

Core Sciences National Geospatial Program

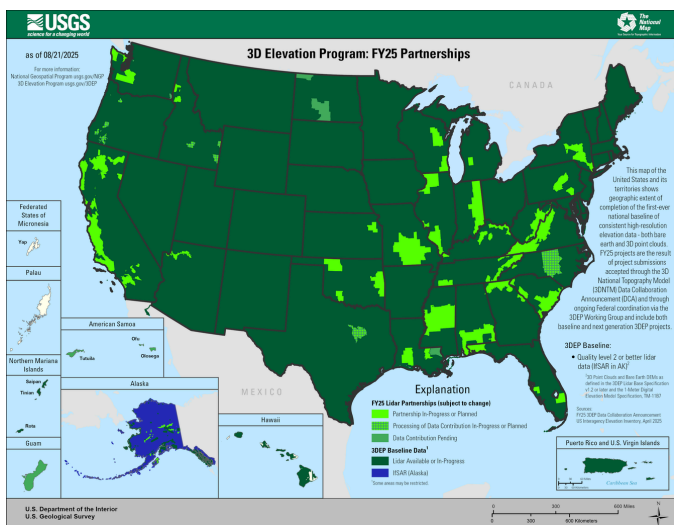
NSGIC supports continued Congressional authorization and sustained federal investment in the U.S. Geological Survey's National Geospatial Program as essential national infrastructure. A major element of the National Geospatial Program is the 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM). The 3DNTM is the terrestrial foundation for the broader 3D Nation vision jointly advanced by USGS and NOAA.

3DNTM integrates high resolution elevation and hydrography data into a unified 3D representation of the Nation's landscape, enabling consistent analysis across terrain and water systems from the peaks of our mountains to the depths of our waters.

This cutting edge model serves not only as a basis for driving economic growth and improving safety across the nation today, it serves as a foundational layer to securing the United States' position as a global technology leader into the future.

From Federal Agencies and States, to local governments and private industry, 3DNTM informs vital decisions surrounding flood and wildfire risk, infrastructure siting, energy development, mineral extraction, broadband deployment, and long term land and water management. Its integrated authoritative 3D data enables leaders across all sectors to plan more effectively, respond more quickly, and invest with greater confidence.

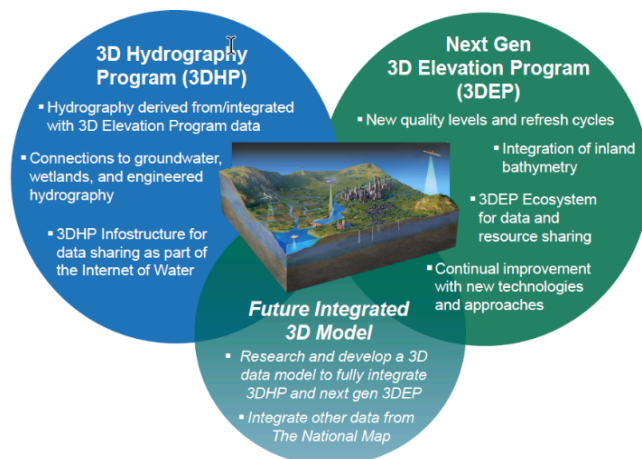
Two of the core elements of the 3DNTM are the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) and the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP).



3D Elevation Program

The 3D Nation Elevation Requirements and Benefits Study led by NOAA and USGS published in 2022 revealed that the 3DEP program provides more than \$690 million annually (5:1 return on investment) in benefits to government entities, the private sector, and citizens. The program is a model of efficiency and public private collaboration, leveraging all levels of national, state, and local government, combined with the services and expertise of private sector mapping firms. This model reduces costs and creates jobs today while providing the foundation for economic development necessary to support the Nation's future growth.

Today, baseline 3DEP is nearing completion at over 95% national coverage. With appropriate 2027 funding, not only can the baseline be completed, but its value can be fully realized with updated Next Generation 3DEP data across the nation, enabling advanced change detection and trend analysis.



3D Hydrography Program

The 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) builds upon the success of 3DEP, bringing the Nation's surface water information into the modern era by creating a high resolution, elevation derived model of rivers, streams, lakes, and related hydrologic features.

Like 3DEP, 3DHP is a collaborative national effort, aligning federal, state, local, academic, and private sector expertise to build a consistent hydrographic framework capable of supporting critical water related decisions. 3DHP strengthens everything from flood forecasting and watershed management to infrastructure planning, ecological assessment, and emergency operations.

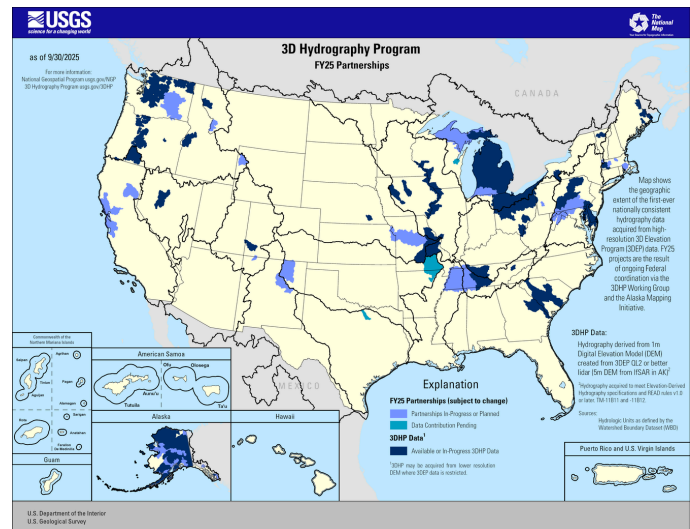
3DHP marks the first comprehensive redesign of the Nation's hydrography in decades, replacing outdated legacy models with more accurate, scalable, and analysis ready data. With continued investment in FY 2027, the program can accelerate national implementation, link seamlessly with 3DEP inside the 3DNTM framework, and deliver the integrated land and water information needed to support growing communities, resilient infrastructure, and effective resource management.

3DNTM represents essential national infrastructure. Its value increases as coverage is completed, data are refreshed, and land and water systems are integrated into a consistent, authoritative 3D foundation. Sustained federal investment ensures that communities across the Nation can plan, build, protect, and prepare using trusted terrain and hydrographic information, strengthening economic competitiveness, public safety, and long-term resilience.

Action Requested:

NSGIC expresses strong support for the continued authorization, sustained funding, and effective implementation of the 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM), as established by Public Law 117–58. NSGIC urges Congress to continue providing direction and resources to the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey sufficient to maintain, refresh, and advance this foundational national capability over time.

FY 2026 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill
Account: Surveys, Investigations, and Research
Program: Core Science Systems



About the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Since 1991, NSGIC has been the state led hub of national geospatial experts promoting coordinated, impactful, and efficient application of geographic Information systems (GIS) to best serve the nation. GIS and the spatial information it serves underpin much of the activities of government and the lives of the people of the nation.

National States Geographic Information Council

3100 Dick Pond Road, Unit E, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 | [NSGIC.org](https://www.nsgic.org) | info@nsgic.org | 504.265.9720