

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between the

**AmericaView Consortium**

the

**Arkansas State Land Information Board**

and the

**U. S. Department of the Interior's Earth Resources Observation Systems  
(EROS) Data Center (EDC) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**

### Scope

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the general terms and conditions by which the Gateway2Earth AmericaView Consortium, hereinafter referred to as AmericaView, the U. S. Department of the Interior's Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center (EDC) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Arkansas State Land Information Board, hereinafter referred to as SLIB, will promote and work toward the growth of remote sensing education and data applications with the goal of developing a workforce for both the commercial and public sectors. The parties will cooperate in the exchange of high-volume satellite data and other Earth science data products over high-speed networks between USGS facilities, AmericaView member facilities and SLIB cooperating facilities. These data and data products will support state and/or regional university research and teaching, K-12 teaching, Federal programs, tribal, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and commercial enterprises.

### Purpose

The AmericaView consortium is founded on the concept of free and public exchange among its members of data, information and knowledge concerning the Earth and its processes, as observed by remote sensing and GIS technologies, for education, research, and local government applications.

To achieve our goals, members mutually pledge to:

1. Share the benefits of public investments in remote sensing and GIS technologies and related enterprises through policies, standards, and services that maintain and promote the broadest possible public access to the best available data and information resources while supporting the vitality of the commercial remote sensing industry.
2. Place in the public domain for free inspection and access, whenever feasible, all imagery and other sensor system data purchased using public funds as the data become available. Establish a consistent set of geographic baseline datasets in support of the USGS National Map. Under innovative license agreements, provide public access to commercial data purchased with public funds.

3. Extend the existing National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to include framework geospatial data derived from the collection of remotely sensed data and associated applications.
4. Establish within states and across the nation strategic partnerships to develop and deploy remote sensing applications through collaborations involving university research teams, K-12 schools, federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and commercial enterprises.
5. Create and maintain effective public education and outreach programs promoting the benefits gained through the use of remote sensing technologies in general and the value of our activities in particular.
6. Encourage additional national investment in remote sensing and related technologies, earth science research and data applications, and education and training of professionals in the fields associated with our programs.
7. Additional principles that are approved by a majority of the Members.

### Background

AmericaView is a group of state or regional organizations with a wide range of responsibilities ranging from academic research and education to management of state government resources. A goal of AmericaView is to encourage the wide application of remotely sensed satellite/aircraft data and other Earth science data products by the remote sensing and GIS communities in the member organizations.

AmericaView Members and their collaborators will use remotely sensed satellite/aircraft data for research and applications in disciplines such as agriculture, cartography, education, forestry, geology, biology, urban planning, emergency management, hydrology, GIS applications and earth science. Special emphasis will be placed on land surface change studies made possible by routine satellite coverage. The Earth science research community will also use the data and infrastructure to identify and implement future regional and global change investigations. Other research and applications will focus on the integration of satellite data with global positioning systems, geographic information systems (GIS) and technologies for advanced computational visualization. The result will be a powerful synergistic blend of information tools with a broad variety of applications across many states, potentially all 50.

The USGS EDC is a field center for programs and activities of the National Mapping Discipline. The EDC manages Earth science databases, conducts environmental research and applications projects, generates products for the NSDI, and shares technical expertise with users worldwide. The United States Department of the Interior (DOI) established the Center in 1971 to receive, process, and distribute data from the Landsat series of earth observation satellites. Two decades later, Congress mandated creation of a National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (NSLRDA) and directed the USGS to maintain a high-quality database of images of the earth acquired from space suitable to study global environmental change. As a result, EDC holds the world's largest collection of images of the Earth acquired from civilian spacecraft and aircraft. These holdings include over 10.6 million frames of photographic data and over 3 million satellite images. In addition to these data holdings, EDC receives and processes data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) and is a major information source for satellite data acquired by international Earth observing satellites.

With the launch of the Earth Observing System (EOS) and Landsat 7 missions in 1999 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the USGS now produces and delivers increasing

quantities of Earth science data and products from a variety of orbital sensor systems. Generation of products from EOS and Landsat data sources in near real-time, as mandated by Congress, will open new opportunities for user applications of these data by AmericaView members. In addition, USGS archives of cartographic and other Earth science data provide valuable data sets that are complementary to those acquired by satellites.

The SLIB was created by Arkansas Act 914 to coordinate geospatial activities in the state of Arkansas. It is composed of 12 members appointed by the Governor. Three each of the twelve appointees represent state entities; city, county and local government; the private sector; and institutions of higher education. The twelve voting **members** serve for a term of four years. The Board's duties have been outlined in **Act 914**, and include:

- Identifying issues, problems, and solutions in implementing the Arkansas spatial data infrastructure;
- Identifying and clarifying the roles of participants;
- Developing an overall coordinating schedule for spatial projects;
- Recommending methods of financing;
- Developing recommended priorities for the distribution of funds;
- Developing procedures for the inventory, storage, and distribution of spatial information;
- Implementing ongoing educational programs to promote understanding and productive use of spatial and land information systems by public and private entities and individuals;
- Encouraging and coordinating collaborative GIS projects.

