

## 3DGeomatics Committee Acquisition Working Group

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### USGS 3DEP Lidar Areas of Interest – SeaSketch

To express your interests and needs for lidar in your different areas of interest (AOI), the USGS has enabled a method to freely and publically share this information via a platform called SeaSketch. This site helps the USGS's 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), partners, and collaborators, to identify overlapping AOIs, provide desired specifications, details, and timing for lidar acquisitions. The success of coordinated and geographically-centric planning between agencies and partners will ultimately result reducing costs, redundancies, and more likely to meet more than one mapping need with the same data = higher economies of scale and return on investment.

The GAC 3D Geomatics Committee encourages stakeholders, programs, and organizations to submit their AOIs to SeaSketch to get their lidar related business needs heard and to improve the competitiveness of all of Minnesota's upcoming USGS 3DEP lidar acquisition proposals. Our goal is to collaboratively acquire high density lidar in Minnesota throughout the entire state within the next ~5 years.

Follow these steps to submit your lidar AOIs on SeaSketch and have your voices heard!

1. Submit your project through The 3DEP BAA – Public Areas of Interest Project Collector Tool (<https://survey.geoplatform.gov/index.php/222893?lang=en>). Be ready to provide the following information:
  - a. Descriptive name, organization, and contact information for your proposed AOI
  - b. Month and year for the proposed AOI (this is subject to change; use a year in the near future)
  - c. USGS Lidar Base Specification (LBS) Quality Level (QL)
    - i. The 3DGeomatics Acquisition Working Group recommends all lidar projects in Minnesota meet USGS LBS QL1, or greater (QL1 or QL0).
  - d. Other details (500 character limit; be as brief or descriptive as you feel necessary)
  - e. Geospatial file of AOI (they will accept KML, KMZ, or a .zip containing a shapefile and all of its related data files).
2. Confirm AOI via simple process online, annually.

### Resources

- Detailed instructions on how to add your AOI to SeaSketch: <https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-elevation/sharing-proposed-3dep-areas-of-interest/>; and instructional video here: <https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-elevation/federalagency-and-stakeholder-3dep-aoi/>
- USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP): <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/3dep>
- Need help? An account is necessary to use SeaSketch and the Forum tools on the site. For more information and assistance, please contact Ashley Chappell, NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordinator, at [ashley.chappell@noaa.gov](mailto:ashley.chappell@noaa.gov). The 3DGeomatics Committee is also here to help, email us at [lidar@state.mn.us](mailto:lidar@state.mn.us). <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/3dgeo/>