



# 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 NGTOCooperations@usgs.gov.

Materials Received:

10/1/2012

Project Type: Partnership W/O Agreement

Project ID:

MO\_HowardCO\_2011

Project Description:

Howard Co. is part of the Missouri Grand 2011 LiDAR dataset. The St. Louis District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contracted with Surdex Corporation in the fall of 2011 to collect high resolution LiDAR elevation data over multiple counties as part of the Missouri Grand Counties Lidar Project. This project consists of 4 delivery blocks including all or part of Howard, Cooper, Montgomery, Livingston, Randolph, Monroe, Audrain, Lincoln, Macon, Adair, Sullivan, Putnam, and St. Louis City and County. There is additional coverage within Rav. Gasconade, St. Francois and Jackson Counties. The project combines the varied interests of the NRCS, USGS, USACE and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) totaling over 6287 square miles into a unified collection and processing project to benefit the US Government. The NRCS shall serve as the technical point of contact with the USACE St Louis District. This OA report covers Howard Co. and is part of delivery block 4

Project Alias(es):

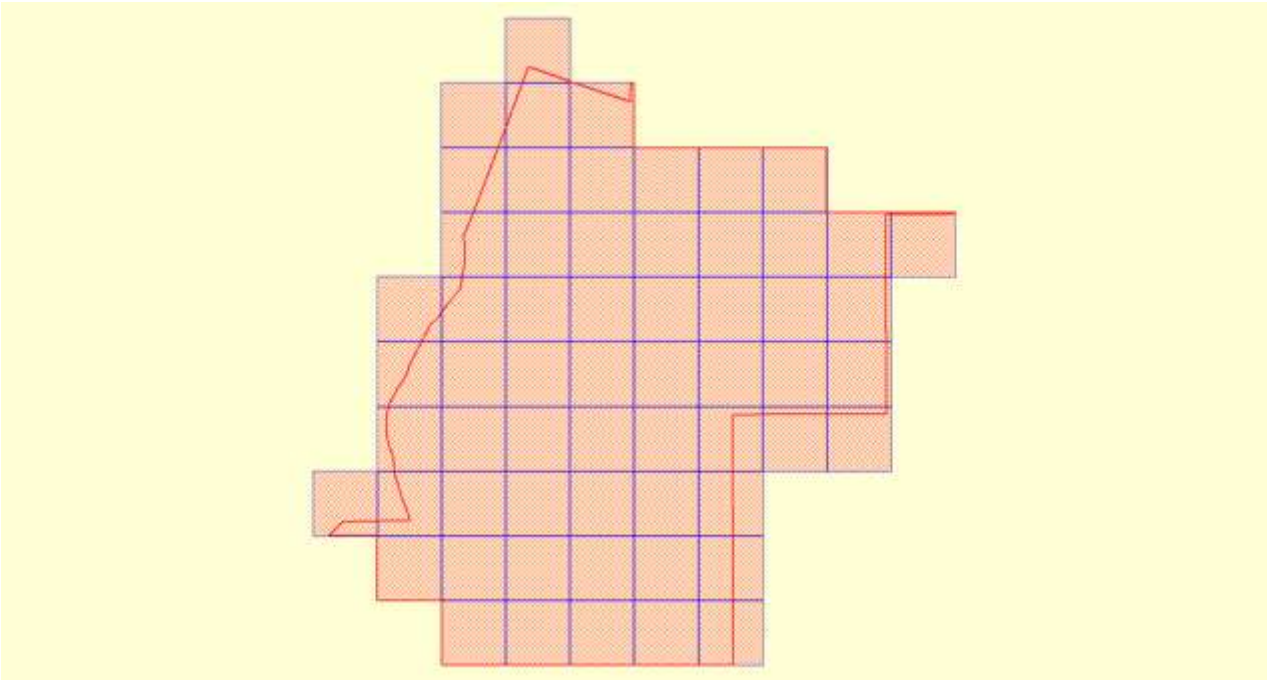
Missouri Grand Howard Co.

Year of Collection: 2011

Lot  of  lots.

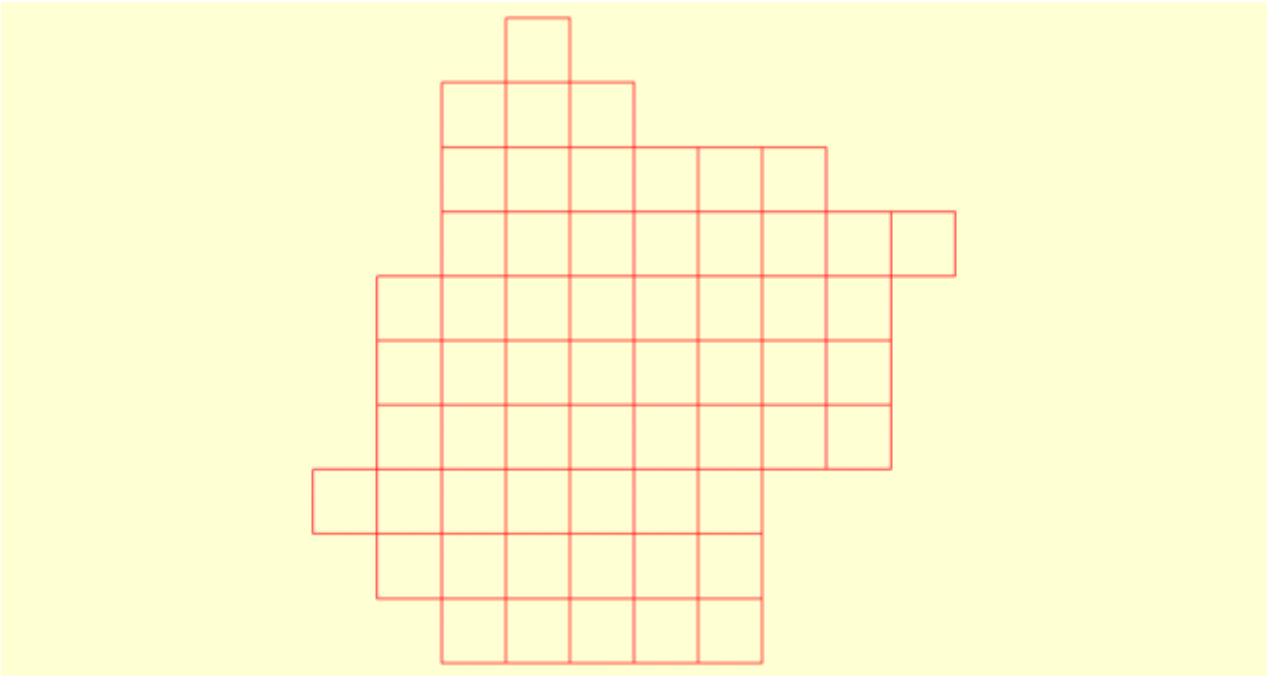
Project Extent:

Project Extent image?



Project Tiling Scheme:

Project Tiling Scheme image?



Contractor:

Applicable Specification:

Surdex

V13

Licensing Restrictions:

Third Party Performed QA?

Project Points of Contact:

POC Name	Type	Primary Phone	E-Mail
Ray Fox	NSDI Liaison	573-308-3744	rfox@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.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collection Report              | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Shapefile/Geodatabase                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey Report                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Tiling Scheme Shapefile/Gdb |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Processing Report              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control Point Shapefile/Gdb         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QA/QC Report                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breakline Shapefile/Gdb             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control and Calibration Points | <input type="checkbox"/> Project XML Metadata                           |

## Multi-File Deliverables

File Type	Quantity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swath LAS Files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required? <input type="checkbox"/> XML Metadata?	39
<input type="checkbox"/> Intensity Image Files <input type="checkbox"/> Required?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiled LAS Files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XML Metadata?	60
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breakline Files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required? <input type="checkbox"/> XML Metadata?	61
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bare-Earth DEM Files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XML Metadata?	60

## Additional Deliverables

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document?  Yes  No

None.

