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# **NGAC Elevation Subcommittee Report**

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## **Progress Report**

Gary Thompson  
September 19, 2012

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# Acknowledgements

## ■ **NGAC members**

- E. Donald McKay
- Gary Thompson
- Jack Dangermond
- Matthew O'Connell
- Molly Vogt
- Patrick Olson

## ■ **USGS**

- Gregory Snyder
- Larry Sugarbaker
- Mark DeMulder
- Vicki Lukas

## ■ **Federal Geographic Data Committee**

- John Mahoney
- Tricia Gibbons

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# Subcommittee Meetings

## ■ Assignments

- Working Group 1 - Increasing acquisition coverage (Pat Olson)
- Working Group 2 - Avenues or opportunities to achieve program objectives (Molly Vogt)
- Working Group 3 - How to best engage identified industry sectors (Gary Thompson)

## ■ Timeline

- Meetings for each working group
- Full subcommittee review of each working group's report
- Review of USGS comments
- Draft report

## ■ Output

- Report that:
  - Answers the questions
  - Outlines options
  - Recommendations to USGS for implementing the 3DEP program

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# Guidance

## ■ 3DEP

- One of the recommendations in the NEEA assessment report was the proposal to create the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP).
- The subcommittee reviewed the proposal to create 3DEP and answered the following three questions concerning the development and support of the 3DEP in the public and private sectors:

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# Guidance

## ■ Question #1

The 3DEP costs and program design are predicated on the assumption that economies of scale will be achieved through larger data acquisition projects, so a primary objective is to collect large area blocks rather than small project areas. Feedback we have received from potential Federal 3DEP partners is that they can only fund partnerships that meet their specific project requirements. Given that we have worked through NDEP and the liaison network to leverage requirements and funding to a high degree already, what can be done at current funding levels to move to large area collections?

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# Guidance

## ■ Question #1 (continued)

Factors include:

1. Capturing a greater percentage of the LiDAR acquisition investment across the community
2. Expanding coordination to increase project size
3. Having better advanced knowledge of partner plans and funding

How can this be achieved, what governance model would be most effective, and what other factors should be considered?

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# Guidance

- **Question #1 summary of response**

The program's goals could be achieved by utilizing provisions in the recently enacted *'Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act'* (["MAP 21"; Public Law 112-141](#)).

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# Guidance

## ■ Question #2

The program proposal is for a partnership-funding model with Federal agencies and States increasing current investment levels. The USGS is currently pursuing additional funding within its base program and reaching out to others to do the same. What avenues or opportunities to achieve the program objectives are we missing? In other words, how can we encourage states and other levels of government to participate?

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# Guidance

## ■ Question #2 summary of response

- Inform and build trust with partners through clear and coordinated communication
- Ensure that local-level project needs will be met
- Ensure consistent national-level derivative data products as a value add
- Explore the interest in and feasibility of a subscription model with repeat data collection
- Offer data hosting and user-friendly access to data products
- Reduce and stabilize administrative and contract costs

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# Guidance

## ■ Question #3

Several industries to include precision farming, intelligent vehicle navigation, and alternative energy development stand to gain from a national 3DEP program. How do we best engage these (and other) industry sectors?

# Guidance

## ■ Question #3 summary of response

- Network with a key contact person in each of these industries
- Network with LiDAR researchers
- Publish industry focused articles in their trade journals
- Become active participants in their conferences
- Work with coalitions of related industries