LiDAR Quality Assessment Report

The USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center, Data Operations Branch is responsible for conducting reviews of all Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) point-cloud data and derived products delivered by a data supplier before it is approved for inclusion in the National Elevation Dataset and the Center for LiDAR Information Coordination and Knowledge. The USGS recognizes the complexity of LiDAR collection and processing performed by the data suppliers and has developed this Quality Assessment (QA) procedure to accommodate USGS collection and processing specifications with flexibility. The goal of this process is to assure LiDAR data are of sufficient quality for database population and scientific analysis. Concerns regarding the assessment of these data should be directed to the Chief, Data Operations Branch, 1400 Independence Road, Rolla, Missouri 65401 or NGTOCoperations@usgs.gov.

Materials Received:
10/25/2012

Project ID:
Juneau AK LiDAR

Project Alias(es):

Project Type: GPSC

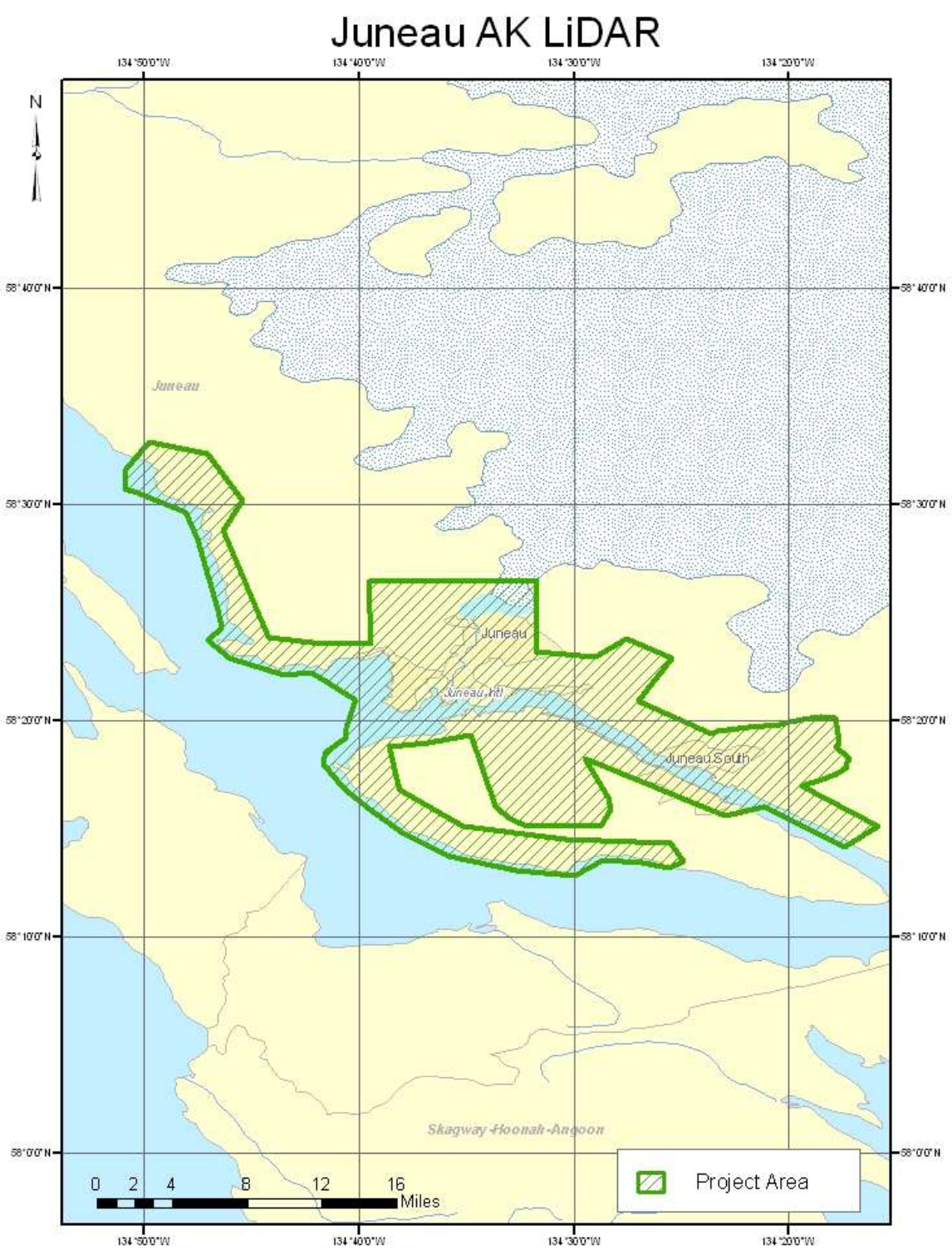
Project Description:
This task order is for planning, acquisition, processing, and derivative products of LiDAR data covering approximately 143 square miles of Alaska, including Juneau. The LiDAR data is to be collected at a nominal pulse spacing (NPS) of 1.0 meters.