# Project Geographic Information

Areal Extent:

385.45

Sq Mi

Grid Size:

1

meters

Tile Size:

4500x4500

meters

Nominal Pulse Spacing:  meters

Vertical Datum:  meters

Horizontal Datum:  meters

Project Projection/Coordinate Reference System:  meters.

This Projection Coordinate Reference System is consistent across the following deliverables:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Shapefile/Geodatabase       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breaklines XML Metadata File     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Tiling Scheme Shapefile/Gdb | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bare-Earth DEM XML Metadata File |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Checkpoints Shapefile/Geodatabase   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swath LAS Files                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project XML Metadata File                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classified LAS Files             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swath LAS XML Metadata File         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breaklines Files                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classified LAS XML Metadata File    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bare-Earth DEM Files             |

# 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.

Review Start Date:

11/5/2012

Action to Contractor Date	Issue Description	Return Date
12/17/2012	No action required for DEM	

Review Complete: 5/23/2013

## 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 Classified LAS XML Metadata file parsed [without errors](#).

The Bare-Earth DEM XML Metadata file parsed [without errors](#).

# Project QA/QC Report Review

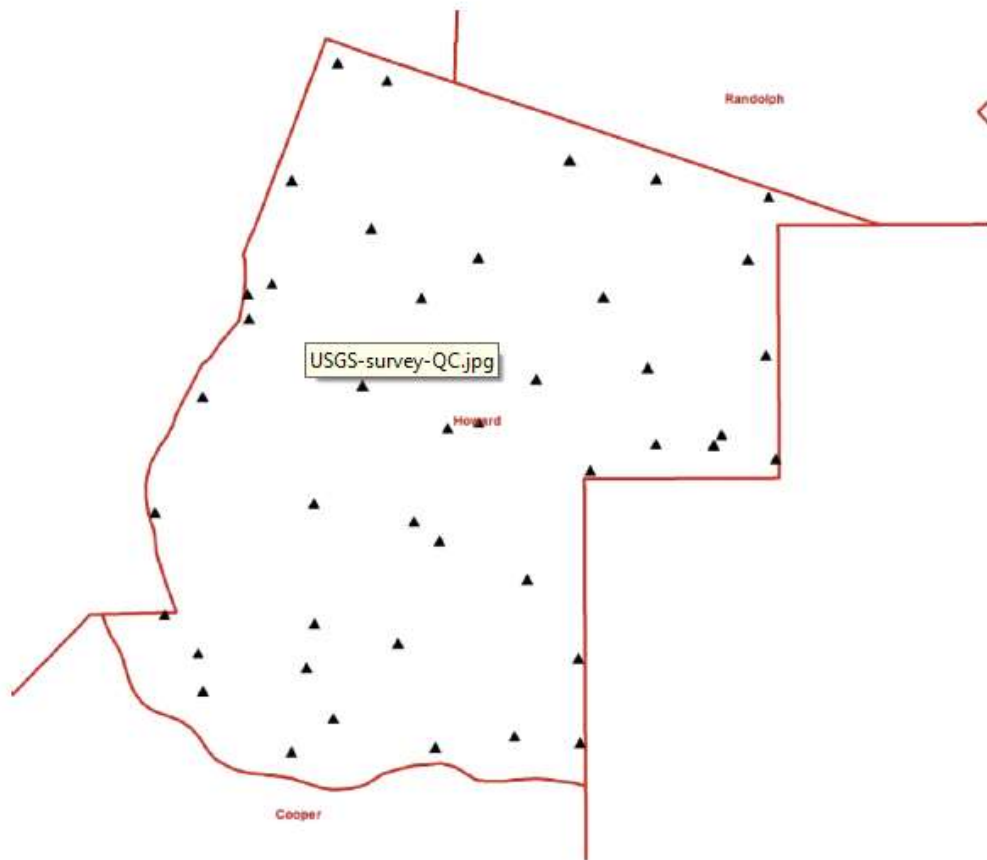
ASPRS recommends that checkpoint surveys be used to verify the vertical accuracy of LiDAR data sets. Checkpoints are to be collected by an independent survey firm licensed in the particular state(s) where the project is located. While subjective, checkpoints should be well distributed throughout the 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 was notable to locate independent checkpoints for this analysis. USGS accepts the quality of the checkpoint data for these LiDAR datasets.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document?  Yes  No

