

# 3DGeo Stakeholder Coordination: MN Lidar Plan

## *Central Mississippi / Metro LAB - USGS 3DEP Grant Application Discussion*

Monday June 7th, 2021 - 1:00 – 2:30

Presented by the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) - 3D Geomatics Committee's Data Acquisition Workgroup

Gerry Sjerven

Joe Sapletal

Sean Vaughn

Jennifer Corcoran

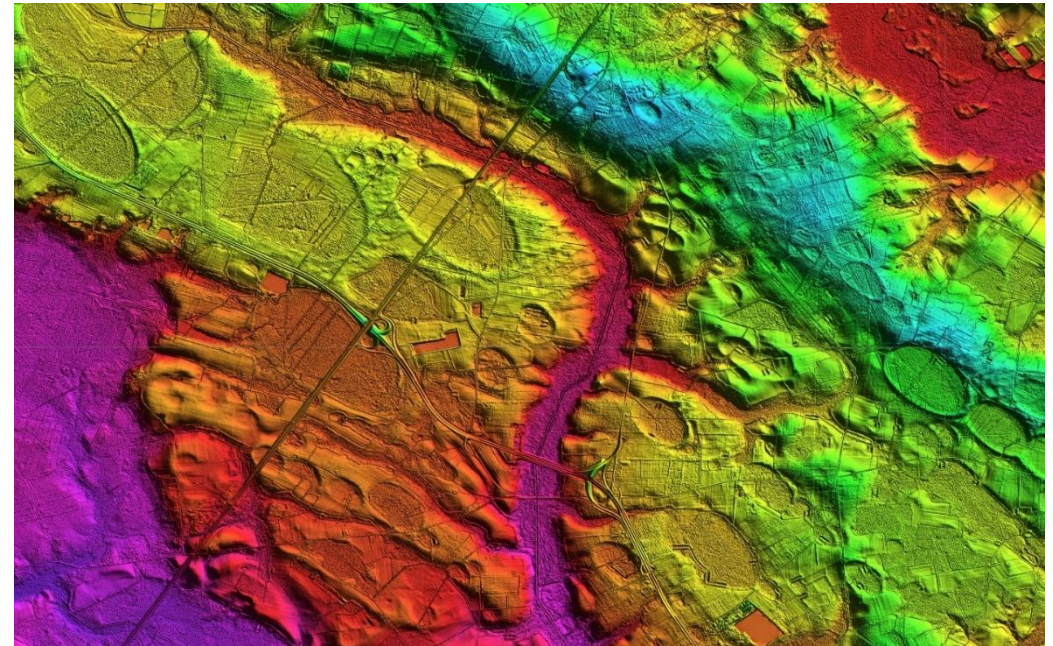
**Please stand by as other participants join, we will get started soon.**

**Thank you**

# Welcome!

## Thank you for joining us today

- We are excited to meet with you today to discuss lidar acquisition planning efforts in Minnesota.
- Members of the 3D Geomatics Committee Lidar Acquisition Workgroup will be introducing 3DGeo, sharing updates, and information about lidar collects for Minnesota.
- We welcome your input today and going forward.





# Meeting Housekeeping

- Please **mute** your microphone if you're not speaking
- A meeting recording and presentation slides will be shared after the meeting
- Type in questions into the **chat window**, and we'll address them during the Q&A section (not recorded)



# Goals for today

- Who is 3D Geomatics (**3DGeo**)?
- What is the **Minnesota Lidar Plan**?
- What is the funding opportunity  
USGS 3D Elevation Program (**3DEP**)?
- Where are 3DEP **lidar acquisitions**  
going currently and planned?
- What are the **next steps**?







# Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) - 3D Geomatics Committee

## Geospatial Advisory Council

- The Minnesota *Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC)* is the coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community.
- **Cross-section of organizations** that include counties, cities, universities, business, nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies, tribal government, and other stakeholder groups.

## 3D Geomatics Committee?

- The *3D Geomatics Committee (3DGeo)* is a committee under GAC that works to identify and promote the need for planning, funding, acquisition, and management of three-dimensional geomatic data and derived products.



GAC Rank	Project or Initiative Name
1	All public geospatial data in MN to be free and open to everyone
2	Updated and aligned boundary data from authoritative sources
3	The implementation of an archive for Minnesota geospatial data
4	Statewide publicly available parcel data
5	Improvements to the MnGeo Imagery Service, such as Web Mercator support, tiling, and complementary options such as “composite of latest leaf off imagery”, and downloading options
6	Accurate hydro-DEMs (hDEM) that serve modern flood modeling and hydro-terrain analysis tools, and the development of more accurate watercourses and watersheds
7	Statewide publicly available road centerline data
8	New LiDAR data acquisition across Minnesota for use in developing new derived products guided by committee developed standards
9	An emergency management damage assessment data standard to provide an accepted specification to support a request for State or Federal assistance after a disaster
10	Statewide publicly available address points data
11	Maps, procedures, templates and other materials to help all levels of government implement the U.S. National Grid
12	A parks and trails data standard
13	A forum (committee, workgroup, etc.) for MN geospatial professionals to discuss and share best practices, standards, lessons learned, etc. for implementing and supporting the geospatial components of NG9-1-1



# 3DGeo Workgroups

## 3DGeo Executive Steering Team

### ■ Workgroups/Subgroups

- Hydrogeomorphology
  1. Data Catalog
  2. Foundational Hydrography Data Stewards
  3. DEM Hydro-modification
- Vegetation
- Education
- Human Infrastructure
- Data Acquisition



# 3DGeo - Data Acquisition Workgroup

## Mission:

- The Data Acquisition Workgroup promotes procurement of foundational 3D data for Minnesota.

## Co-Chairs

- Sean Vaughn, Alison Slaats, and Gerry Sjerven

## Lidar Acquisition Subgroup:

- Alison Slaats (MnGeo), Sean Vaughn (MNIT DNR), Gerry Sjerven (MN Power), Dan Ross (MnGeo), Jennifer Corcoran (DNR), Colin Lee (MnDOT), Matt Baltus (NRCS), Joel Nelson (U of MN), Joe Sapletal (Dakota Co), Mark Reineke (Widseth), and Brandon Krumwiede (NOAA), Jeff Weiss (DNR).



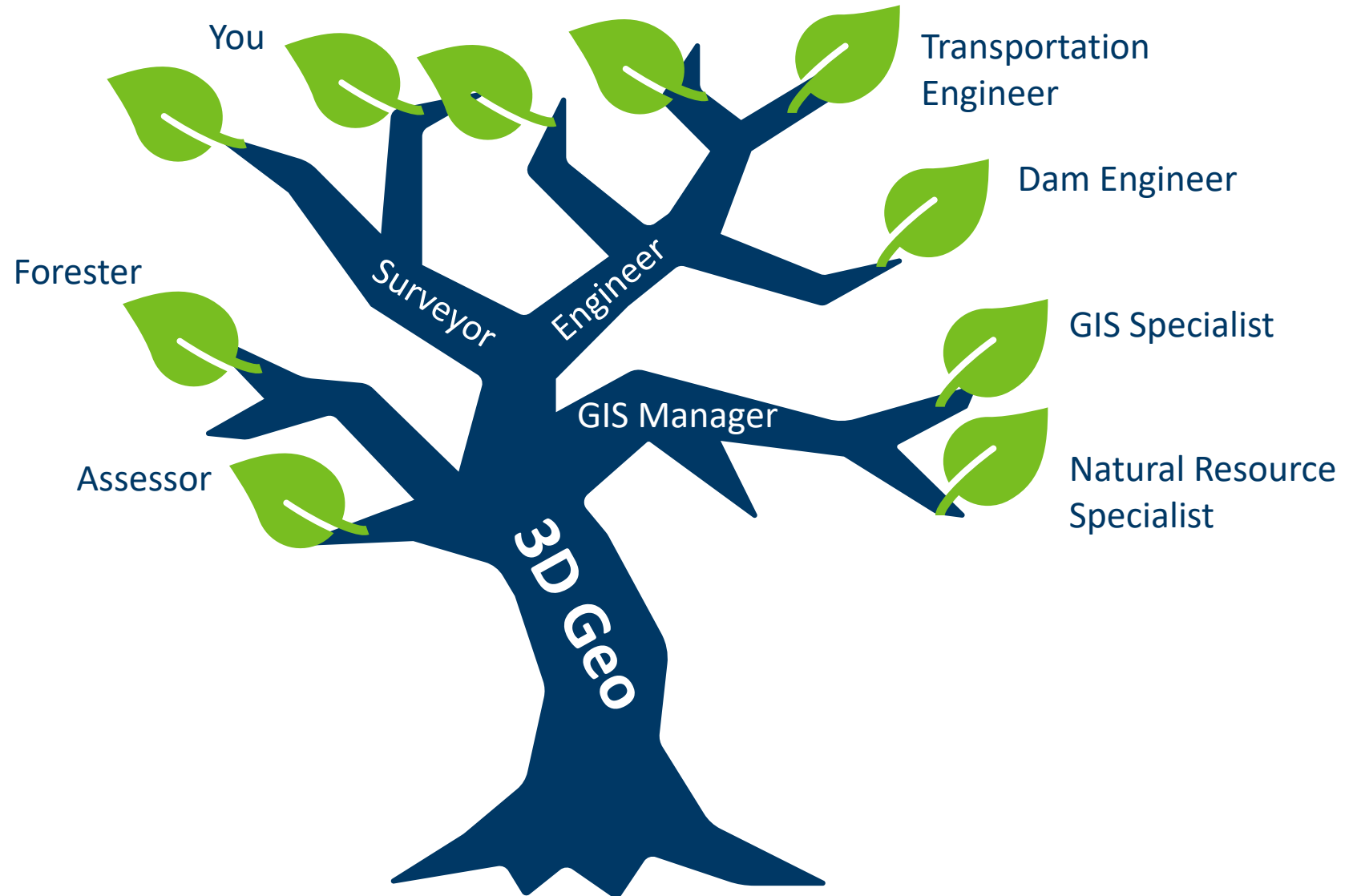


# Collaboration – Individual Stakeholder

You don't have to have money or be a decision maker to be a stakeholder . . .

You can be a voice of support . . .

A collaborator







*Early Lidar  
Coordination:  
Minnesota  
Was a  
Leader*



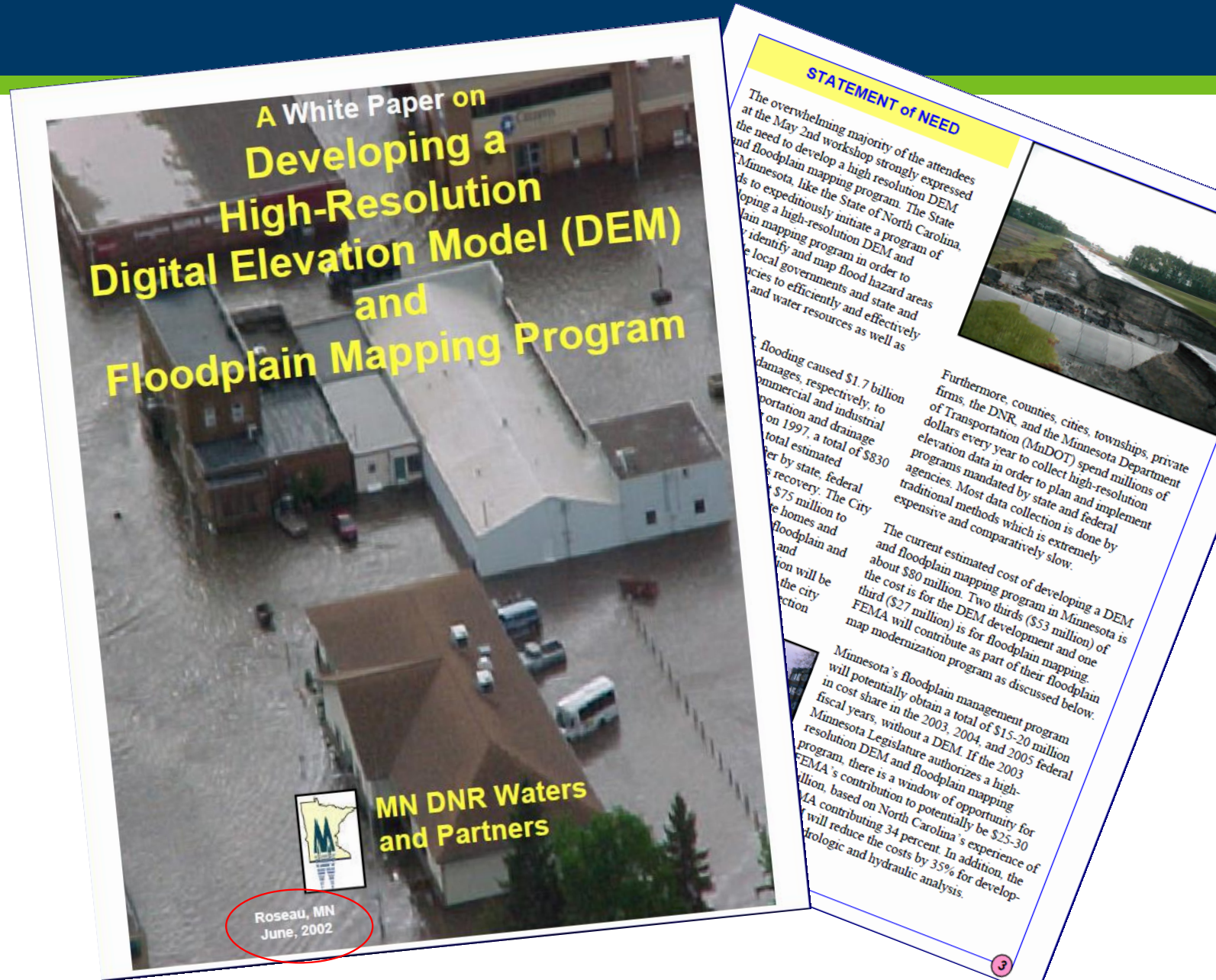
# DNR's First White Paper for a Lidar-derived DEM

## 2002 Need for a DEM

- "...need to develop a high-resolution DEM and floodplain mapping program".
- "...correctly identify and map flood hazard areas..."
- "...efficiently and effectively manage land and water resources as well as infrastructure".

### \$80 Million

- \$41M – DEM
- \$27M – Floodplain Mapping
- \$12M – IT Infrastructure

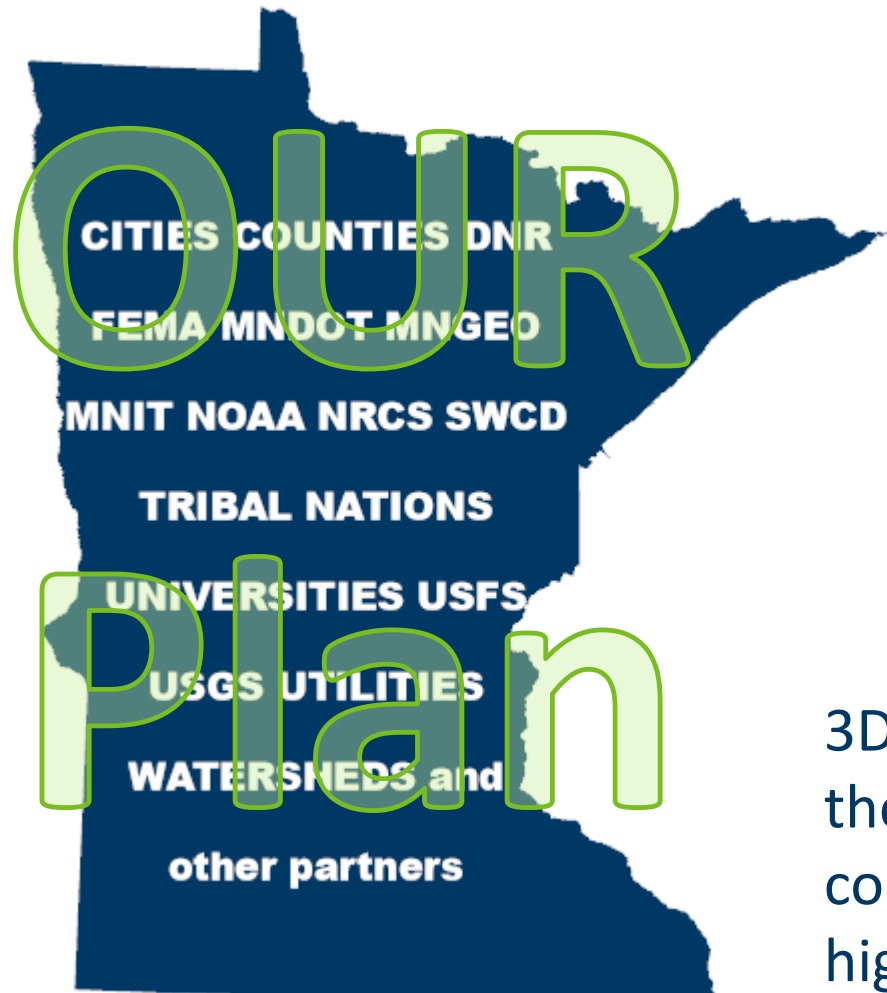








# Minnesota Lidar Plan - Our Plan – Your Plan – One Plan

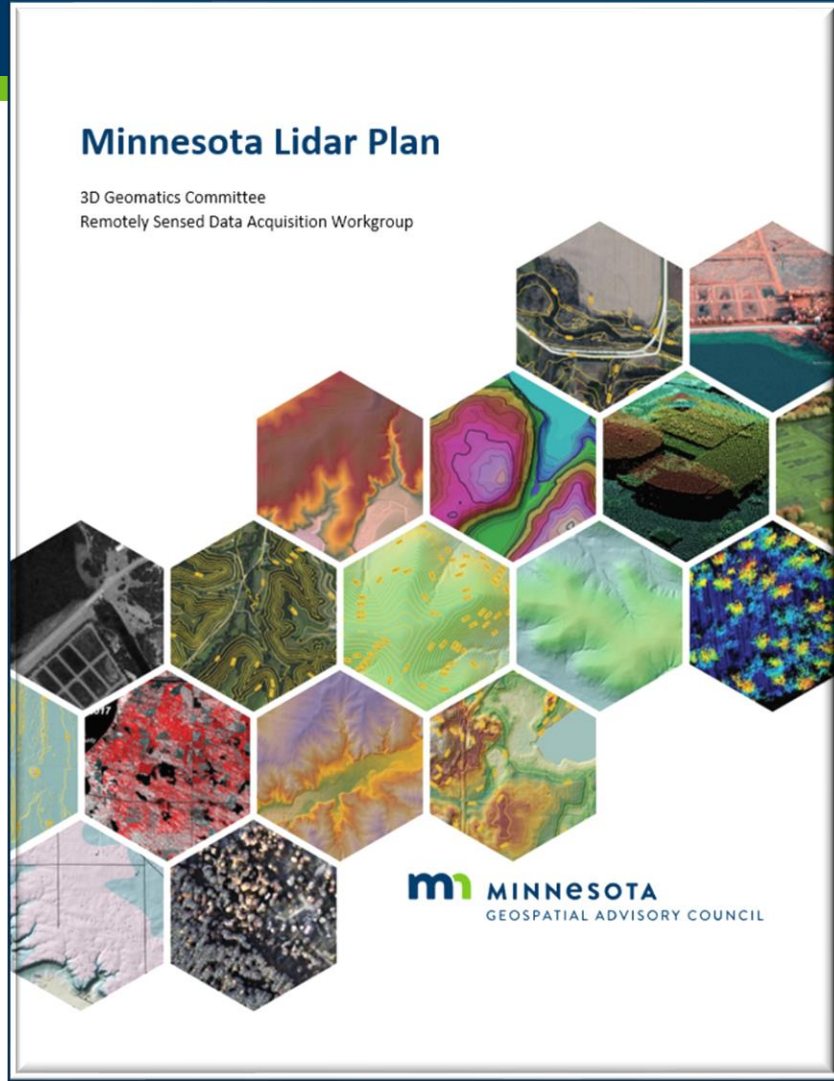


## The Minnesota Lidar Plan

- **One** plan for Minnesota
- **Committee** led plan, not a state agency plan
- **Collaboration** of the geospatial community
- **Coordination** of lidar acquisition in Minnesota leverages federal match dollars

