False-color image, taken by the Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus aboard the Landsat 7 satellite, showing the Rodeo and Chediski fires in east-central Arizona on June 21, 2002. Red, green and blue correspond to shortwave infrared, near infrared and green, respectively. The active perimeter of the fires is shown in yellow, the vegetation is green, burned areas appear pinkish-green and smoke is blue.

— Image elaborated by Jesse Allen based on data supplied by the Landsat 7 Science Team, NASA, GSFC

The Landsat Program is the longest-running enterprise for acquisition of moderate-resolution imagery of earth from space. Landsat 1 was launched in 1972; the most recent, Landsat 7 (left), was launched in 1999. The instruments on the Landsat satellites have acquired millions of images. These images form a unique resource for applications in agriculture, geology, forestry, regional planning, education, mapping and global change research.