

DATE: 11/5/73

DISCIPLINE: ENVIRONMENT

TITLE: APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING
IN THE STUDY OF VEGETATION AND
SOILS IN IDAHO (MMC #313-3)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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SUMMARY: Successful separation between basin big sagebrush and mountain sagebrush types was achieved by manual interpretation of color enhanced early summer ERTS imagery. Whether the difference in reflectance between the two sagebrush types is the result of differences in reflectance of the two subspecies of sagebrush involved or to their associated understory has not been ascertained to date.

A vegetation type map and a soil association map of southwestern Idaho are being produced by manual interpretation of color enhanced imagery supplemented with information obtained from ground truths. Imagery obtained during spring, summer and fall has proved to be necessary for vegetational interpretation. Legend classes for the vegetation maps follow the classification format developed by Poulton (1973), without modification up to and including his fourth level of classification. The soil association map is being developed from the combined interpretation of observable soil reflectance characteristics and associated vegetation, landform, precipitation and elevation information.

In conjunction with the development of vegetation types and soil association maps, overlays of annual precipitation and elevation were reproduced at 1:250,000 scale.

Literature Citation

Poulton, C. E. 1973. A scheme for the uniform mapping and monitoring of earth resources and environmental complexes using ERTS-1 imagery. Type II Progress Report No. 2. Contract Number NA55-21830. Earth Sat. Proj. G-072. GSFC ID:PR 534 and SR 275.

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(E74-10016) APPLICATION OF REMOTE
SENSING IN THE STUDY OF VEGETATION AND
SOILS IN IDAHO (Idaho Univ.) 1 P HC
\$3.00