Minnesota Elevation Mapping Project
Status Report Monday April 4th, 2011
Tim Loesch, MnDNR

MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN

DATA PROCESSING UPDATE

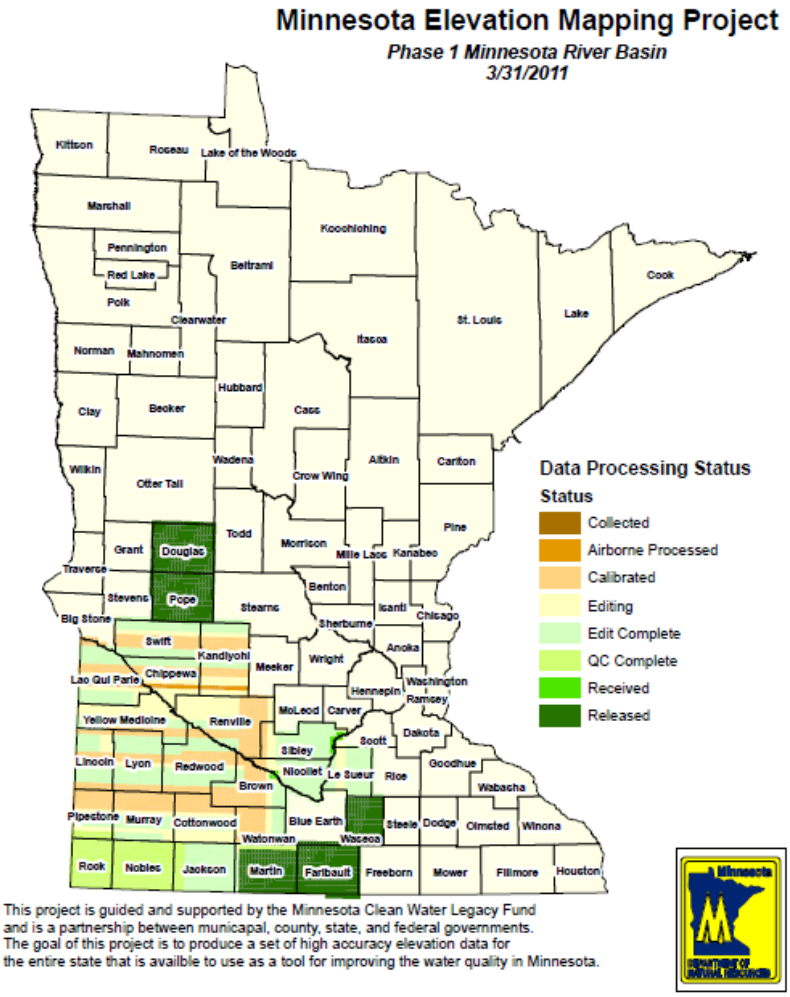
So far five counties of data have been delivered to the DNR including Douglas, Faribault, Martin (partial), Pope and Waseca counties. The external hard drives for these counties have been delivered or are in the process of being delivered to the county contacts.

Aerometric also reports significant progress in data processing and have provided me with the following anticipated shipping schedule:

Rock County – 4/4
Nobles County – 4/11
LeSueur County – 4/18
Jackson County – 4/25
Nicollet County – 4/29

These will take a couple of days to reach the DNR and then up to two weeks for the DNR to perform the data validation. Once validated the data will be copied to a hard-drive and delivered to the county contact. So far the data has looked excellent with vertical accuracies that exceed the contract specifications of 15cm.

A data processing status map is available on the project web page.

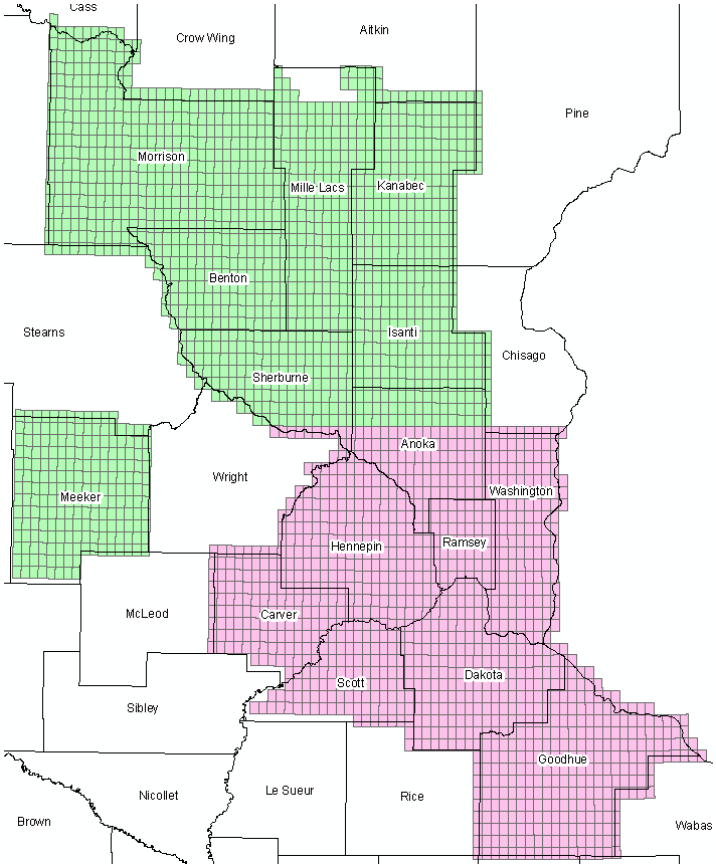


ARROWHEAD REGION

This project is proceeding as planned and preparations are being made for a spring acquisition. The City of Duluth, NRCS, Lake County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has provided additional funding to increase LiDAR Point densities to one meter spacing. A contract amendment is being prepared to accommodate these additional sources of funding and the increased resolution requested.

METRO AREA COLLECT

Anticipated flooding in the Minnesota, Crow, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers has caused some problems scheduling the timing of this project. To accommodate vendor requests for large contiguous blocks of acquisition areas the footprint in the Metro Area collect has been increased. Four counties have been added to this project including Benton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Morrison counties. The project area has been split into a north and south half with the North half scheduled for spring acquisition and the south half scheduled for acquisition this fall. However, the vendor has been instructed to be opportunistic and if spring flooding recedes quickly the vendor will capture as much of the project area as possible. The graphic on the right shows the expanded project area and the spring and fall collect areas.



COUNTY DATA ACQUISITION PROCESS

MnGEO staff has coordinated the acquisition of four counties of proprietary LiDAR data including Blue Earth, Chisago, Rice and Stearns counties. Currently Blue Earth and Chisago counties are available on the LiDAR ftp site. Rice and Stearns counties have yet to be acquired and transformed to meet the standardized products specifications.

DATA ACCESS NEWS

A new FTP based data access site has been published to distribute the LiDAR data. It can be found at lidar.dnr.state.mn.us. This is a public, anonymous FTP site that is being used to store all of the LiDAR Raw and derived products in a standardized format. The site has abundant README files and we are in the process of creating videos we're calling WATCHME files that correspond to the information in the README files.

Individuals can download county based mosaics of contour, building, and DEM data as well as the individual tiles of LAS and bare earth points.

LAS POINT CLOUD DATA DOWNLOADS

Because of the size of the raw LAS files they have been compressed using a utility called LASZIP.EXE. This utility compresses the LAS files by a factor of 10 which greatly reduces the transfer times on the ftp site. The download includes the LASZIP.EXE utility and a batch file that unzips all of the compressed files in a folder.