**3D Elevation Program**

To respond to growing needs for high-quality elevation data, the goal of 3DEP is to complete acquisition of nationwide lidar (IfSAR in Alaska) by 2023 to provide the first-ever national baseline of consistent high-resolution elevation data – both bare earth and 3D point clouds – collected in a timeframe of less than a decade. High-quality elevation data are critical to a wide array of nationally significant applications including flood-risk management, infrastructure management, critical minerals exploration, energy development, natural-hazard evaluation and mitigation, agriculture and resource management, and conservation.

3DEP is designed to provide more than $690 million annually in benefits to government entities, the private sector and citizens. The program presents a unique opportunity for collaboration between all levels of government to leverage the services and expertise of private-sector mapping firms that acquire the data and to create jobs now and in the future. More information about 3DEP can be found at [https://usgs.gov/3DEP](https://usgs.gov/3DEP).

If fully funded and implemented within eight years, 3DEP has the potential to conservatively provide more than $690 million annually in new benefits to government entities, the private sector, and citizens. **This would result in a nearly 5:1 return on investment**, informing critical decisions that are made across our Nation every day that depend on elevation data, ranging from immediate safety of life, property, and environment to long term planning for infrastructure projects. The first full year of 3DEP production began in 2016, resulting in the target completion date for acquisition of 2023.

**Information provided by usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/3dep**