

#### **PROJECT REPORT**

For the

#### NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project

USGS Contract: G10PC00013

Task Order Number: G11PD00336

> Prepared for: USGS

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## **Executive Summary**

The primary purpose of this project was to develop a consistent and accurate surface elevation dataset derived from high-accuracy Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology for the USGS NRCS Virginia project area.

The LiDAR data were processed to a bare-earth digital terrain model (DTM). Detailed breaklines and bare-earth Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) were produced for the project area. Data was formatted according to tiles with each tile covering an area of 5000 ft by 5000 ft. A total of 1,327 tiles were produced for the project encompassing an area of approximately 1,071 sq. miles.

#### The Project Team

Dewberry served as the prime contractor for the project. In addition to project management, Dewberry processed the LAS tiles to the initial ground classification. BAE Systems then performed the manual LAS classification, breakline collection, and production of the bare-earth DEMs. Dewberry was responsible for the final quality review of all project deliverables, including vertical accuracy testing. Dewberry prepared the final project reports and metadata.

Dewberry's IES offices completed ground surveying for the project and delivered surveyed checkpoints. Their task was to acquire surveyed checkpoints for the project to use in independent testing of the vertical accuracy of the LiDAR-derived surface model. Note that a separate Survey Report was created for this portion of the project.

The Atlantic Group completed LiDAR data acquisition and data calibration for 1,071 square miles covering the project area.

#### **Survey Area**

The project area addressed by this report falls within the Virginia counties of Augusta, Waynesboro, Staunton, Harrisonburg, Rockingham, and Shenandoah Counties.

#### **Date of Survey**

The LiDAR aerial acquisition was conducted from Apr. 7, 2011 thru April 30, 2011.

#### **Datum Reference**

Data produced for the project were delivered in the following reference system.

**Horizontal Datum:** The horizontal datum for the project is North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) HARN

**Vertical Datum:** The Vertical datum for the project is North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88)

Coordinate System: Virginia State Plane Coordinate System, North Zone

Units: Horizontal units are in US Survey Feet, Vertical units are in Feet.

Geiod Model: Geoid09 (Geoid 09 was used to convert ellipsoid heights to orthometric heights).

#### **LiDAR Vertical Accuracy**

For the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project, the tested  $RMSE_z$  for checkpoints in open terrain equaled **0.24 ft** compared with the 0.31 ft specification; and the FVA computed using  $RMSE_z \ge 1.9600$  was equal to **0.47 ft**, compared with the 0.61 ft specification.

For the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project, the tested CVA computed using the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile was equal to **0.95 ft**, compared with the 1.21 ft specification.

#### **Project Deliverables**

The deliverables for the project are listed below.

- 1. Raw Point Cloud Data (Swaths)
- 2. Classified Point Cloud Data (Tiled)
- 3. Bare Earth Surface (Raster DEM IMG Format)
- 4. Control & Accuracy Checkpoint Report & Points
- 5. Metadata
- 6. Project Report (Acquisition, Processing, QC)
- 7. Project Extents, Including a shapefile derived from the LiDAR Deliverable
- 8. Breakline Data (File GDB)
- 9. Intensity Imagery (Tiled)

## **1 Project Tiling Footprint**

One thousand three hundred and twenty-seven (1,327) tiles were delivered for the project. Each tile's extent is 5000 feet by 5000 feet.



Figure 1: Project Map

## 1.1 List of delivered tiles (1,327):

LAS N16 2841 30	LAS_N16_2678_20	LAS_N16_2780_20
LAS N16 2842 40	LAS_N16_2679_10	LAS_N16_2781_10
LAS N16 2842 30	LAS_N16_2779_10	LAS_N16_2788_10
LAS N16 2843 40	LAS_N16_2779_20	LAS_N16_2788_20
LAS N16 2850 20	LAS_N16_2870_10	LAS_N16_2789_10
LAS N16 2851 10	LAS N16 2870 20	LAS N16 2789 20
LAS N16 2851 20	LAS_N16_2871_10	LAS_N16_2880_10
LAS N16 2852 10	LAS N16 2871 20	LAS N16 2880 20
LAS_N16_2852_20	LAS N16 2872 10	LAS_N16_2881_10
LAS_1110_2052_20	LAS_N16_2872_20	LAS N16 2881 20
LAS_N16_2853_20	LAS N16 2873 10	LAS N16 2882 10
LAS_N16_2850_40	LAS N16 2873 20	LAS N16 2882 20
LAS_N16_2850_40	LAS N16 2874 10	LAS N16 2883 10
LAS_N10_2050_50	LAS N16 2874 20	LAS N16 2883 20
$LAS_N10_2031_40$	LAS N16 2875 10	LAS N16 2884 10
LAS_N10_2031_30	$LAS_1(10_2075_10)$	LAS N16 2884 20
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LAS_N16_2668_40	LAS_N16_2873_40	LAS_N16_2787_30
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LAS N16 2865 40	LAS N16 2688 20	LAS N16 2883 30
LAS N16 2677 10	LAS N16 2689 10	LAS N16 2884 40
LAS N16 2677 20	LAS N16 2689 20	LAS N16 2884 30
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LAS_1110_2070_10	210_110_2700_10	L/10_110_2003_40

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LAS N16 2699 10	LAS N16 2798 30	LAS N16 3803 10
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LAS N16 2790 10	LAS N16 2799 30	LAS N16 3804 10
LAS N16 2790 20	LAS N16 2890 40	LAS N16 3804 20
LAS N16 2791 10	LAS N16 2890 30	LAS N16 3805 10
LAS N16 2791 20	LAS N16 2891 40	LAS N16 3805 20
LAS N16 2792 10	LAS N16 2891 30	LAS N16 3806 10
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## 2 LiDAR Acquisition Report



#### ACQUISITION REPORT – Virginia LIDAR ACQUISITION

#### Augusta & Rockingham Virginia

21 June 2011

Prepared for

#### DEWBERRY 1000 N. Ashley Dr., Suite 801 Tampa, FL 33602

813.225.1325

Prepared by

#### ATLANTIC GROUP

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### **Revisions**

In	formation	shown	for e	ach	revision	supersedes	the	previous	version.	
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Draft.			
Revision 1: Andy Lucero, Project Manager	Date: 06/30/2011		
Modified for syntax.			
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Revision 3:	Date:		
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## **SCOPE OF WORK**

The Atlantic Group acquired LiDAR data over an Area of Interest (AOI) covering all or portions of Augusta and Rockingham Counties Virginia. The acquisition plan entailed a nominal point spacing of 2 points per meter square and a side lap of 55% between flight lines. The AOI covers 1072 square miles.



Fig. 1 Flight plan

## LIDAR ACQUISITION DETAILS

Collections (Lifts): 19

Collection Dates: 2011 April 7,14,15,17,18,19,20,21,24,25,26,and 30

Field of View (FOV): 45 degrees

Average Point Density (planned): 0.7 m

Flight Level(s): 1000 / 3280 m/ft

Sensor Type: Optech Gemini Sensor Serial Number(s): 08SEN113

All acquired LiDAR data was initially quality controlled after every mission for coverage and further verified for content and adherence to flight plan at Atlantic production facilities Huntsville, AL. All data was accepted for processing.



Virginia Flight Trajectories

# Output Results for JD097F01

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/02/2011





### Figure 2: JD097F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot



### Figure 3: JD097F01 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD097F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD097F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



## 



### Figure 7: JD097F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD097F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



# Output Results for JD104F01

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/16/2011






### Figure 3: JD104F01 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD104F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD104F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot









# Output Results for JD104F02





## Figure 2: JD104F02 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot



### 



Figure 4: JD104F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD104F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot







Figure 8: JD104F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



- Float	— Fixed (1 baseline)	- Fixed (2 or more)

	Process	Run (9)	by Unknown	on 05/27/2011	at 07:14:25
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# Output Results for JD104F03









Figure 4: JD104F03 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD104F03 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



Figure 6: JD104F03 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



### Figure 7: JD104F03 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



## Figure 8: JD104F03 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



# Output Results for JD105F01





Figure 2: JD105F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot





Figure 4: JD105F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD105F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



Figure 6: JD105F01 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots







Figure 8: JD105F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



- Float - Fixed (1 baseline) - Fixed (2 or more)

Process	Run (29)	by Unknown	on 05/31/2011	at 15:37:29

# **Output Results for JD107F01**





Figure 2: JD107F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot




Figure 4: JD107F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD107F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



### 



Figure 7: JD107F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD107F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



Process	Run (9)	by Unknown	on 05/31/2011	at 16:28:12

## Figure 9: JD107F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# Output Results for JD107F02

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/01/2011





Figure 2: JD107F02 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot





Figure 4: JD107F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD107F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot





Figure 7: JD107F02 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD107F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



Process	Run (10)	by Unknown	on 06/01/2011	at 07:18:38

# Output Results for JD108F01

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/13/2011





Figure 2: JD108F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot



Figure 3: JD108F01 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD108F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD108F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



## Figure 6: JD108F01 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



Figure 7: JD108F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD108F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



## Figure 9: JD108F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# Output Results for JD108F02

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/03/2011





Figure 2: JD108F02 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot





Figure 4: JD108F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD108F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



## Figure 6: JD108F02 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



Figure 7: JD108F02 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD108F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



## Figure 9: JD108F02 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# Output Results for JD109F01

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/13/2011










Figure 4: JD109F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD109F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot







Figure 8: JD109F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



#### Figure 9: JD109F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# Output Results for JD109F02

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/15/2011





#### Figure 2: JD109F02 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot



Figure 3: JD109F02 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD109F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD109F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



Figure 6: JD109F02 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



#### Figure 7: JD109F02 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD109F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



### 

# **Output Results for JD110F01**

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/15/2011









Figure 4: JD110F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD110F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



### 







#### Figure 9: JD110F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# **Output Results for JD111F01**

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/16/2011





#### Figure 2: JD111F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot





Figure 4: JD111F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD111F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot





#### Figure 7: JD111F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD111F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



# Output Results for JD111F02

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/16/2011





#### Figure 2: JD111F02 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot


#### 



Figure 4: JD111F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD111F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



Figure 6: JD111F02 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



Figure 7: JD111F02 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD111F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



### Figure 9: JD111F02 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

GPS Time (TOW, GMT zone)

- Float - Fixed (1 baseline) - Fixed (2 or more)

Process	Run (4)	by Unknown	on 06/16/2011	at 08:37:56

.

# **Output Results for JD114F01**

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/16/2011





Figure 2: JD114F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot



Figure 3: JD114F01 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD114F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD114F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



#### Figure 6: JD114F01 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



Figure 7: JD114F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD114F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



D D	(10)		0.614.610.01.1	
Process R	Run (10)	by Unknown	on 06/16/2011	at 09:02:32

# Output Results for JD114F02

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/16/2011







Figure 3: JD114F02 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD114F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD114F02 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



## 



### Figure 7: JD114F02 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)





### Figure 9: JD114F02 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# **Output Results for JD115F01**

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/16/2011





### Figure 2: JD115F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot





Figure 4: JD115F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD115F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



Figure 6: JD115F01 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



### Figure 7: JD115F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD115F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



### Figure 9: JD115F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

## **Output Results for JD116F01**

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/17/2011





Figure 2: JD116F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot


Figure 3: JD116F01 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD116F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD116F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



## Figure 6: JD116F01 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



Figure 7: JD116F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD116F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



## Figure 9: JD116F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# **Output Results for JD119F01**

POSGNSS Version 5.20.1209 06/17/2011





Figure 2: JD119F01 [Combined] - Quality Factor Plot



## Figure 3: JD119F01 [Combined] - Height Profile Plot



Figure 4: JD119F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Separation Plot



Figure 5: JD119F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined Weighting Plot



Figure 6: JD119F01 [Combined] - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP Plots



Figure 7: JD119F01 [Combined] - Horizontal Distance Separation (km)



Figure 8: JD119F01 [Combined] - Forward/Reverse or Combined RMS Plot



## Figure 9: JD119F01 [Combined] - Float or Fixed Ambiguity

# 3 LiDAR Processing & Qualitative Assessment

# 3.1 Data Classification and Editing

LiDAR mass points were produced to LAS 1.2 specifications, including the following LAS classification codes:

- Class 1 = Unclassified, and used for all other features that do not fit into the Classes 2, 7, 9, 10, or 11, including vegetation, buildings, etc.
- Class 2 = Ground, includes accurate LiDAR points in overlapping flight lines
- Class 7 = Noise, low and high points
- Class 9 = Water, points located within collected breaklines
- Class 10 = Ignored Ground due to breakline proximity.
- Class 11 = Withheld, Points with scan angles exceeding +/- 20 degrees.

The data was processed using GeoCue and TerraScan software. The initial step is the setup of the GeoCue project, which is done by importing a project defined tile boundary index encompassing the entire project area. The acquired 3D laser point clouds, in LAS binary format, were imported into the GeoCue project and tiled according to the project tile grid. Once tiled, the laser points were classified using a proprietary routine in TerraScan. This routine classifies any obvious outliers in the dataset to class 7 and points with scan angles exceeding +/- 20 degrees to class 11. After points that could negatively affect the ground are removed from class 1, the ground layer is extracted from this remaining point cloud. The ground extraction process encompassed in this routine takes place by building an iterative surface model.

This surface model is generated using three main parameters: building size, iteration angle and iteration distance. The initial model is based on low points being selected by a "roaming window" with the assumption is that these are the ground points. The size of this roaming window is determined by the building size parameter. The low points are triangulated and the remaining points are evaluated and subsequently added to the model if they meet the iteration angle and distance constraints. This process is repeated until no additional points are added within iterations. A second critical parameter is the maximum terrain angle constraint, which determines the maximum terrain angle allowed within the classification model.

The following fields within the LAS files are populated to the following precision: GPS Time (0.000001 second precision), Easting (0.01 foot precision), Northing (0.01 foot precision), Elevation (0.01 foot precision), Intensity (integer value - 12 bit dynamic range), Number of Returns (integer - range of 1-4), Return number (integer range of 1-4), Scan Direction Flag (integer - range 0-1), Classification (integer), Scan Angle Rank (integer), Edge of flight line (integer, range 0-1), User bit field (integer - flight line information encoded). The LAS file also contains a Variable length record in the file header that defines the projection, datums, and units.

