

## *Fully Fund 3DEP*

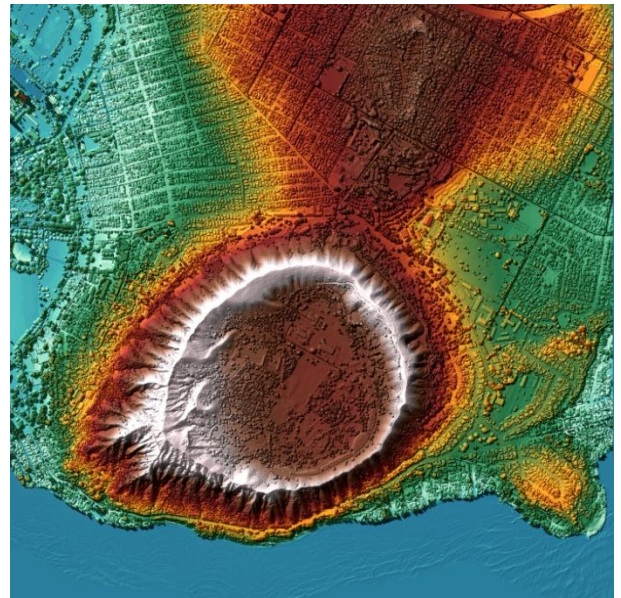
The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) developed by the US Geological Survey (USGS) will satisfy the growing demand for consistent, high-quality topographic data and a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features. Among the applications that will benefit from 3DEP data are flood risk management, agriculture, water supply, homeland security, renewable energy, aviation safety, and other areas. Indeed, USGS has identified more than 600 applications that would benefit from such enhanced elevation data.

3DEP uses advanced airborne laser technology, known as LiDAR (light detection and ranging), to build the most detailed and complete elevation maps ever produced on a nationwide scale. In 2012, the USGS developed the 3DEP initiative to respond to growing need for high-quality topographic data and a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features.

Recent events such as Hurricane Sandy and Irene have highlighted the importance of accurate elevation to ensure responsible coastal and flood resiliency. State and local emergency response efforts will also be improved with enhanced elevation data. 3DEP will enable USGS to lead government efforts to "map it once, use many times" and increase efficiencies across sectors and number of users.

USGS, with involvement from the private sector and other stakeholders, conducted a *National Enhanced Elevation Assessment* (NEEA) to determine and document the need for national elevation data within government and private markets. The results indicated that enhanced elevation data have the potential to generate \$13 billion in annual benefits, at a benefit:cost ratio of 4.7 to 1.

MAPPS believes 3DEP will promote economic growth, facilitate responsible environmental protection and resource development and management, assist with infrastructure improvement, and generally enhance the quality of life of all Americans. A capable, qualified private sector capacity exists to fulfill the data acquisition requirements of 3DEP. Utilizing the Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC), a suite of multiple-award USGS contracts with the private sector competitively procured via the qualifications based selection process pursuant to 40 USC 1101 and FAR part 36.6, a public-private partnership between USGS and the private sector will accomplish 3DEP via task orders for LIDAR acquisition. MAPPS strongly supports the USGS intent to utilize these contracts for 3DEP data collection and processing. Small businesses will help fly aerial data collection missions while also contributing to the processing of the elevation data.



The equipment, infrastructure, service capacity, and capability of the private sector, as well as the contract vehicles in USGS, are in place to efficiently implement the 3DEP program. Moreover, Congress provided an innovative mechanism for cooperative activities in elevation data when it enacted section 100220 of Public Law 112-141, which can be utilized to pool funding from Federal, state and local government entities.

MAPPS respectfully urges Congress to cooperatively fund the 3DEP program. For USGS, in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016, it is suggested that *Core Science Systems* include an increase of \$28.7 million above the President's request for 3DEP. For the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Agriculture and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016, it is suggested that *LiDAR-Enhanced Soil Survey (LESS)* include no less than \$20 million to acquire enhanced elevation data that can contribute to 3DEP. For the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016, it is suggested that the *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)* include no less than \$20 million to acquire enhanced elevation data compatible with 3DEP.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

**MAPPS respectfully urges members of Congress on the Appropriations Committee to support 3DEP funding, and other members to indicate their support for 3DEP to the Appropriations Committee, at the levels suggested herein. For more information, contact John Byrd, MAPPS Government Affairs Manager, at [jbyrd@mapps.org](mailto:jbyrd@mapps.org) or (703) 787-6996 and go to [www.3DEP4America.com](http://www.3DEP4America.com).**