3DEP grant success is built on a guiding plan that pulls the community together to foster collaboration and coordinate funding to achieve the common goal of high density lidar acquisition across Minnesota

# Minnesota Lidar Plan and StoryMap



[https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/3dgeo/acquisition/Minnesota\\_State\\_Lidar\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/3dgeo/acquisition/Minnesota_State_Lidar_Plan.pdf)



<http://bit.ly/MnLidarPlanStoryMap>

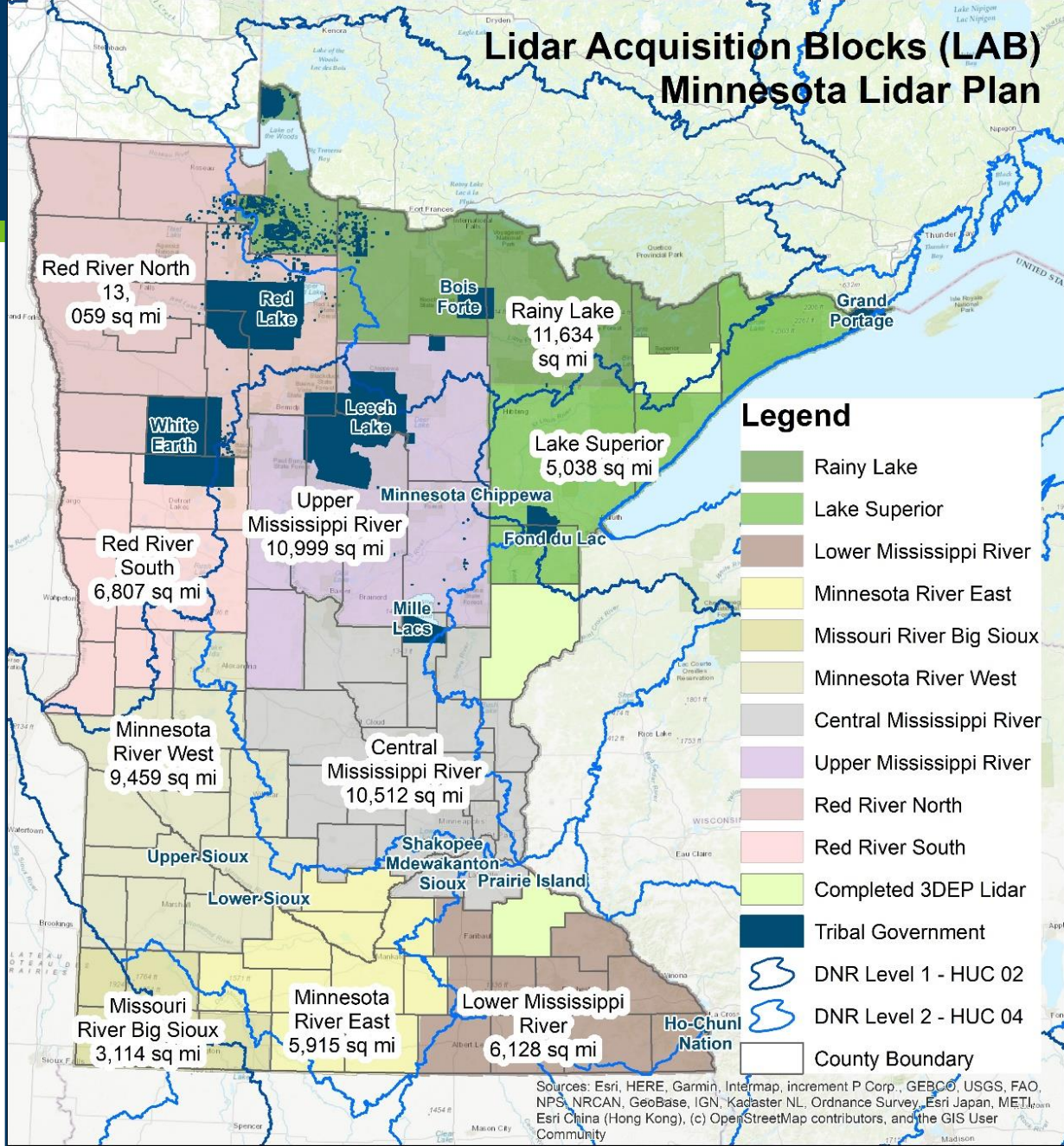
# Key Takeaways from the Plan

- Lidar acquisitions are coordinated by the GAC's **3DGeo Committee**
- 3DGeo is working to coordinate lidar acquisition with local, federal, and state **partnerships**
  - Leveraging **USGS federal funding opportunity**
  - Grant **funds** are available from USGS for lidar acquisition because there is a local-to-national scale need for a seamless nationwide DEM elevation layer
- **Economies of scale** are achieved when partners collaborate across landscapes
  - The bigger the collection footprint, the lower the cost
- Minnesota's Lidar Plan divides up the state into **lidar acquisition areas (LAA)** based on political (county) and watershed boundaries



# Lidar Acquisition Areas and Blocks of Interest

## Lidar Acquisition Blocks (LAB) Minnesota Lidar Plan



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, US Census Data Sept 2019



Map Date: Nov 16, 2020





# 3DEP

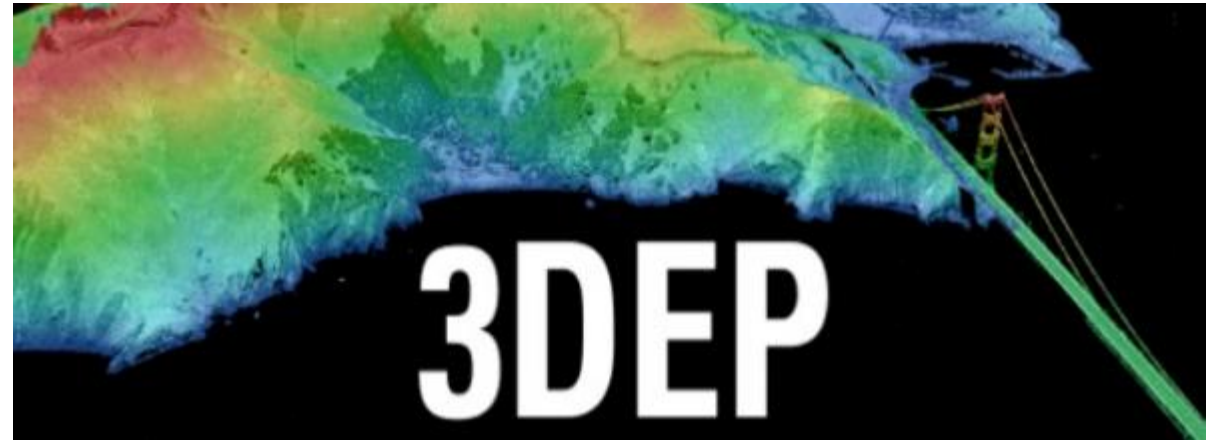
(Federal Coordination and Grant)



# USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

## 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

- **Systematically** guiding the collection of 3D elevation data in the form lidar data for the United States, and the U.S. territories
- Goal: elevation dataset for the nation **by 2023**
- The first-ever national baseline of **consistent** high-resolution elevation data – both bare earth and 3D point clouds – collected in a timeframe of less than a decade.

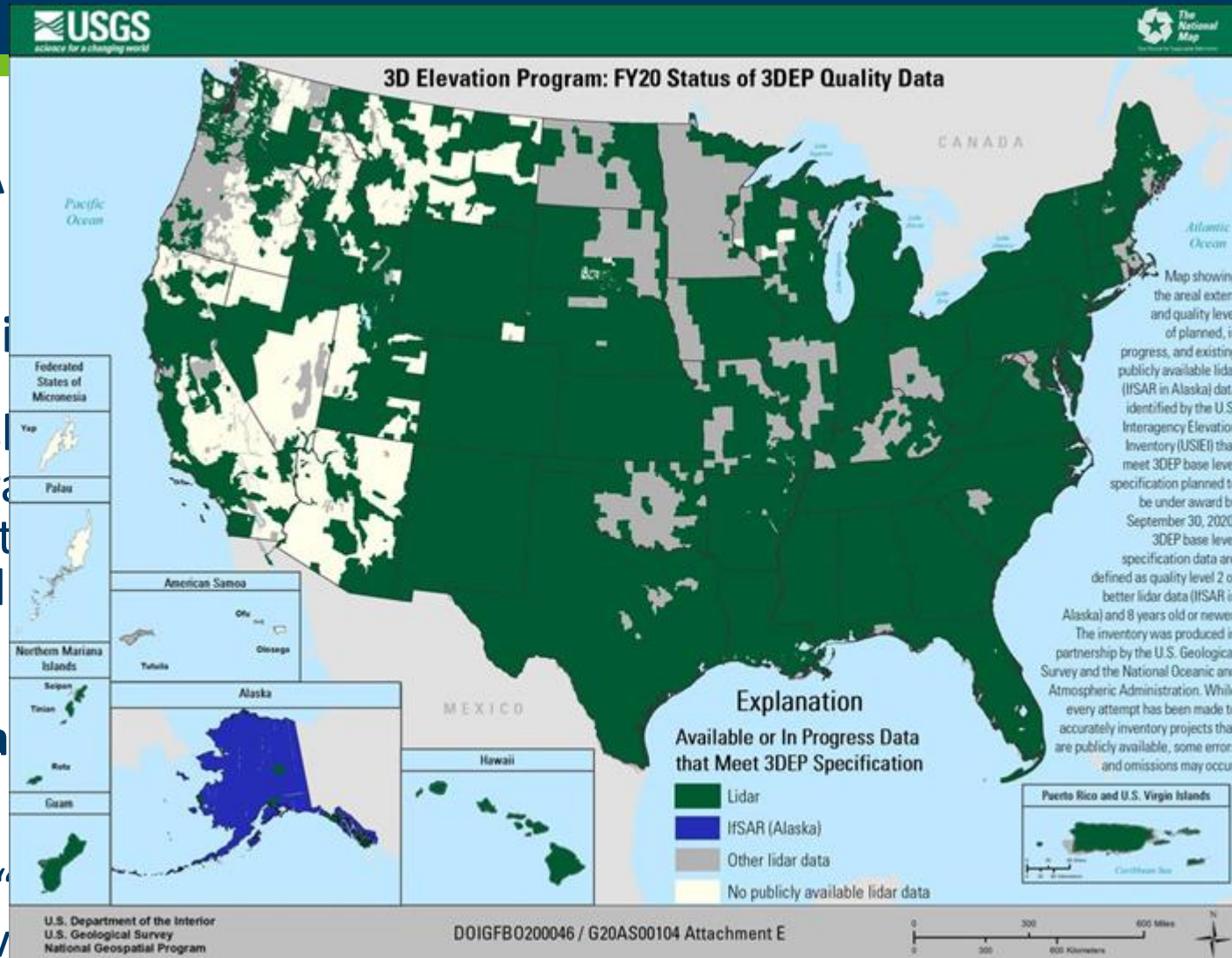


## Minnesota Numbers

- Partners: \$1.92M
- USGS 3DEP: \$8.11M



# USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) - BAA



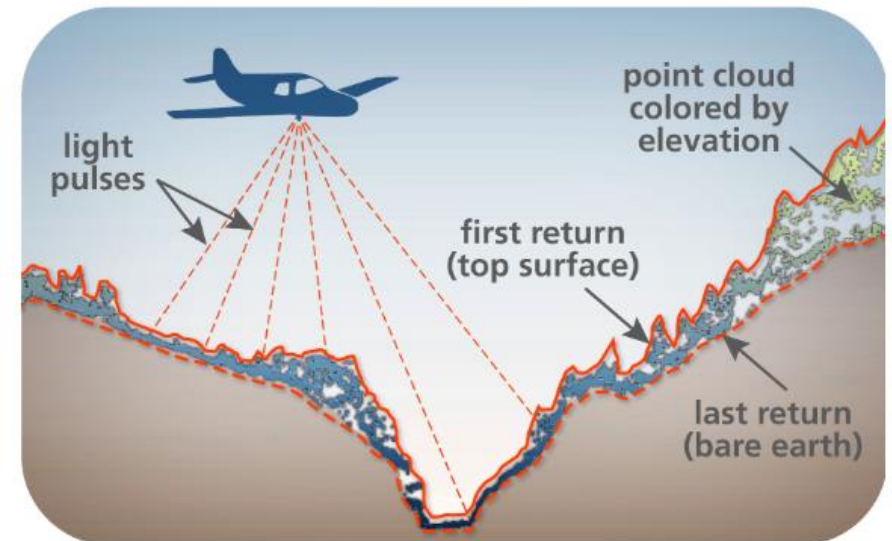
## Broad Agency A (BAA)

- Grant coordination
- Guides partners and other Federal public and private high-quality 3D acquisition.
- USGS is cost-share QL2 or greater
- Grants through “deadlines are even”

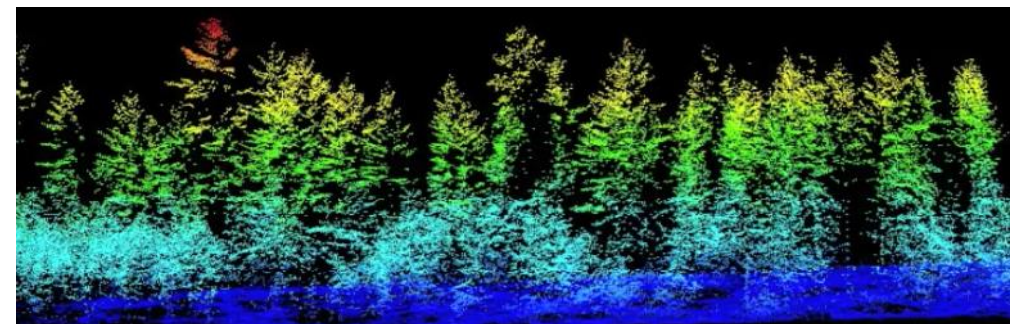
# What is lidar?

## Lidar stands for **light detection and ranging**

- It is a **mapping technology** that uses a **pulsed laser** to measure the time it takes for emitted light to travel from a sensor to the ground or other objects and back.
- The sensor can **pulse** a laser beam hundreds of thousands of times per second
- Millions of returns ("**points**") are captured, resulting in a "point cloud" of three-dimensional measurements.