Once the initial ground routine has been performed on the data, Dewberry creates Delta Z (DZ) orthos to check the relative accuracy of the LiDAR data. These orthos compare the elevations of LiDAR points from overlapping flight lines on a 1 meter pixel cell size basis. If the elevations of points within each pixel are within 10 cm of each other, the pixel is colored green. If the elevations of points within each pixel are between 10 cm and 20 cm of each other, the pixel is colored yellow, and if the elevations of points within each pixel are greater than 20 cm in difference, the pixel is colored red. Pixels that do not contain points from overlapping flight lines are colored according to their intensity values. DZ orthos can be created using the full point cloud or ground only points and are used to review and verify the

calibration of the data is acceptable. Some areas are expected to show sections or portions of red, including terrain variations, slope changes, and vegetated areas or buildings if the full point cloud is used. However, large or continuous sections of yellow or red pixels can indicate the data was not calibrated correctly or that there were issues during acquisition that could affect the usability of the data. The DZ orthos for NRCS Virginia showed that the data was calibrated correctly with no issues that would affect its usability. The figure below shows an example of the DZ orthos.



Figure 2: DZ orthos created from the full point cloud. Some red pixels are visible along embankments, sloped terrain, and in vegetated land cover, as expected. Open, flat areas are green indicating the calibration and relative accuracy of the data is acceptable.

BAE utilized a variety of software suites for data processing. The LAS dataset was received and imported into GeoCue task management software for processing in Terrascan. Each tile was imported into Terrascan and a surface model was created to examine the ground classification. BAE analysts visually reviewed the ground surface model and corrected errors in the ground classification such as vegetation, buildings, and bridges that were present following the initial processing conducted by Dewberry. BAE analysts employ 3D visualization techniques to view the point cloud at multiple angles and in profile to ensure that non-ground points are removed from the ground classification. After the ground classification corrections were completed, the dataset was processed through a water classification routine that utilizes breaklines compiled by BAE to automatically classify hydro features. The water classification routine selects ground points within the breakline polygons and automatically classifies them as class 9, water. The final classification routine applied to the dataset selects ground points within a specified distance of the water breaklines and classifies them as class 10, ignored ground due to breakline proximity.

### 3.2 Qualitative Assessment

Dewberry qualitative assessment utilizes a combination of statistical analysis and interpretative methodology to assess the quality of the data for a bare-earth digital terrain model (DTM). This process

looks for anomalies in the data and also identifies areas where man-made structures or vegetation points may not have been classified properly to produce a bare-earth model.

Within this review of the LiDAR data, two fundamental questions were addressed:

- Did the LiDAR system perform to specifications?
- Did the vegetation removal process yield desirable results for the intended bare-earth terrain product?

Mapping standards today address the quality of data by quantitative methods. If the data are tested and found to be within the desired accuracy standard, then the data set is typically accepted. Now with the proliferation of LiDAR, new issues arise due to the vast amount of data. Unlike photogrammetrically-derived DEMs where point spacing can be eight meters or more, LiDAR nominal point spacing for this project is 1 point per 0.7 square meters. The end result is that millions of elevation points are measured to a level of accuracy previously unseen for traditional elevation mapping technologies and vegetated areas are measured that would be nearly impossible to survey by other means. The downside is that with millions of points, the dataset is statistically bound to have some errors both in the measurement process and in the artifact removal process.

As previously stated, the quantitative analysis addresses the quality of the data based on absolute accuracy. This accuracy is directly tied to the comparison of the discreet measurement of the survey checkpoints and that of the interpolated value within the three closest LiDAR points that constitute the vertices of a three-dimensional triangular face of the TIN. Therefore, the end result is that only a small sample of the LiDAR data is actually tested. However there is an increased level of confidence with LiDAR data due to the relative accuracy. This relative accuracy in turn is based on how well one LiDAR point "fits" in comparison to the next contiguous LiDAR measurement, and is verified with DZ orthos. Once the absolute and relative accuracy has been ascertained, the next stage is to address the cleanliness of the data for a bare-earth DTM.

By using survey checkpoints to compare the data, the absolute accuracy is verified, but this also allows us to understand if the artifact removal process was performed correctly. To reiterate the quantitative approach, if the LiDAR sensor operated correctly over open terrain areas, then it most likely operated correctly over the vegetated areas. This does not mean that the entire bare-earth was measured; only that the elevations surveyed are most likely accurate (including elevations of treetops, rooftops, etc.). In the event that the LiDAR pulse filtered through the vegetation and was able to measure the true surface (as well as measurements on the surrounding vegetation) then the level of accuracy of the vegetation removal process can be tested as a by-product.

To fully address the data for overall accuracy and quality, the level of cleanliness (or removal of aboveground artifacts) is paramount. Since there are currently no effective automated testing procedures to measure cleanliness, Dewberry employs a combination of statistical and visualization processes. This includes creating pseudo image products such as LiDAR orthos produced from the intensity returns, Triangular Irregular Network (TIN)'s, Digital Elevation Models (DEM) and 3-dimensional models. By creating multiple images and using overlay techniques, not only can potential errors be found, but Dewberry can also find where the data meets and exceeds expectations. This report will present representative examples where the LiDAR and post processing had issues as well as examples of where the LiDAR performed well.

## 3.3 Analysis

Dewberry utilizes GeoCue software as the primary geospatial process management system. GeoCue is a three tier, multi-user architecture that uses .NET technology from Microsoft. .NET technology provides the real-time notification system that updates users with real-time project status, regardless of who makes changes to project entities. GeoCue uses database technology for sorting project metadata. Dewberry uses Microsoft SQL Server as the database of choice. Specific analysis is conducted in Terrascan and QT Modeler environments.

Following the completion of LiDAR point classification, the Dewberry qualitative assessment process flow for the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR project incorporated the following reviews:

- 1. *Format:* The LAS files are verified to meet project specifications. The LAS files for the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR project conform to the specifications outlined below.
  - Format, Echos, Intensity
    - oLAS format 1.2, point data record format 1
    - Point data record format 1
    - Multiple returns (echos) per pulse
    - Intensity values populated for each point
  - ASPRS classification scheme
    - ◦Class 1 unclassified
    - ○Class 2 ground
    - ∘Class 7 Noise
    - ∘Class 9 Water
    - Class 10 Ignored Ground due to breakline proximity
    - Class 11 Withheld due to scan angles exceeding +/- 20 degrees
  - Projection
    - o Datum North American Datum 1983, HARN adjustment
    - Projected Coordinate System State Plane Virginia North (4501)
    - o Units U.S. Survey Feet
    - Vertical Datum North American Vertical Datum 1988, Geoid 09
    - Vertical Units Feet
  - LAS header information:
    - oClass (Integer)
    - GPS Week Time (0.0001 seconds)
    - o Easting (0.01 foot)
    - Northing (0.01 foot)
    - Elevation (0.01 foot)
    - Echo Number (Integer 1 to 4)
    - Echo (Integer 1 to 4)
    - Intensity (8 bit integer)
    - •Flight Line (Integer)
    - $\circ$  Scan Angle (Integer degree)