The Board is recognized by the Federal Geographic Data Committee as the coordinating council for Geospatial Information Systems for the State of Arkansas

### Scope

Under this MOU, cooperative activities between the USGS and AmericaView Member organizations include, but are not limited to, the exchange of satellite and other geospatial data and the exchange of technical and scientific information and expertise in support of related computer science, telecommunications, and research activities. In order to support these activities, the USGS will augment its data storage, information access, data production, and data delivery systems as funding allows.

As funding allows, AmericaView will establish the infrastructure and procedures necessary to query, purchase, receive, archive, access, process, and deliver these data to AmericaView Members. The AmericaView consortium will strive to expedite public access to data that are contained within Member archives.

### Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the organizations are:

A. USGS will:

Provide Landsat, EOS and follow-on satellite/aircraft sensor data and data products, as well as data from commercial satellite/aerial sources to support the data requirements of AmericaView in accordance with applicable pricing and distribution policies and data use agreements.

Provide other USGS geospatial data, including NSDI Framework data products, to support the data and information requirements of AmericaView in accordance with applicable pricing and distribution policies and data use agreements.

Provide timely delivery of high-volume satellite/aircraft data over high-speed networks to AmericaView members in their states and regions.

Provide, on a cost-reimbursable basis and as appropriate, other available services in accordance with USGS regulations and cost structure, such as computer software, digitizing services, and report publication.

Assist AmericaView to establish and develop technical and research capabilities in relation to similar activities pursued by the USGS and NASA.

Sponsor workshops and business meetings to support participation in the AmericaView program.

Participate in appropriate training programs and workshops, meetings, and seminars.

Support the joint use of USGS and NASA facilities with co-location of AmericaView staff to implement the terms of this agreement.

Participate with AmericaView staff to prepare joint reports, documents, initiatives, and proposals upon reasonable agreement of both Parties.

Provide a range of data sets which may include Landsat 7, Landsat 5, Hyperion, ALI, MODIS in mutually agreed upon formats that may range from "raw" to various processed levels.

**B. AmericaView will:**

Define, consolidate, and maintain the data and information requirements of the AmericaView user community.

Participate with EDC staff to prepare joint reports, documents, and proposals as determined and agreed to by both Parties.

Participate in appropriate training programs and workshops, meetings, and seminars.

Provide public access to data and information developed for the states/regions by AmericaView Members where not limited by licensing restrictions.

Implement, operate, and maintain adequate facilities for archiving satellite data and data products and geospatial Earth science data received from the USGS.

Follow the Bylaws / Principles of Organization as agreed to by AmericaView Members and the responsible Federal agencies.

**C. SLIB will:**

Define, consolidate, and maintain the data and information requirements of the Arkansas user community and disseminate these to the AmericaView user community.

Participate with EDC staff to prepare joint reports, documents, and proposals as determined and agreed to by all Parties.

Participate in appropriate training programs and workshops, meetings, and seminars.

Provide public access to data and information developed for Arkansas by the SLIB where not limited by licensing restrictions.

Implement, operate, and maintain adequate facilities for archiving Arkansas satellite data and data products and geospatial Earth science data received from the USGS.

Follow the Bylaws / Principles of Organization as agreed to by AmericaView Members and the responsible Federal agencies.

Task the Arkansas Office of Geographic Information to serve as the point of contact/liaison between the Arkansas View Consortium, America View and USGS for purposes of this project. A

#### Implementation Plan

Specific activities to be conducted under this agreement and the method of their implementation will be defined jointly, on a case-by-case basis, by the USGS and the AmericaView Board of Directors in consideration of the merit, existing commitments, projected schedules, available resources, and other relevant factors.

#### Financial Arrangements

This MOU does not constitute a financial commitment on the part of any of the Parties. Financial arrangements will be covered in separate project agreements between AmericaView Members and the USGS, and subject to ordinary budgetary and administrative procedures. It is understood that the ability of the Parties to carry out their obligations is subject to the availability of funds and personnel through their respective funding procedures.

#### Period of Agreement, Renewal, and Termination

This MOU will commence pending the signatures of the USGS Associate Director for Geography, the AmericaView Coordinator, and the Chair of the Arkansas State Land Information Board. This MOU will have duration of 5 years and may be renewed at that time with the written consent of both parties. It may be reviewed periodically or amended at any time as agreed to by the Parties hereto. All modifications of this MOU will be incorporated as written amendments to the agreement. Any party may terminate this MOU upon 90 days written notice to the other parties.

Points of Contact

The following individuals will be the points of contact for this agreement:

Approvals

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Ryan  
Associate Director for Geography  
U.S. Geological Survey

Chair, Arkansas State Land Information Board

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

AmericaView Coordinator

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