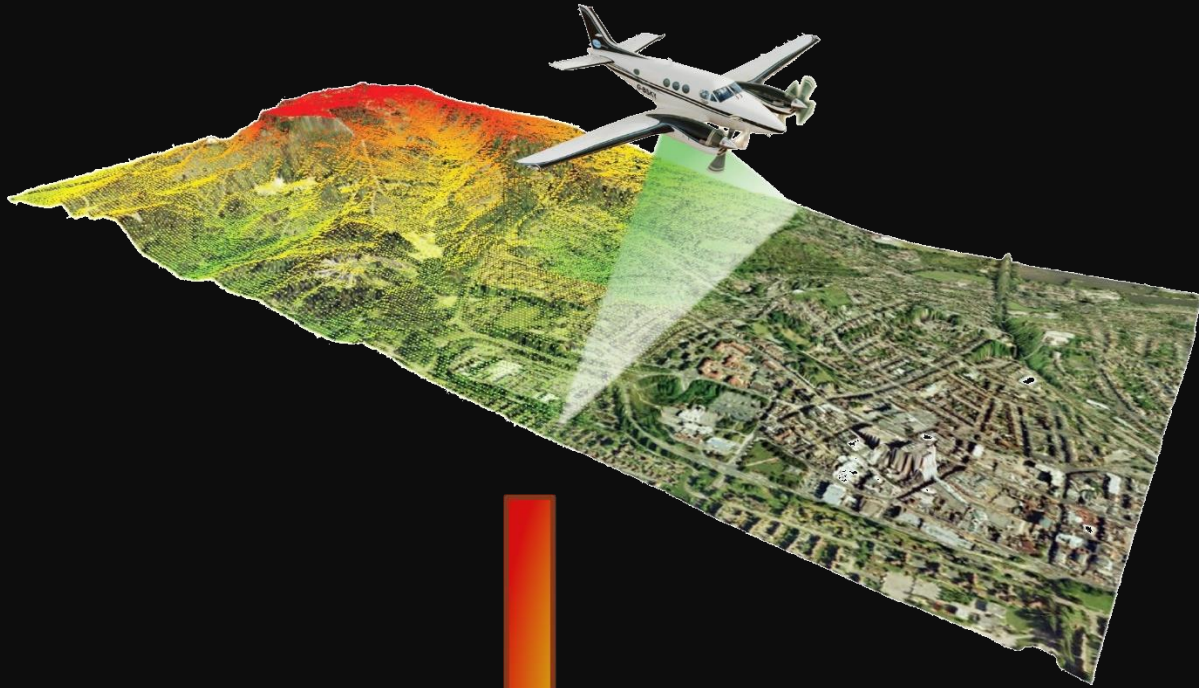
*Image from the Washington Geological Survey*





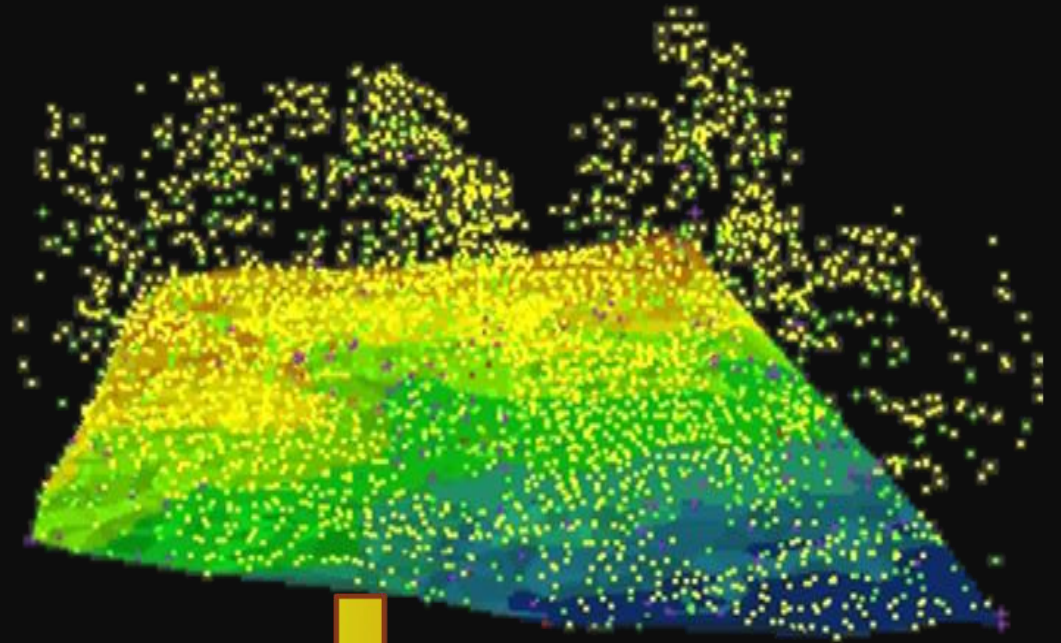
# What is lidar? Lidar Acquisition → Point Cloud

Lidar Acquisition



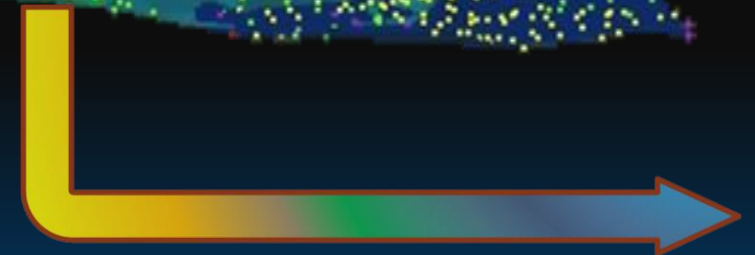
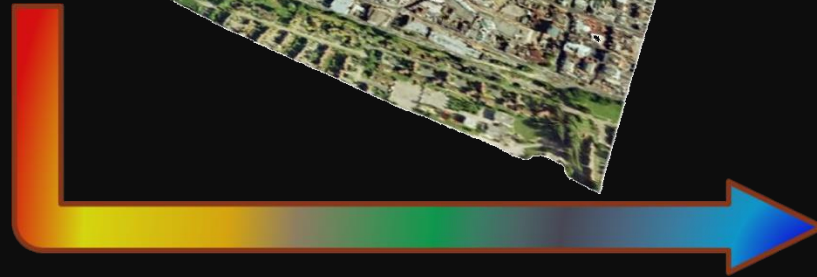
Lidar Point Cloud

3D Rendition of Natural  
and Built Environments



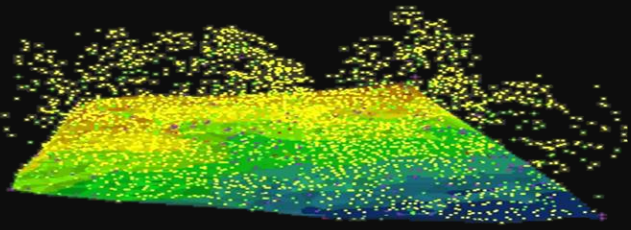
Lidar Classification

Painting the Lidar Point Cloud  
Elevation Values

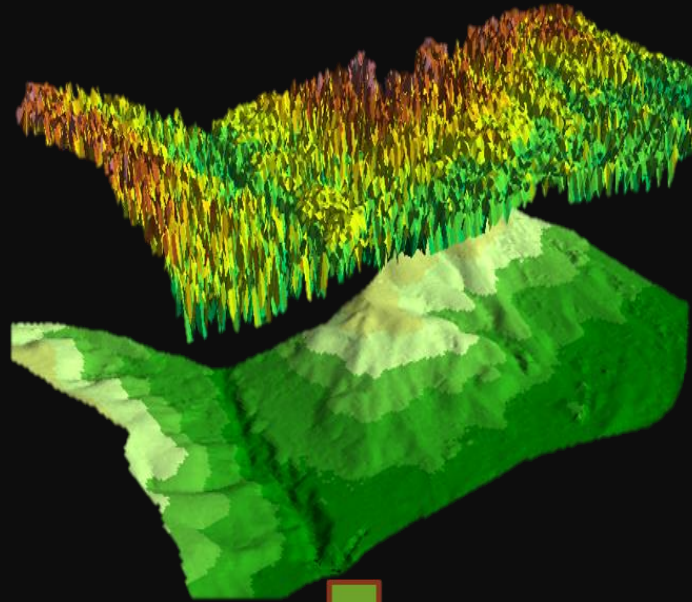


# What is lidar? Lidar Acquisition → Point Cloud → Classification → DEM

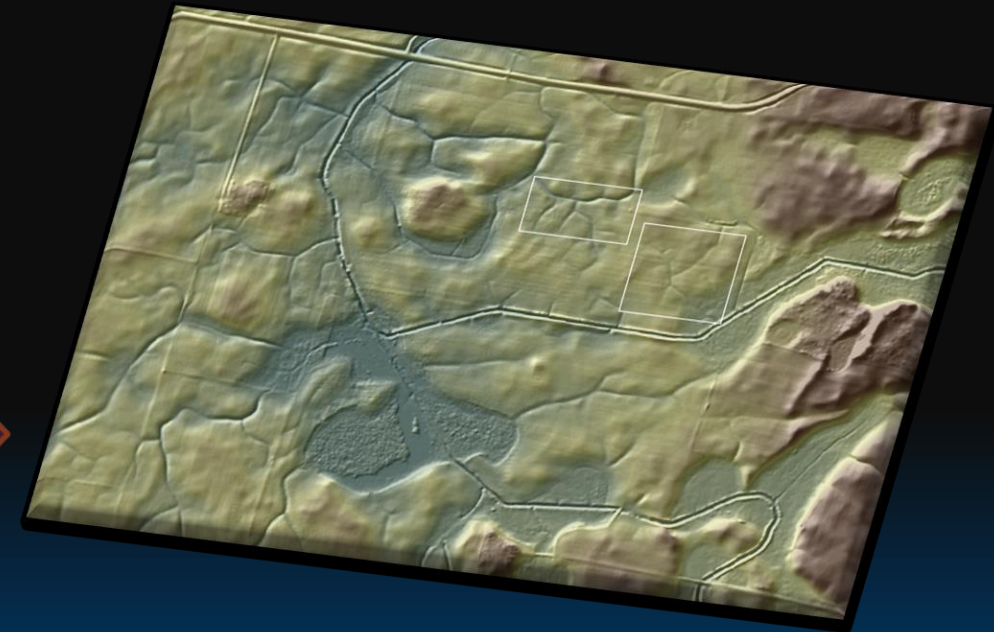
- Point Cloud Classification – Feature Identification and Separation of Data for Sector Application



Lidar 3D Point Cloud



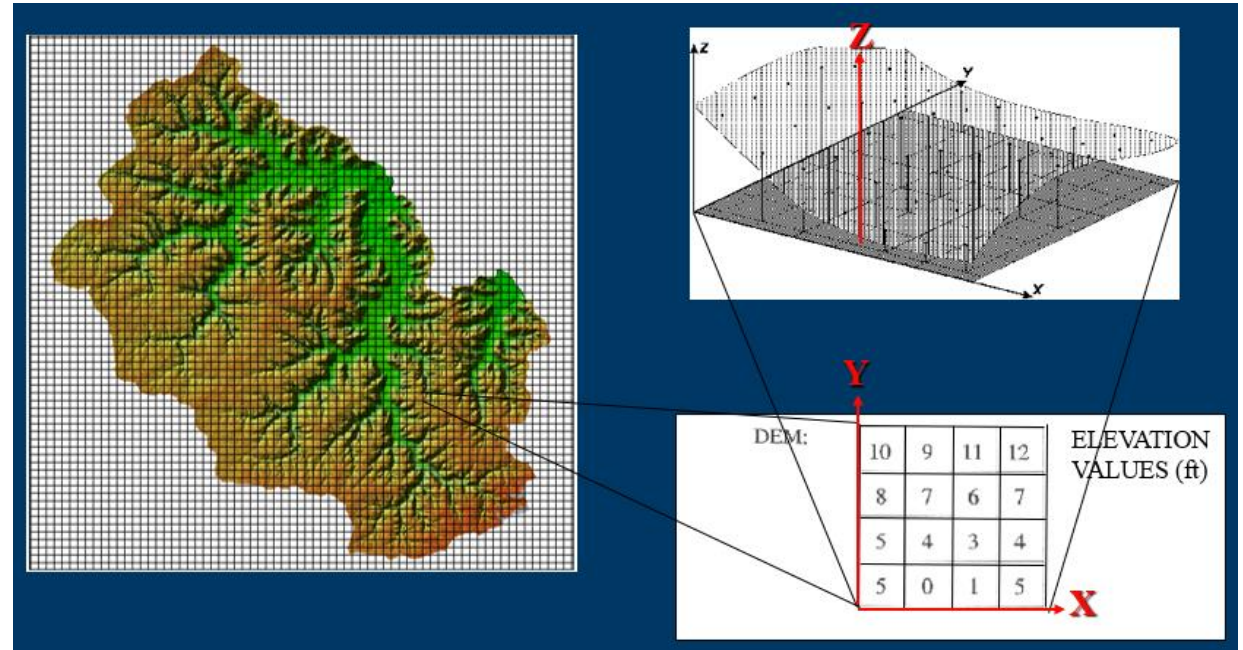
LiDAR-derived 3D Digital Elevation Model (DEM)





# What is lidar? - DEM & Contours

- **DEM** stands for digital elevation model
  - A **digital representation** of the land surface.
- The DEM is a **derived product**
  - Represented as a gridded tessellation of the landscape built from Lidar-derived points with **elevation values (Z)**.
- Topographic contours are a **derived product** (usually from the DEM)
  - Lines represent equal intervals **elevation values (Z)**.



# What is Lidar?

## To Some Users Lidar Is:

- A 3D Point Cloud

## To Some:

- 2-ft Contours
- Digital Elevation Model (DEM)

Note: The two most downloaded authoritative lidar-derived products from MnTOPO are the 2-ft Contours and the DEM.

## To Some:

- Hydro-modified DEM & Hydrography
- High resolution contour dataset
- Human/built infrastructure: Buildings
- Vegetation: Forests and Trees
- Intensity, Digital Surface Model (DSM)
- And Many other products

Regardless what lidar is to you and your business needs, “lidar” begins with **collection of the lidar data** as part of a data procurement project, within a 3D Geomatics lidar acquisition block (LAB).

Data Procurement


Data Development

Data Dissemination

User Application





An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a road and a pond. The forest is rendered in a color palette of reds, oranges, and yellows, suggesting autumn foliage. A road with lane markings runs through the forest, and a pond is visible on the left side. A large blue circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

*What is:*  
High-density  
Lidar



# Need for New High-density Lidar

- **Update** our existing Lidar data holdings which are now a decade old.
- **Improves** our ability to analyze the landscape in Minnesota, map assets, and assess resources
- Provides the foundation for development of updated authoritative **derived products** to support analysis and informed decision-making
- Enables practitioners, managers, and researchers to be more **proactive** than reactive.



Lidar point cloud colored by photograph pixel colors



# HD Lidar – Derived Products

## Lidar Quality Levels Define Deliverable Specifications

- Minimum **DEM** Cell Size
- Minimum **Contour** Interval

**3DGeo** Committee Minimum →

**USGS** Base Specification Minimum →

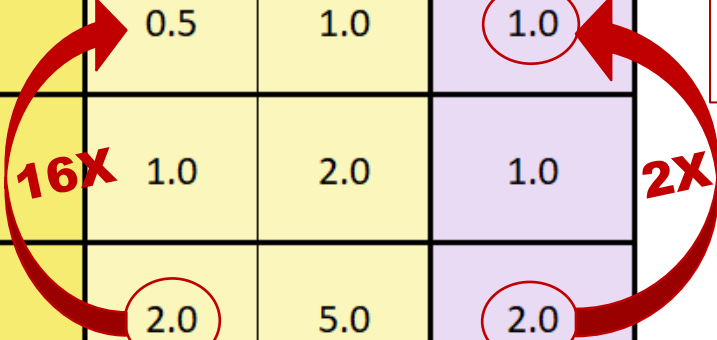
**Current** Minnesota Data Holdings →

LiDAR BASE SPECIFICATION (LBS)	LBS Table 6 Minimum DEM Cell Size		Supported Contour Interval Accuracy [ft]
	Minimum Cell Size [m]	Minimum Cell Size [ft]	
QL-0	0.5	1.0	0.5
QL-1	0.5	1.0	1.0
QL-2	1.0	2.0	1.0
QL-3	2.0	5.0	2.0



**A High-density Pulse = High Density of Points = Highly Detailed Derived Products**

QL1 = 16 grid cells per one QL3 cell  
 QL1 = 2 additional contour lines for every one 2-foot contour



# Potential Costs of Lidar in Minnesota

	Quality Level (QL)	Average Cost per mi2*
	QL-0+	\$440
<b>3DGeo</b> Recommendation →	QL-1	\$330
USGS Base Specification →	QL-2	\$200
Current Statewide Lidar →	<del>QL-3</del>	<del>\$175</del>

\*Please note the following, regarding the above cost estimates:

- These estimates were obtained in 2020.
- These average estimates are based on a series of USGS 3DEP Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) quotes. Actual cost estimates are subject to change based on a proposed area of interest.
- The 3DGeo Committee advocates for QL1 lidar and will assist partners to explore acquiring upgrades and additional derived products in their area of interest (e.g., QL0). An upgrade to point density or additional derived products will increase costs and will be the responsibility of the requesting partner(s).
- QL3 no longer meets USGS Base Specification, it is crossed out because it would not be purchased under this Lidar Plan.

+ QL0: we may see some changes regarding current QL0 costs

- The quality, density, and accuracy of QL0 that we have been reporting will remain the same



## 3DEP Standard Deliverables

- **Point Cloud** (classified to minimum level – meets most needs; data hosted online)
- Digital Elevation Model (**DEM**/Bare-Earth Surface Raster)
- Lidar Swath Polygon
- **Hydro**-breaklines
- Metadata & Reports

# 3DEP Program – Lidar Data and Derived Products

## Possible Added Deliverables

- Not 3DEP funded deliverables, but can be part of the 3DEP contract as additional products and services with the 3DEP contract vendor
  - Higher density Point Cloud
    - 3DGeo advocates for QL1, **partners may upgrade areas to QL0**
  - Improved hydrographic products
    - ✓ Advanced **hydro-modified DEM** (Conditioned DEM)
  - Bare Earth point cloud
  - Additional Point Classification
    - ✓ High vegetation and **buildings**
  - **Intensity** imagery, GeoTIFF



# State Agency Lidar Derived Products

## Foundational Derived Products

- Publicly available data served as authoritative products from state agency distribution portals
  - 1-ft **Contour** Dataset
  - **Hillshaded** DEM
  - Canopy Height Model
  - Other products to come?

# HD Lidar – Derived Products - Hydrography Example

## WATER CONVEYANCE LANDFORMS

Mapping the Unmapped Hydrography



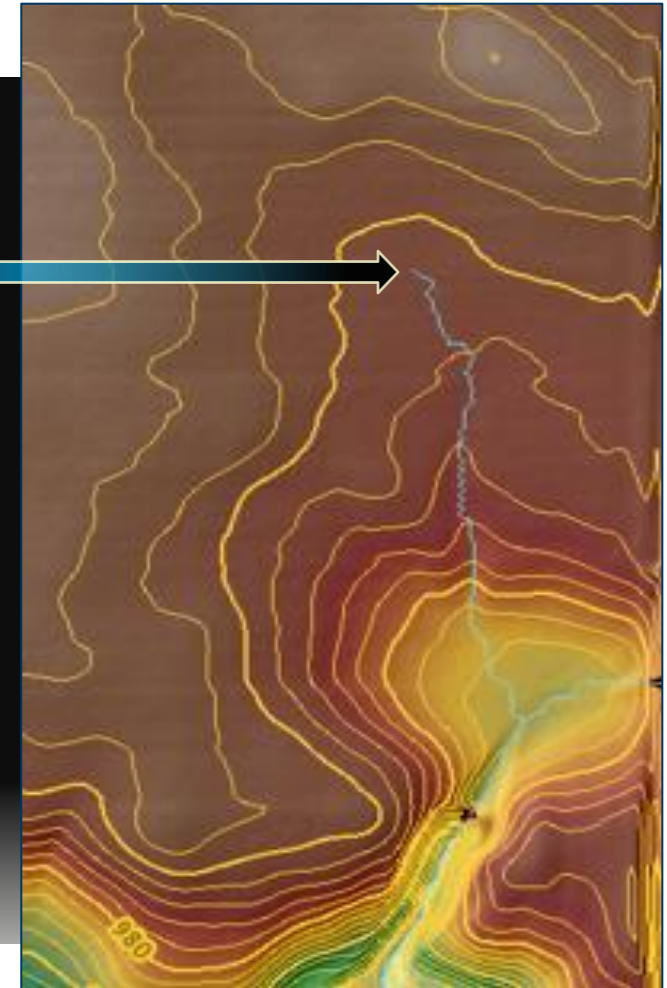
### ■ Features of hydrologic Significance.

- Nickpoint
- Fluvial Processes
- Soil Degradation

### ■ Where does the watercourse begin ?

- Where concentrated flow begins. LiDAR captures these landform.

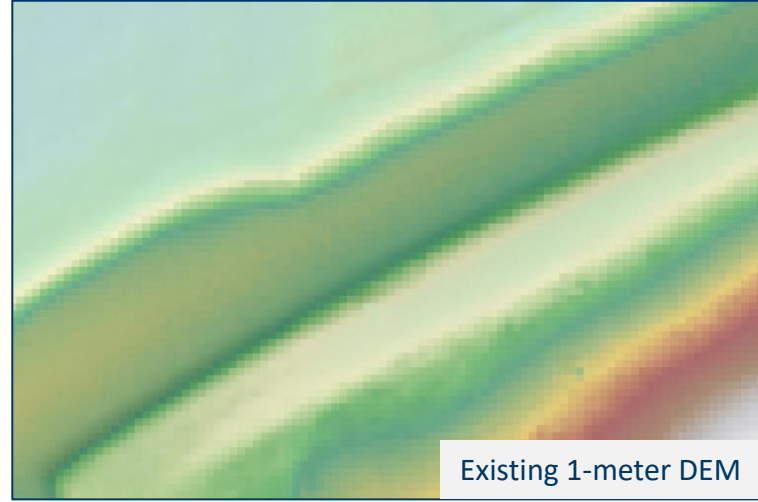
We Model this with DEMs



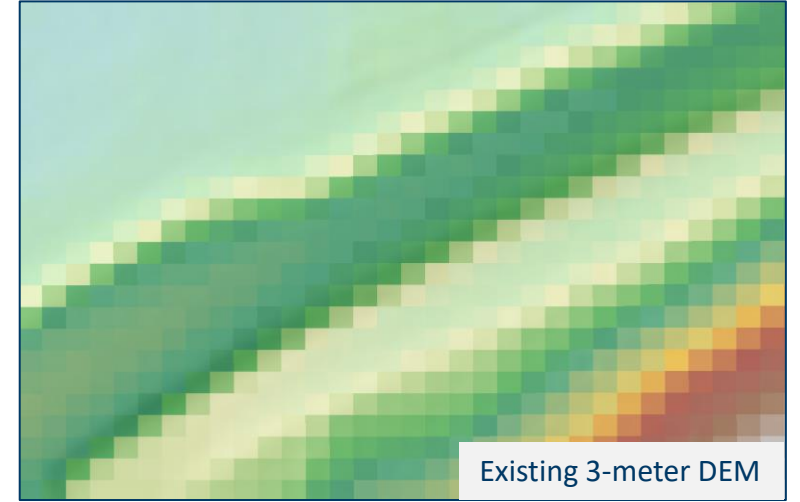


# HD Lidar Examples: Hydrography & Infrastructure

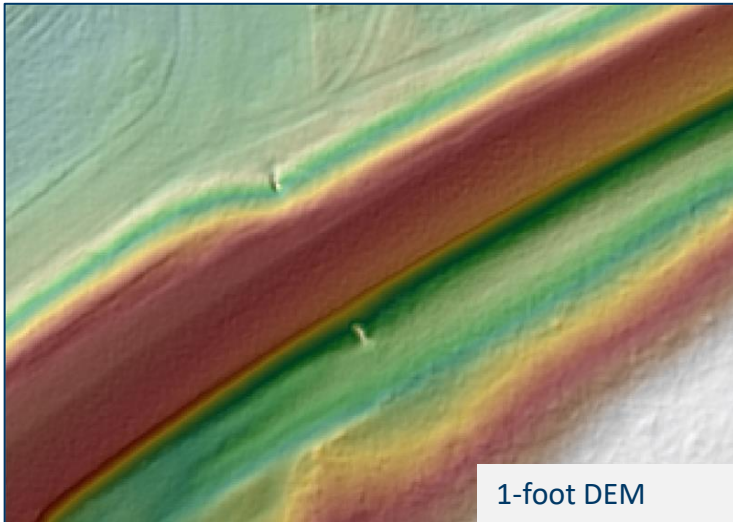
Culvert Capture - High Density (30pts/m<sup>2</sup>)



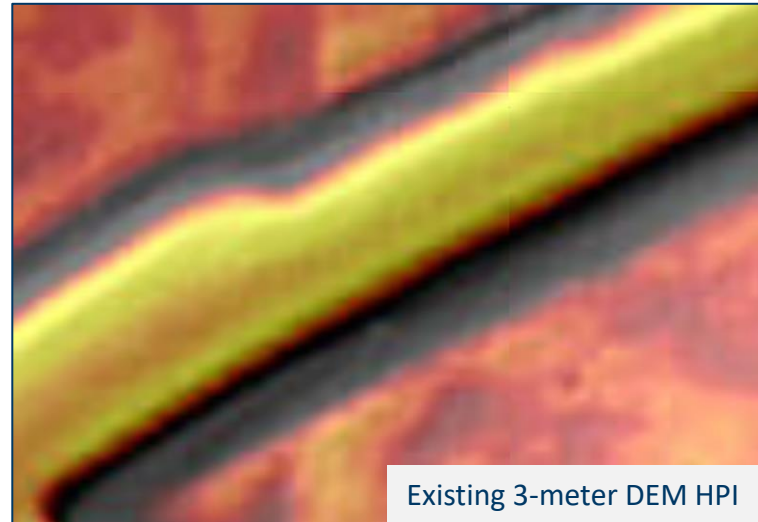
Existing 1-meter DEM



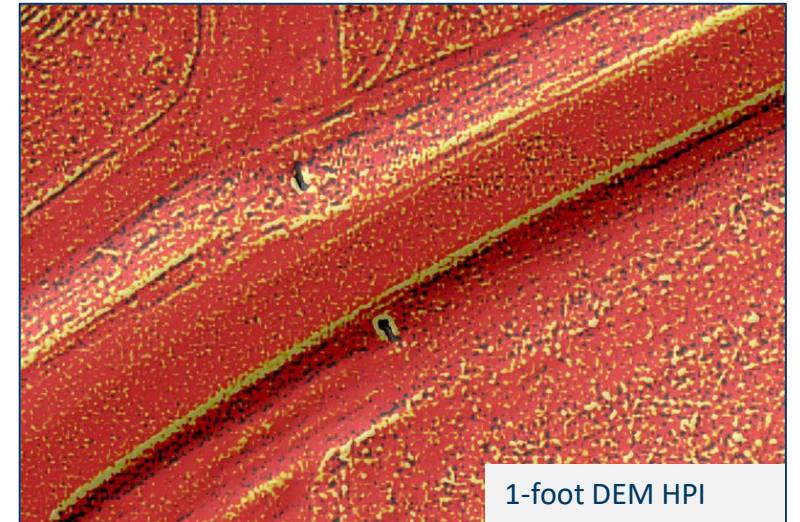
Existing 3-meter DEM



1-foot DEM



Existing 3-meter DEM HPI



1-foot DEM HPI



# HD Lidar Examples – Lidar Intensity

High Density (30pts/m<sup>2</sup>)



QL0 1-foot DEM HPI





# HD Lidar Examples - Lidar Intensity

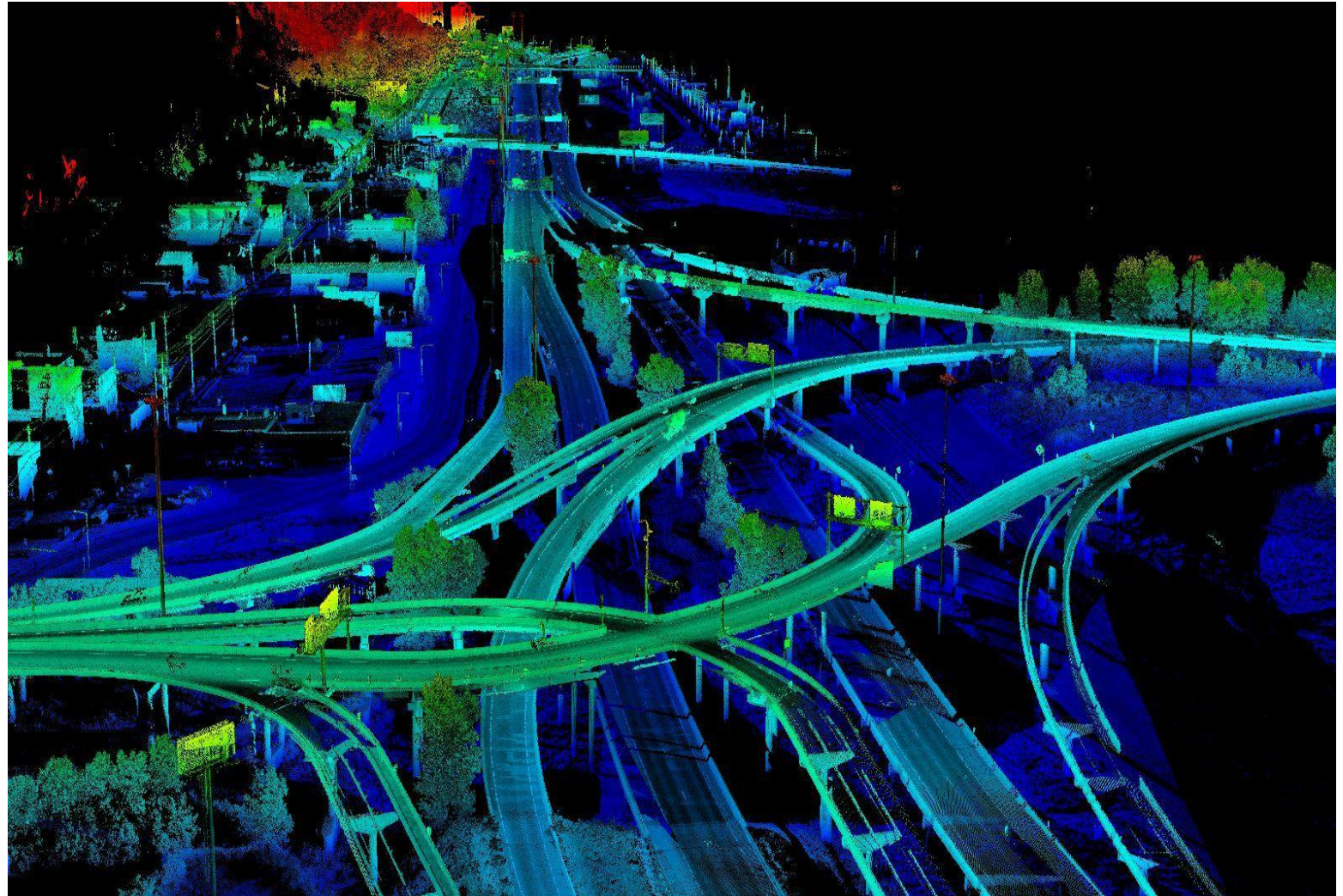
## NE Forested LAA, Infrastructure Capture – Using QL1 Lidar Intensity





# HD Lidar Examples: MnDOT Infrastructure

- Transportation
  - 3d Design
  - Traffic operations
  - Signing and striping
  - Highway safety
  - Maintenance
  - Asset management
- Energy
  - Traditional
  - Renewable/Alternative
- Cultural/Historical Resources



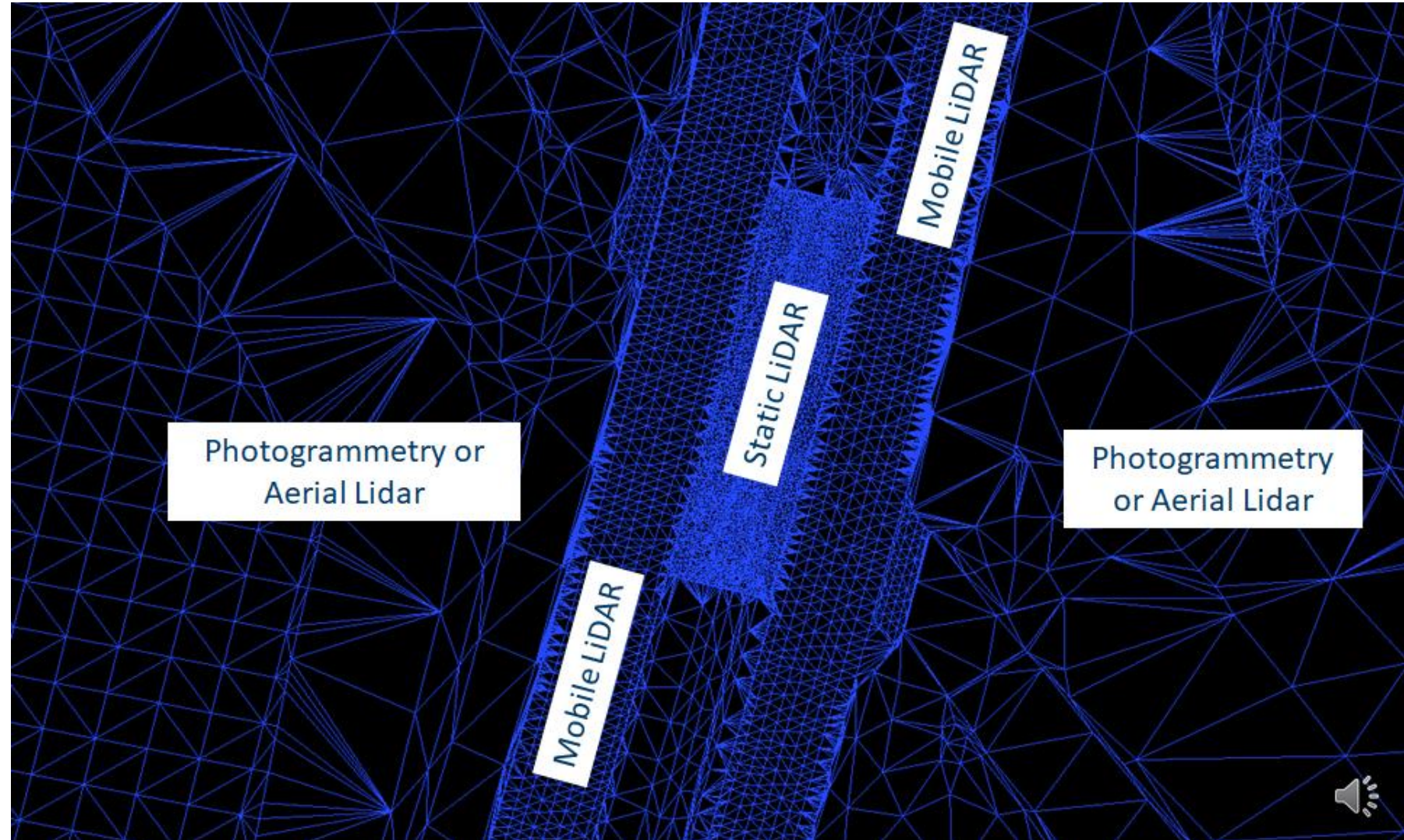
The I-35/Highway 53 interchange in Duluth, MN (known locally as the "Can of Worms")



# HD Lidar Examples: MnDOT Infrastructure

## Supporting Corridor Mapping

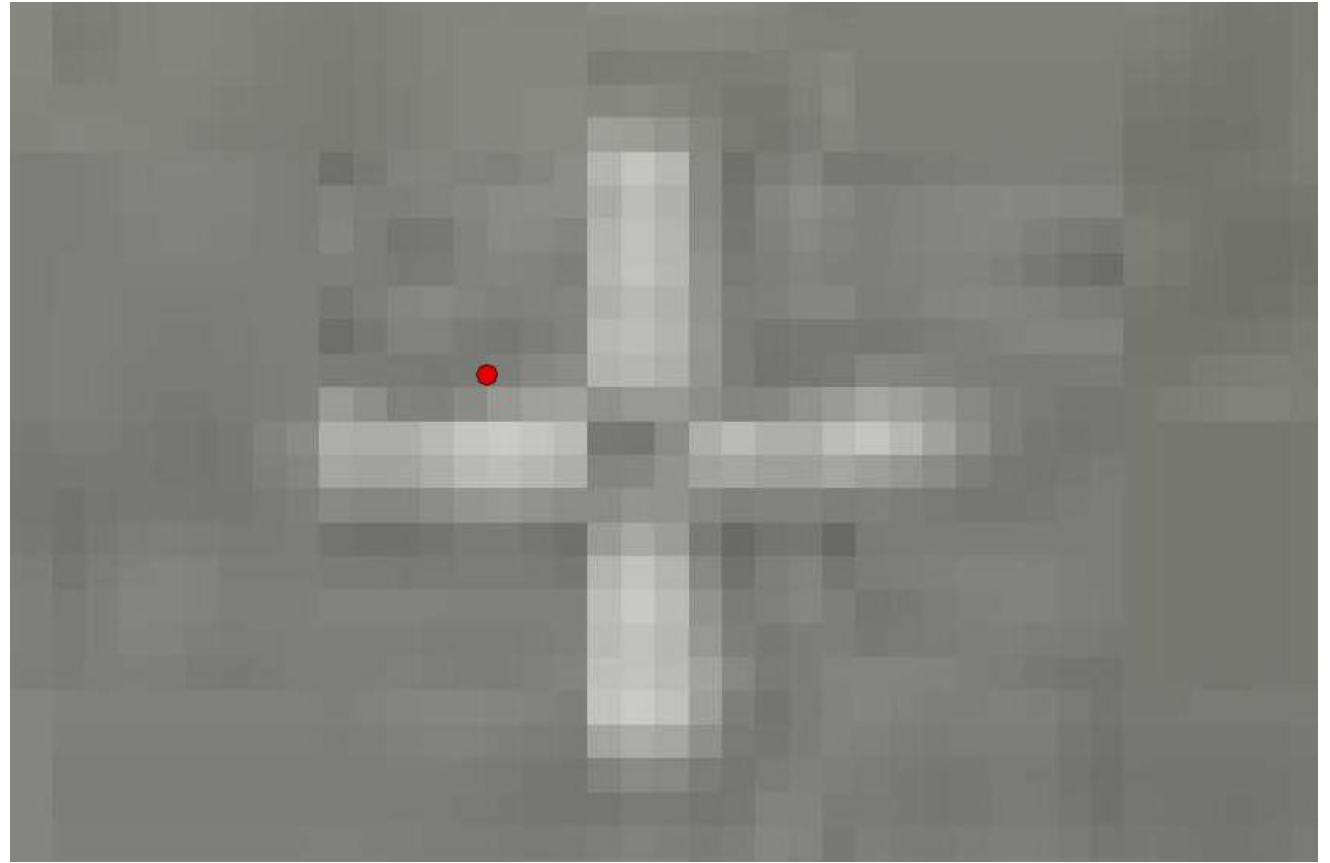
- New HD lidar can replace existing mapping methods
- Existing lidar no longer reliably supports many engineering products



# HD Lidar Examples: Infrastructure

## Supporting Orthomosaic Creation

- New HD lidar can replace existing mapping methods
- Existing lidar no longer reliably supports the creation of high resolution orthophotos





# HD Lidar Examples: County Infrastructure & Hydrography

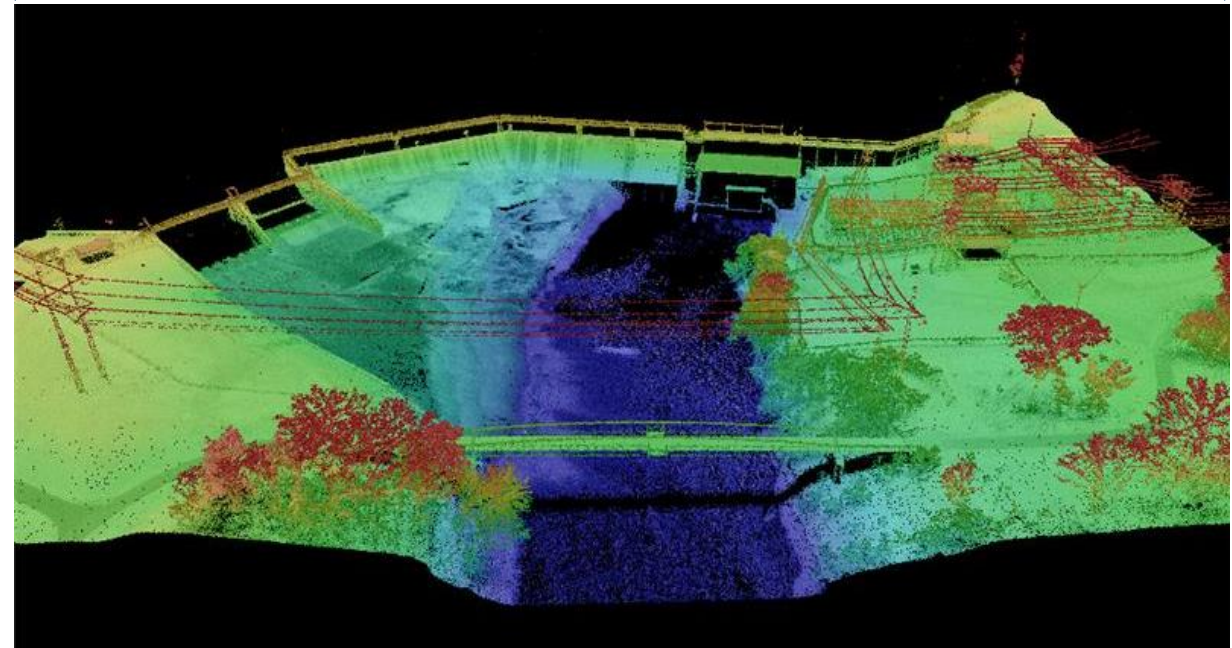
## MnDOT Vertical Accuracy Analysis

### High-Density 30+pt/m<sup>2</sup> Lidar Point Cloud

- Goodhue County data reviewed by Colin Lee and District 6 surveyors
- 90% of the lidar points evaluated have elevation values within **0.033 (ft)** to **0.066 (ft)** of actual, onsite, vertical survey results.
  - Test points represent open, hard, smooth surfaces
  - **1.0 (cm)** to **2.0 (cm)** of onsite, vertical survey results.



*Lake Byllesby Dam & Reservoir Dakota County (QL0 Lidar Point Cloud)*



# HD Lidar Examples: Floodplain Mapping (Hydro, Infrastructure & Forest)

## 2021 - Progressive Approach

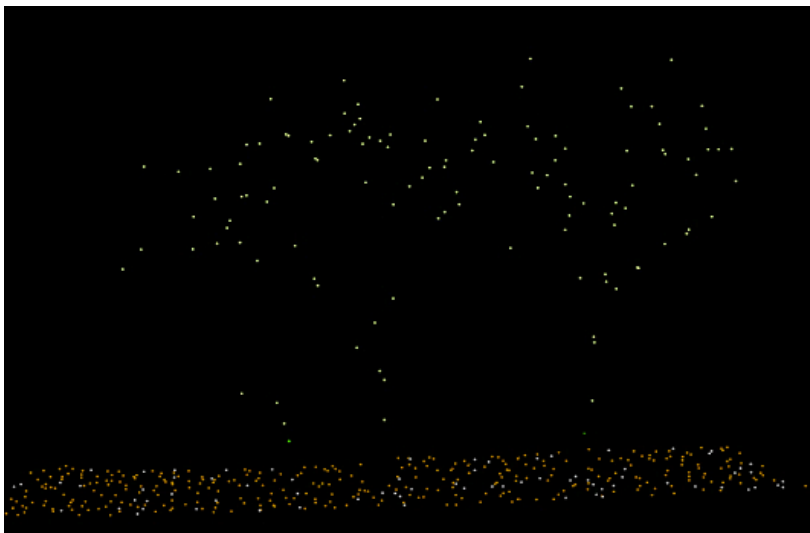
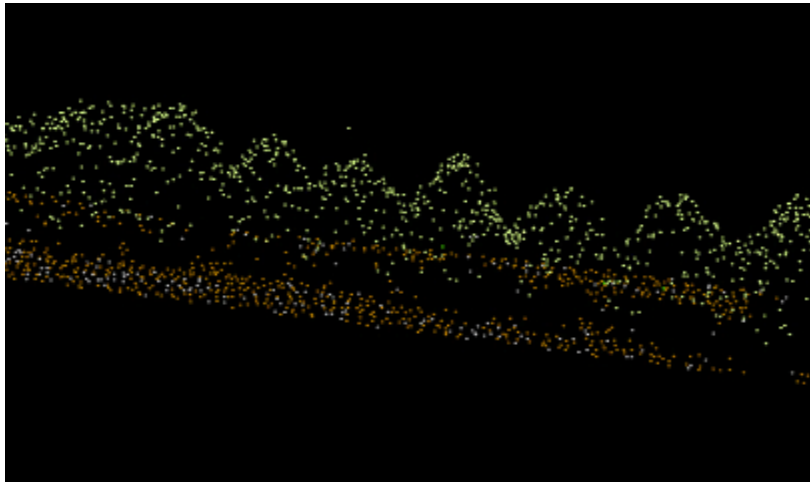
- New high density lidar not only maps this area of flood inundation but it **maps all the infrastructure assets** in the image.
- We have an opportunity to be **proactive** and map this entire scene.



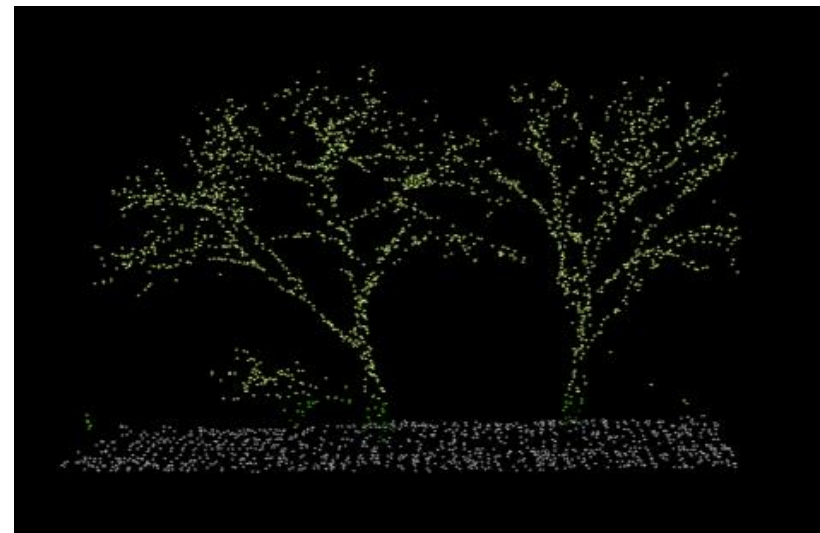
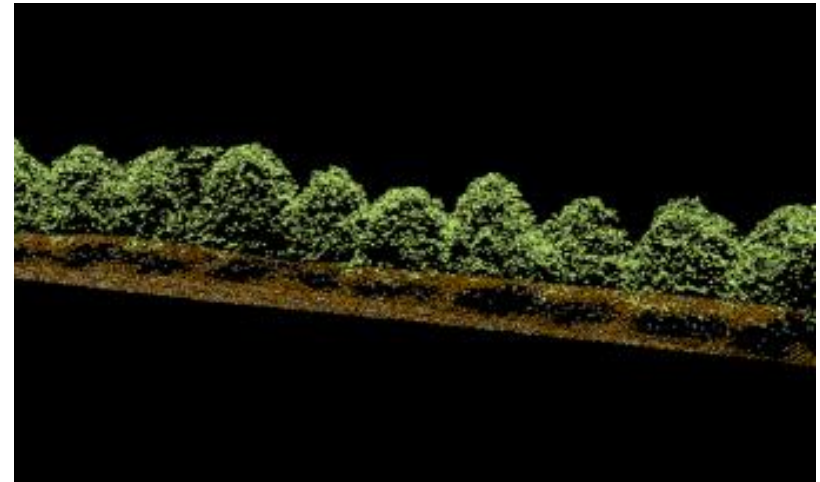


# HD Lidar Examples: Vegetation Mapping

Low Density (QL3, 1ppm)

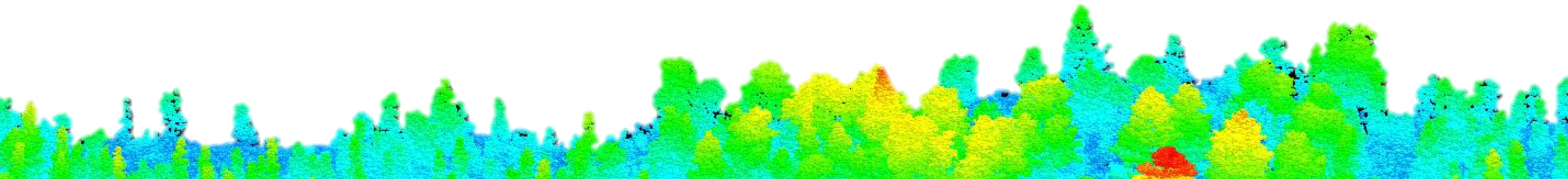
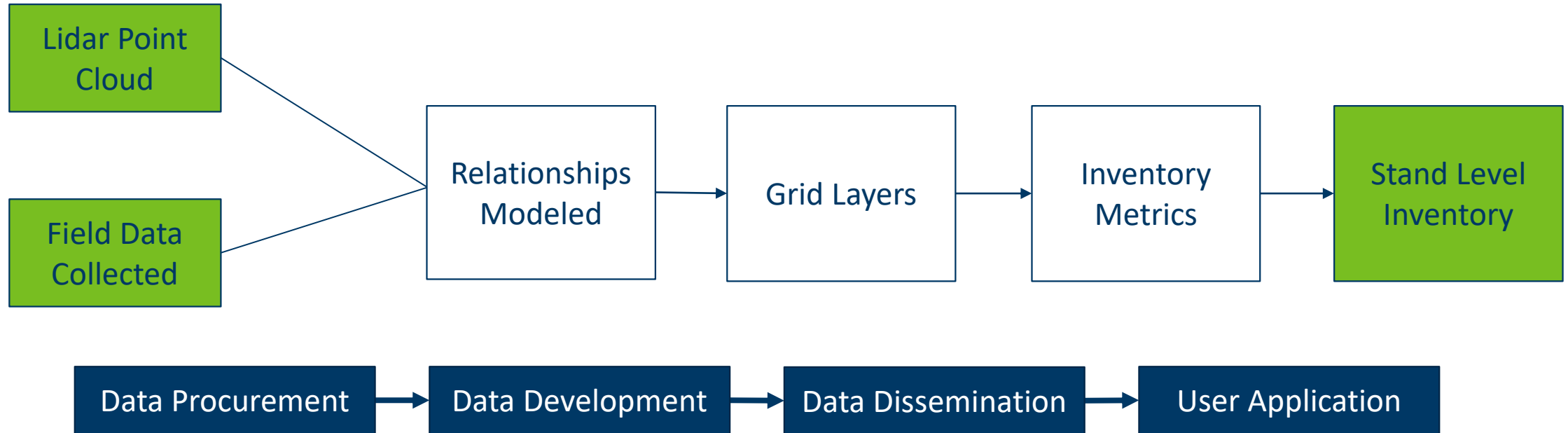


High Density (QL1, 8+ppm)



# Forestry - pulling all the elements together

## Lidar is Foundational Data for DNR







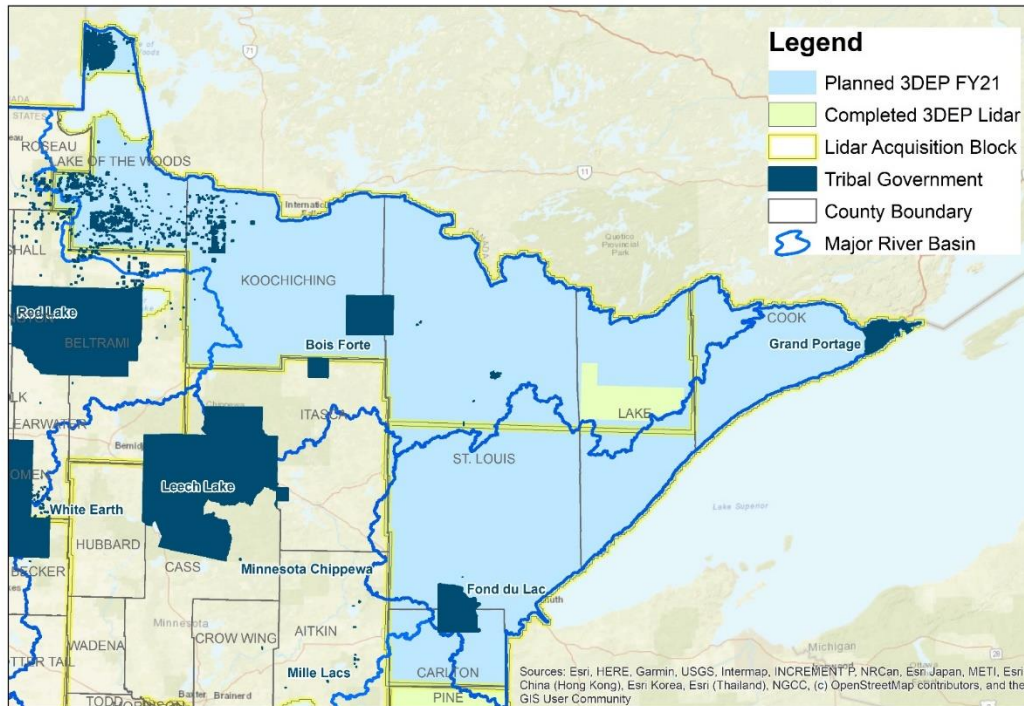
Next: Lidar  
Collect



# Lidar Acquisition: Northeast – Rainy Lake & Lake Superior Block

- Rainy Lake and Lake Superior Block data collections are complete!

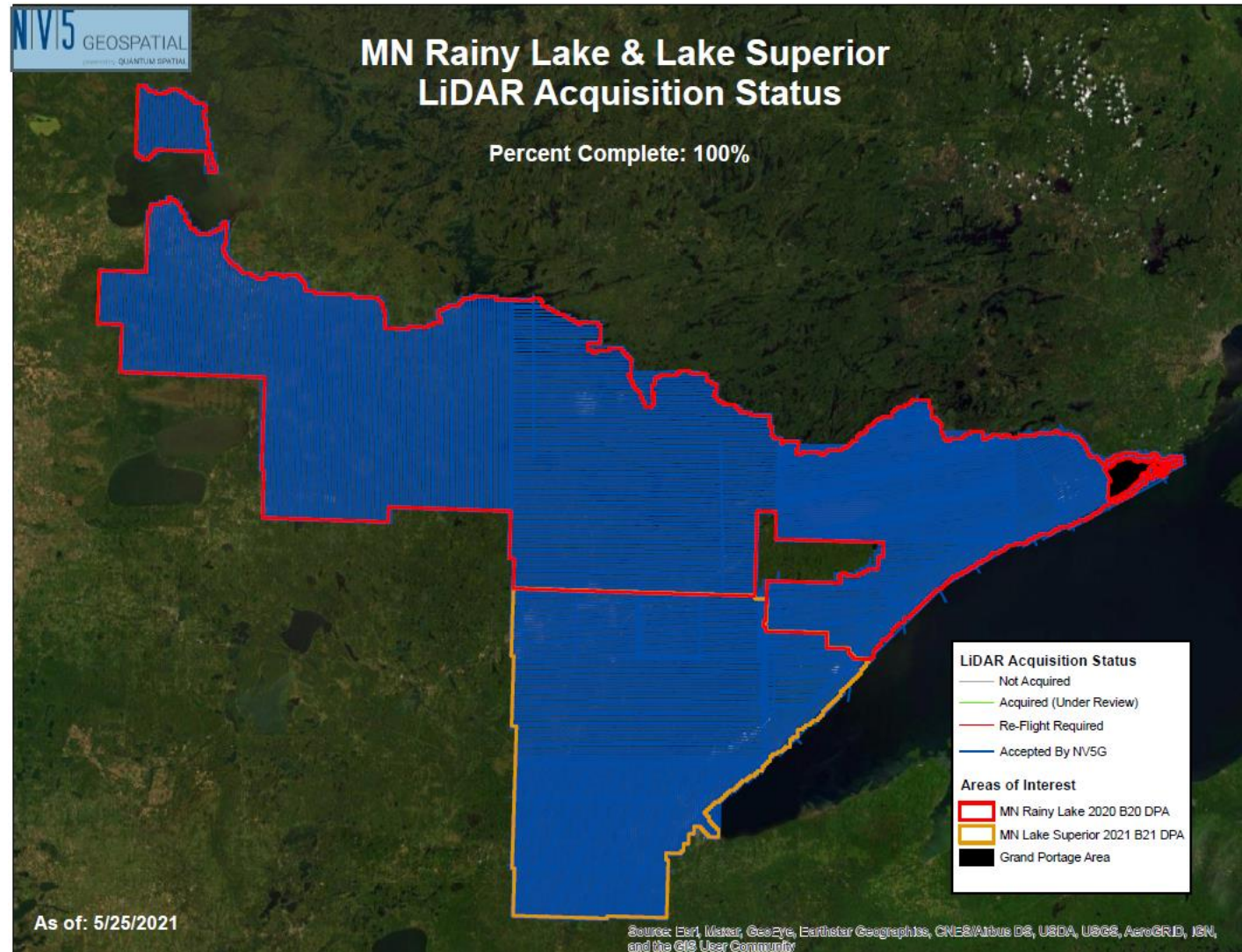
Northeast MN - 2021 PLANNED USGS 3DEP Lidar Acquisition



