

# 3DEP Implementation Plan

## National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)

### Elevation Subcommittee Report – September 2013

**Submitted by:** Gary Thompson, Chairperson, Pat Olsen, and Molly Vogt

**Background:** In 2012 the NGAC Elevation Subcommittee reviewed the comprehensive National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA) study prepared by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and partner agencies. The NGAC approved a resolution at its April 2012 meeting endorsing a national 3D elevation program (3DEP) as described in the study. In addition, the Elevation subcommittee provided comments on the study and prepared a summary paper that was approved by the NGAC at the December 2012 meeting.

Recently USGS developed a draft 3DEP Implementation Plan that was distributed to Federal agencies for comment in August 2013. The USGS also asked the NGAC to review the draft plan and provide comments as a follow-up to the work that was done last year on the elevation study. The NGAC Elevation Subcommittee reviewed the plan and provided comments to USGS. The subcommittee is chaired by Gary Thompson. Committee members include Molly Vogt and Pat Olsen. Larry Sugarbaker serves as the USGS liaison to the subcommittee. John Mahoney and Tricia Gibbons provide logistical support.

**Subcommittee Activity:** The subcommittee conducted two conference call meetings with the Federal liaison. At the first meeting in July 2013, Larry Sugarbaker provided an overview of the implementation plan and presented the committee with five questions to guide their response.

- Is the content complete or are there any gaps or omissions in the plan?
- Is USGS doing everything that it can to bring states into the fold and to support their efforts to secure partnerships funds?
- What are the programmatic and technical risks and what are some key strategies to mitigate those risk?
- Are there funding opportunities or strategies that the plan should address?
- Are there critical linkages to other organizations or efforts that we need to take advantage of?

Each subcommittee member conducted a through review of the plan and submitted comments to the Chair. In addition, the subcommittee chair requested all members of NGAC to provide comments if they wished to do so. Comments were received from two NGAC members. All comments were compiled into a spreadsheet for the subcommittee to review.

At the second conference call in August 2013, the subcommittee reviewed and discussed each comment with the USGS liaison and provided the following summary and suggestions for improvement on key points in the implementation plan.

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**Subcommittee Response**

The subcommittee members agree the 3DEP Implementation Plan is well done and is moving in the right direction. There are no major omissions but rather there are a few areas in need of expansion or clarification.

The subcommittee makes the following suggestions for improvement:

- Expand and consolidate the sections on the roles of states. Information about the states' roles is included in the plan, but needs to be consolidated into one area that allows states to find this information more efficiently.
- Expand the section on other federal agencies roles in the implementation of 3DEP, including information concerning the MAP 21 Initiative.
- Expand the section on roles and responsibilities of the private sector.
- Develop a risk section.
- Consider adding information about the Administration's Open Data Policy and its impact on the plan.

In addition to the feedback provided to USGS on the two conference calls, the specific comments provided by NGAC members and the subcommittee were compiled and provided to USGS for their review and use.

**Next Steps**

The subcommittee recommends that NGAC consider approving the following resolution:

“The NGAC approves the 3DEP Summary Paper, endorses the direction of the 3DEP Implementation Plan, and encourages the USGS with its partners to actively implement the plan. The NGAC welcomes other opportunities to provide input and feedback to the 3DEP Initiative.”