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Wesley G. Rice

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RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SATELLITE ACQUIRED EARTH RESOURCE DATA - A REPORT FROM THE GEOSAT COMMITTEE

G. WESLEY RICE
Conoco Inc.

At the 1977 Annual Meeting of the Geosat Committee, Inc., a subcommittee was proposed by the President that would address itself to the various aspects of the ground segment of satellite data collection systems. The establishment of this subcommittee was accepted by the Geosat Board of Directors. Charged with the objective of investigating the needs of the user community and conveying these findings, the Subcommittee has been active in these areas since May, 1978. During these past two years, these needs of the user community have been surveyed and the resulting information has been conveyed through the Geosat Committee to appropriate governmental agencies.

Key items of concern include the following:

* Centralized inquiry and data distribution.
* Archival and availability of both current and retrospective data.
* Availability of unresampled data in digital form.
* Data formats and distribution media.
* Timely communication to the user community about all major changes.
* Availability of data in a minimum time frame.
* Mechanism to request data acquisition by the user community.
* Combined Industry/Government Advisory Boards for key areas of data management.

Both U.S. and foreign agencies have welcomed our input and have been responsive in considering our needs.

These areas of data management have a significant impact on the processing and interpretation of remotely sensed data. For example, decisions on data format and archival media of current and future systems (both domestic and foreign) affect the utility of digital remotely sensed data by all user disciplines. Unresampled data is of key importance in performing radiometric and classification studies, yet policies were almost set which prohibited its availability.

This paper summarizes the major activities of the Geosat Committee in these areas, and the philosophies behind them. Significant progress has been made; much remains to be done.

WESLEY RICE is Coordinator of Computer Systems, Exploration Research Division of Conoco Inc., Ponca City, Oklahoma. He has worked in the field of digital image processing for the past fifteen years at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and at Conoco Inc., and is currently engaged in the research and development of computer and other digital techniques that relate to all facets of non renewable resource exploration. Rice is a member of the SEG, ASA, co-chairman of the Data Management Subcommittee of the Geosat Committee, and is currently serving as president of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

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