User Interface

The EarthExplorer (EE) user interface provides the overall capability for users to interact with the EE components and services. The EE user interface (Figure 1) is composed of the following key elements:

- Standard USGS header/footer elements
- EE menu bar
- Body

Header/Footer Elements - The EE header/footer elements are based on the USGS Visual Identification Policy standard guidelines. The EE client is compliant with Section 508 guidelines.

![Figure 1 - EE User Interface](image1)

Header - The EE client header (Figure 2) is located at the top of the web page. The header is common across all web pages in EE but may be different based on your user role or ‘branding’ applied to the EE client.

![Figure 2 - Header](image2)

Elements of the header include:

- USGS Logo (upper left corner) reflects the relevance of the Bureau’s work in today’s world and communicates USGS’s purpose to the public.
- USGS Links (upper right corner) reflect links to the USGS website, USGS contact information, and the USGS search tool.
- Title Bar is a standard bar describing the website; in this case, ‘EE’.
**EE Menu Bar** - The EE menu bar (Figure 3) is directly below the header. The EE menu bar supplies a common starting point to access additional functionality, options, and preferences for the EE client via dropdown menus.

The common menu items in the menu bar include:
- **Home** - Returns you to a common starting point within the application.
- **System Message** - Provides links and information regarding system status and upcoming events/changes (Visible only when notices have been posted).
- **Login** - Provides a link to the EE Login.
- **Register** - Provides a link to the USGS EROS Registration Service.
- **RSS** - Allows registered users to subscribe to RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds.
- **Feedback** - Provides a link to the feedback form.
- **Help** - Provides information about EE.

Additional menu bar items display when you register or log in. Some of these additional features include:
- **Profile** - Provides access to your profile preferences and allows you to customize your profile.
- **Save Criteria** - Allows you to save your search criteria for future searches.
- **Load Favorite** - Allows you to load/apply a saved search criteria.
- **Manage Criteria** - Allows you to modify previously saved search criteria.

**Footer** – The EE client footer (Figure 4) is located at the bottom of the web page. The footer is common across all web pages in EE but may be slightly different based on your user role or ‘branding’ applied to the EE client.

The common menu items in the footer include:
- **Accessibility** - Provides a link to the USGS Accessibility Policy (Section 508). The USGS Accessibility Policy ensures that all electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained, or used by the USGS is accessible to people with disabilities.
- **FOIA** - Provides a link to the U.S. Geological Survey Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room. FOIA requests for a copy of USGS records can be made by any individual or public/private organization other than a Federal agency.
- **Privacy** - Provides a link to the USGS Privacy Policies. This information identifies USGS and the Department of Interior (DOI) privacy policies.
- Policies and Notices - Provides a link to the [USGS Policies and Important Notices](#) website. This information describes the principal policies and other important notices that govern information posted on USGS websites.
- Google Maps API Disclaimer - Provides a link to the [Google Maps API Disclaimer](#). This information outlines the Google Map Application Programming Interface (API) terms and conditions for using the Google Map service.

**Body** - The body (Figure 5) includes the main EE capabilities and is composed of the Data Search Functions and the Google Map components.

![Figure 5 - Body](image)

**Search Criteria** - The EE Data Search component is located on the left side of the EE body element. The Data Search components are divided among 4 tabs and allow users to enter search criteria, select datasets to query, enter additional criteria, and review results in a tabular window.

**Google Map** - The Google Map component is located on the right side of the EE body element. The Google Map application interface embeds Google Maps within the EE client. The Google Map is a useful tool for defining a search area and for verifying that results fall in the area of interest.

Before using the Google Map component, you should be familiar with the navigation and location features provided in the Google Map interface for EE.
Use the following controls to navigate Google Maps (Figure 6):

- **Pan Control** - Click the appropriate arrow to move the view north, south, east or west.
- **Street View** - Click and drag to navigate to the street-level view of the interested area.
- **Zoom** - Click the plus sign (+) to zoom in to the center of the map; click the minus sign (−) to zoom out.
- **Zoom Slider** - Drag the zoom slider up/down to zoom in or out incrementally.
- **Pan** - Click and drag the map to the desired location or view.
- **Use Page Up, Page Down, Home, and End for faster scrolling up, down, left, and right, respectively.**
- **Press Control** - and click the plus sign (+) to zoom in or press Control and click the minus sign (−) to zoom out.

The Google Map component provides the following custom location features (Figure 7) to aid in locating point of interest.

1. **Coordinates** - Coordinate values update as you move the mouse on the map interface.
2. **Options** -
   - **Auto-Center** - Centers the map on the display
   - **Polygon** - Allows entering search criteria by polygon
   - **Circle** - Allows entering search criteria by using a circle radius

3. **Overlays** - Displays a grid based on the selection
   - **Decimal** - Overlays a decimal degree grid over the map interface. Click to turn on and off.
   - **DMS** - Overlays Degrees, Minutes, Seconds (DMS) grid over the map interface. Click to turn on and off.

4. **Map/Satellite** - Toggles between the Map View and the Satellite View.
   - **Map View** - Terrain - Shows basic topographic features.
   - **Satellite View: 45°** - Zooms to special 45° imagery for certain locations.
   - **Labels** - Displays feature labels.