

LiDAR Quality Assessment Report

The USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center, Data Operations Branch is responsible for conducting reviews of all Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) point-cloud data and derived products delivered by a data supplier before it is approved for inclusion in the National Elevation Dataset and the Center for LiDAR Information Coordination and Knowledge. The USGS recognizes the complexity of LiDAR collection and processing performed by the data suppliers and has developed this Quality Assessment (QA) procedure to accommodate USGS collection and processing specifications with flexibility. The goal of this process is to assure LiDAR data are of sufficient quality for database population and scientific analysis. Concerns regarding the assessment of these data should be directed to the Chief, Data Operations Branch, 1400 Independence Road, Rolla, Missouri 65401 or NGTOCoperations@usgs.gov.

Project Type: Partnership

Project Description:

This lidar project,
ME_SouthernAreas_2012, is part of
three, non-contiguous areas as part of
the Maine Statewide Lidar and
Orthoimagery project. This report
reflects the lower two areas, also known
as Mid-Coastal Cleanup. The third area is
ME_ARoostook_2012 and has its own
separate report.

FVA was calculated utilizing all three areas, thus the FVA values for this report will be the same for the Aroostook region.

Year of Collection: 2012

Lot 1 of 1 lots.

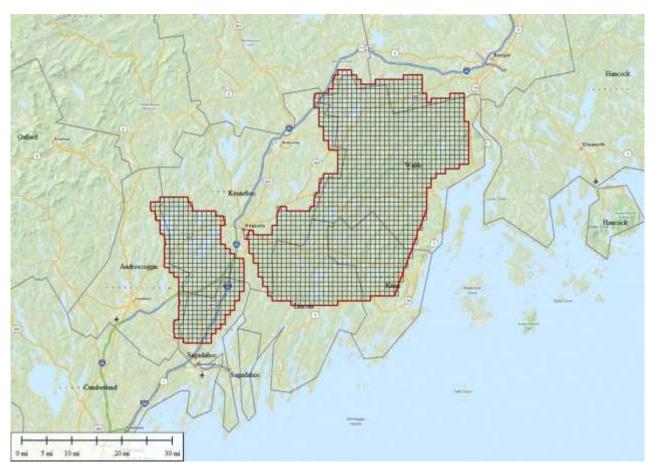
Project Extent:

✓ Project Extent image?



Project Tiling Scheme:

✓ Project Tiling Scheme image?



Contractor: Applicable Specification: Woolpert, Inc. V13

Licensing	Doctric	tione
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 $\ \square$ Third Party Performed QA?

Project Points of Contact:

POC Name	C Name Type		E-Mail		
Dan Walters	NSDI Liaison	207-622-8201 x128	danwalters@usgs.gov		

Project Deliverables

All project deliverables must be supplied according to collection and processing specifications. The USGS will postpone the QA process when any of the required deliverables are missing. When deliverables are missing, the Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) will be contacted by the Elevation/Orthoimagery Section supervisor and informed of the problem. Processing will resume after the COTR has coordinated the deposition of remaining deliverables.

 ✓ Collection Report ☐ Project Shapefile/Geodatabase ☐ Survey Report ✓ Project Tiling Scheme Shapefile/Gdb ✓ Control Point Shapefile/Gdb ✓ QA/QC Report ✓ Breakline Shapefile/Gdb ✓ Control and Calibration Points ☐ Project XML Metadata 					
Multi-File Deliverables					
File Type		Quantity			
Swath LAS Files ▼ Required? ▼ XM	1L Metadata?	159			
☐ Intensity Image Files ☐ Required?					
▼ Tiled LAS Files ▼ Required? ▼ XML N	Metadata?	1,752			
■ Breakline Files ■ Required? ▼ XML	Metadata?	2			
■ Bare-Earth DEM Files ■ Required? ■	XML Metadata?	1,752			
Additional Deliverables					
Item					
Flight line shapes					
Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to do	cument? O Yes O N	10			
None.					