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019

0 10 20 40 Miles

Map Date: March 24, 2021





# Partner Contributions: *Northeast – Rainy Lake & Lake Superior Block*

Organization	Amount
USGS 3DEP	\$4,582,895
DNR Forestry	\$615,000
US Forest Service	\$488,561
NRCS	\$339,000
Office of School Trust Lands	\$100,000
MnGeo	\$60,000
DNR Fish and Wildlife	\$50,000
St Louis County	\$50,000
City of Duluth	\$30,000
DOT	\$25,000
Lake County	\$20,000
Koochiching County	\$10,000

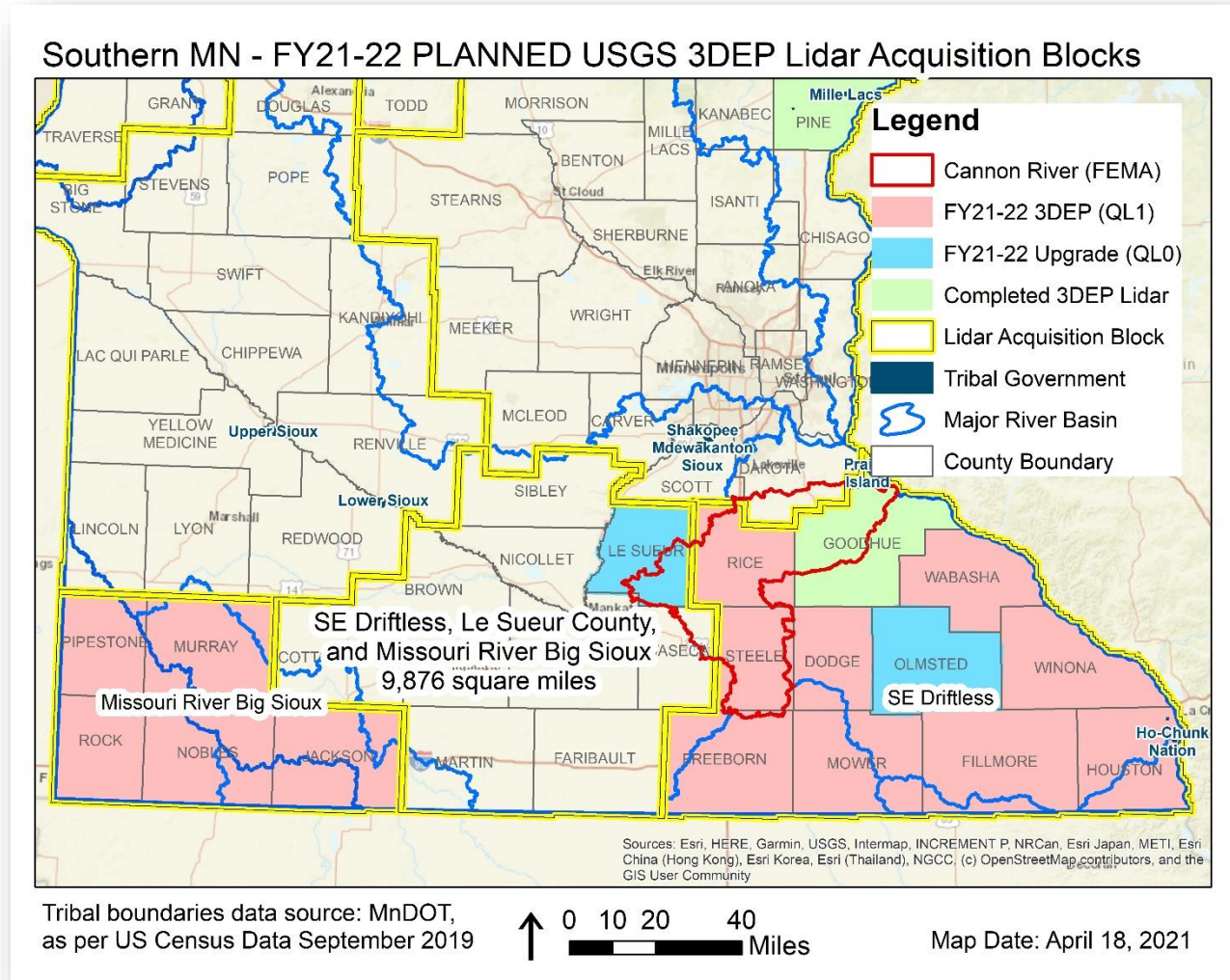
**Total Area = 16,672 square miles  
(10,670,080 acres)**

**Total Cost per square mile = \$382 (\$0.59/acre)**

**Grand Total Cost = \$6,370,456**

# Lidar Acquisition: Southern BAA – Missouri Big Sioux & SE Driftless Blocks

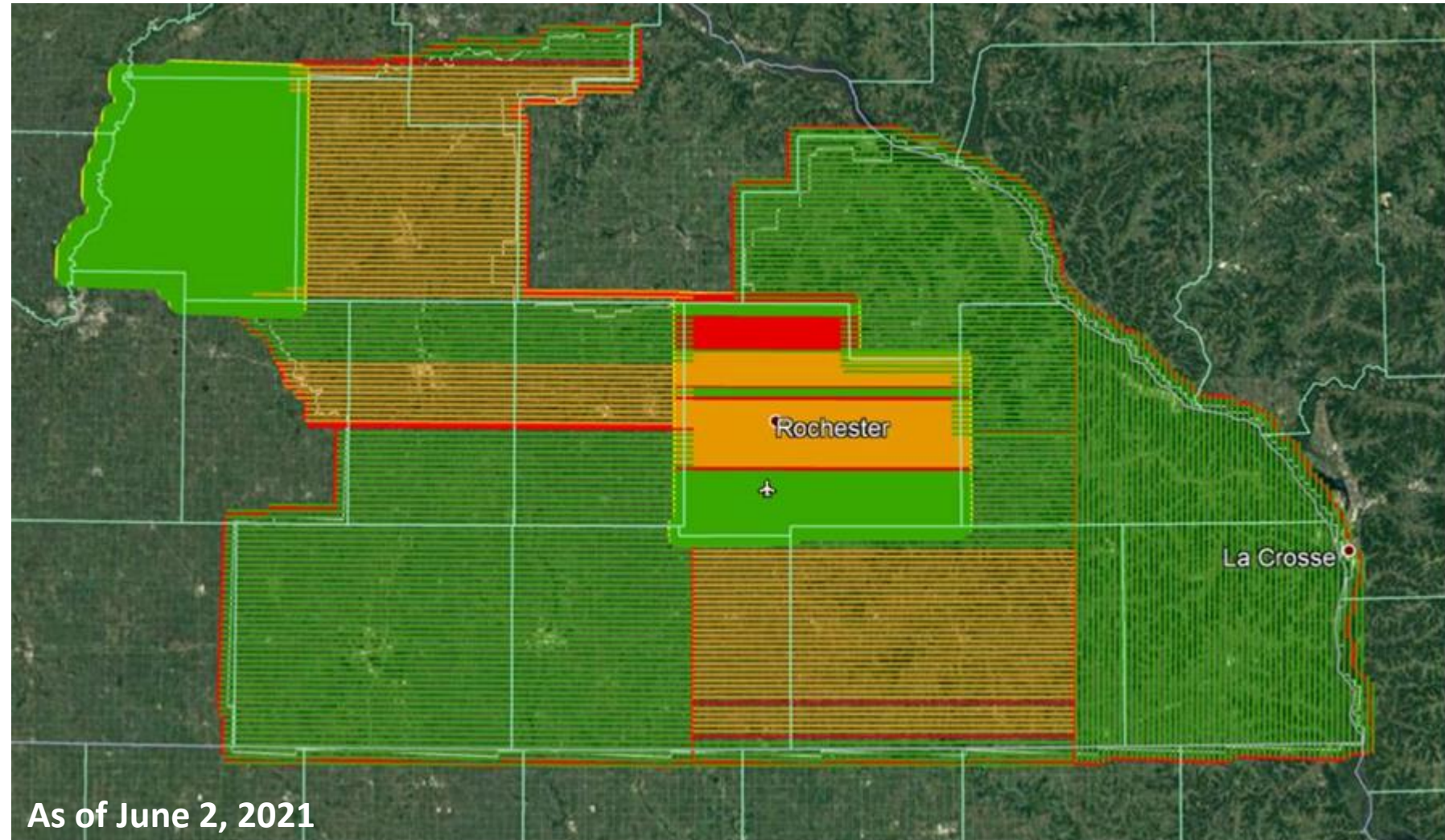
- BAA (west and east) split between two vendors and two JFA's.
  - Partners: USGS, NRCS State and Federal Offices, MnDOT, MnGeo, and Nobles, Le Sueur, Olmsted (included City of Rochester), and Winona (included City of Winona) Counties
- Lidar collection occurring now in SE Driftless LAA
- Missouri River Big Sioux block set for a Spring 2022 collection





# Lidar Acquisition: *Southern BAA – Missouri Big Sioux & SE Driftless Blocks*

- ORANGE=Not flown
- BLUE= Flown/Awaiting QC
- GREEN = QC accepted
- RED = re-flight needed
- First priority is getting the QLO reflights done in Le Sueur Co, then the QL1 flight blocks.



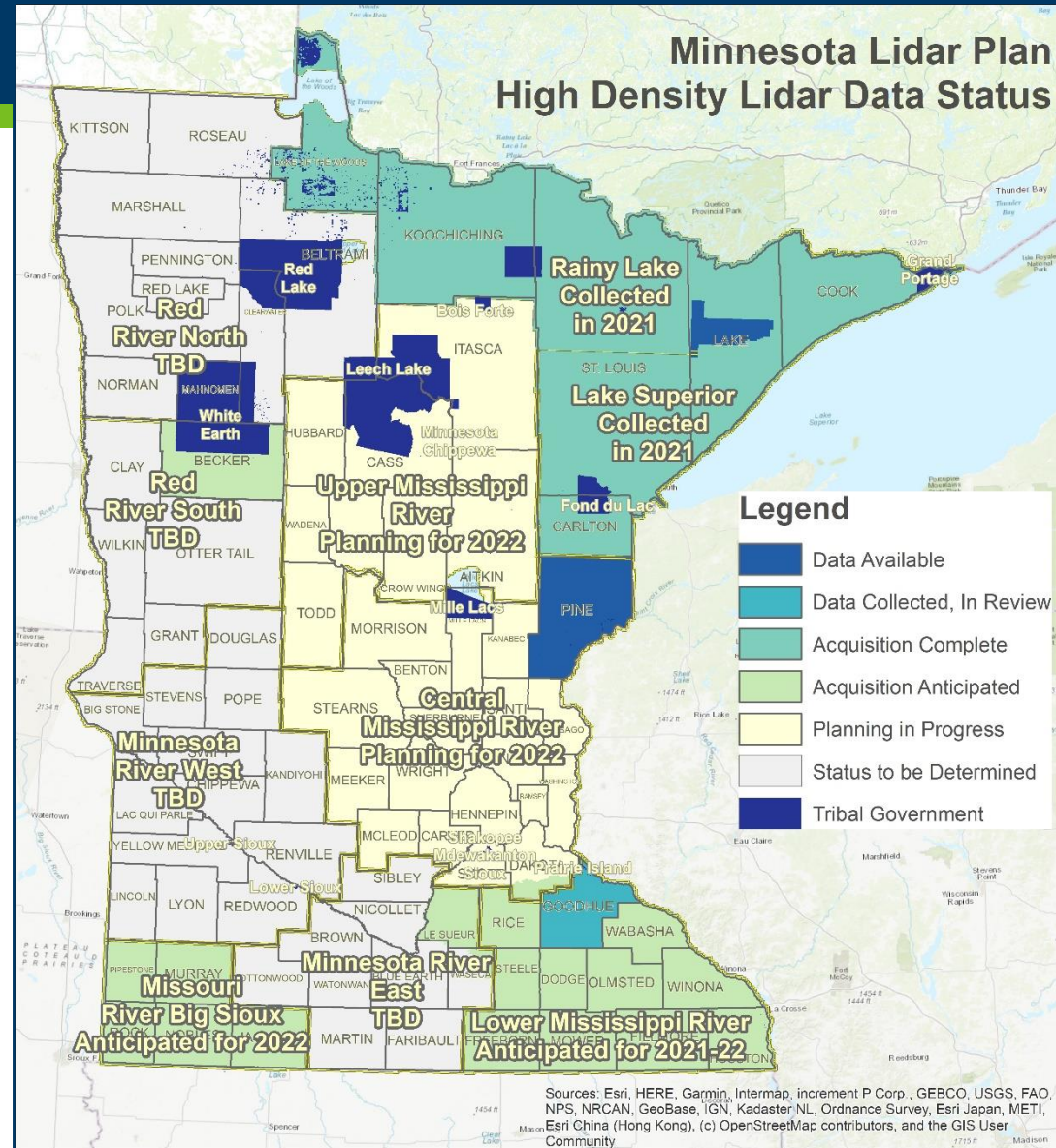


An aerial photograph of a dense forest with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting autumn. A road or path winds through the trees on the left side. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "Planning in Progress" in white, sans-serif font.

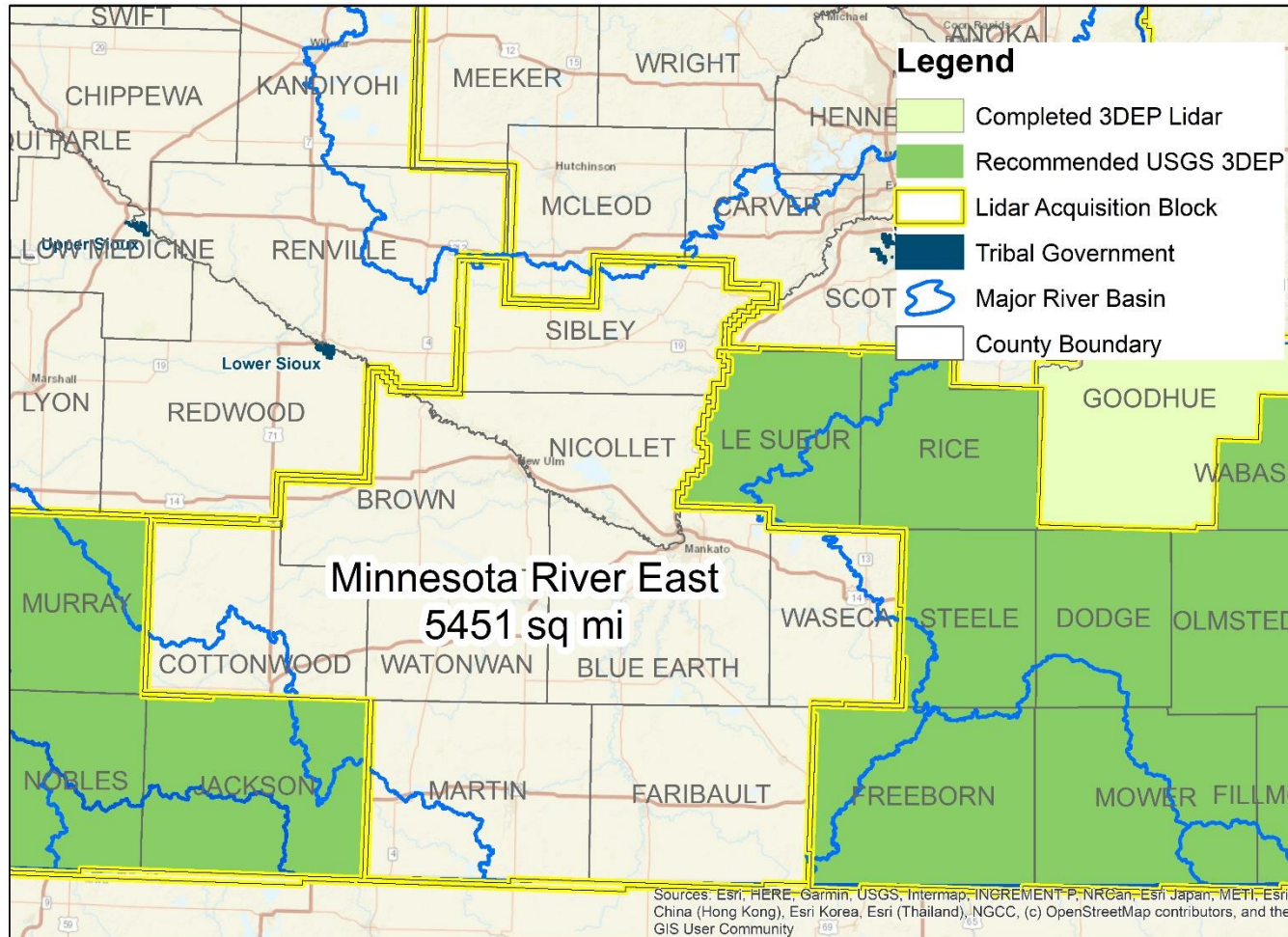
# Planning in Progress



# Lidar Acquisition Areas and Blocks of Interest



# 3DGeo Outreach: Minnesota River - East Block



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019



Map Date: April 26, 2021

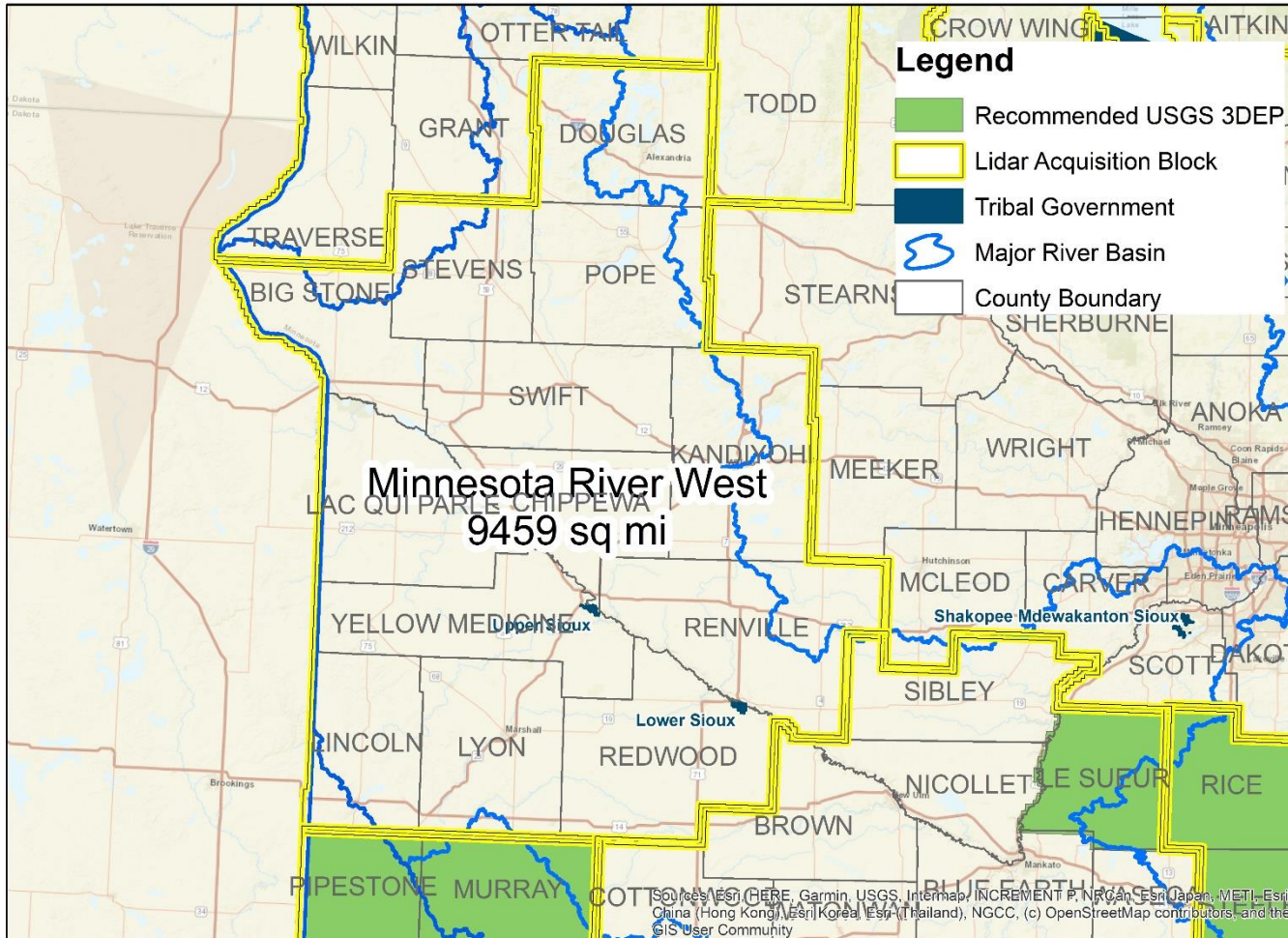
**3DGeo stakeholder outreach** has started in the MN River East Block

