

## Aerial Photos

Aerial photos are taken from aircraft and satellites. They may be infrared or black and white.

**Remote sensing** – gathering data about objects or conditions on the ground using cameras or other sensing and recording devices carried aboard the aircraft or spacecraft.

**Color and texture** – are used to define features

**Ground truthing** – checking in the field to make sure the photo is being interpreted correctly.

### Uses for aerial photos:

- Habitat inventory and assessment
- Surveys
- Mitigation and Environmental Impact Assessments
  1. Define boundaries (e.g. wetland soils)
  2. Monitor vegetation quality
  3. Determine current land use
- Cover mapping
- Field mapping

### Scale for mapping:

- Expressed as ratios. 1:1800 means 1 unit on the photo equals 1800 units on the ground.
- Photos range in scale from 1:120,000 to 1:1000
- 1:10,000 to 1:20,000 are most common.
- The larger the second number the smaller the scale.
- A larger scale shows greater detail.
- The black and white photos we use are 1:7920 scale so one inch on the map equals 660 feet on the ground.

### Estimating Acreage:

- Acetate dot grid
- Geometric method
- Compensating polar planimeter
- Computer planimeter