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:

Required FVA Value is   or less.

Target SVA Value is   or less.

Required CVA Value is   or less.

The reported FVA of the LAS Swath data is  .

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

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	<input type="text" value="11.5"/>	<input type="text" value="centimeters"/>
<i>Brush Lands and Low Trees</i>	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	<input type="text" value="13.6"/>	<input type="text" value="centimeters"/>
<i>Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structu...</i>	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>

The reported CVA of this data set is:  .

## 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
- LAS1.3
- 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  .

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

Yes  No

☑ Image?

The following parameters were used in preparing the flight plan.

<b>Flight altitude</b>	6,800' AMSL
<b>Airspeed</b>	130 knots
<b>Full swath width</b>	1162 meters
<b>Overlap between strips</b>	15 % (average)
<b>Field of View</b>	34.0 degrees
<b>Average Point Spacing</b>	0.90 meters
<b>Scan frequency</b>	49.0 Hz
<b>Pulse Repetition Rate</b>	121,300 Hz
<b>Returns per pulse</b>	4 + intensity

Swath FVA tested 14.2cm @ 95% confidence interval at NGTOC

In the Project Overview section, pg. 2 of 5, of the "LiDAR Acquisition Processing Summary" the table shown above specifies parameters used in preparing the flight plan for Howard Co. Field of View (FOV) of 34 degrees. The Min (SAMN) scan angle -22 degrees and Max (SAMX) 22 degrees exceed the parameters of + or - 17 degrees from Nadir recorded for this project but do not exceed the accuracy parameters of 75 degrees (FOV) Field of View for the Leica ALS-50 II system.

Accuracy testing supports the data and it is the opinion of NGTOC that the data is correct and the scan angles have been recorded in error. Please explain why scan angle exceeds FOV in the project flight plan.

\*\*\*Note\*\*\* Flying altitude is always referred to as Above Ground Level (AGL) not Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL)

## 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)
11	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?  Yes  No

Image?

Min/Max Scan angles = -22 + 22 degrees from nadir.

### 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 accepts the breakline files.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document?  Yes  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**

Land Cover Category	# of Points	Fundamental Vertical Accuracy @95% Confidence Interval (Accuracy <sub>z</sub> ) Required FVA = 24.5 or less.	Supplemental Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Target SVA = 36.3 or less.	Consolidated Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Required CVA = 36.3 or less.
Open Terrain	31	14.2		
Tall Weeds and Crops	32		11.5	
<i>Brush Lands and Low</i>	1			

Trees				
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	30		13.6	
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures				
Consolidated	93			12.9

QA performed Accuracy Calculations?

**Calculated Accuracies**

Land Cover Category	# of Points	Fundamental Vertical Accuracy @95% Confidence Interval (Accuracy <sub>z</sub> ) Required FVA = 24.5 or less.	Supplemental Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Target SVA = 36.3 or less.	Consolidated Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Required CVA = 36.3 or less.
Open Terrain	31	14.4		
Tall Weeds and Crops	32		11.5	
Brush Lands and Low Trees				
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	30		13.7	
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures				
Consolidated	93			13.0

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 accepts the bare-earth DEM files.

**Bare-Earth DEM Anomalies, Errors, Other Issues**

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document?  Yes  No

**This is the end of the report.**

QA Form V1.4 12OCT11.xsn