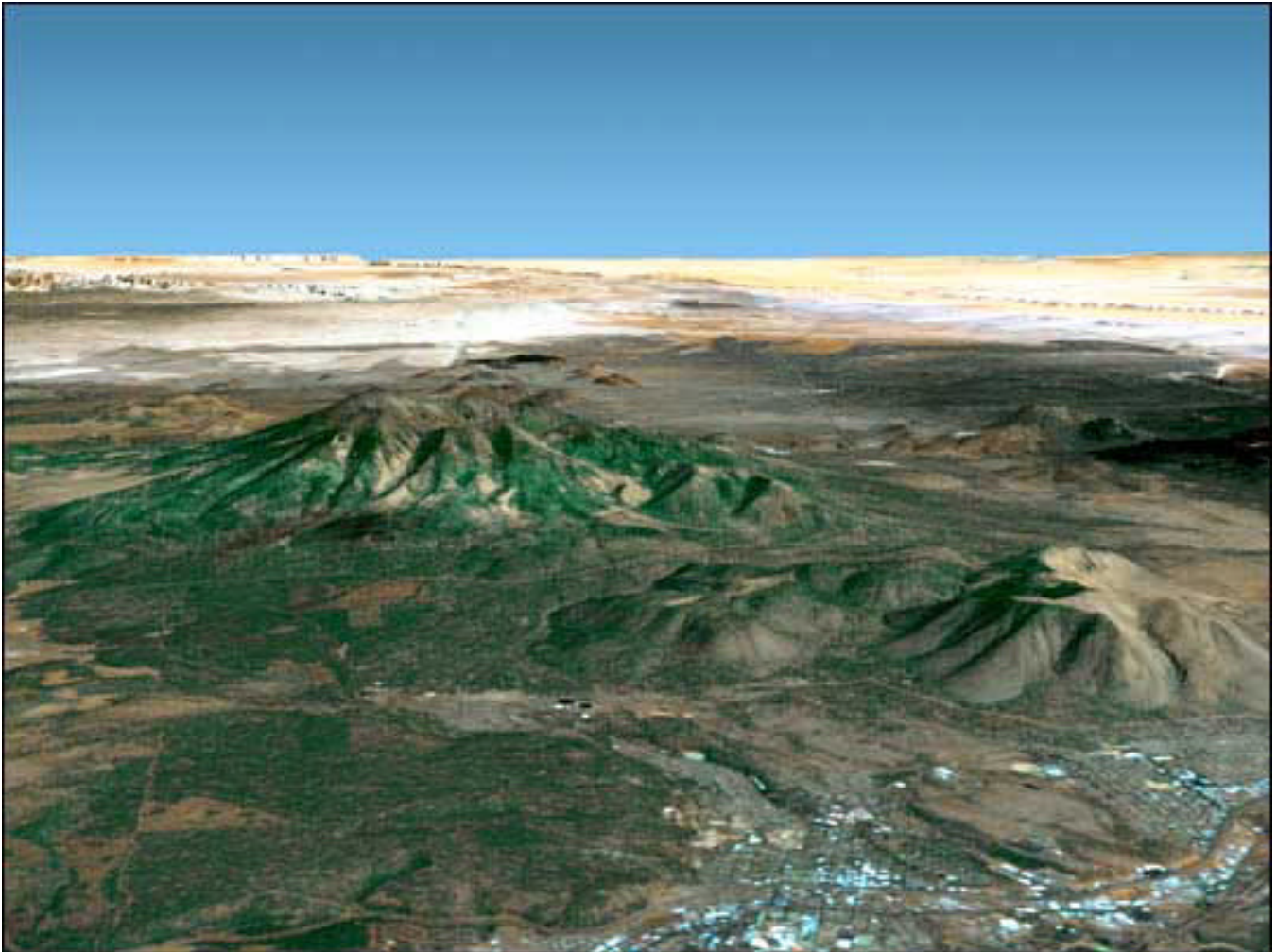


Flagstaff and the San Francisco Peaks

Towering above Flagstaff to a height of more than 12,000 feet, the San Francisco Peaks are the remnants of a large volcano like Mt St Helens. Located due north of the Colorado Plateau's largest city, Flagstaff, Arizona, the mountain traps rain and snow that supplies much of Flagstaff's water. Historically considered the Navajo's Sacred Mountain of the West, herbal medicines have long been gathered in the high mountain peaks. The diverse vegetation of the peaks gave origin to C. Hart Merriam's Life Zone theory, which describes changes in plants and animals as elevation changes. The lip of the Grand Canyon can be seen behind the peaks.



This image, courtesy of NASA, was made by combining the Landsat image with topographic data. Then, the computer was used to make it seem as though Flagstaff is seen looking to the north. Forests are green and the cement in Flagstaff is bright blue. The Landsat image was acquired on July 28, 2002.



This is a close-up of Flagstaff as seen in the earlier frame.



This is a close-up of the San Francisco Peaks, as seen in an earlier frame