- 2. Data density, data voids: The LAS files are used to produce Digital Elevation Models using the commercial software package "QT Modeler" which creates a 3-dimensional data model derived from Class 2 (ground points) in the LAS files. Grid spacing is based on the project density deliverable requirement for un-obscured areas. For the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR project it is stipulated that the minimum post spacing in un-obscured areas should be 1 point per 0.7 square meters.
  - a. Acceptable voids (areas with no LiDAR returns in the LAS files) that are present in the majority of LiDAR projects include voids caused by bodies of water. These are considered to be acceptable voids.
- 3. *Bare earth quality:* Dewberry reviewed the cleanliness of the bare earth to ensure the ground has correct definition, meets the project requirements, there is correct classification of points, and there are less than 5% residual artifacts.
  - a. *Artifacts:* Dewberry identified the presence of a very limited number of artifacts in the dataset. Artifacts are caused by the misclassification of ground points and usually represent vegetation and/or man-made structures. The artifacts identified are usually low lying structures, such as porches or decks. These low lying features are extremely difficult for the automated algorithms to detect as non-ground and must be removed manually. The vast majority of these features have been removed from, as shown in Figure 3, but a small number of these features are still in the ground classification. The limited numbers of features remaining in the ground are also small features, usually 1 foot or less above the actual ground surface, and should not negatively impact the usability of the dataset.



Figure 3 – Tile number LAS\_N16\_3730\_40. Profile with points colored by class (class 1=yellow, class 2=pink) is shown in the top view and a TIN of the surface is shown in the bottom view. The arrow identifies a porch

# structure that has correctly been removed from the ground classification. A limited number of these small features are still classified as ground.

b. *Misclassification:* A very limited number of areas with misclassification were identified. The majority of these areas were corrected. Only very small areas of misclassification may remain in the dataset. The areas that that are misclassified are in flat terrain that will not impact the usability of the dataset.



Figure 4 – Tile number LAS\_N16\_3883\_20. Profile with points colored by class (class 1=yellow, class 11=blue) is shown in the top view and a TIN of the surface is shown in the bottom view. A very small portion of ground between two houses is not classified as ground, but as class 1.

**c.** *Culverts and Bridges:* Bridges have been removed from the bare earth surface while culverts remain in the bare earth surface. In instances where it is difficult to determine if the feature is a culvert or bridge, such as with some large box culverts or small bridges, Dewberry erred on assuming smaller features, especially if they are on secondary or tertiary roads, would be culverts. Below is an example of a culvert that has been left in the ground surface.



Figure 5– Tile number LAS\_N16\_3876\_30. Profile with points colored by class (class 1=yellow, class 2=pink) is shown in the top view and the intensity is shown in the bottom view. This culvert remains in the bare earth surface. Bridges have been removed from the bare earth surface and classified to class 1.

# 3.4 Conclusion

The dataset conforms to project specifications for format and header values. The spatial projection information and classification of points is correct. Minor artifacts and small areas of misclassification are isolated and have minimal impact on the usability of the dataset.

PT. #	NORTHING	ELEVS.		
	US STATE PLAN			
POINT ID	NORTHING (FT)	EASTING (FT)	ELEVATION (FT)	
OT-1	6943946.13	11401372.15	1365.47	
OT-2	6927979.32	11434294.59	958.66	
OT-3	6907669.99	11411942.05	1099.45	
OT-4	6889401.62	11376387.52	1417.62	
OT-5	6865311.14	11414634.46	1243.05	
OT-6	6864125.76	11371393.26	1285.26	
OT-7	6855129.40	11333822.17	1459.09	
OT-8	6831556.13	11314774.20	1416.53	
OT-9	6828375.39	11359113.46	1302.74	
OT-9A	6826969.50	11358613.63	1290.87	
OT-10	6841410.76	11382953.80	1406.96	
OT-11	6818347.92	11407007.17	1201.47	
OT-12	6795554.60	11385649.27	1147.46	
OT-13	6803946.63	11343075.53	1284.43	
OT-14	6789972.96	11294774.81	1585.75	
OT-15	6754311.03	11306651.26	1446.64	
OT-16	6759428.60	11338657.49	1211.69	
OT-17	6747302.77	11368632.10	1241.12	
OT-18	6742225.86	11343276.75	1355.13	
OT-19	6720932.09	11302724.54	1564.35	
OT-20	6720939.67	11335072.08	1417.45	
OT-21	6691539.62	11341872.83	1390.93	
OT-22	6693591.05	11316957.61	1458.66	
OT-23	6680704.18	11280197.89	1763.19	
OT-24	6654792.57	11342071.24	1717.76	
GWC-1	6942056.08	11420950.20	1074.68	
GWC-2	6918481.77	11412755.66	972.25	
GWC-3	6899051.85	11422256.70	1103.94	
GWC-4	6892376.74	11397045.12	1223.33	
GWC-5	6879007.68	11385900.10	1172.51	
GWC-6	6852023.59	11405689.50	1496.06	
GWC-7	6848358.48	11371449.45	1395.19	
GWC-8	6861735.78	11351842.01	1374.41	
GWC-9	6839122.95	11327326.57	1391.03	
GWC-10	6823757.12	11340023.06	1286.07	
GWC-11	6810377.81	11389233.25	1214.03	
GWC-12	6794902.48	11365029.15	1134.24	

# 4 Survey Vertical Accuracy Checkpoints

GWC-13	6785598.51	11340243.57	1334.45
GWC-14	6797023.86	11310487.33	1472.86
GWC-15	6779740.98	11302653.22	1476.38
GWC-16	6768607.20	11323034.23	1426.86
GWC-17	6755579.06	11353684.81	1263.45
GWC-18	6734242.61	11357911.84	1216.81
GWC-19	6724783.35	11380439.11	1257.20
GWC-20	6694139.40	11358999.73	1348.15
GWC-21	6726714.44	11322663.54	1513.64
GWC-22	6709575.98	11316179.28	1456.64
GWC-23	6694964.35	11293214.17	1667.62
FO-1	6939020.27	11449766.57	1021.31
FO-2	6926210.61	11397232.11	1284.27
FO-3	6908601.25	11435623.49	1028.52
FO-4	6904651.02	11387823.65	1185.08
FO-5	6882580.92	11427054.24	1207.36
FO-6	6866320.93	11392868.28	1319.34
FO-7	6875520.71	11342546.83	1628.76
FO-8	6855588.46	11298849.69	2047.82
FO-9	6842898.98	11343576.72	1320.92
FO-10	6824860.34	11398806.03	1402.31
FO-11	6813138.45	11372345.23	1346.79
FO-12	6812049.28	11314400.53	1354.44
FO-13	6826781.23	11293667.06	1783.29
FO-14	6810108.71	11266970.75	2155.57
FO-15	6783672.04	11319722.34	1501.54
FO-16	6774097.54	11368855.14	1183.14
FO-18	6717248.81	11368191.19	1374.34
FO-19	6735364.26	11312350.30	1552.21
FO-20	6704602.91	11295924.40	1963.95
FO-21	6678785.23	11332719.42	1639.25
FO-22	6672190.49	11301838.75	1880.08
FO-23	6672492.58	11353349.45	1507.85

 Table 1: USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR surveyed accuracy checkpoints

# 4.1 Survey Checkpoints not used in vertical accuracy testing.

Three (3) checkpoints were surveyed in non-ideal locations for testing LiDAR data. Some of these checkpoints were located on sloped terrain. Due to the horizontal spread of the sensor laser, survey checkpoints should be located on flat terrain to ensure LiDAR returns will be measuring a uniform surface and not a sloped surface which could introduce error into the

vertical accuracy calculations. Additionally, some of these checkpoints were not used because they are located in land cover, such as impenetrable brush, or next to obstructions, such as trees or buildings, that do that do not give the LiDAR sensor an adequate chance to measure the ground surface.