Year of Collection: 2012

Lot 4 of 4 lots.

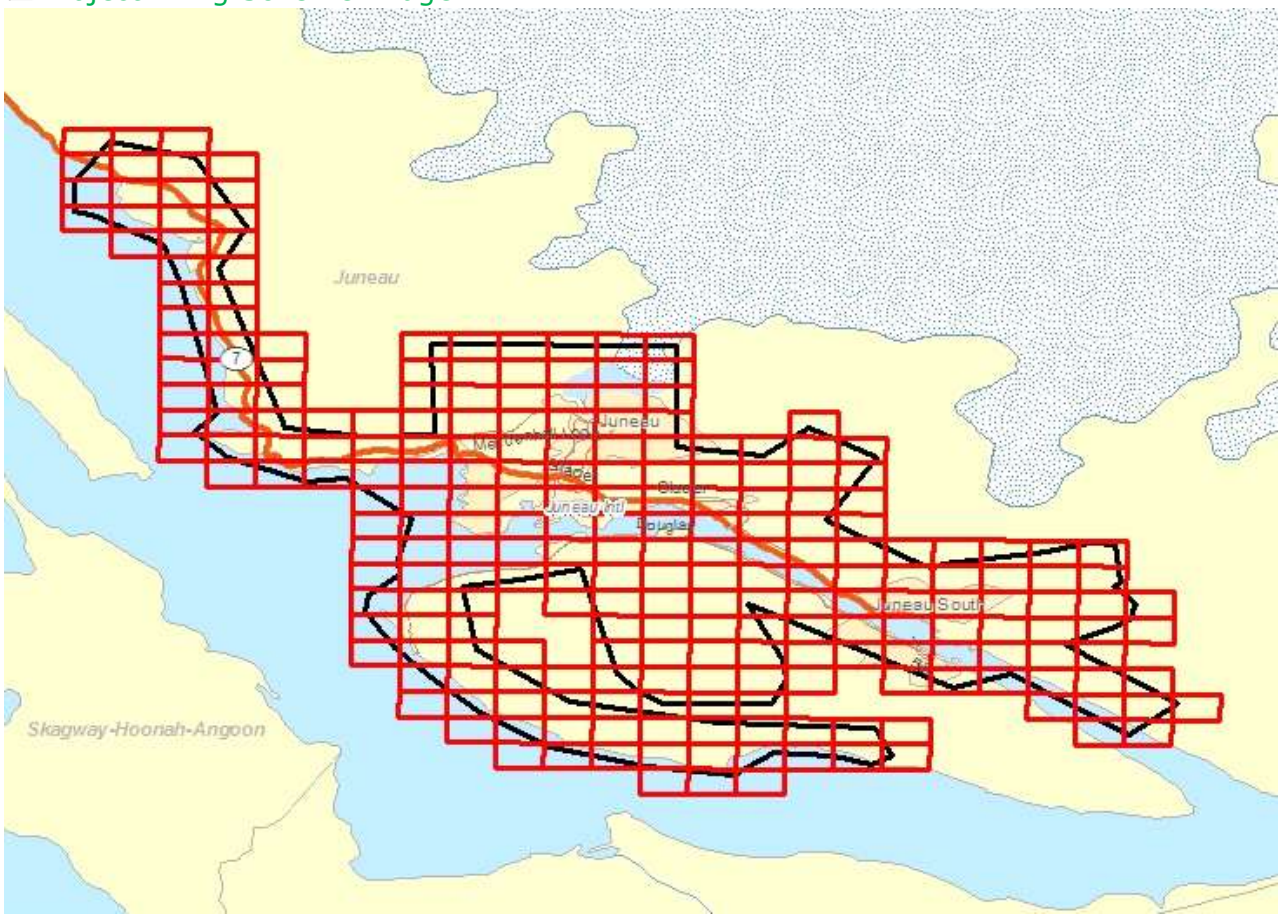
Project Extent:

☑ Project Extent image?



Project Tiling Scheme:

☑ Project Tiling Scheme image?



Contractor:

Aerometric, Inc.

Applicable Specification:

V13

Licensing Restrictions:

☐ Third Party Performed QA?

Project Points of Contact:

POC Name	Type	Primary Phone	E-Mail
Mike Duncan	CPT	573-308-3799	jduncan@usgs.gov

Project Deliverables

All project deliverables must be supplied according to collection and processing specifications. The USGS will postpone the QA process when any of the required deliverables are missing. When deliverables are missing, the Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) will be contacted by the Elevation/Orthoimagery Section supervisor and informed of the problem. Processing will resume after the COTR has coordinated the deposition of remaining deliverables.

- ☑ Collection Report
- ☑ Survey Report
- ☑ Processing Report
- ☑ QA/QC Report
- ☑ Control and Calibration Points
- ☑ Project Shapefile/Geodatabase
- ☑ Project Tiling Scheme Shapefile/Gdb
- ☑ Control Point Shapefile/Gdb
- ☑ Breakline Shapefile/Gdb
- ☑ Project XML Metadata

Multi-File Deliverables

File Type	Quantity
☑ Swath LAS Files ☑ Required? ☑ XML Metadata?	239
☐ Intensity Image Files ☐ Required?	
☑ Tiled LAS Files ☑ Required? ☑ XML Metadata?	243
☑ Breakline Files ☑ Required? ☑ XML Metadata?	1
☑ Bare-Earth DEM Files ☑ Required? ☑ XML Metadata?	243

Additional Deliverables

	Item
☑	Corresponding HTML Metadata for each of the XML Metadata files noted above
☑	XML and HTML Metadata for each Lift.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? ○ Yes ◉ No

None.

Project Geographic Information

Areal Extent:

150.49

Sq Mi

Grid Size:
1.0
meters
Tile Size:
1500
meters
Nominal Pulse Spacing: 1.0 meters
Vertical Datum: NAVD88 meters
Horizontal Datum: NAD83 meters

Project Projection/Coordinate Reference System: UTM Zone 8 Northern Hemisphere meters.

This Projection Coordinate Reference System is consistent across the following deliverables:

- [x] Project Shapefile/Geodatabase
- [x] Project Tiling Scheme Shapefile/Gdb
- [x] Checkpoints Shapefile/Geodatabase
- [x] Project XML Metadata File
- [x] Swath LAS XML Metadata File
- [x] Classified LAS XML Metadata File
- [x] Breaklines XML Metadata File
- [x] Bare-Earth DEM XML Metadata File
- [x] Swath LAS Files
- [x] Classified LAS Files
- [x] Breaklines Files
- [x] Bare-Earth DEM Files

Review Cycle

This section documents who performed the QA Review on a project as well as when QA reviews were started, actions passed, received, and completed.

Review Start Date: 10/31/2012

Action to Contractor Date	Issue Description	Return Date
11/6/2012	Address DEM issues.	12/17/2012

Review Complete: 12/18/2012

Metadata Review

Provided metadata files have been parsed using 'mp' metadata parser. Any errors generated by the parser are documented below for reference and/or corrective action.

The Project XML Metadata file parsed without errors.

The Swath LAS XML Metadata file parsed without errors.

The Classified LAS XML Metadata file parsed without errors.

The Breakline XML Metadata file parsed without errors.

The Bare-Earth DEM XML Metadata file parsed without errors.

