



WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

John E. Estes

In recognition of his outstanding contributions as a researcher and educator in the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems to study the Earth.

Dr. John E. Estes is an internationally recognized leader in developing and applying remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) tools for basic and applied earth sciences. He has made significant contributions to mapping land use/land cover, validating land cover maps, monitoring land cover change, mapping protected natural areas, analyzing biodiversity, identifying agricultural crop types, modeling fire fuels, modeling water demand, and detecting marine oil pollution. Dr. Estes' research has helped to shift the focus of conservation biology from single species to ecosystems, and from site-specific studies using traditional methods to a landscape approach using the modern capabilities of remote sensing and GIS. He has authored over 250 publications documenting his research, and he was Editor-in-Chief of the Manual of Remote Sensing, Volume II, Interpretation and Applications (Second Edition). He also co-authored the textbook, Geographic Information Systems: An Introduction.

Dr. Estes joined the faculty of the Geography Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1969 and served as the Department Chairman. He currently is the Director of the Department's Remote Sensing Research Unit and has been the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on more than 120 research grants and contracts. Dr. Estes has a unique ability to lead and guide graduate students, rather than direct them, in pursuit of their education and research objectives. His strength in teaching both undergraduate and graduate students lies in his thorough knowledge of his subject, his ability to organize and present complex materials, his sense of humor, and his sincere interest in the well-being of his students.

Dr. Estes has also made significant contributions to the remote sensing and GIS communities on the national and international levels. He has taken extended assignments with both the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to assist in formulating national and international programs and policies for Earth observation. He is currently Chair of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and serves on NASA's Space Station Science Utilization Advisory Committee and the Earth System Science and Applications Advisory Committee, as well as the National Academy of Sciences' Space Applications Board and Mapping Science Committee.

For these notable accomplishments, the Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration take great pleasure in presenting the 1999 William T. Pecora Award to Dr. John E. Estes.

Secretary
Department of the Interior

Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration