

MOUTH - The exit or point of discharge of a stream into another stream or a lake or sea.

MUD LUMPS - Swellings of bluish-gray clay forming small islands of an acre or more, with the height of 5 to 10 feet above sea level, found at the mouths of the Mississippi; apparently caused by pressure of surface deposits upon buried clays.

MULTIBAND - Simultaneous use of two or more sensors to obtain imagery from different portions of the reflectance portion of the electromagnetic spectrum (most commonly used in connection with black and white photography).

MULTIPLE BAND - Images formed usually simultaneously in more than one portion of the photographic region of the electromagnetic spectrum and analyzed jointly.

MULTIPLEX PLOTTER - A stereoscopic plotting instrument of the double-projection anaglyphic type which uses reduced-scale diapositives, stationary lamphouses with condensing lenses, and projectors designed for an optimum projection distance of 360 mm.

MULTISPECTRAL - Designates imagery formed, usually simultaneously, in more than one spectral region and analyzed jointly. The simultaneous use of two or more sensors to obtain imagery from different portions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

MULTISPECTRAL SCANNER SUBSYSTEM (MSS) - The ERTS 1 equipment which oscillates a flat mirror between the field of view and the telescope and which gathers data on four bands simultaneously.

MUSKEG - Arctic alluvial areas with insufficient drainage over which moss has accumulated to a considerable depth. These swamps are usually covered with tamarack and fir trees. In places the surface is broken by tall hummocks.

N

NMAS - United States National Map Accuracy Standards.

NADIR - 1) That point on the celestial sphere intersected by the plumbline extended downward; that point, directly opposite the zenith. 2) The point on the ground or at sea level datum vertically beneath the perspective center of the aerial camera lens, or the photographic image of that point.

NADIRSCOPE - A device for locating the nadir point of each exposure of a stereomodel when absolutely oriented in a direct-projection plotter. The plotted nadir point on the base sheet can be used to facilitate the orientation of succeeding stereomodels or to assist in the rectification of photographs for mosaicking.

NANOMETER - Unit of measure equal to one millimicron or one millionth of a millimeter.

NARROW ANGLE LENS - A lens having an angle of coverage up to 60°.

NATIONAL ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES - A collection of maps and charts, with descriptive and bibliographic text, arranged to present an accurate graphic concept of the salient physical, historical, political, economic, social, and cultural features of the country.

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS - See UNITED STATES NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS.

NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SERIES - See MAP SERIES.

NATURAL SCALE - 1) True scale as it exists in nature, without magnification or reduction. Some map projection tables are published at natural scale to permit easy conversion to a variety of map scales. 2) Map scale expressed as a fraction or ratio, independent of linear units of measure. See (preferred) FRACTIONAL SCALE.

NEAR INFRARED - That portion of the electromagnetic spectrum between visible light and thermal infrared with wavelengths from .7 to 4 microns.

NEATLINE - The line on a map at the boundary of the mapped area. Also called sheetline.

NEAT MODEL - The portion of the gross overlap of a pair of photographs that is actually used in photogrammetric procedures. Generally the neat model approximates a rectangle whose width equals the air base and whose length equals the width between flights.

NEGATIVE - In black-and-white photography, imagery in which the light and dark tones of the object are reversed. In color photography, imagery in which the light and dark tones of the object are reversed and the colors are complementary to those of the object.

NEGATIVE ENGRAVING - The operation of making a negative by removing portions of a coating applied to a scale-stable medium. See SCRIBING.

NEGATIVE TITLING - Information recorded on the negative for identification.

NERITIC - 1) Related to shallow water on the margins of the sea, generally that overlying the continental shelf. 2) Related to the shallow sea bottom, generally that of the continental shelf.

NERTIC ZONE - 1) That part of the sea floor extending from the low tide line to a depth of 200 meters. 2) A part of the pelagic division of the oceans with water depths less than 200 meters.

NET - A series of triangulation figures covering an area in such a way that the lengths and relative directions of all lines forming the triangles can be computed successively from a single base.

NETWORK (USGS) - A group or series of survey lines interconnected to form a number of closed loops or circuits.

NEW YORK ROD - A two piece leveling rod with a movable target. The rodman reads a vernier for target elevations.

NO CHECK POSITION - A horizontal control survey station observed from only two stations; an intersection station. An elevation determined from vertical angles sometimes is used to guard against gross blunders.

NODAL POINTS - Two points associated with a lens system, such that any ray in the object space directed toward the first or front point will emerge in the image space from the second or rear point and parallel to its former position.

NOISE - Any undesired sound; by extension, a noise is any unwanted disturbance within a useful frequency band, such as undesired electric waves in a transmission channel or device.

NOMINAL FOCAL LENGTH - An approximate value of the focal length, rounded to some standard figure, used for the classification of lenses, mirrors, or cameras.

NORMAL - In general, a straight line perpendicular to a surface or to another line; also, the condition of being perpendicular to a surface or line.

NORMAL ANGLE LENS - A lens having an angle of coverage between 60° and 75°.

NORMAL POOL ELEVATION - The level at which a controlled body of water is generally maintained.

NORMAL SECTION - A straight line cut by a plane perpendicular to the surface of the earth ellipsoid at the observer's station.

NORMAL TENSION - The pull applied to a tape which stretches the metal in an amount equal to the shortening caused by sag.

NORMAL WATER LEVEL (USGS) - The most prevalent water level in a watercourse, reservoir, lake or pond, generally defined by a shoreline of permanent land-type vegetation. Along large bodies of water, wave action may retard vegetation beyond the normal shoreline. See HIGH WATER MARK*.

NORTH - The primary reference direction relative to the earth. See ASTRONOMIC NORTH, GEODETIC NORTH, GRID NORTH, MAGNETIC NORTH, and TRUE NORTH.

NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1927 (1927 NAD) - This datum is identical with the North American Datum except that the azimuth was changed. It was adopted in 1927 after a readjustment of the triangulation of the entire country, in which Laplace azimuths were introduced. It is now standard geodetic datum on the North American continent.

NORTH AMERICAN DATUM (NAD) - A Geodetic Datum for horizontal surveys superseded by the North American Datum of 1927.

NORTH ARROW - A symbol indicating the direction and the type of meridian to which the control framework of a map or drawing is referenced. Auxiliary arrows may be shown indicating the direction of other meridians which may be of interest to the user of the map.

O

OCS - Outer Continental Shelf.

OCS/MINERAL MANAGEMENT MAP - A series of maps for use in leasing outer continental shelf lands.

OBJECTIVE LENS - The lens, in a telescope or microscope, which is nearest the object.

OBLATE SPHEROID - The mathematical shape assumed by a homogenous rotating mass, used as an approximation of the earth's shape.

OBLIQUE MERCATOR PROJECTION - A map plotting system in which points on an ellipsoid are mathematically projected onto a cylinder oriented tangent to an oblique line at the map center; used in one of the Alaska State Plane Coordinate systems.

OBLIQUE PHOTOGRAPH - An aerial photograph taken with the camera axis intentionally tilted from the vertical.

OBSERVATION SCENE - Collection of the image data of one nominal framing area of the earth's surface; this includes all data from each spectral band of each sensor.

OCCUPY - To set up a survey instrument over a point.