Project QA/QC Report Review

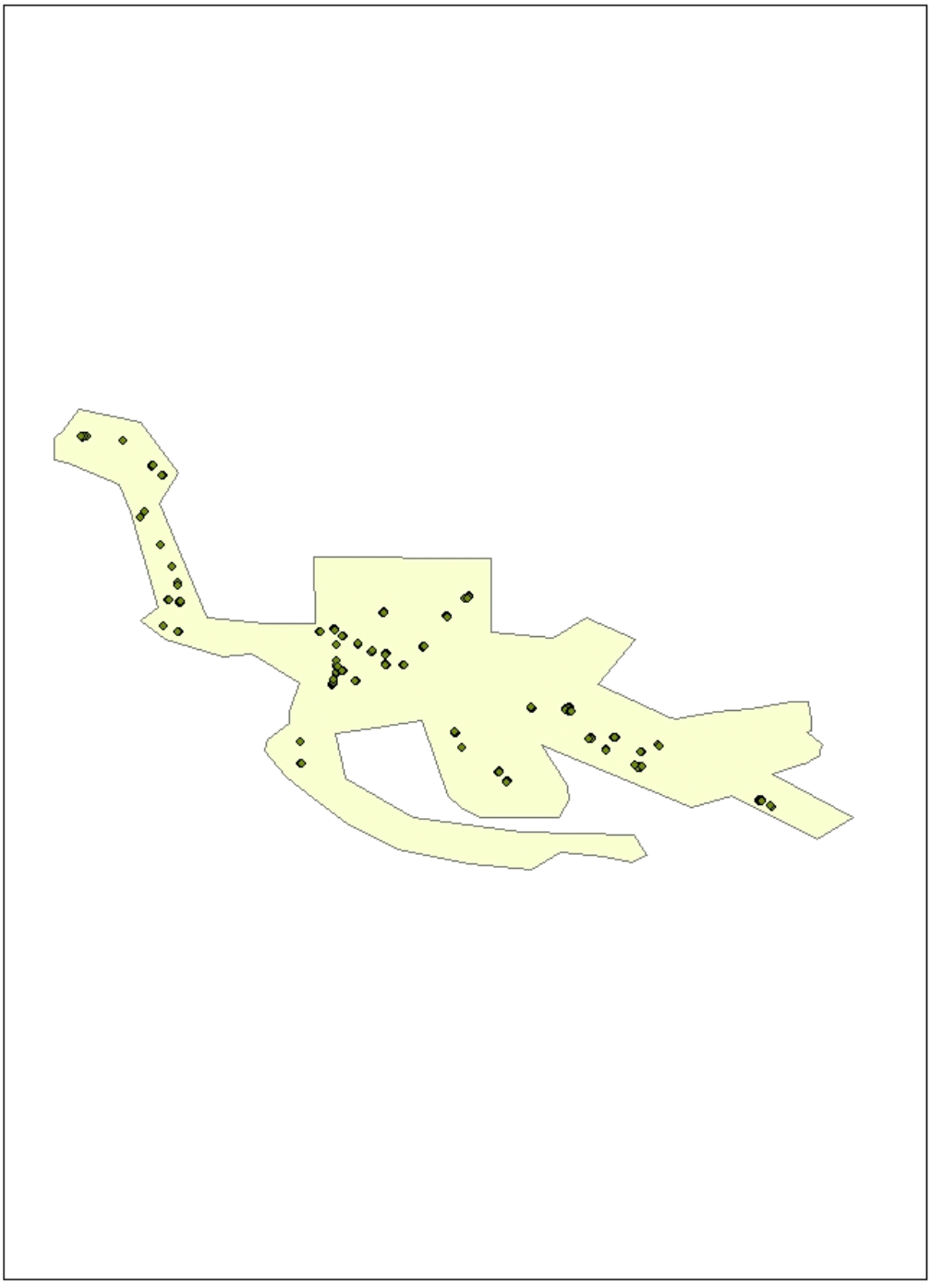
ASPRS recommends that checkpoint surveys be used to verify the vertical accuracy of LiDAR data sets. Checkpoints are to be collected by an independent survey firm licensed in the particular state(s) where the project is located. While subjective, checkpoints should be well distributed throughout the dataset. National Standards for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA) guidance states that checkpoints may be distributed more densely in the vicinity of important features and more sparsely in areas that are of little or no interest. Checkpoints should be distributed so that points are spaced at intervals of at least ten percent of the diagonal distance across the dataset and at least twenty percent of the points are located in each quadrant of the dataset.

