

**INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TIMELY DATA PROVISION
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A CHANGING MISSION TO MEET A CHANGING WORLD**

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With the completion of the once-over coverage for all U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps of the United States, the mapping and GIS technology have exploded and customer requirements for revised maps, cartographic data and imagery has escalated to a point where current capabilities and resources (both human and financial) cannot keep pace. New leadership and direction to the mapping/geographic data management activities is driving a focus on three national programs – Land Remote Sensing, Landscape Analysis, and Cooperative Topographic Mapping. The USGS already plays a national leadership role in remote sensing programs with major initiatives in satellite and aerial photographic data management and distribution. It also supports associated research in image exploitation, GIS, data visualization, and decision support system development and related applications. Similarly, landscape analysis activities include very successful investigations and applications in urban dynamics monitoring and predictive modeling; human health investigations; human induced impacts on land surfaces; environmental impacts; hazards mitigation activities; and others. Dr. Barbara Ryan, USGS Associate Director for Geography, has assigned bold and lofty goals to the new Cooperative Topographic Mapping program for map revision aimed at retrieving and providing the most current base (framework) data to the public at a significantly reduced time from current delivery times. This program is to build multiple clearinghouses of public domain data from global to local coverage within many agencies and private partners. This base data is to be governed by uniform standards, usable on interoperable systems, and be described by metadata. Users will be able to extract only those layers of information useful for their mission decisions and add other information from other sources that provide decision making support for their particular situation.