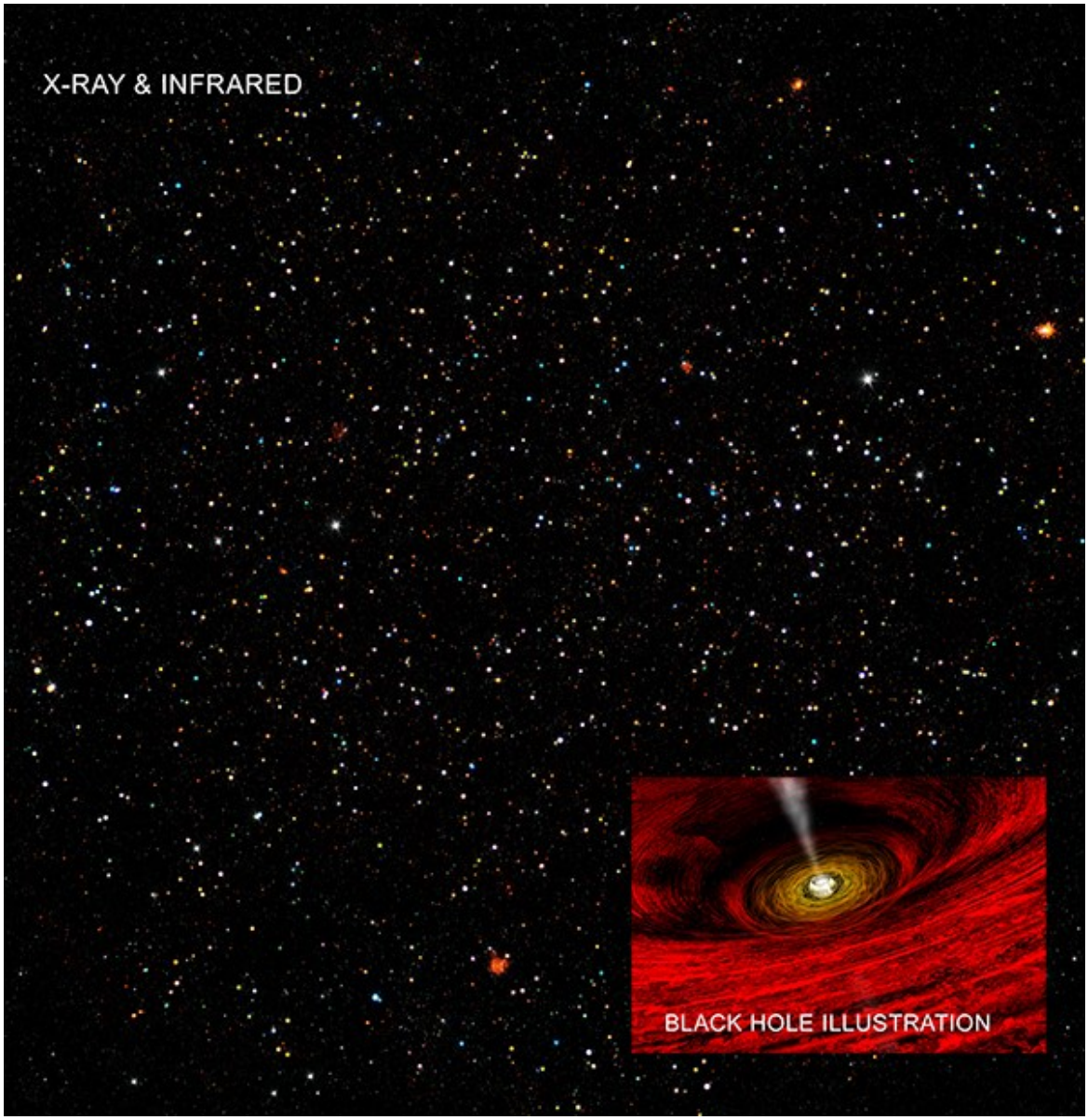

Chandra X-ray Observatory Center

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COSMOS Legacy Survey: Two separate surveys of "intermediate-mass black holes" that stretch from the nearby Universe to 10.9 billion light years away.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/ICE/M.Mezcua et al.; Infrared: NASA/JPL-Caltech; Illustration: NASA/CXC /A.Hobart)

Caption: This image shows data from a massive observing campaign that includes Chandra and has provided strong evidence for the existence of intermediate-mass black holes (IMBHs). Combined with a separate study also using Chandra data, these results may allow astronomers to better understand how the very largest black holes in the early Universe formed. Data from the COSMOS-Legacy Survey used in one of the studies are shown here with an artist's illustration of a growing black hole in the inset.

Scale: The image is about 1.5 degrees on a side.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory