

News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise, ID

TEL: (208) 287-4800 - FAX: (208) 287-6700

www.idwr.idaho.gov

Release no. 2013-02

For Immediate Release
Boise, Idaho – January 29, 2013

For Media Information Contact:
Rick Raymondi: (208) 287-4800

Launch of the next Landsat Satellite

The Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) is scheduled for launch Feb. 11, 2013 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The LDCM is a joint NASA and USGS mission that will be called Landsat 8 upon launch. Landsat 8 will collect visible, infrared, and thermal data over the same area of the earth every 16 days. Landsat 5 was recently decommissioned after 28 years of operation. Landsat 7 has been in operation since 1999.

The first Landsat satellite was launched in 1972, and in 1975, the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) became one of the earliest users of the data. IDWR uses Landsat data for water management and administration because it is an operational satellite with ideal spatial resolution and it has a large archive for historical analysis.

In 2000, in partnership with the University of Idaho, IDWR began using Landsat for mapping evapotranspiration (ET). Landsat is the only operational satellite that provides high resolution images that can be used to compute and map ET for individual agricultural fields. This Landsat-based ET data is incorporated into water budgets that support hydrologic models and it was recently used in a legal proceeding in the Idaho Supreme Court. In 2009, the State of Idaho won the Innovations in American Government Award for its use of Landsat-based ET data for water administration.

IDWR has used Landsat data for over 37 years to help administer and manage Idaho's water resources. The 3.4 million acres of irrigated agriculture in Idaho accounts for over 90% of the water consumed. Landsat will continue to be important for Idaho because it is the only operational satellite that provides the detailed data, including a thermal sensor, necessary for water management and administration at the field level. Landsat data has been free since October 2008.

More...

For more information about how Landsat data is used at IDWR, please visit:
<http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/GeographicInfo/METRIC/et.htm>

(end)