Fact Sheet 2010-3038 Version History: Policy Analysis and Science Assistance Branch

Changes were made to the text in three sections of the Fact Sheet. One project example was removed and replaced with a more current project example. Updates were made to a project example to make it more current

1. One paragraph was removed on page 3 and replaced a description of the project titled: “The Users, Uses, and Value of Landsat Satellite Imagery.” The new test is in italics below:

*Landsat satellites provide high-quality, multi-spectral, moderate-resolution imagery of urban, rural, and remote lands for all areas of the world. The imagery has been applied in a variety of research areas, such as global climate research, agriculture, and environmental management, but there is little understanding of how private businesses, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and State and local governments actually use and value Federally sponsored, moderate-resolution land imaging. Social scientists at PASA are conducting a series of surveys to provide longitudinal data on how the users and uses of the imagery are changing over time. The value of the imagery is being estimated both qualitatively and quantitatively through the surveys and ongoing case studies. The case studies provide an opportunity to extensively research individual applications of Landsat imagery, including an in-depth look at the market and non-market value of the imagery within a given application.*

1. Updates were made to the project titled: “Integrating Agricultural and Conservation Goals” on page 3. These changes made the description of the project progress up to date. The full project description with updated text in italics below:

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture needs information on the biological effects of conservation program policies to ensure that these policies are based on the best science, reflect important regional and ecological differences, and work “on the ground” for landowners enrolled in conservation programs. Of these, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the largest, with approximately 29 million acres of potentially erosive or otherwise environmentally sensitive private lands in all 50 States. PASA scientists have worked with USDA administrators to quantify the biological effects of individual conservation practices and the administrative effectiveness of their conservation programs.* Work involves evaluating short-term vegetation responses to CRP land management practices (primarily grazing and haying) and the effects of extreme drought; comparing richness and diversity of pollinators in CRP fields, and assessing the utility of wetlands in providing habitat to amphibians by examining water quality, testing for disease, and estimating survival and stress levels in two species of native frogs.

1. The list of staff was updated on page 4. Names of staff who are no longer with the Branch were removed and new staff members area added.