

# Copper Mines in the Tucson Landscape

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The Power of Perspective

Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA.

**Copper is an extremely important metal for modern economies.**

Arizona, the “Copper State,” has several open pit mines, including the Mission Complex and Sierrita Mines south of Tucson. Over 60% of the newly mined copper in the US comes from Arizona. *Looking at this series of pictures, during which periods did major changes in the mines occur?*

## Aerial Photographs (from a plane)



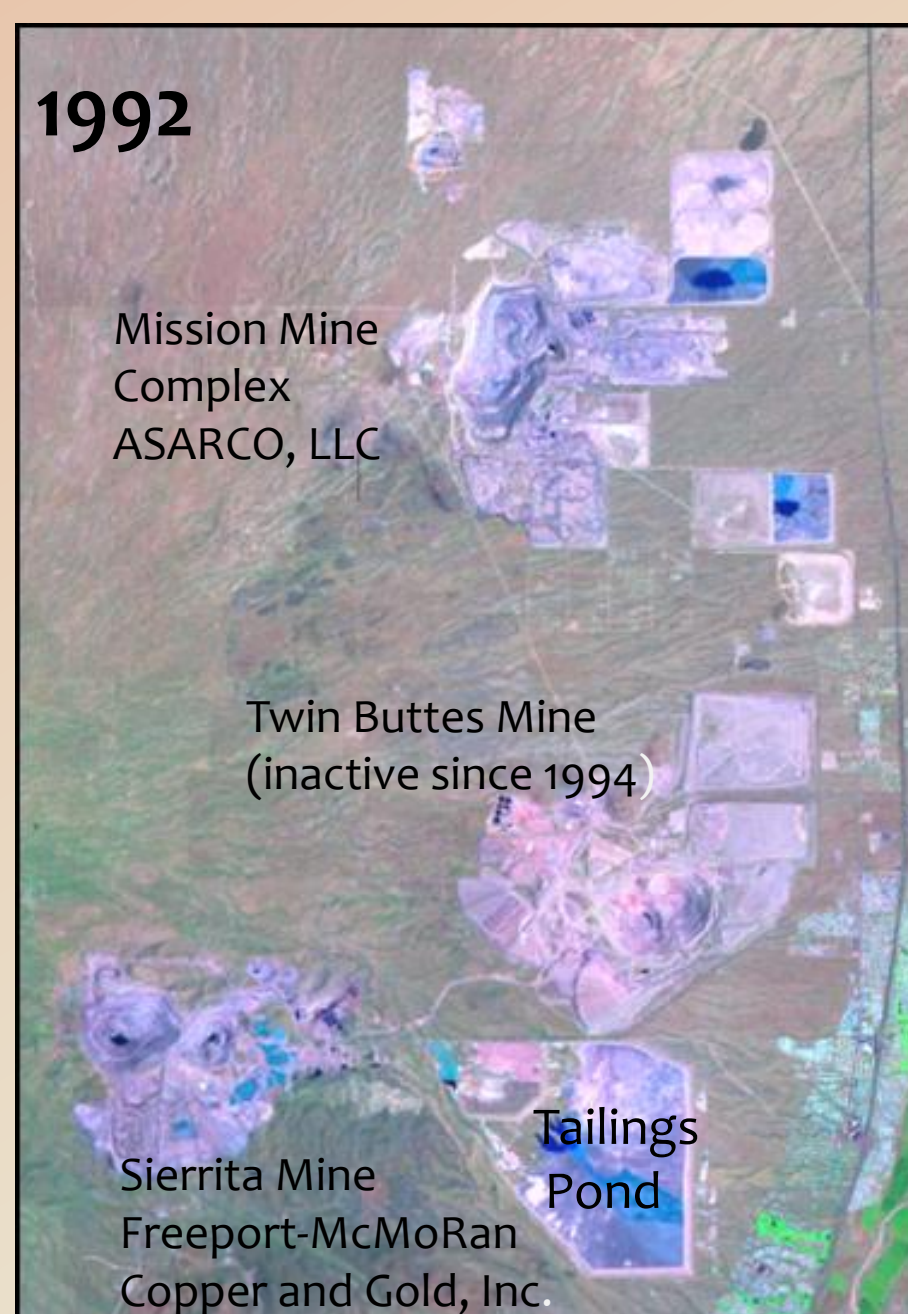
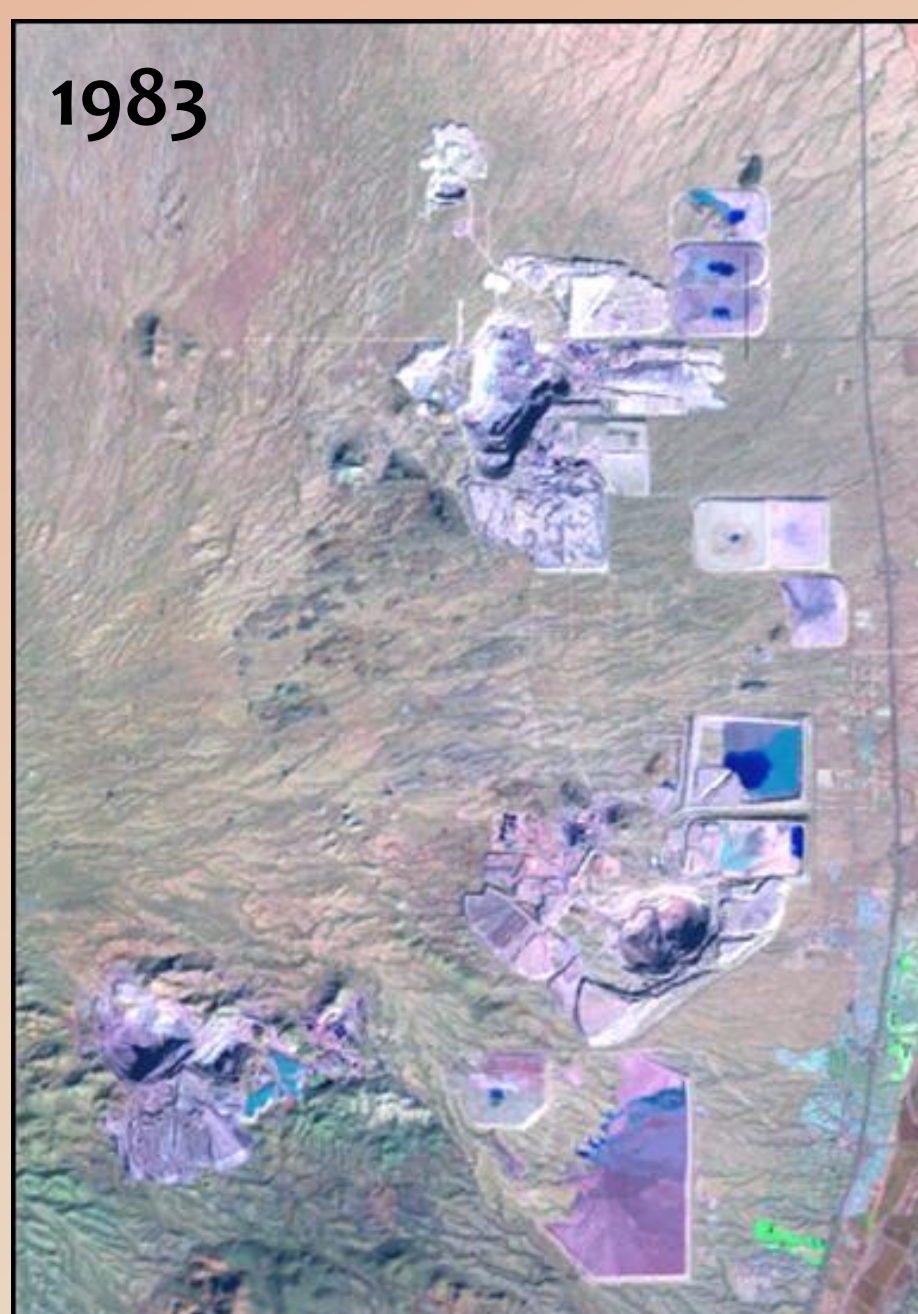
Army map service



US Air Force

Open Pit Mining:  
Rock is stripped away in a deepening pit to get at the copper ore below.

## Satellite Images (Landsat, NASA)



These false-color images highlight water as blue and vegetation as green. Recent decades have seen a huge increase in image quality.