Additional checkpoints are normally surveyed in case some of the checkpoints are deemed unusable. Even after removing these three checkpoints from the dataset, there were still 67 checkpoints remaining for the vertical accuracy testing, meeting project requirements of 60 total checkpoints comprised of 20 checkpoints in each land cover category. Table 2, below, identifies checkpoints not used in the vertical accuracy testing.

Point ID	Easting	Northing	Elevation	
OT-14	11294774.81	6789972.96	1585.75	
FO-4	11387823.65	6904651.02	1185.08	
FO-12	11314400.53	6812049.28	1354.44	

Table 2: Checkpoints not used in vertical accuracy testing.

Below are examples of two checkpoints that were not used in vertical accuracy testing.



Figure 6: Survey Checkpoint OT-14. This checkpoint is located on sloped terrain, better shown in the profile below.



Figure 7: DEM of tiles N16\_2798\_20 and N16\_2799\_10 showing that survey checkpoint OT-14 is poorly placed, located on sloped terrain, and therefore was not used in vertical accuracy testing.



Figure 8: Survey Checkpoint FO-12. This checkpoint is located right next to a large tree. Checkpoints must not be located next to obstructions as this can prevent the LiDAR sensor from reaching its target. Due to the poor placement of this checkpoint, it was not used during vertical accuracy testing.

# 5 LiDAR Vertical Accuracy Statistics & Analysis

# 5.1 Background

Dewberry tests and reviews project data both quantitatively (for accuracy) and qualitatively (for usability).

For qualitative assessment (i.e. vertical accuracy assessment), sixty-seven (67) check points were surveyed for the project and are located within open terrain, forest, or grass, weeds, and crops land cover categories. The checkpoints were surveyed for the project using RTK survey methods. A survey report was produced which details and validates how the survey was completed for this project.

Checkpoints were evenly distributed throughout the project area so as to cover as many flight lines as possible using the "dispersed method" of placement.

# 5.2 Vertical Accuracy Test Procedures

**FVA** (Fundamental Vertical Accuracy) is determined with check points located only in the open terrain (grass, dirt, sand, and/or rocks) land cover category, where there is a very high probability that the LiDAR sensor will have detected the bare-earth ground surface and where random errors are expected to follow a normal error distribution. The FVA determines how well the calibrated LiDAR sensor performed. With a normal error distribution, the vertical accuracy at the 95% confidence level is computed as the vertical root mean square error (RMSEz) of the checkpoints x 1.9600. For the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR project, vertical accuracy must be 0.61 ft (18.3 cm) or less based on an RMSEz of 0.31 ft (9.25 cm) x 1.9600.

**CVA** (Consolidated Vertical Accuracy) is determined with all checkpoints in all land cover categories combined where there is a possibility that the LiDAR sensor and post-processing may yield elevation errors that do not follow a normal error distribution. CVA at the 95% confidence level equals the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile error for all checkpoints in all land cover categories combined. The USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project CVA standard is 1.21 ft (36.3 cm) at the 95% confidence level. The CVA is accompanied by a listing of the 5% outliers that are larger than the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile used to compute the CVA; these are always the largest outliers that may depart from a normal error distribution. Here, Accuracy<sub>z</sub> differs from CVA because Accuracy<sub>z</sub> assumes elevation errors follow a normal error distribution where RMSE procedures are valid, whereas CVA assumes LiDAR errors may not follow a normal error distribution in vegetated categories, making the RMSE process invalid.

**SVA** (Supplemental Vertical Accuracy) is determined for each land cover category other than open terrain. SVA at the 95% confidence level equals the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile error for all checkpoints in each land cover category. The USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project SVA target is 1.21 ft (36.3 cm) at the 95% confidence level. Target specifications are given for SVA's as one individual land cover category may exceed this target value as long as the overall CVA is within specified tolerances. Again, Accuracy<sub>z</sub> differs from SVA because Accuracy<sub>z</sub> assumes elevation errors follow a normal error distribution where RMSE procedures are valid, whereas SVA assumes LiDAR errors may not follow a normal error distribution in vegetated categories, making the RMSE process invalid.

The relevant testing criteria are summarized in Table 3.

#### Table 3 — Acceptance Criteria

Quantitative Criteria	Measure of Acceptability
Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA) in open terrain only	0.61 ft (based on RMSEz (0.31 ft) * 1.9600)
using RMSEz *1.9600	
Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA) in all land cover	1.21 ft (based on combined 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile)
categories combined at the 95% confidence level	
Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA) in each land cover	1.21 ft (based on 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for each land cover category)
category separately at the 95% confidence level	

# 5.3 Vertical Accuracy Testing Steps

The primary QA/QC vertical accuracy testing steps used by Dewberry are summarized as follows:

- 1. Dewberry's team surveyed QA/QC vertical checkpoints in accordance with the project's specifications. Figure 6 shows the location of the checkpoints.
- 2. Next, Dewberry interpolated the bare-earth LiDAR DTM to provide the z-value for each of the 67 checkpoints.
- 3. Dewberry then computed the associated z-value differences between the interpolated z-value from the LiDAR data and the ground truth survey checkpoints and computed FVA, CVA, and SVA values.
- 4. The data were analyzed by Dewberry to assess the accuracy of the data. The review process examined the various accuracy parameters as defined by the scope of work. The overall descriptive statistics of each dataset were computed to assess any trends or anomalies. This report provides tables, graphs and figures to summarize and illustrate data quality.

Figure 9 shows the location of the QA/QC checkpoints within the project area.



Figure 9 – Location of QA/QC Checkpoints

# 5.4 Vertical Accuracy Results

Table 4 summarizes the tested vertical accuracy resulting from a comparison of the surveyed checkpoints to the elevation values present within the LiDAR LAS files.

Land Cover Category	# of Points	FVA — Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (RMSEz x 1.9600) Spec=0.61 ft	CVA — Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (95th Percentile) Spec=1.21 ft	SVA — Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (95th Percentile) Target=1.21 ft	
Consolidated	67		0.95		
Open Terrain	24	0.47			
Grass/Weeds/Crop	23			0.95	
Forest	20			0.99	

Table 4 — FVA, CVA, and SVA Vertical Accuracy at 95% Confidence Level

The RMSE<sub>z</sub> for checkpoints in open terrain only tested 0.24 ft, within the target criteria of 0.31 ft. Compared with the 0.61 ft specification, the FVA tested 0.47 ft at the 95% confidence level based on RMSE<sub>z</sub> x 1.9600.

Compared with the 1.21 ft specification, CVA for all checkpoints in all land cover categories combined tested 0.95 ft at the 95% confidence level based on the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Compared with target 1.21 ft specification, SVA for checkpoints in the grass, weeds, and crops land cover category tested 0.95 ft and checkpoints in the forest land cover category tested 0.99 ft at the 95% confidence level based on the  $95^{th}$  percentiles.

