

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center
16429 Beartown Road
Baraga, Michigan 49908
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2019 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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November 15, 2019

Michael Tischler
Director, USGS National Geospatial Program
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 511
Reston, VA 20192

Re: 3D Elevation Program

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), a tribal nation with more than 3,600 members, we are writing to express our requests regarding the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) LIDAR data for our L'Anse, Marquette, and Ontonagon reservations and lands.

KBIC is a federally recognized tribal nation that has reserved the right to hunt, fish, trap, and gather in, on, and over the lands and waters that were ceded to the United States under the 1842 Treaty of LaPointe. KBIC members depend upon healthy ecosystems and the fish, plants, and wildlife that these ecosystems support. Ojibwe people have historically used and continue to use natural resources for spiritual, cultural, subsistence, and medicinal purposes.

KBIC would like to make the following requests:

1. We request that USGS share the results of the 2019 3DEP LIDAR for our L'Anse, Ontonagon, and Marquette reservations and lands with us and allow us time for us to comment or express concerns.
2. We request that 2019 data obtained by flying over our L'Anse, Ontonagon, and Marquette reservations and lands be blocked out to protect archeological sites and culturally sensitive areas.
3. We request to be notified of any Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for documents containing information that USGS obtained by flying over our reservations and lands and ask for our views on whether the documents should be released to the FOIA requester.
4. We request to be informed if there have already been FOIA requests for data obtained by flying over our reservations and lands.
5. We request that 2015 data obtained by flying over tribal lands be blocked or removed from the National map as we were not consulted at that time.

LAKE SUPERIOR BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

"Home of the Midnight Two-Step Championship"

Please accept our requests regarding the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) LIDAR data for our L'Anse, Ontonagon, and Marquette lands.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me or my staff: Evelyn Ravindran eravindran@kbic-nsn.gov, or Shannon DesRochers sdesrochers@kbic-nsn.gov.

Sincerely,



Warren C. Swartz, JR., President
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
16429 Beartown Rd.
Baraga, MI 49908
(906) 353-6623

Cc:

Evelyn Ravindran, KBIC Natural Resources Director
Shannon DesRochers, KBIC Great Lakes Resource Specialist
Danielle Webb, KBIC Tribal Attorney