NSSDA and ASPRS require that a minimum of twenty checkpoints (thirty is preferred) are collected for each major land cover category represented in the LiDAR data. Checkpoints should be selected on flat terrain, or on uniformly sloping terrain in all directions from each checkpoint. They should not be selected near severe breaks in slope, such as bridge abutments, edges of roads, or near river bluffs. Checkpoints are an important component of the USGS QA process. There is the presumption that the checkpoint surveys are error free and the discrepancies are attributable to the LiDAR dataset supplied.

For this dataset, USGS checked the spatial distribution of checkpoints with an emphasis on the bare-earth (open terrain) points; the number of points per class; the methodology used to collect these points; and the relationship between the data supplier and checkpoint collector. When independent control data are available, USGS has incorporated this into the analysis.

Checkpoint Shapefile or Geodatabase:

☑ Checkpoint Distribution Image?



The following land cover classes are represented in this dataset (uncheck any that do not apply):

- [x] Bare Earth
- [x] Tall Weeds and Crops
- [x] Brush Lands and Low Trees
- [x] Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees
- [x] Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures

There are a minimum of 20 checkpoints for each land cover class represented. Points within each class are uniformly distributed throughout the dataset. USGS wasable to locate independent checkpoints for this analysis. USGS acceptsthe quality of the checkpoint data for these LiDAR datasets.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? ○ Yes ◉ No

None.

Accuracy values are reported in terms of Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA), Supplemental Vertical Accuracy(s) (SVA), and Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA).

Accuracy values are reported in: centimeters

Required FVA Value is 24.5 centimeters or less.
Target SVA Value is 36.3 centimeters or less.
Required CVA Value is 36.3 centimeters or less.

The reported FVA of the LAS Swath data is 20.9 centimeters.

The reported FVA of the Bare-Earth DEM data is centimeters.

SVA are required for each land cover type present in the data set with the exception of bare-earth. SVA is calculated and reported as a 95th Percentile Error.

Land Cover Type	SVA Value	Units
Tall Weeds and Crops	15.6	centimeters
Brush Lands and Low Trees	32.2	centimeters
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	25.2	centimeters
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structur...	13.8	centimeters

The reported CVA of this data set is: 21.8 centimeters.

LAS Swath File Review

LAS swath files or raw unclassified LiDAR data are reviewed to assess the quality

control used by the data supplier during collection. Furthermore, LAS swath data are checked for positional accuracy. The data supplier should have calculated the Fundamental Vertical Accuracy using ground control checkpoints measured in clear open terrain. The following was determined for LAS swath data for this project:

LAS Version

(•) LAS 1.2 ( ) LAS1.3 ( ) LAS 1.4

Swath File Characteristics

[x] Separate folder for LAS swath files

[x] Each swath files <= 2GB

[ ] *If specified, *.wdp files for full waveform have been provided

The reported FVA of the LAS swath data is 20.9 centimeters.

Based on this review, the USGS accepts the LAS swath file data.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? (•) Yes ( ) No

[ ] Image?

Calculated FVA of the LAS swath data is 14.7 CM (NSSDA AccuracyZ [95%CI]) using the Withheld Ground Points, passing requirements.

[ ] Image?

*Issue with Global Encoder ID/GPS Time was corrected in the redelivery. (Global ID changed from 0 to 1 to indicate Adjusted GPS Time).

LAS Tile File Review

Classified LAS tile files are used to build digital terrain models using the points classified as ground. Therefore, it is important that the classified LAS are of sufficient quality to ensure that the derivative product accurately represents the landscape that was measured. The following was determined for classified LAS files for this project:

Classified LAS Tile File Characteristics

- ☑ Separate folder for Classified LAS tile files
- ☑ Classified LAS tile files conform to Project Tiling Scheme
- ☑ Quantity of Classified LAS tile files conforms to Project Tiling Scheme
- ☑ Classified LAS tile files do not overlap
- ☑ Classified LAS tile files are uniform in size
- ☑ Classified LAS tile files have no points classified as '12'

☑ Point classifications are limited to the standard values listed below:

Code	Description
1	Processed, but unclassified
2	Bare-earth ground
7	Noise (low or high, manually identified, if needed)
9	Water
10	Ignored ground (breakline proximity)
11	Withheld (if the "Withheld" bit is not implemented in processing software)

☐ Buy up?

