

### LDCM & Landsat 9 Missions Funding Falls Through Cracks Again...

As reported in a July 26, 2011 message from Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, USDO, Ms. Anne Castle, the House Appropriations Committee reduced funding for the Landsat 8 LDCM mission from \$13.35 to \$11.667 million and eliminated funding for the commencement of the Landsat 9 mission altogether. The resolution, H.R. 2584, was due to be debated on the House floor during the week of August 12, 2011. In fact the bill was not debated on the floor before the adjournment and it is not clear that it will be taken up again. Instead, the Interior/Environment appropriation may be combined with other domestic bills and passed as an omnibus measure or there may simply be a continuing resolution.



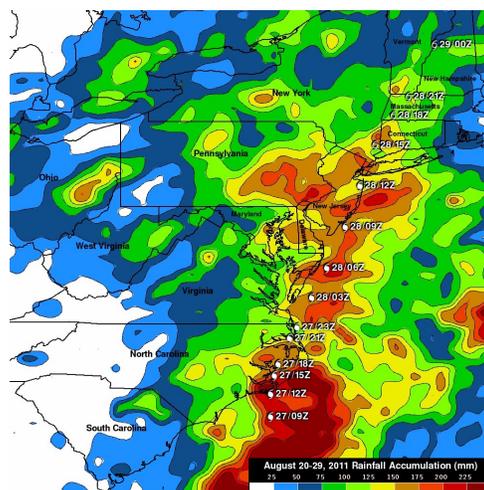
**Mark Your  
Calendars!**

- **October 11, 2011** —ASPRS National Scholarships and Awards Applications Due. ([Info...](#))
- **October 12-13, 2011**— ASPRS Potomac Region GeoTech Conference on "Emergency Preparedness and Response" ([Info...](#))
- **November 11, 2011 (Tentative)**— SW Region ASPRS Fall Technical Meeting at USGS Flagstaff, AZ ([Info...](#))

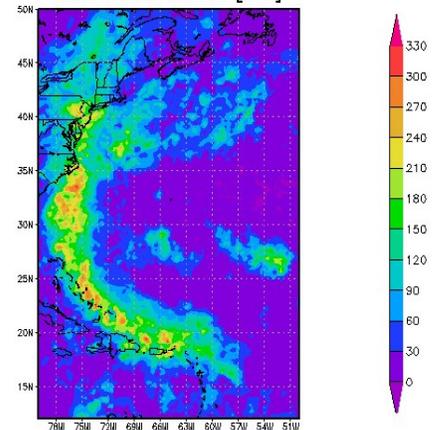
## Hurricane Irene Lashes the US Eastern Seaboard

Over the weekend of August 27-29, 2011 Hurricane Irene made landfall on the US Eastern seaboard with winds gusting to 175 km/h. Although the rapidly moving Category 1 storm rapidly

along the coast with damage estimates from the high winds and flooding estimated at over 2 billion dollars and an unofficial death toll of 41.



3-hourly TMPA-RT 21Z20Aug2011-00Z29Aug2011  
Accumulated Rainfall [mm]



lost intensity as it moved northward along the coast, NASA using the Aqua and TRMM (Tropical Rainfall Measurement mission) sensors platform, its TMPA (TRMM Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis) and Giovanni Web Applications were able to track & render, in near real-time, the accumulation of rainfall from landfall in North Carolina till it exited the US in eastern Maine. Rainfall accumulations ranged from nearly 330 mm in NC to nearly 100 mm in Vermont and Maine.

The rainfall caused significant flooding

As federal, state and local agencies mobilized to provide emergency response services, many of the first responder agencies marshaled high resolution imagery data from the NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program) programs to provide a "before" snapshot of the affected areas. Several had already announced plans to acquire new imagery data as soon the storm passed to provide the ability to clearly identify flooding extent, beach erosion and wind damage from the storm to support cleanup efforts. (Images courtesy of NASA, financial information from CNBC)



## Become Active in the Region...

The Southwest Region of ASPRS remains strong and active through the participation of members like you.

Later this Fall announcements for nominations for region officers will be sent to active region members.

Please consider becoming active by volunteering a modest amount of your time to supporting the Society and the Region. It is a great way to stay connected with your colleagues throughout the region and your participation guarantees the ongoing efforts of the region in advancing imaging and geospatial activities locally.

As an alternative you might choose to support and participate in the activities of the local student chapters of ASPRS.

For more information on these activities please visit the region website or contact the region officers at [Editor@SWASPRS](mailto:Editor@SWASPRS). Thanks in advance for your consideration.

### Quick Facts

Number of Ikonos images captured globally by GeoEye as of July 31, 2011:

1,918,445

## LiDAR Draft Specifications Updated

The LAS Working Group (LWG) of the ASPRS LiDAR Division is pleased to submit the [draft proposal for version 1.4](#) of the LAS specification for comment.

The review period is 60 calendar days and will expire October 22, 2011.

During the cycle, the LWG will consider all input re-

ceived and incorporate changes that impact the intent of the revision. Note that the LWG will defer requests for changes outside the scope of the revision to a future version of LAS. LWG is keenly interested in:

→ Areas of the specification that are in error (byte

offsets, data fields, etc.

→ Areas of the specification that are ambiguous (scaling, bit fields, etc.)

→ Internal inconsistencies within the specification

→ Descriptions of fields that are not lucid.

## PROSE / RISE Meeting Updates



The fifth annual Phenology Research and Observation on Southwest Ecosystems (PROSE) meeting, co-sponsored by the SW Region ASPRS and the University of Arizona will be held in the Catalina Conference Room, USGS Environment and Natural Resources Building (ENRB), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ on October 28, 2011. The keynote speaker will be Dr. David Moore, Phenoclimatologist from the University of Arizona. This years' meeting will be held in conjunction with the Research Insights in Semi-Arid Ecosystems meeting to be held on October 29, 2011. Pre-registration is recommended. Information on both meetings as well as registration and call for papers info is available at the SW region [website](#).

## Introducing: Berkeley Environmental Technology International, Huntington Beach, CA...



Berkeley Environmental Technology International, LLC's principals are members of ASPRS for three important reasons: PE&RS, the conference, and to network with other professionals. We are academics who have created a commercial image segmentation software package. Our research and development is in the automation and quantitative evaluation of feature extraction workflows ([imageseg.com](http://imageseg.com)). Thus through our entrepreneurial efforts and broader academic careers we are constant contributors to ASPRS activities and also benefit greatly from the society. Prof. Peng Gong and Dr. Nicholas Clinton are long time members of the Northern California Region through their affiliation with UC Berkeley. The third partner of the company is James Scarborough who resides in the Los Angeles area and is a member of this Southwest Region. Compared to other marketing efforts, participating in ASPRS is inexpensive and more personally engaging.

*See your name here: Send your 250 word profile to [Editor@SWASPRS](mailto:Editor@SWASPRS)*

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