Figure 10 illustrates the magnitude of the differences between the QA/QC checkpoints and LiDAR data. This shows that the majority of LiDAR elevations were within +/-0.50 ft of the checkpoints elevations, but there were some outliers where LiDAR and checkpoint elevations differed by up to +/-1.40 ft.



**Checkpoint Errors** 

Figure 10 – Magnitude of Elevation Discrepancies

Table 5 lists the 5% outliers that are larger than the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, or 0.95 feet.

nointNo	NAD_1983_NSF Coordinat	lane NAVD88	LiDAR	Delta	
ροπαινο	Easting - X (feet)	Northing - Y (fee	t) Survey -Z (feet)	(feet)	Z
FO-6	11392868.28	6866320.93	1319.34	1317.98	-1.36
GWC-15	11302653.22	6779740.98	1476.38	1477.71	1.33
GWC-3	11422256.70	6899051.85	1103.94	1104.95	1.01
FO-20	11295924.40	6704602.91	1963.95	1964.92	0.97

Table 5 — 5% Outliers

Table 6 provides overall descriptive statistics.

100 % of Totals	RMSE (ft) Open Terrain Spec=0.31ft	Mean (ft)	Median (ft)	Skew	Std Dev (ft)	# of Points	Min (ft)	Max (ft)
Consolidated		0.29	0.10	0.01	0.39	67	-1.36	1.33
Open Terrain	0.24	0.20	-0.05	0.34	0.24	24	-0.48	0.53
Grass/Weeds/Crop		0.25	0.14	2.06	0.35	23	-0.27	1.33
Forest		0.46	0.32	-1.38	0.53	20	-1.36	0.97

#### Table 6 — Overall Descriptive Statistics

Figure 11 illustrates a histogram of the associated elevation discrepancies between the QA/QC checkpoints and elevations interpolated from the LiDAR triangulated irregular network (TIN). The frequency shows the number of discrepancies within each band of elevation differences. Although the discrepancies vary between a low of -1.3 ft and a high of +1.45 ft, the histogram shows that the majority of the discrepancies are skewed on the positive side. The vast majority of points are within the ranges of -0.05 ft to +0.45 ft.



Figure 11 — Histogram of Elevation Discrepancies within errors in feet

## 5.5 Conclusion

Based on the vertical accuracy testing conducted by Dewberry, the LiDAR dataset for the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project satisfies the project's pre-defined vertical accuracy criteria.

# 6 Breakline Production & Qualitative Assessment Report

## 6.1 Breakline Production Methodology

Dewberry used GeoCue software to develop LiDAR stereo models of the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project area so the LiDAR derived data could be viewed in 3-D stereo using Socet Set softcopy photogrammetric software. Using LiDARgrammetry procedures with LiDAR intensity imagery, BAE used the stereo models developed by Dewberry to stereo-compile the two types of hard breaklines in accordance with the project's Data Dictionary.

All drainage breaklines are monotonically enforced to show downhill flow. Water bodies are reviewed in stereo and the lowest elevation is applied to the entire waterbody.

# 6.2 Breakline Qualitative Assessment

Dewberry completed breakline qualitative assessments according to a defined workflow. The following workflow diagram represents the steps taken by Dewberry to provide a thorough qualitative assessment of the breakline data.



# 6.3 Breakline Topology Rules

Automated checks are applied on hydro features to validate the 3D connectivity of the feature and the monotonicity of the hydrographic breaklines. Dewberry's major concern was that the hydrographic breaklines have a continuous flow downhill and that breaklines do not undulate. Error points are generated at each vertex not complying with the tested rules and these potential edit calls are then visually validated during the visual evaluation of the data. This step also helped validate that breakline vertices did not have excessive minimum or maximum elevations and that elevations are consistent with adjacent vertex elevations.

The next step is to compare the elevation of the breakline vertices against the elevation extracted from the ESRI Terrain built from the LiDAR ground points, keeping in mind that a discrepancy is expected because of the hydro-enforcement applied to the breaklines and because of the interpolated imagery used to acquire the breaklines. A given tolerance is used to validate if the elevations differ too much from the LiDAR.

Dewberry's final check for the breaklines was to perform a full qualitative analysis. Dewberry compared the breaklines against LiDAR intensity images to ensure breaklines were captured in the required locations. The quality control steps taken by Dewberry are outlined in the QA Checklist below.

# 6.4 Breakline QA/QC Checklist

### Project Number/Description: TO G11PD00336 USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR

Date:\_\_\_\_02/17/2012\_\_\_\_

### Overview

- All Feature Classes are present in GDB
- All features have been loaded into the geodatabase correctly. Ensure feature classes with subtypes are domained correctly.
- The breakline topology inside of the geodatabase has been validated. See Data Dictionary for specific rules
- Projection/coordinate system of GDB is accurate with project specifications

### Perform Completeness check on breaklines using either intensity or ortho imagery

- Check entire dataset for missing features that were not captured, but should be to meet baseline specifications or for consistency (See Data Dictionary for specific collection rules). NHD data will be used to help evaluate completeness of collected hydrographic features. Features should be collected consistently across tile bounds within a dataset as well as be collected consistently between datasets.
- Check to make sure breaklines are compiled to correct tile grid boundary and there is full coverage without overlap
- Check to make sure breaklines are correctly edge-matched to adjoining datasets if applicable. Ensure breaklines from one dataset join breaklines from another dataset that are coded the same and all connecting vertices between the two datasets match in X,Y, and Z (elevation). There should be no breaklines abruptly ending at dataset boundaries and no discrepancies of Z-elevation in overlapping vertices between datasets.

### **Compare Breakline Z elevations to LiDAR elevations**

Using a terrain created from LiDAR ground points and water points and GeoFIRM tools, drape breaklines on terrain to compare Z values. Breakline elevations should be at or below the elevations of the immediately surrounding terrain. This should be performed before other breakline checks are completed.

#### Perform automated data checks using PLTS

The following data checks are performed utilizing ESRI's PLTS extension. These checks allow automated validation of 100% of the data. Error records can either be written to a table for future correction, or browsed for immediate correction. PLTS checks should always be performed on the full dataset.

- Perform "adjacent vertex elevation change check" on the Inland Ponds feature class (Elevation Difference Tolerance=.001 feet). This check will return Waterbodies whose vertices are not all identical. This tool is found under "Z Value Checks."
- Perform "unnecessary polygon boundaries check" on Inland Ponds and Inland Streams feature classes. This tool is found under "Topology Checks."
- Perform "duplicate geometry check" on (inland streams to inland streams), (inland ponds to inland ponds), (inland ponds to inland streams). Attributes do not need to be checked during this tool. This tool is found under "Duplicate Geometry Checks."
- Perform "geometry on geometry check" on (inland ponds to inland streams). Spatial relationship is contains, attributes do not need to be checked. This tool is found under "Feature on Feature Checks."
- Perform "polygon overlap/gap is sliver check" (inland streams to inland streams), (inland ponds to inland ponds), (inland ponds to inland streams). Maximum Polygon Area is not required. This tool is found under "Feature on Feature Checks."