Based on this review, the USGS accepts the classified LAS tile file data.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? ◉ Yes ○ No

☐ Image?

*Issue with Global Encoder ID/GPS Time was corrected in the redelivery. (Global ID changed from 0 to 1 to indicate Adjusted GPS Time).

Breakline File Review

Breaklines are vector feature classes that are used to hydro-flatten the bare earth Digital Elevation Models.

Breakline File Characteristics

- [x] Separate folder for breakline files
- [x] All breaklines captured as PolylineZ or PolygonZ features
- [ ] No missing or misplaced breaklines

Based on this review, the USGS accepts the breakline files.

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? (•) Yes ( ) No

- [ ] Image for error?

There may be a few double line streams that could be included. Also, there is some strange leveling in regards to certain water areas in the DEMs, this could be due to the treatment and placement of the breaklines. *These areas were addressed in the data redelivery.

Bare-Earth DEM Tile File Review

The derived bare-earth DEM file receives a review of the vertical accuracies provided by the data supplier, vertical accuracies calculated by USGS using supplied and independent checkpoints, and a manual check of the appearance of the DEM layer.

Bare-Earth DEM files provided in the following format: Erdas Imagine *.img

Bare-Earth DEM Tile File Characteristics

- [x] Separate folder for bare-earth DEM files
- [x] DEM files conform to Project Tiling Scheme
- [x] Quantity of DEM files conforms to Project Tiling Scheme
- [x] DEM files do not overlap
- [x] DEM files are uniform in size
- [x] DEM files properly edge match
- [x] Independent check points are well distributed

All accuracy values reported in centimeters.

Reported Accuracies

Land Cover Category	# of Points	Fundamental Vertical Accuracy @95% Confidence Interval ($Accuracy_z$) Required FVA = 24.5 or less.	Supplemental Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Target SVA = 36.3 or less.	Consolidated Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Required CVA = 36.3 or less.
Open Terrain	29			
Tall Weeds and Crops	30		15.6	
Brush Lands and Low Trees	80		32.2	
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	92		25.2	
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures	252		13.8	
Consolidated	483			21.8

- [x] QA performed Accuracy Calculations?

Calculated Accuracies

Land Cover Category	# of Points	Fundamental Vertical Accuracy @95% Confidence Interval ($Accuracy_z$) Required FVA = 24.5 or less.	Supplemental Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Target SVA = 36.3 or less.	Consolidated Vertical Accuracy @95th Percentile Error Required CVA = 36.3 or less.
Open Terrain	21	12.9		

Tall Weeds and Crops	30		23.1	
Brush Lands and Low Trees	80		32.9	
Forested Areas Fully Covered by Trees	92		25.7	
Urban Areas with Dense Man-Made Structures	251		13.0	
Consolidated	474			24.8

Based on this review, the USGS recommends the bare-earth DEM files for inclusion in the 1/3 Arc-Second National Elevation Dataset.

Based on this review, the USGS accepts the bare-earth DEM files.