Project Geographic Information Areal Extent: 1511.8 Sq Mi

4 QA Form V1.1 24AUG11

Grid Size:

1	
meters	
Tile Size: 1500 x 1500	
meters	
Nominal Pulse Spacing:	
1.5	
meters	
Vertical Datum: NAVD88 meters	
Horizontal Datum: NAD83 (NSRS2007) meters	5
 □ Project Shapefile/Geodatabase ☑ Project Tiling Scheme Shapefile/Gdb ☑ Checkpoints Shapefile/Geodatabase ☑ Project XML Metadata File ☑ Swath LAS XML Metadata File ☑ Classified LAS XML Metadata File 	m: NAD83 / UTM19 North is consistent across the following deliverables: □ Breaklines XML Metadata File □ Bare-Earth DEM XML Metadata File □ Swath LAS Files □ Classified LAS Files □ Breaklines Files □ Bare-Earth DEM Files
Project Shapefile/Geodatabase CRS	
Swath LAS Files CRS	
UTM Zone 19 / WGS84 / meters	

Review Cycle

This section documents who performed the QA Review on a project as well as when QA reviews were started, actions passed, received, and completed.

Reviewer:	Review Start Date:
T. Jerris	3/26/2013

1. Jems					
Action to Contractor Date	Issue Description	Return Date			
5/2/2013	Please fix the following errors: - Some Swath files have unknown coordinate systems - Swath with coordinate systems are WGS84 (should be NAD83) - Provide Project-Level metadata - Control points contain elevation errors - 1 @ bridge removal - 3 @ return roadway above culverts - 15 @ high water surface elevations - 1 @ missing data - 1 @ waterbody not flattened (breaklines have been provided for this waterbody) - 3 @ areas of waterbodies not flattened - 1 @ waterbody w/ irregular elevation break **None of the errors have been fixed with this dataset (10/18/2013) **12/5/2013	9/19/2013			

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Metadata Review

Provided metadata files have been parsed using 'mp' metadata parser. Any errors generated by the parser are documented below for reference and/or corrective action.

The Project XML Metadata file parsed without errors.

The Swath LAS XML Metadata file parsed withouterrors.
TI CI IS LIAC VAN MALLIN SI II III II
The Classified LAS XML Metadata file parsed withouterrors.
The Breakline XML Metadata file parsed <u>without</u> errors.
The breaking Aric rietadata me parsed <u>without</u> errors.
The Bare-Earth DEM XML Metadata file parsed <u>without</u> errors.

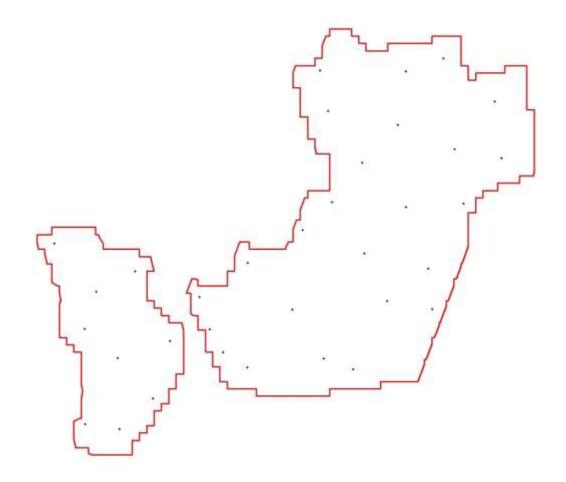
Project QA/QC Report Review

ASPRS recommends that checkpoint surveys be used to verify the vertical accuracy of LiDAR data sets. Checkpoints are to be collected by an independent survey firm licensed in the particular state(s) where the project is located. While subjective, checkpoints should be well distributed throughout the dataset. National Standards for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA) guidance states that checkpoints may be distributed more densely in the vicinity of important features and more sparsely in areas that are of little or no interest. Checkpoints should be distributed so that points are spaced at intervals of at least ten percent of the diagonal distance across the dataset and at least twenty percent of the points are located in each quadrant of the dataset.

NSSDA and ASPRS require that a minimum of twenty checkpoints (thirty is preferred) are collected for each major land cover category represented in the LiDAR data. Checkpoints should be selected on flat terrain, or on uniformly sloping terrain in all directions from each checkpoint. They should not be selected near severe breaks in slope, such as bridge abutments, edges of roads, or near river bluffs. Checkpoints are an important component of the USGS QA process. There is the presumption that the checkpoint surveys are error free and the discrepancies are attributable to the LiDAR dataset supplied.

