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| **Next Generation Landsat Satellites for Forestry Applications** |
| Landsat satellites have been providing continuous monitoring of the Earth’s surface since 1972. Landsat satellites provide multispectral imagery to help land managers and policy makers make informed decisions about natural resources and the environment. Data acquired by Landsat satellites support scientific research across many disciplines including agriculture, forestry, land cover/use, water quality, carbon storage, disaster response, energy and minerals, and climate change. Landsat data is crucial for forest management and is widely used for forest fragmentation detection, forest health monitoring, fire management, and land use transition research at local, regional, national, and global scales. The free and open data policy of the Landsat program enables the global land imaging user community to explore the entire 51-year long-term data record to advance our scientific knowledge and explore innovative use of remote sensing data to support a variety of forestry applications. To ensure continuity of Landsat data and enhance Landsat’s ability to meet evolving user needs, the planning for the follow-on mission, Landsat Next is underway. The US Geological Survey (USGS) reached out to a broad Federal civil land imaging research and operational user community to understand their satellite-based imagery applications and needs. The user community expressed interest in improving the spatial resolution, temporal revisit, spectral coverage, and coordination with international missions while maintaining the data quality and compatibility with the Landsat archive. This presentation will provide an overview of the Landsat user engagement activities, Landsat Next science requirements and mission architecture, and efforts to enhance forest observation and analysis capabilities through new sensors and remote sensing technology. |