Bare-Earth DEM Anomalies, Errors, Other Issues

Errors, Anomalies, Other Issues to document? (•) Yes ( ) No

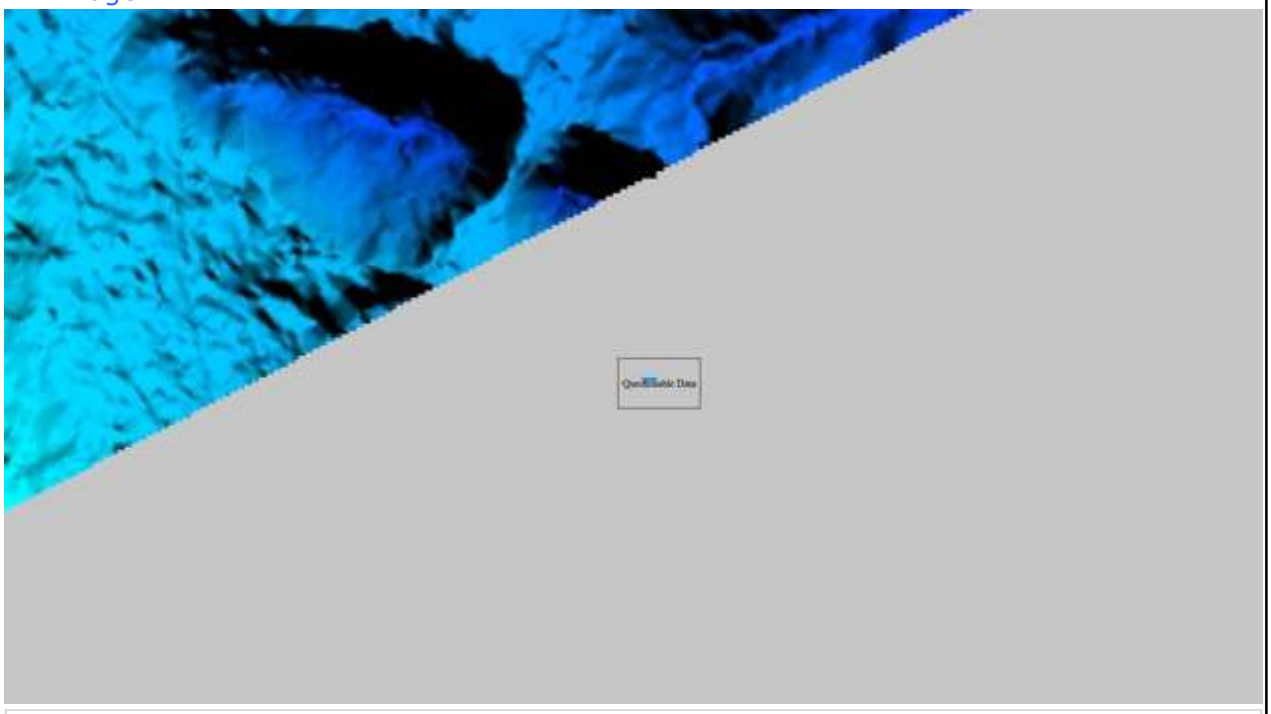
☐ Image?

Open Terrain Metric Reported above refers to the Withheld Bare Earth Points, however 29 control points were tested for the vendor used Ground Class with a RMSEz of 0.103 M and a NSSDA AccuracyZ of 0.238 M, passing the requirements for FVA. These points were also factored in in the CVA calculated above.

☐ Image?

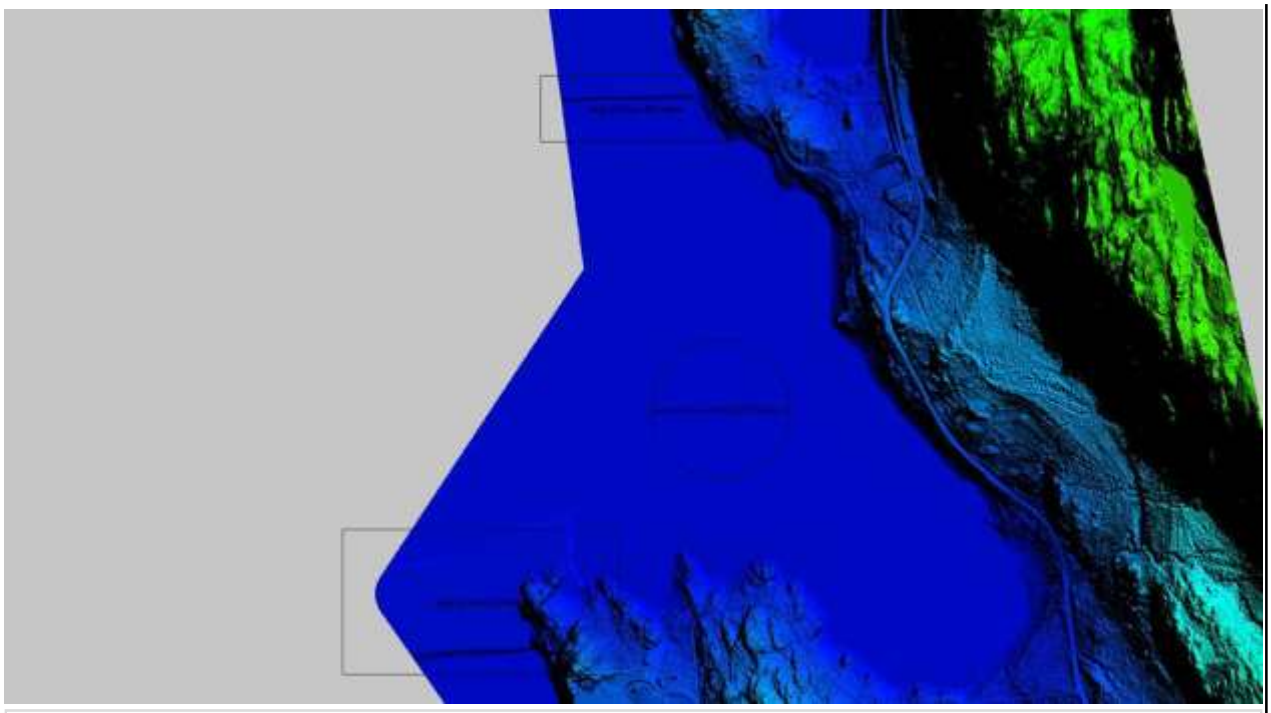
251 Urban SVA Checkpoints were delivered of a reported 252; however, accuracy and number of points is sufficient for project requirements.