For this dataset, USGS checked the spatial distribution of checkpoints with an emphasis on the bare-earth (open terrain) points; the number of points per class; the methodology used to collect these points; and the relationship between the data supplier and checkpoint collector. When independent control data are available, USGS has incorporated this into the analysis.

Checkpoint Shapefile or Geodatabase: Checkpoint Distribution Image?



The following land cover classes are represented in this dataset (uncheck any that do not apply):

- ☑ Bare Earth
- ☐ Tall Weeds and Crops
- ☐ Brush Lands and Low Trees
- ☐ Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees
- ☐ Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures

There are a minimum of 20 checkpoints for each land cover class represented. Points within each class are uniformly distributed throughout the dataset. USGS <u>was</u>able to locate independent checkpoints for this analysis. USGS <u>accepts</u> the quality of the checkpoint data for these LiDAR datasets.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document?

Yes
No

1	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	- 1	J
1	х	Y	ATTR_1	ATTR_2	Contractor Elevation	х	Y	Elev_Z	NGTOC Elevation	
2	420186.467	4903813.145	QC1	GRASS	7.017	4903813.15	420186.467	7.017	70.176	
3	424515.888	4890254.328	QC2	GRASS	9.769	4890254.33	424515.888	9.769	97.705	
4	424940.489	4875746.338	QC3	PACKED GRAV	5.546	4875746.34	424940.489	5.546	55.496	
5	467739.959	4940648.326	QC4	GRASS	8.786	4940648.33	467739.959	8.786	87.789	
6	501964.294	4942597.278	QC5	GRASS	8.473	4942597.28	501964.294	8.473	84.681	
7	493731.658	4932884.132	QC6	GRASS	1.040	4932884.13	493731.658	1.040	104.006	
8	474714.767	4930118.181	QC7	GRASS	1.468	4930118.18	474714.767	1.468	146.749	
9	495506.088	4921822.142	QC8	GRASS	4.861	4921822.14	495506.088	4.861	48.497	
10	462534.362	4916402.877	QC9	GRASS	1.418	4916402.88	462534.362	1.418	141.763	
11	475165.554	4911619.984	QC10	PACKED GRAV	1.035	4911619.98	475165.554	1.035	103.457	
12	489155.98	4900203.644	QC11	GRASS	1.284	4900203.64	489155.98	1.284	128.255	
13	451234.654	4909724.739	QC12	GRASS	7.791	4909724.74	451234.654	7.791	77.775	

Contractor elevations for check-points are off by one decimal point in some instances. In others, the decimal point is off by two. Therefore, a simple calculation can not be applied to the Contractor Elevations column and arriving at the proper values. It would appear, therefore, the QC points have an inherent error associated with the contractor elevation values. Examples are highlighted.

The correct values have been interpreted in a spreadsheet and have been applied to compute FVA values.

**Corrected by contractor.

Accuracy values are reported in terms of Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA), Supplemental Vertical Accuracy(s) (SVA), and Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA).

Accuracy values are reported in: centimeters

Required FVA Value is 24.5 centimeters or less.

Target SVA Value is centimeters or less.

Required CVA Value is centimeters or less.

The reported FVA of the LAS Swath data is 17.0 centimeters

The reported FVA of the Bare-Earth DEM data is 12.0 centimeters.

SVA are required for each land cover type present in the data set with the exception of bare-earth. SVA is calculated and reported as a 95th Percentile Error.