- Next meeting: May 25, 2PM

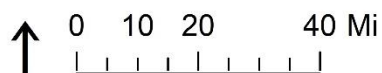
Estimated USGS 3DEP Contribution		Total Partner Contributions Needed	
%	\$	%	\$
40%	\$718,747	60%	\$1,078,121
5451 square miles Estimated at <b>\$330</b> per square mile = <b>\$1,796,868 TOTAL</b>			



# 3DGeo Outreach: Minnesota River - West Block



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019



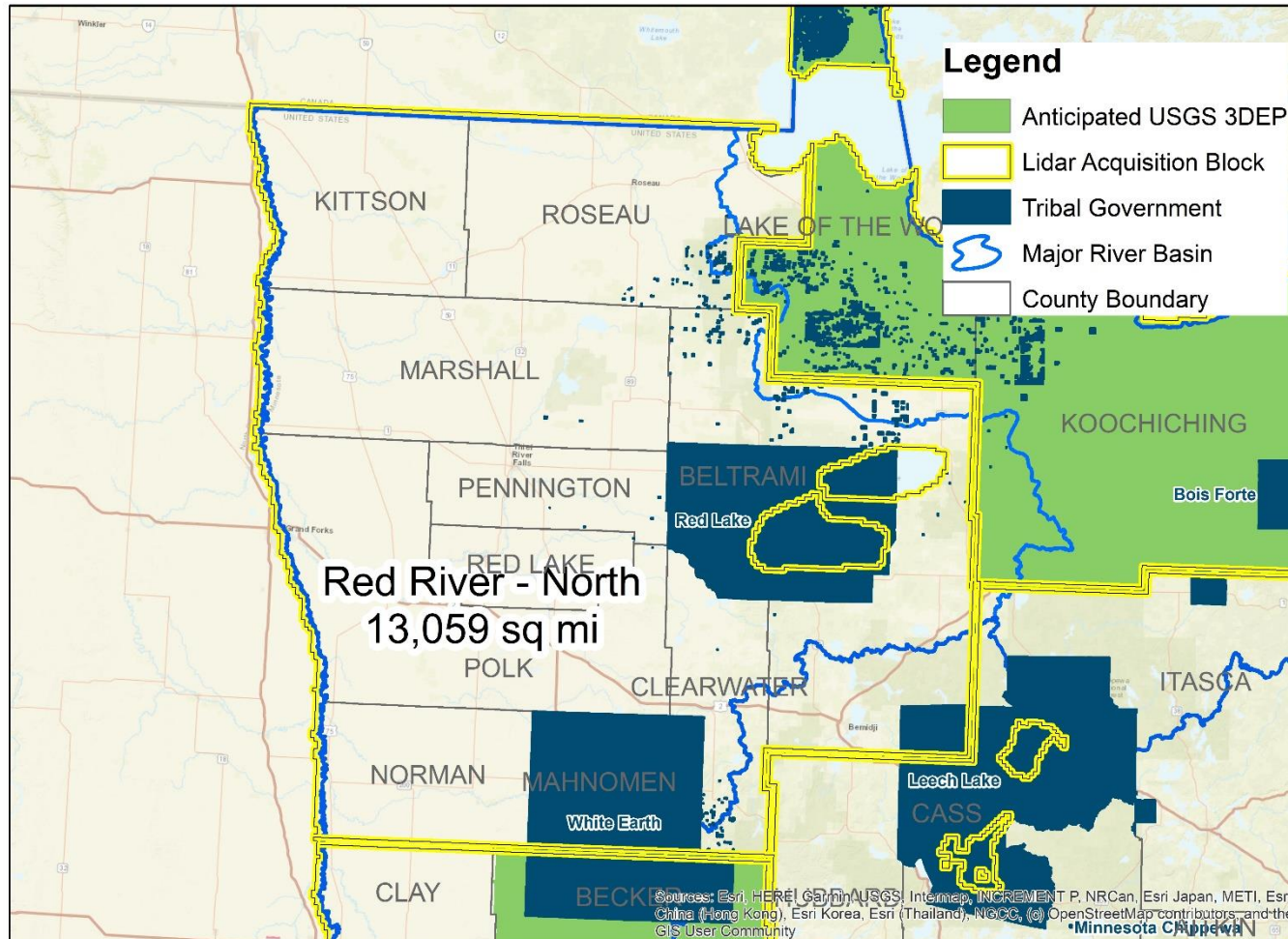
Map Date: April 27, 2021

**3DGeo stakeholder outreach** has started in the MN River West Block

- Next meeting: May 25, 2PM

Estimated USGS 3DEP Contribution		Total Partner Contributions Needed	
%	\$	%	\$
40%	\$1,228,043	60%	\$1,842,065
9,459 square miles Estimated at <b>\$324</b> per square mile = <b>\$3,070,108 TOTAL</b>			

# 3DGeo Outreach: Red River - North Block



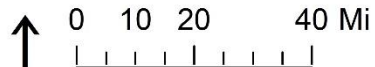
3DGeo stakeholder outreach has started in the Red River North LAB

- Next meeting: TBD (June)

Estimated USGS 3DEP Contribution		Total Partner Contributions Needed	
%	\$	%	\$
40%	\$1,723,788	60%	\$2,585,682

13,059 square miles Estimated at **\$330** per square mile  
= **\$4,309,470 TOTAL**

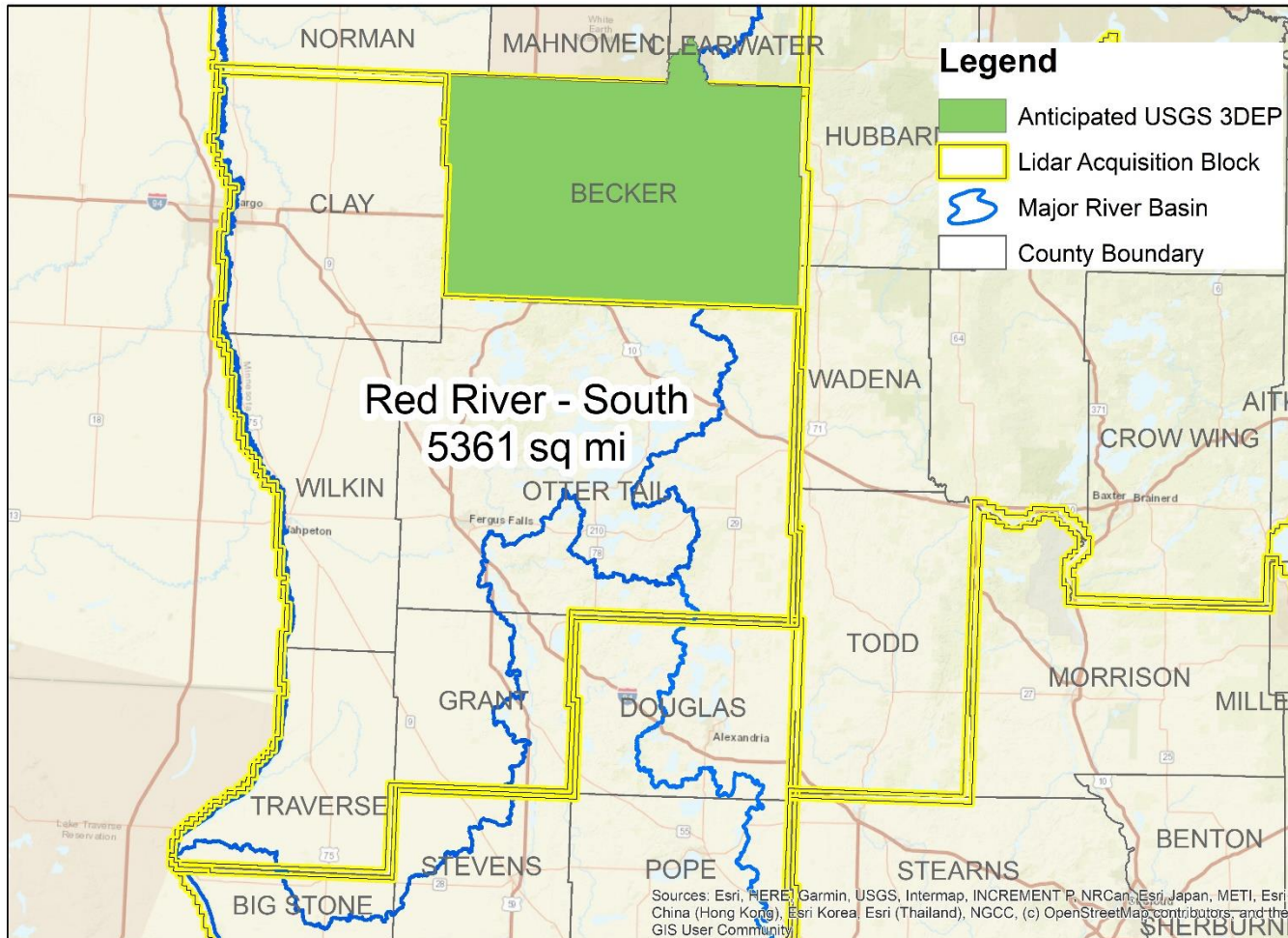
Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019



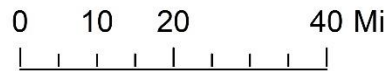
Map Date: April 26, 2021



# 3DGeo Outreach: Red River - South Block



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019



Map Date: April 26, 2021

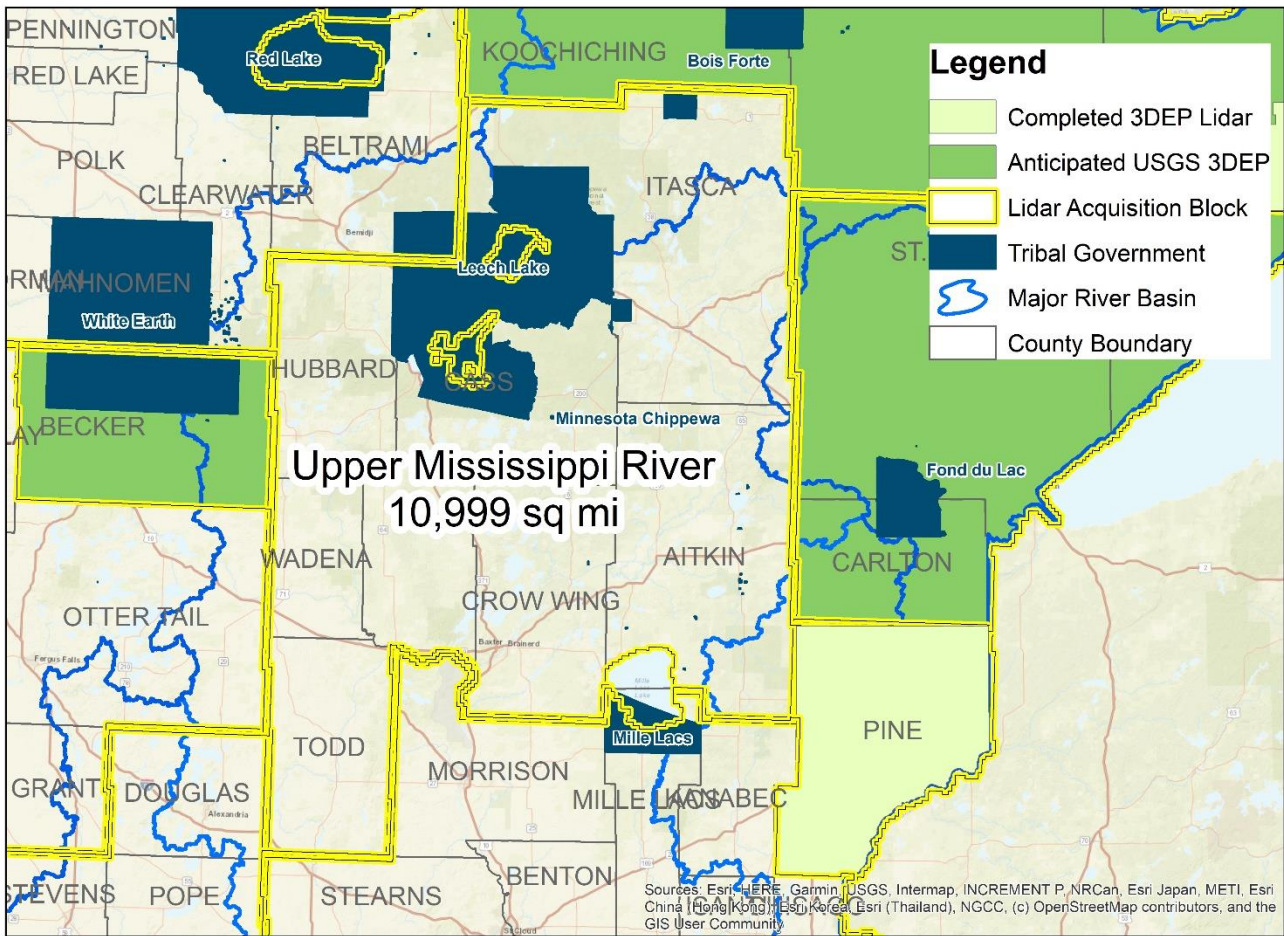
**3DGeo stakeholder outreach** has started in the Red River South LAB

- Next meeting: TBD (June)

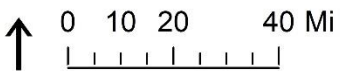
Estimated USGS 3DEP Contribution		Total Partner Contributions Needed	
%	\$	%	\$
40%	\$707,652	60%	\$1,061,478

5,361 square miles Estimated at **\$330** per square mile = **\$1,769,130 TOTAL**

# 3DGeo Outreach: Upper Mississippi River (Central Lakes) Block



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019



Map Date: April 27, 2021

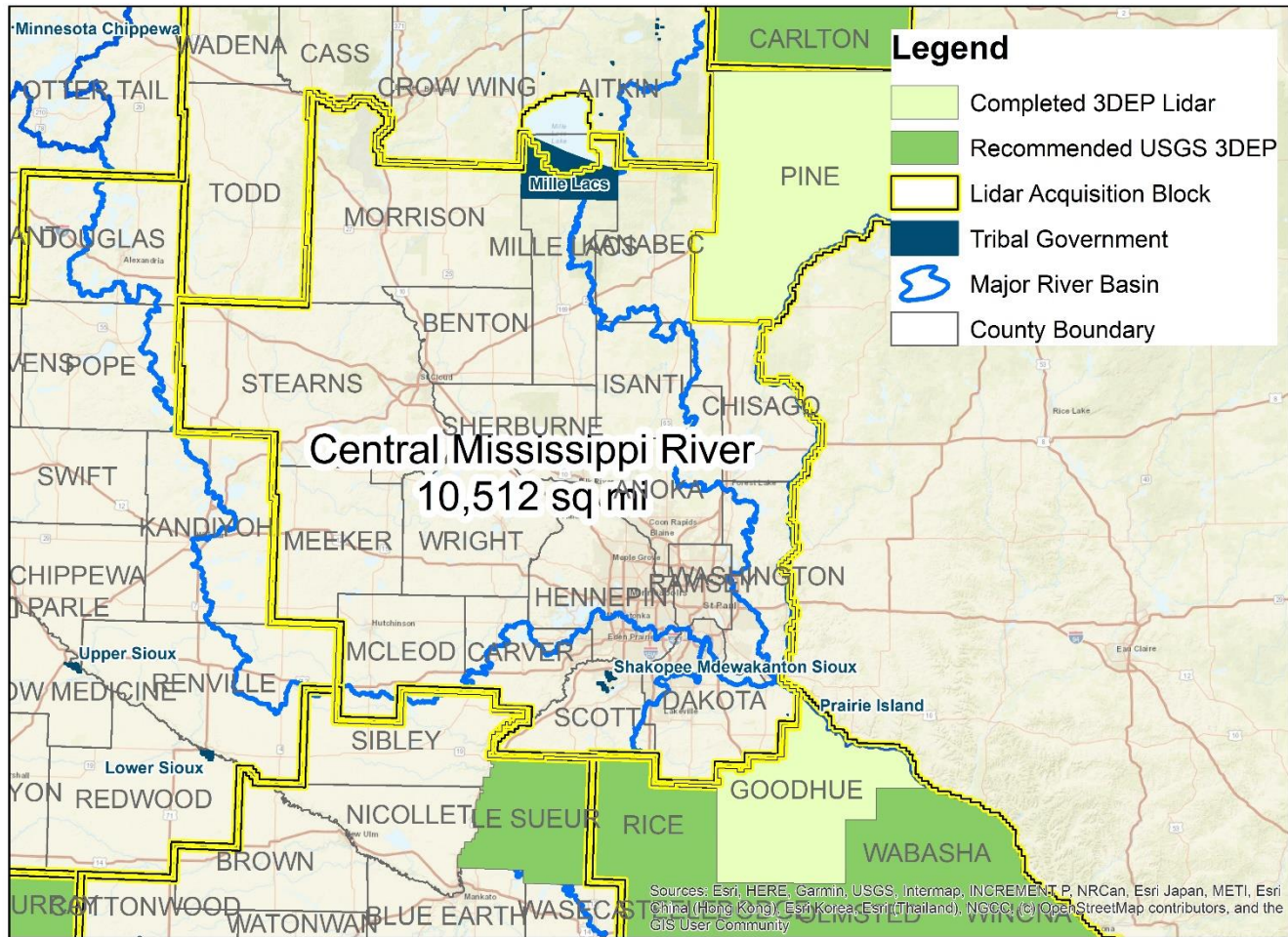
3DGeo stakeholder outreach presentation held last week...

