http://www.americaview.org/>

Or contact us at: [AmericaView@usgs.gov](mailto:AmericaView@usgs.gov)