MAPPS
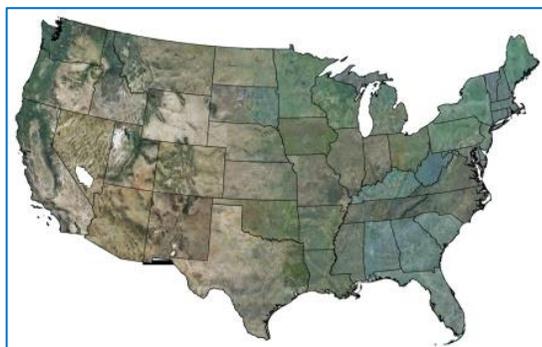An Association of Photogrammetry, Mapping, and Geospatial Firms

NAIP - NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IMAGERY PROGRAM

The USDA's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) has been in continuous operation since 2002, making it the longest-running ortho imagery program in federal history. It is administered by the Farm Services Agency (FSA) and supported by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Forest Service (USFS), and the Department of the Interior's US Geological Survey (USGS). From all accounts, this program has yielded an unprecedented return on investment and its products are used by virtually every federal civilian agency as well as state, tribal, and local governments and academia. NAIP products are also used by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and numerous private companies.

NAIP ortho imagery is produced at 1-meter or better resolution. Its multispectral format (color plus near-infrared) makes it useful for FSA Farm Programs compliance, agriculture, forestry, natural resources, infrastructure monitoring/modelling, and urban planning. Because NAIP products are in the public domain, and because they represent the most current coverage on a national basis, an astounding number of users have come to be reliant upon them.

National Ortho Imagery Coverage

Natural Color Ortho Imagery

Near-infrared Ortho Imagery

NAIP is a model of excellence for government and private contractor cooperation. NAIP was recognized in a 2014 report from the Office of Science and Technology ("National Plan for Civil Earth Observations") as one of the most important federally-funded earth observing systems. Of the 362 such systems studied by experts representing all federal agencies, NAIP only trailed GPS, NEXRAD, Landsat, and GOES programs in importance to the government and society. Its success is, at least, partly attributable to a continual pursuit of program improvement by the government and its contractors.

Over the NAIP history, FSA has borne over two thirds of the program's annually funding. NAIP decision-makers are faced with dramatic changes to ensure a healthy program in the future. Fully funding NAIP avoids undermining the integrity of products and their public domain availability.

Congressional Action Requested:
MAPPS respectfully urges Congressional support of language in the upcoming Farm Bill to establish NAIP as a line-item program. This language provides funding NAIP for a minimum of $30M annually to cover the entire lower 48 states, ensuring all user requirements and expectations will be achieved.

For specific questions concerning the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), please contact Ed Cox, MAPPS Legislative Director at (202) 530-4591, Edward.Cox@prime-policy.com.