

Landsat: The watchman that never sleeps

*"A vision
to observe
Earth for
the benefit
of all..."*

Interior Secretary
Stewart Udall, 1966

In western North America, where infestations of mountain pine beetles are ravaging thousands of acres of forests, Landsat satellites reveal the onslaught in ways neither man nor most other satellites can see.

For the last 44 years, Landsat satellites have passed over the nation's forests dozens of times a year, creating a historical archive of clear, composite images that tells important stories about forest health.

- Landsat satellites produce a series of images over time that reveal subtle forest changes as they occur.
- America's forest lands are so vast that annual field inspections aren't economically feasible, making Landsat's ongoing imaging a valuable source for detecting forest change.
- Landsat's archived satellite data has been distributed for free since 2008, giving forest managers an important, economical asset for discerning pest outbreaks.
- Landsat's frequent imaging enables more informed decisions on when to thin tree stands affected by beetles and thus minimize the potential fire threat they pose.



A vision to observe Earth...
50th Anniversary Celebration

September 21, 2016
Washington, D.C.

Water • Agriculture • Forests • Climate • Hazards • Ecosystems • Energy

<http://eros.usgs.gov/Udall50thAnniversary>