

# BIGFOOT LAND COVER SURFACES FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN SITES, 2000-2003

## Summary:

The BigFoot project gathered data for nine EOS Land Validation Sites located from Alaska to Brazil from 2000 to 2003. Each site is representative of one or two distinct biomes, including the Arctic tundra; boreal evergreen needleleaf forest; temperate cropland, grassland, evergreen needleleaf forest, and deciduous broadleaf forest; desert grassland and shrubland; and tropical evergreen broadleaf forest. These surfaces were produced from Landsat ETM+ imagery to explicitly characterize the land cover at the BigFoot Sites to provide validation of the MODIS land cover product. The land cover scheme is consistent with the categories defined by the [MOD12 IGBP](http://geography.bu.edu/landcover/userguidelc/index.html) (http://geography.bu.edu/landcover/userguidelc/index.html) strategy. Each BigFoot land cover product covers approximately a 7 x 7 km extent and consists of the land cover surface image in standard geotiff format, an accompanying text file that provides metadata specific to the image (such as projection, data type, class names, etc.), and associated auxiliary and world files. For an in-depth discussion of methods used to produce these surfaces, please see references.

Site	Site Location	Biome	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>NOBS</b>	BOREAS NSA, Canada	boreal forest	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>AGRO</b>	Bondville, Illinois, USA	cropland (corn and soybean)	<b>X</b>			
<b>HARV</b>	Harvard Forest LTER, Massachusetts, USA	temperate mixed forest	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>KONZ</b>	Konza Prairie LTER, Kansas, USA	tallgrass prairie	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>CHEQ</b>	Park Falls, Wisconsin, USA	temperate mixed forest			<b>X</b>	
<b>METL</b>	Cascades, Oregon, USA	temperate needleleaf forest			<b>X</b>	
<b>SEVI</b>	Sevilleta LTER, New Mexico, USA	desert			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>TAPA</b>	Tapajos, Brazil	tropical broadleaf evergreen forest			<b>X</b>	
<b>TUND</b>	Barrow, AK, USA	arctic tundra			<b>X</b>	

Additional information on land cover surface development can be found on the BigFoot website at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/larse/bigfoot/index.html>.

### BigFoot Project Background:

Reflectance data from MODIS, the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrometer onboard NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) satellite Terra (<http://landval.gsfc.nasa.gov/MODIS/index.php>), is used to produce several science products including land cover, LAI, and net primary

production (NPP). The overall goal of the BigFoot Project was to provide validation of these products. To do this, BigFoot combined ground measurements, additional high-resolution remote-sensing data, and ecosystem process models at nine flux tower sites representing different biomes to evaluate the effects of the spatial and temporal patterns of ecosystem characteristics on MODIS products. BigFoot characterized up to a 7 x 7 km area (49 MODIS pixels) surrounding the CO<sub>2</sub> flux towers located at each of the nine sites. We collected multi-year in situ measurements of ecosystem structure and functional characteristics related to the terrestrial carbon cycle. Our sampling design allowed us to examine scales and spatial pattern of these properties and the inter-annual variability and validity of MODIS products and provided for a field-based ecological characterization of the flux tower footprint. BigFoot was funded by NASA's Terrestrial Ecology Program.

## Data Citation:

**Cite this data set as follows:**

Cohen, W. B., T. K. Maiersperger, and D. Pflugmacher. 2006. BigFoot Land Cover Surfaces for North and South American Sites, 2000-2003. Data set. Available on-line [http://www.daac.ornl.gov] from Oak Ridge National Laboratory Distributed Active Archive Center, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, U.S.A. [doi:10.3334/ORNLDAAC/748](https://doi.org/10.3334/ORNLDAAC/748).

## References:

Cohen, W.B., Maiersperger, T.K., Turner, D.P, Ritts, W.D., Pflugmacher, D., Kennedy, R.E., Kirschbaum, A., Running, S.W., Costa, M., and Gower, S.T. *In press*. MODIS Land Cover and LAI Collection 4 Product Quality across Nine Sites in the Western Hemisphere. IEEE Transaction on Geoscience and Remote Sensing.

Cohen, W.B., T.K. Maiersperger, S.T. Gower, and D.P. Turner. 2003. An improved strategy for regression of biophysical variables and Landsat ETM+ data. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 84:561-571.

Cohen, W. B., T. K. Maiersperger, Z. Yang, S. T. Gower, D. P. Turner, W. D. Ritts, M. Berterretche, and S. W. Running. 2003. Comparisons of land cover and LAI estimates derived from ETM+ and MODIS for four sites in North America: a quality assessment of 2000/2001 provisional MODIS products. *Remote Sensing of Environment*. 88(3):233-255.

## Data Format:

These land surface data were produced from Landsat ETM+ imagery to characterize land cover at the nine BigFoot / EOS Land Validation Sites. Each land cover surface has a grain of 25 meters and covers a 5 x 5 km extent. The land cover scheme is consistent with the categories defined by the MOD12 IGBP strategy. For each site there is a landcover surface image in standard geotiff format, an accompanying text file that provides metadata specific to the image (such as projection, data type, class names, etc.), and associated auxiliary and world files.

## **Document Information:**

2004/9/13

### **Document Review Date:**

2004/9/13

### **Document Curator:**

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### **Document URL:**

<http://daac.ornl.gov>