Estimated USGS 3DEP Contribution		Total Partner Contributions Needed	
%	\$	%	\$
40%	\$1,451,868	60%	\$2,177,802

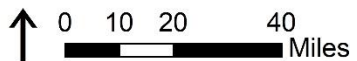
10,999 square miles Estimated at **\$330** per square mile  
= **\$3,629,670** TOTAL



# 3DGeo Outreach: Central Mississippi River (Metro) Block



Tribal boundaries data source: MnDOT, as per US Census Data September 2019



Map Date: April 27, 2021

## 3DGeo stakeholder outreach Central Mississippi/Metro LAB

- 7<sup>th</sup> Metro Meeting held on April 29<sup>th</sup>
- Next meeting: May 20, 9AM

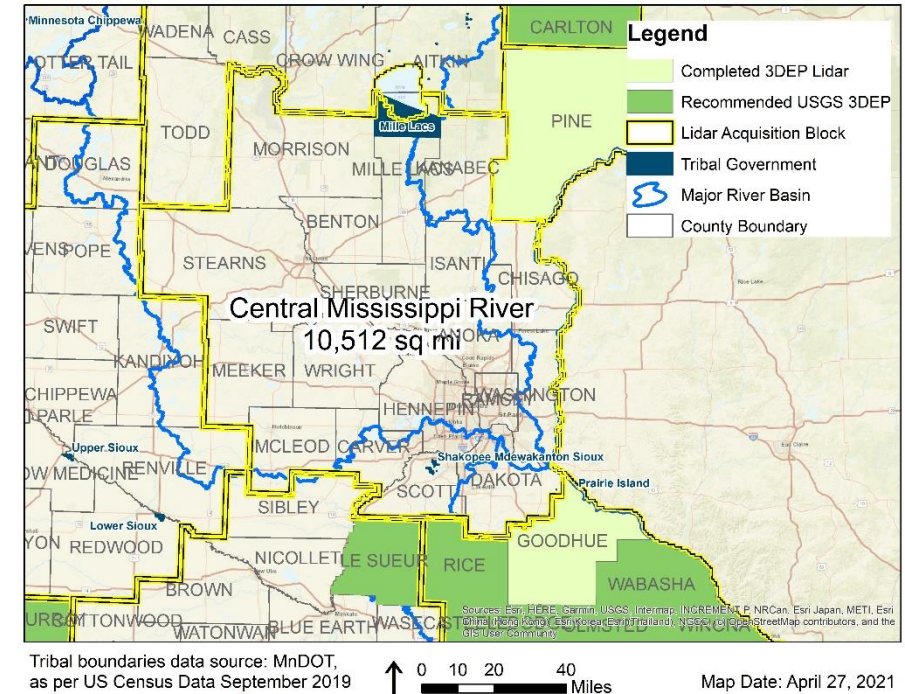
Estimated USGS 3DDEP Contribution		Total Partner Contributions Needed	
%	\$	%	\$
40%	\$1,387,584	60%	\$2,081,376

10,512 square miles at **\$330** per square mile =  
**\$3,468,960 TOTAL**

# 3DGeo Outreach: Partners and Funds Needed: Central Mississippi River Lidar Acquisition Block

- **TOTAL Est Funds Needed for QL1: \$3,468,960**
  - **Total** estimated cost assumes **\$330** per square mile for **QL1**
  - **Upgrade to QL0** estimated cost is **\$440** per square mile
  - Partner is responsible for the full upgrade cost between QL1 to QL0
- **18 Counties\*** - 10,512 square miles
  - **Estimates below** are average and equal cost for each county in the LAB

Contributors	Goal Request %	Average Per County	Goal Partnership Amount (\$)
USGS	40		1,387,584
Partners	60		2,081,376
LAB Counties	~ 30**	\$57,816	1,040,688
All Others	~ 30**		1,040,688
<b>QL1 Total</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>3,468,960</b>



\*Anoka, Benton, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Kanabec, McLoed, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington, Wright

\*\*This is an estimate, up to 30% of the TOTAL, and dependent on the Lidar Acquisition Block



A top-down view of a group of people's hands stacked in a circle, symbolizing teamwork and support. The hands are of various skin tones and are wearing different colored sleeves (beige, plaid, yellow, blue, light blue). One person has a gold watch and a black beaded bracelet. The background is a wooden floor. A large blue circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

*How:*  
You can Help



# Outreach and Educational Materials



## The 3D Elevation Program—Summary for Minnesota

### Introduction

Elevation data are essential to a broad range of applications, including forest resources management, wildlife and habitat management, national security, recreation, and many others. For the State of Minnesota, elevation data are critical for agriculture and precision farming, natural resources conservation, flood risk management, infrastructure and construction management, water supply and quality, coastal zone management, and other business uses. Today, high-quality light detection and ranging (lidar) data are the sources for creating elevation models and other elevation datasets. Federal, State, and local agencies work in partnership to (1) replace data, on a national basis, that are (on average) 30 years old and of lower quality and (2) provide coverage where publicly accessible data do not exist. A joint goal of State and Federal partners is to acquire consistent, statewide coverage to support existing and emerging applications enabled by lidar data. The new 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) initiative (Snyder, 2012a,b), managed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), responds to the growing need for high-quality topographic data and a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features.

### 3D Elevation Program Benefits for Minnesota

The top 10 Minnesota business uses for 3D elevation data, which are based on the estimated annual benefits of the 3DEP initiative, are shown in table 1. National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA; Dewberry, 2011) survey respondents in the State of Minnesota estimated that

**3DEP in Minnesota by the Numbers**  
 Expected annual benefits \$13.64 million  
 Estimated total cost \$28.15 million  
 Payback 2.1 years  
 Quality level 1 buy-up \$17.91 million estimate

U.S. Department of the Interior  
 U.S. Geological Survey

Table 1. C 3DEP data (Dewberry)

Rank	Business use	Annual benefits (millions)
1	Agriculture and precision farming	56.90
2	Natural resources conservation	3.38
3	Flood risk management	1.10
4	Infrastructure and construction management	0.64
5	Water supply and quality	0.47
6	Coastal zone management	0.41
7	Forest resources management	0.33
8	Geologic resource assessment and hazard mitigation	0.15
9	Aviation navigation and safety	0.14
10	Renewable energy resources	0.07
	Other	0.03
	Total	13.62

U.S. Geological Survey  
 2280 Woodale Drive  
 Mounds View, MN 55112  
 Email: rvsned@usgs.gov

http://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/

By William J. Carswell, Jr.



Figure 1. Map of Minnesota showing the areal extent and quality levels of planned and existing publicly available light detection and ranging (lidar) data in November 2012. No lidar data that meet 3DEP requirements for quality level 2 or better are publicly available for Minnesota. See table 2 for quality levels.

the national 3DEP initiative would result in at least \$13 million in new benefits annually to the State. The cost for such a program in Minnesota is approximately \$28 million, resulting in a payback period of 2.1 years and a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.9 to 1 over an 8-year period. Because monetary estimates were not provided for all reported benefits, the total benefits of the 3DEP to Minnesota are likely much higher. On the basis of the NEEA survey results, all levels of government and many organizations in Minnesota could benefit from access to statewide high-resolution elevation data.

The NEEA evaluated multiple data-collection programs to determine the optimal data quality and data replacement cycle relative to cost to meet the stated needs. For Minnesota, approximately 76 percent of the total benefits are realized in agriculture and precision farming and natural resources conservation uses alone, as shown in table 1. The status of publicly available lidar data in Minnesota is shown in figure 1. By enhancing coordination between the 3DEP and the various government and private organizations in Minnesota, it may be possible to meet a higher percentage of the needs.

### 3D Elevation Program

3DEP is a national program managed by the USGS to acquire high-resolution elevation data. The initiative is backed by a comprehensive assessment of requirements (Dewberry, 2011) and is in the early stages of implementation. 3DEP will improve data accuracy and provide more current data than is available in the National Elevation Dataset (NED). The goal of this high-priority cooperative program is to be operational by January 2015 and to have complete coverage of the United States by 2022, depending on funding and partnerships. The new program has the potential to generate \$13 billion/year in new benefits through improved government services, reductions in crop and homeowner losses resulting from floods, more efficient routing of vehicles, and a host of other government, corporate, and citizen activities (Dewberry, 2011).

### Benefits of a Funded National Program

- Economy of scale—Acquisition of data covering larger areas reduces costs by 25 percent.
- A systematic plan—Acquisition of data at a higher quality level reduces the cost of “buying up” to the highest levels needed by State and local governments.
- Higher quality data and national coverage—Ensure consistency for applications that span State and watershed boundaries and meet more needs, which results in increased benefits to citizens.
- Increase in Federal agency contributions—Reduces State and local partner contributions.
- Acquisition assistance—Provided through readily available contracts and published acquisition specifications.

Fact Sheet 2013-208  
 September 2013



## Minnesota Lidar Acquisition Plan Fact Sheet

### Background

The 3D Geomatics Committee (3DGeo) of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) is working closely with the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) under Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) to engage the geospatial community in developing, promoting, and funding a statewide high-density (HD) lidar acquisition plan for Minnesota. Higher-density and higher-quality lidar will dramatically improve our ability to analyze the landscape in Minnesota, inventory public and private infrastructure and assets, and plan for current and future scenarios, in support of better decision making for our natural, cultural, and built environments.

- This will be a 5 year or longer effort with a grant request to the federal government each year.
- The plan covers acquisition of all lands within the state boundary - 86,943 square miles
- We are engaging partners in ,state, federal, regional, and local government, tribal nations, academia, non-profit, and private sectors to contribute to the plan and funding.
- We will be seeking funding from the federal government through a US Geological Survey (USGS) grant program called a broad agency announcement (BAA) managed under the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP).

- Federal cost share averages about 38% of the cost but can cover as much as 75% depending on needs of federal agencies
- MNIT/MnGeo is the principal for this year's grant application and would likely be the aggregator and distributor for the data products generated over the course of this project and beyond.

- Additional resources that can provide more information about upcoming plans for lidar in Minnesota:
- [Minnesota State Lidar Plan](#)
  - [Story Map](#) about the Minnesota State Lidar Plan

### Benefits

Expected annual benefits are \$13.64 million. Based on an estimated total acquisition cost of \$34.8 million for quality level 1 data, the payback would be 2.6 years. The top 10 Minnesota business uses for 3D elevation data, which are based on the estimated annual benefits of the 3DEP initiative, are shown in the table-1 below.

Rank	Business use	Annual benefits (millions)
1	Agriculture and precision farming	56.90
2	Natural resources conservation	3.38
3	Flood risk management	1.10
4	Infrastructure and construction management	0.64
5	Water supply and quality	0.47
6	Coastal zone management	0.41
7	Forest resources management	0.33
8	Geologic resource assessment and hazard mitigation	0.15
9	Aviation navigation and safety	0.14
10	Renewable energy resources	0.07
	Other	0.03
	Total	13.62

Table 1 - Estimated Annual Benefits of Lidar, Source: National Enhanced Elevation Assessment for Minnesota (Dewberry, 2011)

### Identified

#### Natural Res

- Farm
- Nat
- Nat
- Wild
- Fish
- Wild

#### Agriculture

- Prec
- Run

#### Transportat

- 3D
- Traf
- Sign
- High
- Mar
- Bus

#### Water Resou

- Wat
- Riv
- Coa
- Flo
- Sea
- Cuk
- Hyd

#### Recreation

- Tra
- Lan

#### Risks

##### Risks Associ

The lidar ac sectors that features on spatial data.

##### Risks Associ

Minnesota's the data les other veget impacted so inaccuracies terrain anal

As customers of government agencies, citizens expect spatial data mapping of building placement, flood modeling, and water features are in harmony with the imagery on their phone. When agency data is out of date and at lesser resolution the bond of trust between the citizen and the agency providing services is broken.



## Minnesota State Lidar Plan – Announcement



**Overview**  
 The Minnesota 3D Geomatics Committee and the State Geospatial Information Office, MnGeo, have developed a draft Lidar Plan for the State of Minnesota that will help guide the acquisition of new statewide lidar data over the next five years.

**Need for Lidar**  
 Lidar data pro making for ass to save costs in infrastructure, forestry. Lidar a multitude of

**Call to Action**  
 Please contact us for more on the State Lidar Plan.  
 • Identify and share requirements and business use cases  
 • Provide your desired areas of interest and product needs  
 • Let us know if you can help provide matching funds  
 • Check out the draft State Lidar Plan and StoryMap on the web

**Get Involved!**  
 • Let us know if you can help  
 • Share requirements and business use cases  
 • Provide areas of interest and product needs

**The Draft Minnesota State Lidar Plan**  
 An introduction to lidar, how it is used in Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Lidar Plan.

<http://bit.ly/MnLidarPlanStoryMap>

## Draft M

February 2013

3D Geomatics Com  
 Remotely Sensed



MINNESO  
 GEOSPATIAL ADV

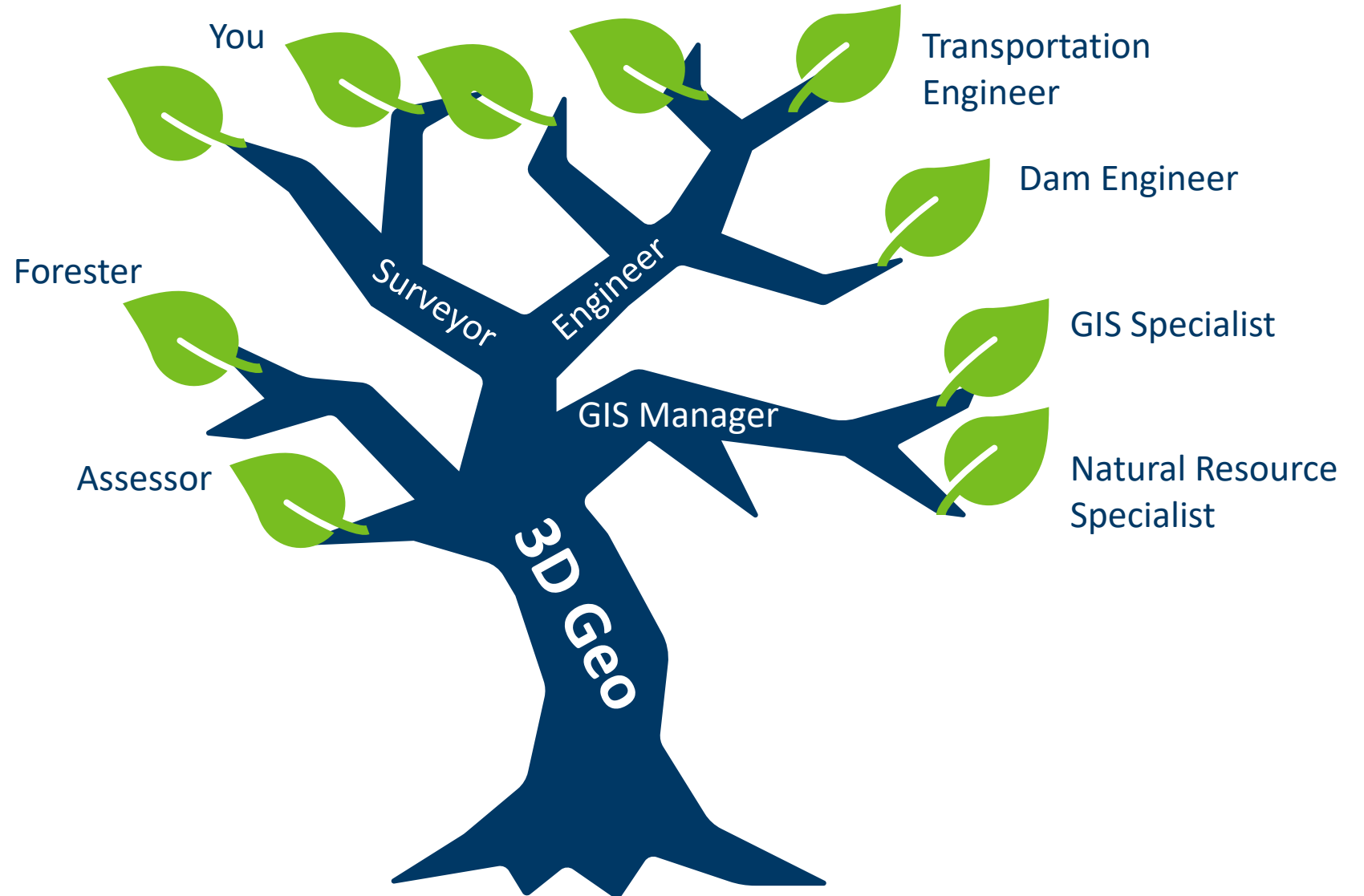


# Next steps

You don't have to have money or be a decision maker to be a stakeholder . . .

You can be a voice of support . . .

A collaborator



# Next steps

- Partners are **NEEDED** to help fund lidar acquisition!!
- Check out the Lidar Plan & StoryMap
- Stay in touch
  - Email us: [lidar@state.mn.us](mailto:lidar@state.mn.us)
  - Get on GovDelivery list: [www.mngeo.state.mn.us/newsletter.html](http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/newsletter.html)
  - Join a 3DGeo Workgroup!







*Questions &  
Discussion*