Desert to Forest

In the American Southwest, transitions from one ecosystem to another can be dramatic and abrupt. This certainly is true in northern Arizona, USA, where the parched Painted Desert, shown here in a palette of purples, adjoins Sitgreaves National Forest (shades of green), a visitor of pinewoods and a haven for wildlife. Within the Painted Desert in the Hopi Flats, a field of ancient volcanic cones, seen here as a scattering of dark, circular shapes near the top of the image.

LandSat 5 data acquired on 01/28/2009