

Cornell University
 Dept. of Natural Resources
 New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
 PROGRESS REPORT

OR-135971

Evaluation of Satellite Imagery as an Information Service for Investigating Land Use and Natural Resources (Skylab). NASA Contract NAS 9-13364

This report covers the period October 1-31, 1973. The questionnaire mentioned in last month's report was disseminated to regional planners and county Extension people. So far, about 30% (Note: 30% is an overall figure; regional planner=55%, county and Extension people=18%) of a stated sample of 105 questionnaires have been returned. Analysis of the answers has been initiated. Preliminary review indicated respondents were very enthusiastic (mostly professional planners) to apathetic (several county Extension people). The county Extension people, for the most part, did not consider themselves planners or people who should make evaluative judgments based on information that might be derived from satellites. Therefore, a preliminary assumption might be made that a series of training sessions or training packages are necessary to educate these local planners and inform them of the usefulness of remote sensing data for obtaining information that is not now readily obtainable. To this end a presentation on planning methodology and remote sensing was made to approximately eighty county Extension people from across the state as part of a review of new information available to extension people.

A second questionnaire is being prepared to be especially directed at wildlife managers. Of particular interest are the way decisions are made on habitat assessment, especially at the district or regional level. It is hoped that information on association of specific land uses can be used to make inferences on general aspects of a habitat which could be useful, especially in land acquisitions.

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No data has been received from Skylab. The latest word received is that data will probably not become available before the end of December. In lieu of data to work on, no plans have been made to add any additional staff or expand the activities above current levels.

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