

## **Northeast GIS Coordinator Conference Call on LiDAR for the Northeast Proposal**

April 1, 2009

Chuck LaBash's notes

Coverage map has changed – added coastal NY (except Great Lakes)

Towns in Maine: removed some; added some

USGS Stimulus for LiDAR has not yet been released. As a result, many of the questions remain

- 1) Will there be an individual proposal cap?
- 2) How can staff time, services, Federal pass-through funds can be used as match, if at all.
- 3) Will match be required upfront or by completion of project? Much of the match that might be available in the Northeast would become available over 2 or 3 years.

In the interim the group agreed that until the RFP is released to

- 1) Determine agency support (Fed, State, NGO's, public/private partnerships, utilities)
- 2) Prepare to provide letters of support and declaration of match

### **Support**

Discussion of other supporting agencies included

US Fish and Wildlife Region V

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

The Nature Conservancy – northeast states

US Forest Service had not been contacted. The NH GIS Rep. Fay Rubin offered to contact the USDA

Forest Service – Northern Research Station in Durham, NH

[http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/durham/Durham\\_center\\_7aug03.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/durham/Durham_center_7aug03.pdf)

Maine may be working on a bond issue (1.5 million) toward supporting this initiative.

The USGS Water Science Directors have expressed interest in the proposal and may move it forward to Regional Executives as an internal USGS proposal.

FEMA Region I was vaguely encouraging in a previous conference call. FY09 match would be up to individual states/towns that already have projects in gear for FY09 as to whether that could be coordinated. More of a possibility for FY10 and FY11.

The idea of combined letters of support were discussed (e.g., all State CIO's, all State Governors).

Michael Smith of Maine GIS would like to pursue combined letters of support from state Governors and CIO's. DOT Rep from Maine, Nancy, is contacting State DOT's to ask for support.

**Data Specifications**

In a previous conference call, FEMA Region I indicated the specs in the proposal exceeded internal requirements.

MA GIS Rep. expressed concern that requesting \$6M of the available \$12M might be too risky and expressed that MA CZM, Emergency Mgmt., and DEP would be delighted with a LiDAR base spec of 2m point spacing and 15cm vertical accuracy to cut proposal costs. It was noted by the USGS Liaison that ASPRS states that 9.25m vertical accuracy is a requirement to achieving a quality 1m resolution DEM.

If anyone can support requirements of 1m point spacing and 9.25cm vertical accuracy for towns with elevations less than 10m for their applications let me know.

The idea of using sub-watersheds (e.g., NRCS Hydrologic Unit Boundaries) was discussed as an alternative to town/county political boundaries as a more meaningful resource management unit.

Maine GIS is running an analysis to determine which towns in the project area fall within the less than 10m elevation.