

# New public application of Landsat images released

May 13 2013, by Steve Cole

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The decline of Alaska's Columbia Glacier is one of the Earth changes featured in the new Google imagery based on the Landsat data archive.

(Phys.org) —Google released more than a quarter-century of images of Earth taken from space Thursday compiled into an interactive time-lapse experience. Working with data from the Landsat Program managed by the U.S. Geological Survey, the images display an historical perspective on changes to Earth's surface over time.

NASA Associate Administrator for Communications David Weaver issued the following statement about the [Google](#) announcement:

"The [Landsat data](#) record—humanity's longest continuous record of our planet from space—has been an invaluable tool for scientists and decision-makers in many fields, from natural resources to [agricultural productivity](#) and climate change. The release today on Google's Earth Engine of new Landsat time-lapse data animations shows key changes across our planet and helps share this remarkable U.S. resource with the public in an engaging new way.

"The Obama administration is committed to keeping this freely accessible archive of continuous global land observations growing for years to come. That's why the president's Fiscal Year 2014 budget includes funding to have NASA take the lead on the design of a new spaceborne system that will continue the acquisition of Landsat-quality measurements.

"NASA launched the newest [Landsat satellite](#) in February. Later this month, we will be handing over operations of this mission to our long-time partners at the U.S. Geological Survey. NASA is looking forward to beginning the work to extending this critically important national resource."

**More information:** [More information about the new Google images](#)  
[NASA Landsat website](#)  
[USGS Landsat website](#)

Provided by NASA

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