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Rondônia State has been the target of an uncontrolled migration flow since 1960. Millions of agriculturists without land, mainly from the south and southeast regions of Brazil, were attracted by the promises of plenty and cheap land of Rondônia's Colonization Projects. The land occupation has been, since then, disordered and predatory, bringing deforestations, burns, low productivity and serious social problems. The study of the potenciality and actual land use is an indispensable tool for the proper definition of agricultural and developmental policies of the region's problems. An area of 58,000 km² in the eastern part of Rondônia State, between the longitudinal coordinates 61°30' and 63°00' WGr and latitudinal coordinates 9°00' and 12°30' S, was chosen to conduct this study. The actual land use in this area was identified through visual analysis of orbital images from the TM-LANDSAT satellite (black and white and color compositions), which were processed by the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE). The vegetal formations were identified and related to the degree of human influence in the area. Basic informations on vegetation maps of RADAMBRAZIL's Project and on topographic maps, published by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), were used and actualized to make 4 thematic maps on the 1:250,000 scale. These maps contain recent information about land use, limits of urban areas, road and river courses and also the socio-economical and ecological zoning of the Rondônia State. These maps have proved to be of great usefulness in environmental planning, helping the government to avoid unsuitable and undesirable land exploration.

Key Words: Land Use, Satellite Images, Rondonia State's Occupation, Environmental Planning