Land Cover Type	SVA Value	Units
Tall Weeds and Crops		N/A
Brush Lands and Low Trees		N/A
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees		N/A
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structu		N/A

The reported CVA of this data set is: centimeters

LAS Swath File Review

LAS swath files or raw unclassified LiDAR data are reviewed to assess the quality control used by the data supplier during collection. Furthermore, LAS swath data are checked for positional accuracy. The data supplier should have calculated the Fundamental Vertical Accuracy using ground control checkpoints measured in clear open terrain. The following was determined for LAS swath data for this project:

LAS Version

• LAS 1.2

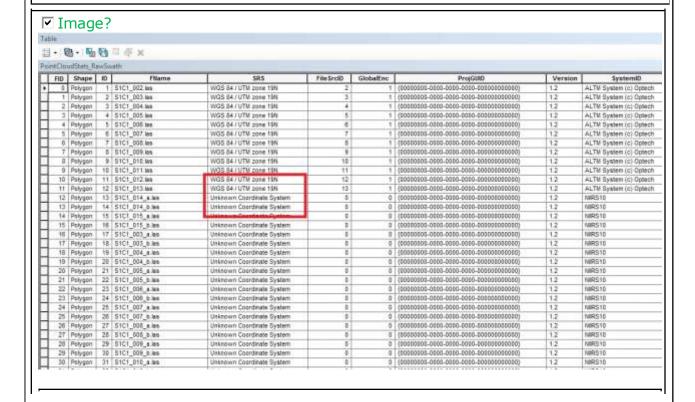
O LAS1.3 O LAS 1.4

Swath File Characteristics

- ✓ Separate folder for LAS swath files
- ✓ Each swath files <= 2GB
- □ *If specified, *.wdp files for full waveform have been provided

The reported FVA of the LAS swath data is 17.0 centimeters

Based on this review, the USGS accepts the LAS swath file data.



Some Swath files have an unknown coordinate system, others are WGS84/UTM 19N; Classified LAS, however, is in NAD83/UTM 19N. Other Swath files delivered with this project not within the project boundary; those files prefix begins with LDR120430_...

**Corrected by contractor

LAS Tile File Review

Classified LAS tile files are used to build digital terrain models using the points classified as ground. Therefore, it is important that the classified LAS are of sufficient quality to ensure that the derivative product accurately represents the landscape that was measured. The following was determined for classified LAS files for this project:

Classified LAS Tile File Characteristics

- Separate folder for Classified LAS tile files
- ☑ Classified LAS tile files conform to Project Tiling Scheme
- ☑ Quantity of Classified LAS tile files conforms to Project Tiling Scheme
- Classified LAS tile files do not overlap
- ☐ Classified LAS tile files are uniform in size
- ☑ Classified LAS tile files have no points classified as '12'
- Point classifications are limited to the standard values listed below:

Code	Description
1	Processed, but unclassified
2	Bare-earth ground
7	Noise (low or high, manually identified, if needed)
9	Water
10	Ignored ground (breakline proximity)
	Withheld (if the "Withheld" bit is not implemented in processing software)

☐ Buy up?

Based on this review, the USGS accepts the classified LAS tile file data.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? O Yes O No

None.

Breakline File Review

Breaklines are vector feature classes that are used to hydro-flatten the bare earth Digital Elevation Models.

Breakline File Characteristics

- Separate folder for breakline files
- ✓ All breaklines captured as PolylineZ or PolygonZ features
- ✓ No missing or misplaced breaklines

Based on this review, the USGS <u>accepts</u> the breakline files.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? C Yes O No

None.

Bare-Earth DEM Tile File Review

The derived bare-earth DEM file receives a review of the vertical accuracies provided by the data supplier, vertical accuracies calculated by USGS using supplied and independent checkpoints, and a manual check of the appearance of the DEM layer.

Bare-Earth DEM files provided in the following format: ArcGrid

Bare-Earth DEM Tile File Characteristics

- Separate folder for bare-earth DEM files
- ☑ DEM files conform to Project Tiling Scheme
- Quantity of DEM files conforms to Project Tiling Scheme
- ✓ DEM files do not overlap
- ✓ DEM files are uniform in size
- ✓ DEM files properly edge match
- ☑ Independent check points are well distributed

All accuracy values reported in centimeters

Reported Accuracies

<u>Fundamental</u> Vertical Accuracy

Land Cover Category	# of Points	@95% Confidence Interval (Accuracy _z) Required FVA = 24.5 or less.	Supplemental Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Target SVA = 0 or less.	Consolidated Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Required CVA = or less.
Open Terrain	20	12.0		
Tall Weeds and Crops				
Brush Lands and Low Trees				
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	J			
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures				
Consolidated	20			

▼ QA performed Accuracy Calculations?

