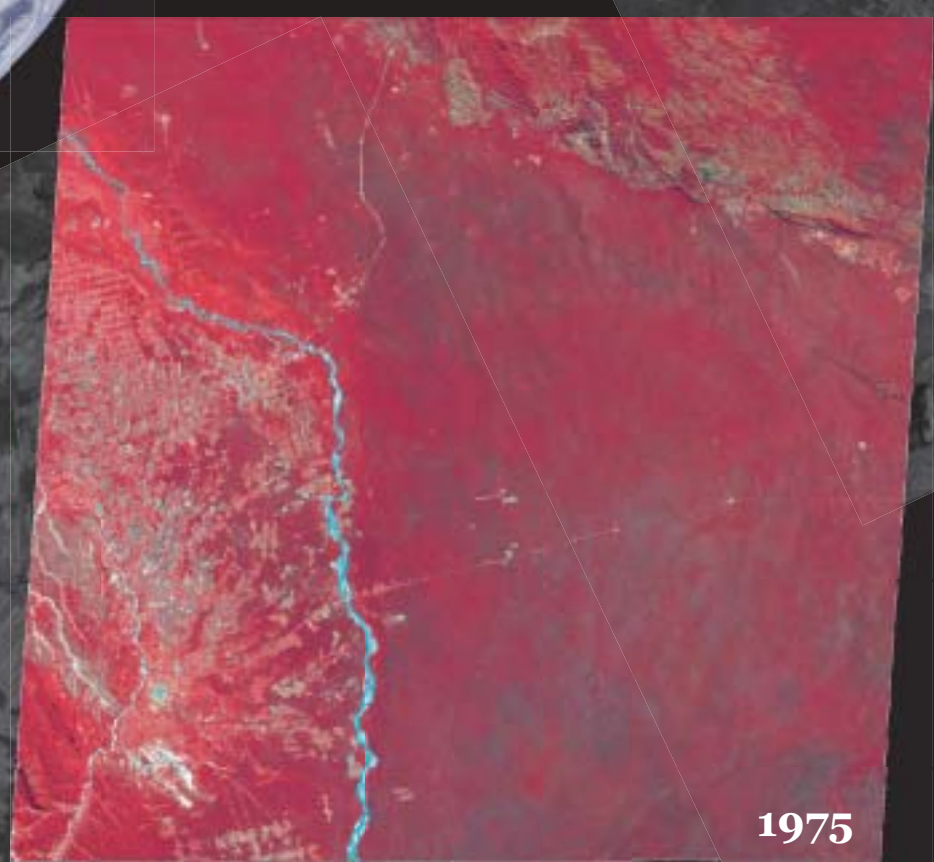
TROPICAL DRY FOREST TO AGRICULTURE

Landuse Change in the Santa Cruz, Bolivia Region

Since the mid-1980's, this region has been rapidly deforested. Resettlement patterns, first evident in the 1992 image, reveal settlements of the rural people from the Antiplano (the Andean high plains) in the upper left corner of the imagery. Large corporate agriculture can be seen as a second development pattern in the central portion of the later imagery.



Patterns on the Landscape

The San Javier resettlement scheme consists of small, centrally organized communities (above) that include a church, bar/cafe, school, and soccer field–the essentials of life in rural Bolivia. Pie or radial shaped fields radiate from these communities.

The rectilinear, light-colored areas (right) are part of the Tierras Baja project. The fields are soybeans cultivated for export and are mostly funded by foreign loans. The dark strips running through these fields are wind breaks. These are advantageous because the soils in this area are fine and prone to wind erosion.