#### **Perform Dewberry Proprietary Tool Checks**

- Perform monotonicity check on inland streams features using "A3\_checkMonotonicityStreamLines." This tool looks at line direction as well as elevation. Features in the output shapefile attributed with a "d" are correct monotonically, but were compiled from low elevation to high elevation. These errors can be ignored. Features in the output shapefile attributed with an "m" are not correct monotonically and need elevations to be corrected. Input features for this tool need to be in a geodatabase. Z tolerance is .01 feet. Polygons need to be exported as lines for the monotonicity tool.
- Perform connectivity check between (inland ponds to inland streams) using the tool "07\_CheckConnectivityForHydro." The input for this tool needs to be in a geodatabase. The output is a shapefile showing the location of overlapping vertices from the polygon features and polyline features that are at different Z-elevation. The unnecessary polygon boundary check must be run and all errors fixed prior to performing connectivity check. If there are exceptions to the
polygon boundary rule then that feature class must be checked against itself, i.e. inland streams to inland streams.

## Metadata

- Each XML file (1 per feature class) is error free as determined by the USGS MP tool
- Metadata content contains sufficient detail and all pertinent information regarding source materials, projections, datums, processing steps, etc. Content should be consistent across all feature classes.

**Completion Comments: Complete – Approved** 



# LiDARgrammetry Data Dictionary & Stereo Compilation Rules

For the USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR Project

March, 2011

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## HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL DATUM

The horizontal datum shall be North American Datum of 1983/NSRS2007 adjustment, Units in US survey feet. The vertical datum shall be referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), Units in Feet. Geoid09 shall be used to convert ellipsoidal heights to orthometric heights.

## **Coordinate System and Projection**

All data shall be projected to Virginia State Plane North, Horizontal Units in Feet and Vertical Units in Feet.

## Inland Streams and Rivers

Feature Dataset: BREAKLINES Contains M Values: No XY Resolution: Accept Default Setting XY Tolerance: 0.003 Feature Class: STREAMS\_AND\_RIVERS Contains Z Values: Yes Z Resolution: Accept Default Setting Z Tolerance: 0.001 Feature Type: Polygon Annotation Subclass: None

### Description

This polygon feature class will depict linear hydrographic features with a width greater than 100 feet.

### **Table Definition**

Field Name	Data Type	Allow Null Values	Default Value	Domain	Precision	Scale	Length	Responsibility
OBJECTID	Object ID							Assigned by Software
SHAPE	Geometry							Assigned by Software
SHAPE_LENGTH	Double	Yes			0	0		Calculated by Software
SHAPE_AREA	Double	Yes			0	0		Calculated by Software

### **Feature Definition**

Description	Definition	Capture Rules
	Linear hydrographic features such as streams, rivers, canals, etc. with an average	Capture features showing dual line (one on each side of the feature). Average width shall be great than 100 feet to show as a double line. Each vertex placed should maintain vertical integrity and data is required to show "closed polygon". Generally both banks shall be collected to show consistent downhill flow. There are exceptions to this rule where a small branch or offshoot of the stream or river is present.
Streams and Rivers	width greater than 100 feet in length. In the case of embankments, if the feature forms a natural dual line channel, then capture it consistent with the capture rules.	The banks of the stream must be captured at the same elevation to ensure flatness of the water feature. If the elevation of the banks appears to be different see the task manager or PM for further guidance.
	Other natural or manmade embankments will not qualify for this project.	Breaklines must be captured at or just below the elevations of the immediately surrounding terrain. Under no circumstances should a feature be elevated above the surrounding LiDAR points. Acceptable variance in the negative direction will be defined for each project individually.
		These instructions are only for docks or piers that follow the coastline or water's edge, not for

docks or piers that extend perpendicular from the land into the water. If it can be reasonably
determined where the edge of water most probably falls, beneath the dock or pier, then the
edge of water will be collected at the elevation of the water where it can be directly measured.
If there is a clearly-indicated headwall or bulkhead adjacent to the dock or pier and it is
evident that the waterline is most probably adjacent to the headwall or bulkhead, then the
water line will follow the headwall or bulkhead at the elevation of the water where it can be
directly measured. If there is no clear indication of the location of the water's edge beneath the
dock or pier, then the edge of water will follow the outer edge of the dock or pier as it is
adjacent to the water, at the measured elevation of the water.
Every effort should be made to avoid breaking a stream or river into segments.
Dual line features shall break at road crossings (culverts). In areas where a bridge is present
the dual line feature shall continue through the bridge.
Islands: The double line stream shall be captured around an island if the features on either
side of the island meet the criteria for capture. In this case a segmented polygon shall be used
around the island in order to allow for the island feature to remain as a "hole" in the feature.

## Inland Ponds and Lakes

Feature Dataset: BREAKLINES Contains M Values: No XY Resolution: Accept Default Setting XY Tolerance: 0.003 Feature Class: PONDS\_AND\_LAKES Contains Z Values: Yes Z Resolution: Accept Default Setting Z Tolerance: 0.001 Feature Type: Polygon Annotation Subclass: None

## Description

This polygon feature class will depict closed water body features that are at a constant elevation.

## **Table Definition**

Field Name	Data Type	Allow Null Values	Default Value	Domain	Precision	Scale	Length	Responsibility
OBJECTID	Object ID							Assigned by Software
SHAPE	Geometry							Assigned by Software
SHAPE_LENGTH	Double	Yes			0	0		Calculated by Software
SHAPE_AREA	Double	Yes			0	0		Calculated by Software

## **Feature Definition**

Description	Definition	Capture Rules
Ponds and Lakes	Land/Water boundaries of constant elevation water bodies such as lakes, reservoirs, ponds, etc. Features shall be defined as closed polygons and contain an elevation value that reflects the best estimate of the water elevation at the time of data capture. Water body features will be captured for features 2 acres in size or greater. "Donuts" will exist where there are islands within a closed water body feature greater than ½ acre in size.	<ul> <li>Water bodies shall be captured as closed polygons with the water feature to the right. <u>The compiler shall take care to ensure that the z-value remains consistent for all vertices placed on the water body.</u></li> <li>Breaklines must be captured at or just below the elevations of the immediately surrounding terrain. Under no circumstances should a feature be elevated above the surrounding LiDAR points. Acceptable variance in the negative direction will be defined for each project individually.</li> <li>An Island within a Closed Water Body Feature will also have a "donut polygon" compiled.</li> <li>These instructions are only for docks or piers that follow the coastline or water's edge, not for docks or piers that extend perpendicular from the land into the water. If it can be reasonably determined where the edge of water most probably falls, beneath the dock or</li> </ul>

	pier, then the edge of water will be collected at the elevation of the water where it can be directly measured. If there is a clearly-indicated headwall or bulkhead adjacent to the dock or pier and it is evident that the waterline is most probably adjacent to the headwall or bulkhead, then the water line will follow the headwall or bulkhead at the elevation of the water where it can be directly measured. If there is no clear indication of the location of the water's edge beneath the dock or pier, then the edge of water will follow the outer edge of the dock or pier as it is adjacent to the water, at the measured elevation of the water.
	elevation of the water.

## **Contact Information**

Any questions regarding this document should be addressed to:

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## 7 DEM Production & Qualitative Assessment

## 7.1 DEM Production Methodology

Dewberry and BAE utilized ESRI software and Global Mapper for the DEM production and QC process. ArcGIS software is used to generate the products and the QC is performed in both ArcGIS and Global Mapper.