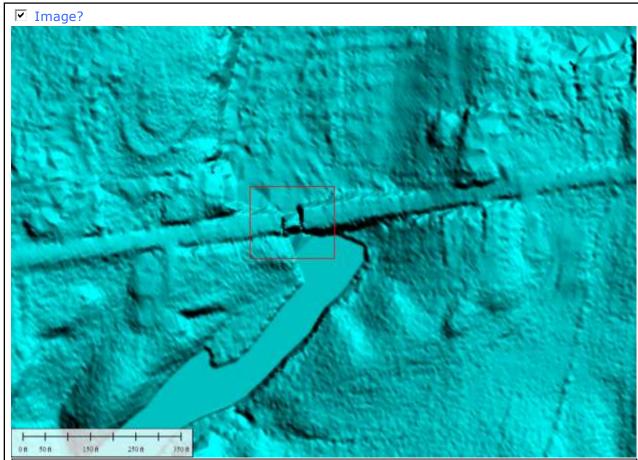
Calculated Accuracies							
Land Cover Category	# of Points	Fundamental Vertical Accuracy @95% Confidence Interval (Accuracy _z) Required FVA = 24.5 or less.	Supplemental Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Target SVA = or less.	Consolidated Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Required CVA = or less.			
Open Terrain	20	13.1					
Tall Weeds and Crops							
Brush Lands and Low Trees							
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees							
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures							
Consolidated	20						

Based on this review, the USGS $\,$ recommends the bare-earth DEM files for inclusion in the 1/3 Arc-Second National Elevation Dataset.

Based on this review, the USGS <u>accepts</u> the bare-earth DEM files.

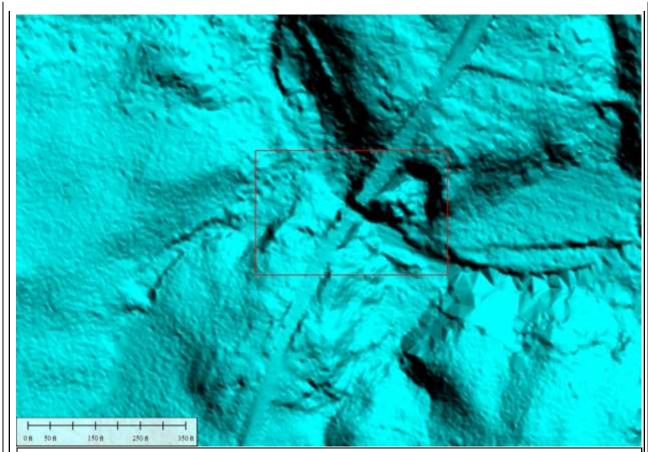
Bare-Earth DEM Anomalies, Errors, Other Issues

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? • Yes O No



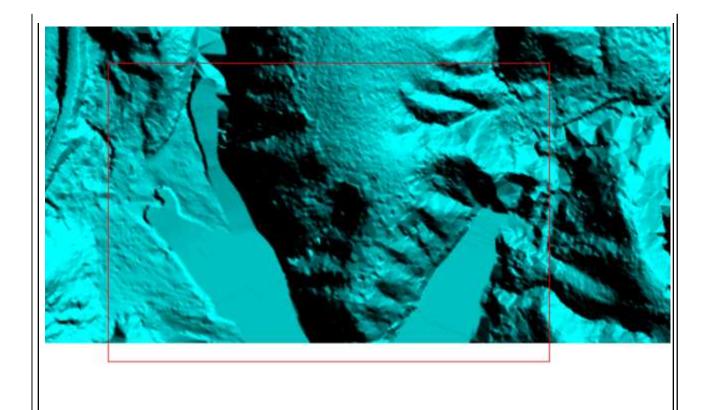
bridge_1: Roadway identified as a bridge was not removed from the DEM; there is only one of this error-type.

**Corrected by contractor.



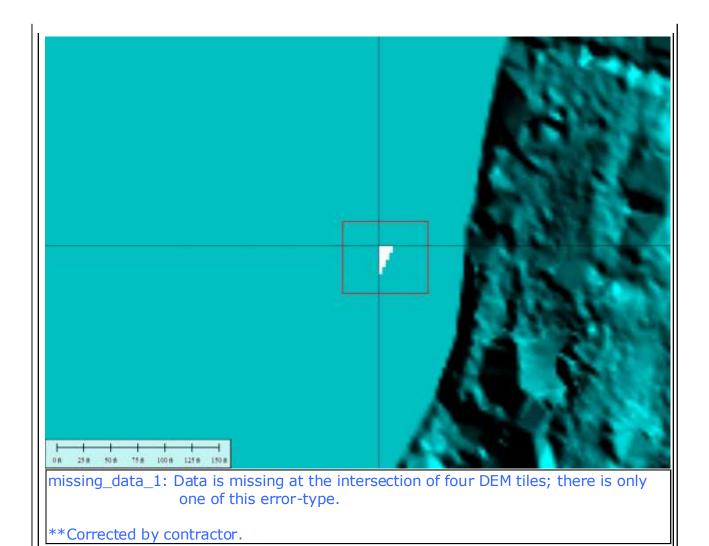
culvert_1: Imagery suggests roadway above the stream is a culvert; there are three of this error-type.

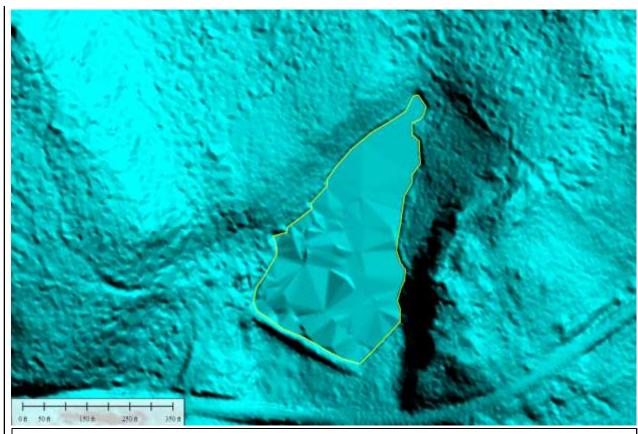
**All culvert-errors (3@) corrected by contractor.



high_water_2: Portions of the waterbody has a surface elevation higher than the shoreline; 15 of this error-type have been identified in the DEM.

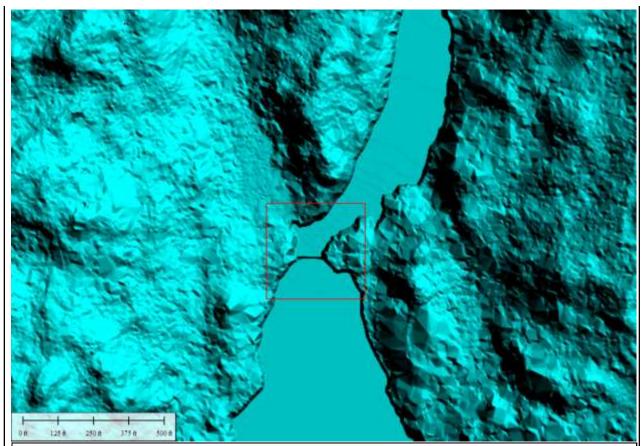
**All high-water errors (15@) corrected by contractor.





unflattened_water_1: This waterbody has not been flattened though breaklines have been provided for it (yellow line); there is only one of this error-type.

**Corrected by contractor.



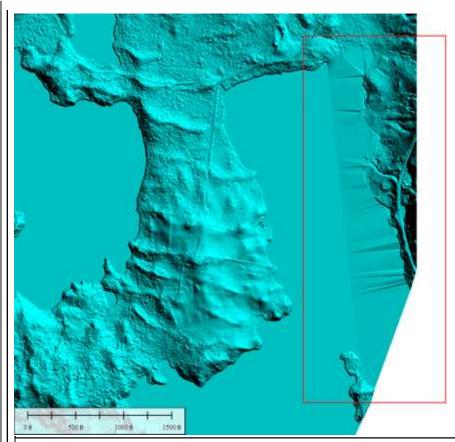
water_2: Waterbody has a break in elevation; possible elevation difference due to rapids. See image below for 'image' detail.

