

A Closer Look

At EROS, our primary focus is land change. So how do scientists use satellite images to track land change through time?

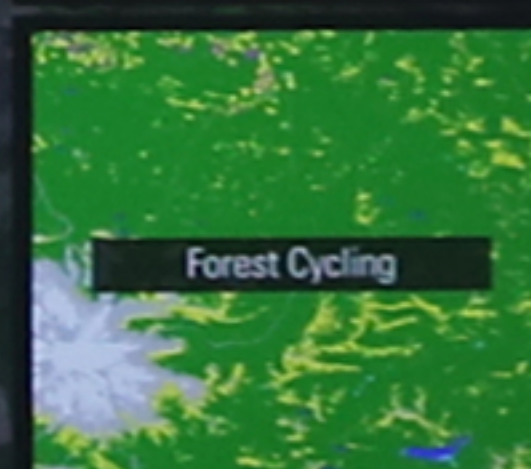
With the help of computers, they transform satellite images into digital maps that show the types of land cover present. This process, called land cover classification, turns satellite images into color-coded land cover maps. Next, scientists compare land cover maps from different points in time. The maps you see below were made from

Landsat images taken 10 years apart. What changes can you spot between 2003 and 2013?

These two maps give a single snapshot of land change over a decade. To really get at the details, EROS scientists compare land cover maps derived from hundreds of satellite images—acquired month after month and year after year—for any given location. On the monitor, you can watch time-lapse examples of such land change analyses in action.



Land Change Through Time



Select a Topic

These examples illustrate why the long, unbroken record of earth-observation data archived here at EROS is so valuable. It allows EROS scientists and others worldwide to unlock decades of

information and insights into how and why the Earth's land surface has changed. That, in turn, makes it possible to predict what effects these changes may have on our world, now and in the future.