THE USDA PINE PROGRAM

The Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area focuses on domestic agricultural issues and includes the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Risk Management Agency (RMA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the FPAC Business Center under one mission area to provide a simplified one-stop shop for USDA’s primary customers, the farmers, ranchers, and forest managers across America. The Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC-BC) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is responsible for the solicitation, award, and administration of the PINE Contract. The objective of this contract is to furnish high-resolution, vertical imagery, independent of platform, to support various Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) geographic information system (GIS) programs, including but not limited to resource management, conservation programs, crop compliance, and disaster response.

This program is awarded to commercial companies and supports thousands of jobs across the United States. There are three primary needs met by the program. The first is the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), a multi-agency funded, state-based collection program that acquires high-resolution, orthorectified imagery during peak agricultural growing seasons. The second is the National Resources Inventory (NRI), a site-based collection program that acquires very high-resolution, orthorectified imagery to support the National Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) National Resources Inventory (NRI) which conducts a “land inventory reflecting soil, water, and related resource conditions” as required under the Rural Development Act of 1972, P.L. 92-419. The third is the Stewardship Lands (SL), this program is an easement-based collection program that acquires very high-resolution, orthorectified imagery to support the NRCS conservation easement programs. Stewardship Lands easements can range from less than one acre to as large as 16,000 acres. These programs directly support climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

There are other requirements supported under the PINE program such as the Resource projects which are an assortment of very high-resolution imagery collection to support United States Forest Service (USFS) resource management, wildfire resilience, and planning. USFS projects are usually ranger district(s) based. Another USDA requirement satisfied the PINE contract is ad hoc and disaster support programs to enable analysis and remediation after a disaster event.

From all accounts, this program is yielding an unprecedented return on investment and its products are used by virtually every federal civilian agency as well as state, tribal, and local governments, and academia. NAIP products are also used by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and numerous private companies.

Action Requested:
MAPPS respectfully urges support of the FPAC appropriations and geographic information requests in the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Forest Service (USFS) to enable the PINE program effectively and efficiently deliver information requirements that support the USDA programs of the farmers, ranchers, and forest managers across America.