**Corrected by contractor.



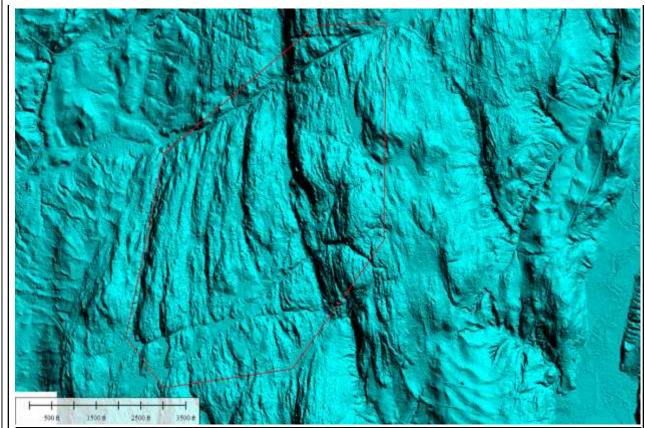
water_2_NAIP: This NAIP image is the same area as the DEM image above. The above DEM image shows a break in waterbody surface elevation.

**Corrected by contractor; see previous image above.



water_3: This waterbody is not completely hydroflattened; there are three of this error-type.

**Corrected by contractor.



TIN_1: The area bounded in the red polygon shows an error that is partially TIN'd. This is not an error; this region is just being pointed out.

Internal Note:

Summary of Errors:

- LAS (swath) in different datum (...classified is in NAD83, swath is in WGS84)
- LAS (swath) contains no projection information for some files (...unknown coordinate system)
- No Project-Level metadata provided for project (**corrected)
- Control checkpoints contain error in Contractor Elevation column
- 1 @ bridge not removed over river/stream (**corrected)
- 3 @ roadway removed over culverts (**corrected)
- 15 @ waterbodies with surface elevation above shoreline (**corrected)
- 1 @ missing data (small area) (**corrected)
- 1 @ waterbody not flattened though breaklines provided (**corrected)
- 3 @ areas of waterbodies not flattened (**corrected...but correction created another error)
- 1 @ waterbody with an irregular elevation break (**corrected)

**None of the errors (see above) have been fixed (10/18/2013)

- **All of the errors were corrected by vendor (12/5/2013)
- **Upon fixing some water errors, the contractor classified ground as water in a few areas (on the eastern edge of project), thus affecting the topography. The NGTOC-created footprint removed those areas from the DEM. The Final-to-NED was created from the loaded (new) DEMs with the other, existing DEM tiles.

None of the re-delivered tiles (DEMs) were altered.

**Footprint was created by NGTOC personnel. Footprint (shapefile) was then altered to cut-off bad raster areas (...TIN in some areas).

5/12/2014: Editing team has corrected some errors found in the dataset after acceptance. There was tile mismatch resulting in a void area and raised area in the water feature. Also some water elevations were corrected. A QA of the mosaic dataset was done after the editing was completed. The mosaic was placed in the be_rasters folder while the old DEMs (original and replacement) were placed in the "Other" folder. The Edited_Breaklines were also placed in "Other" folder. There are only a couple of lakes edited, so this is not a complete breakline file.

One note of concern for this reviewer is seen in the smaller dataset with the waterway and breaklines beginning at 44° 16' 40.7193" N, 69° 53' 8.0826" W. There is a series of polygon/polyline breaklines. By all accounts, the elevation goes downhill/downstream and there are impoundments along the way. The vendor has created polyline features along the river sections that flow downhill and polygons along the wider sections that maintain a constant elevation. There are two dams located along the waterway in this stretch. Per the specs (v 13 and 1.0) under Inland Ponds and Lakes, "long impoundments such as reservoirs, inlets, and fjords, whose water surface elevations drop when moving downstream, are required to be treated as rivers". There have been varied opinions on the matter and editing did not work in this area except to correct small areas of water elevation errors.

This is the end of the report.

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