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# **Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) Status Report**

## **NGAC Meeting**

**June 27, 2018**

**Frank Avila  
LAG Chair**

**Roberta Lenczowski  
LAG Vice-Chair**

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# Agenda

- LAG Mission
- Subcommittee Introduction
- Task #3 Status Update
- Future LAG Tasking
- Questions / Discussion

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# LAG Mission

***Provide advice to the Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior National Geospatial Advisory Committee, on the requirements, objectives and actions of the Landsat Program as they apply to continued delivery of societal benefits for the Nation and the global Earth observation community.***

# LAG 2018 Membership

Name	Organization
Frank Avila (LAG Chair, NGAC Member)	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)
Roberta Lenczowski (LAG Vice-Chair, NGAC Member)	Roberta E. Lenczowski Consulting, LLC
Rebecca Moore (NGAC Member)	Google, Inc.
Kevin Pomfret (NGAC Member)	Centre for Spatial Law and Policy
Kass Green	Kass Green & Associates
Peter Becker	ESRI
Tony Willardson	Western States Water Council
Steven Brumby	Descartes Labs
Walter Scott	MAXAR Technologies/DigitalGlobe
Joanne Gabrynowicz	University of Mississippi

Federal Contact: Tim Newman and Peter Doucette (USGS)

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## LAG Task #3 – Fee recovery/Cost sharing for Landsat data

- DOI leadership has requested that USGS consider possibilities for fee recovery/cost sharing for Landsat data.
  - Continuity is a key asset of the Landsat program. This task considers options for a funding model to stabilize planning for future missions.
  - Recognizing that this issue has been investigated in the past, DOI leadership is seeking to better understand the Landsat user community's needs in terms of “willingness-to-pay.” (Guidance)
  - LRS is requesting that the LAG review the results from previous publication, the 2012 LAG paper “Statement on Landsat Data Use and Charges”, and other relevant studies, to consider the plausibility of fee recovery today.
  - USGS has initiated a study to update results from 2011 study on “*The Users, Uses, and Value of Landsat and Other Moderate-Resolution Satellite Imagery in the United States*”.
    - This new study centers on a professionally-designed survey to capture user insights

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# Status Update

## LAG Task #3 – Fee recovery/Cost sharing for Landsat data

- Task Team Lead – Kevin Pomfret
- USGS [Ft. Collins] Study in progress
  - Study is professionally designed to support critical analysis
  - Preliminary results expected to be available to LAG by October 2018
- Projected LAG report timelines:
  - Sept 2018 NGAC Meeting: Provide initial draft report to NGAC for review/comment
  - Dec 2018 NGAC Meeting: Provide revised draft report , incorporating information from USGS study, to NGAC for review/comment
  - March 2019 NGAC Meeting: Present final report to NGAC for adoption

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# Status Update

## LAG Task #3 — Fee recovery/Cost sharing for Landsat data

- LAG held multiple discussion sessions to address this new task
- Group continues to refine strawman framework for draft report
- Focusing report on three areas:
  - Charging for “traditional” data
  - Charging for value-added products and services
  - Private-public partnership structures

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# Status Update

## LAG Task #3 — Fee recovery/Cost sharing for Landsat data

- LAG has received letters advocating for the importance of maintaining a free and open data policy
  - Landsat International Co-operators Network
  - Texas Water Development Board
- USGS has established an e-mail account to receive comments from user community
  - [LandsatDataPolicy@usgs.gov](mailto:LandsatDataPolicy@usgs.gov)
  - Any comments received will be provided to LAG and incorporated in final report



# Status Update

## LAG Task #3 – Fee recovery/Cost sharing for Landsat data

- Several articles have been published regarding this task.

US government considers charging for popular Earth-observing data Page 1 of 5

MENU nature International Journal of Science

### US government considers charging for popular Earth-observing data

Images from Landsat satellites and agricultural-survey programme are freely available to scientists – but for how long?

Gabriel Popkin



The ongoing melt of Alaska's Columbia glacier is revealed in these images captured by the US government's Landsat satellites in 1986, 1999 and 2017. Credit: Landsat/EO/NASA

The US government is considering whether to charge for access to two widely used sources of remote-sensing imagery: the Landsat satellites operated by the US


<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-04874-v> 6/16/2018

U.S. Government Could Start Charging for Landsat Data – Parabolic Arc Page 1 of 9

PARABOLIC ARC

### U.S. Government Could Start Charging for Landsat Data

April 25, 2018 Doug Messier News 7 Comments



Landsat 8 (Credit: NASA)

The Trump Administration is considering re-imposing fees for Landsat images that were eliminated in 2008.

The US government is considering whether to charge for access to two widely used sources of remote-sensing imagery: the Landsat satellites operated by the US Geological Survey (USGS) and an aerial-survey programme run by the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

<http://www.parabolicarc.com/2018/04/25/government-start-charging-landsat-data/> 6

The US government wants to start charging for Landsat, the best free satellite data on Earth... Page 1 of 4

QUARTZ

THE WHOLE EARTH CATALOG

### The US government wants to start charging for the best free satellite data on earth

Tim Fernholz | May 15, 2018



<https://qz.com/1278239/the-us-government-wants-to-start-charging-for-landsat-the-best-free-satellite-data-on-earth/> 6/16/2018

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# Future LAG Tasking

- USGS will provide additional task(s) for the LAG to work on over the next several months.

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# *Questions?*