### Dewberry Hydro-Flattening Workflow



- 1. <u>Classify Water Points</u>: LAS point falling within hydrographic breaklines shall be classified to ASPRS class 9 using TerraScan. Breaklines must be prepared correctly prior to performing this task.
- 2. <u>Classify Ignored Ground Points</u>: Classify points in close proximity to the breaklines from Ground to class 10 (Ignored Ground). Close proximity will be defined as no more than 1x the nominal point spacing on the landward side of the breakline. Breaklines will be buffered using this specification and the subsequent file will need to be prepared in the same manner as the water breaklines for classification. This process will be performed after the water points have been classified and only run on remaining ground points.

- 3. <u>Terrain Processing</u>: A Terrain will be generated using the Breaklines and LAS data that has been imported into Arc as a Multipoint File. If the final DEMs are to be clipped to a project boundary that boundary will be used during the generation of the Terrain.
- 4. <u>Create DEM Zones for Processing</u>: Create DEM Zones that are buffered around the edges. Zones should be created in a logical manner to minimize the number of zones without creating zones too large for processing. BAE will make zones no larger than 200 square miles (taking into account that a DEM will fill in the entire extent not just where LiDAR is present). Once the first zone is created it must be verified against the tile grid to ensure that the cells line up perfectly with the tile grid edge.
- 5. <u>Convert Terrain to Raster</u>: Convert Terrain to raster using the DEM Zones created in step 6. In the environmental properties set the extents of the raster to the buffered Zone. For each subsequent zone, the first DEM will be utilized as the snap raster to ensure that zones consistently snap to one another.
- 6. <u>Perform Initial QAQC on Zones</u>: During the initial QA process anomalies will be identified and corrective polygons will be created.
- 7. <u>Correct Issues on Zones</u>: BAE will perform corrections on zones following Dewberry's correction process.
- 8. <u>Extract Individual Tiles</u>: BAE will extract individual tiles from the zones utilizing the Dewberry created tool.
- 9. <u>Final QA</u>: Final QA will be performed on the dataset to ensure that tile boundaries are seamless.

## 7.2 DEM Qualitative Assessment

Dewberry performed a comprehensive qualitative assessment of the DEM deliverables to ensure that all tiled DEM products were delivered with the proper extents, were free of processing artifacts, and contained the proper referencing information. This process was performed in ArcGIS software with the use of a tool set Dewberry has developed to verify that the raster extents match those of the tile grid and contain the correct projection information. The DEM data was reviewed at a scale of 1:5000 to review for artifacts caused by the DEM generation process and to review the hydro-flattened features. To perform this review Dewberry creates HillShade models and overlays a partially transparent colorized elevation model to review for these issues. Upon completion of this review the DEM data is loaded into Global Mapper to ensure that all files are readable and that no artifacts exist between tiles.

## 7.3 DEM Vertical Accuracy Results

The same 67 checkpoints that were used to test the vertical accuracy of the LiDAR were used to validate the vertical accuracy of the final DEM products as well. Accuracy results may vary between the source LiDAR and final DEM deliverable. DEMs are created by averaging several LiDAR points within each pixel which may result in slightly different elevation values at each survey checkpoint when compared to the source LAS, which does not average several LiDAR points together but may interpolate (linearly) between two or three points to derive an elevation value.

Table 7 summarizes the tested vertical accuracy results from a comparison of the surveyed checkpoints to the elevation values present within the final DEM dataset.

Land Cover Category	# of Points	FVA — Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (RMSEz x 1.9600) Spec=0.61 ft	CVA — Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (95th Percentile) Spec=1.21 ft	SVA — Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (95th Percentile) Target=1.21 ft
Consolidated	67		0.90	
Open Terrain	24	0.44		
Grass/Weeds/Crop	23			0.87
Forest	20			1.00

Table 7 — FVA, CVA, and SVA Vertical Accuracy at 95% Confidence Level

The RMSE<sub>z</sub> for checkpoints in open terrain only tested 0.22 ft, within the target criteria of 0.31 ft. Compared with the 0.61 ft specification, the FVA tested 0.44 ft at the 95% confidence level based on RMSE<sub>z</sub> x 1.9600.

Compared with the 1.21 ft specification, CVA for all checkpoints in all land cover categories combined tested 0.90 ft at the 95% confidence level based on the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Compared with target 1.21 ft specification, SVA for checkpoints in the grass, weeds, and crops land cover category tested 0.87 ft and checkpoints in the forest land cover category tested 1.00 ft at the 95% confidence level based on the  $95^{th}$  percentiles.

Table 8 lists the 5% outliers that are larger than the  $95^{th}$  percentile, or 0.95 feet.

pointNo	NAD_1983_NSR Coordinat	S2007 Virginia State P e System, North Zone	lane NAVD88	DEM -	Delta Z
	Easting - X (feet)	Northing - Y (fee	t) Survey -Z (feet)	Z (feet)	
GWC-15	11302653.22	6779740.98	1476.38	1477.72	1.34
GWC-3	11422256.70	6899051.85	1103.94	1104.86	0.92
FO-20	11295924.40	6704602.91	1963.95	1964.93	0.98
FO-6	11392868.28	6866320.93	1319.34	1317.98	-1.36

Table 8 — 5% Outliers

Table 9 provides overall descriptive statistics.

<b>100</b> % of Totals	RMSE (ft) Open Terrain Spec=0.31ft	Mean (ft)	Median (ft)	Skew	Std Dev (ft)	# of Points	Min (ft)	Max (ft)
Consolidated		0.29	0.13	-0.06	0.38	67	-1.36	1.34
Open Terrain	0.22	0.18	-0.03	0.44	0.23	24	-0.43	0.55
Grass/Weeds/Crop		0.25	0.16	2.08	0.34	23	-0.28	1.34
Forest		0.45	0.32	-1.58	0.52	20	-1.36	0.98

### Table 9 — Overall Descriptive Statistics

#### 7.3 **DEM QA/QC Checklist**

#### Project Number/Description: TO G11PD00336 USGS NRCS Virginia LiDAR 02/17/2012 Date:

### **Overview**

- $\square$ Correct number of files is delivered and all files are in ERDAS IMG format
- $\boxtimes$ Verify Raster Extents
  - Verify Projection/Coordinate System

## **Review**

- $\square$ Manually review bare-earth DEMs with a hillshade to check for issues with hydroenforcement process or any general anomalies that may be present. Specifically, water should be flowing downhill, water features should NOT be floating above surrounding terrain and bridges should NOT be present in bare-earth DEM. Hydrologic breaklines should be overlaid during review of DEMs.
- $\boxtimes$ Overlap points (in the event they are supplied to fill in gaps between adjacent
- flightlines) are not to be used to create the bare-earth DEMs
- $\boxtimes$ DEM cell size is 2.5 feet
- $\square$ Perform final overview in Global Mapper to ensure seamless product.

## Metadata

- $\square$ Project level DEM metadata XML file is error free as determined by the USGS MP tool
- $\square$ Metadata content contains sufficient detail and all pertinent information regarding source materials, projections, datums, processing steps, etc.

## **Completion Comments: Complete - Approved**