



Core Mission.

Pursuing the vision since 1969.



CRYOSPHERIC SCIENCE

The study of the **cryosphere** – the **frozen portion** of our planet – provides critical understanding of how Earth's overall **climate** is changing. Changes in the cryosphere reflect the **dynamics** of the entire Earth system.

USRA scientists study changes in the extent and mass of **glaciers** and ice sheets using field, airborne and **satellite observations**. They model potential changes in sea level due to melting ice caps, and quantify the effects of climate change on **permafrost** and

the mobilization of **carbon reserves** currently frozen out of the atmosphere. USRA **climate scientists** study the history of Earth's **atmosphere** as revealed in **ice cores** from polar and continental ice sheets, adding context to changes being observed today.

WHO ARE WE?

USRA is an independent, nonprofit research corporation where the combined efforts of in-house talent and university-based expertise merge to advance space science and technology. USRA works across disciplines including **biomedicine**, **astrophysics**, and **engineering** and integrates those competencies into applications ranging from **fundamental research** to **facility management** and **operations**. USRA engages the creativity and authoritative expertise of the research community to develop and deliver sophisticated, **forward-looking solutions** to Federal agencies and other customers - on schedule and within budget.

