Abstract:
The USDA Forest Service manages about 193 million acres (300,000 square miles) of land, second only to the Bureau of Land Management. National Forest lands are more likely than other lands to be higher elevation, more fire-prone (and therefore subject to fire-related land instability), upland or adjacent to communities, have critical infrastructure cross them, and have high recreation rates. Many communities and significant amounts of critical infrastructure lie within, across, and topographically below National Forest lands. Therefore, geologic hazards that occur or initiate within National Forest lands directly and indirectly impact both critical values on the FS lands and adjacent communities and landowners, particularly the more than 150 million people that reside within 50 miles of the NF land system. Forest Service staff use satellite imagery and other satellite-gathered information during all phases of the preparedness cycle to anticipate, evaluate, prepare, response, and recover from geologic hazard incidents.