☑ Image?



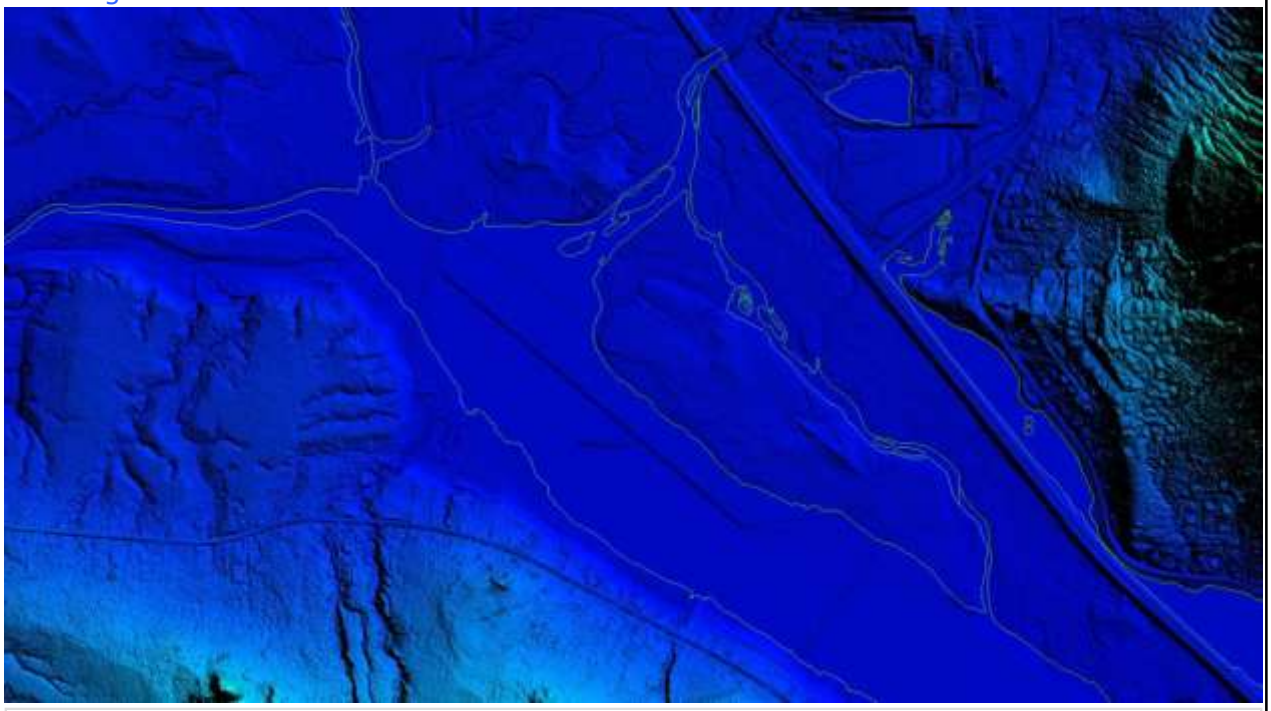
Questionable Data outside of Project Area of Interest in DEM Tiles. Several of these areas are noted in AK_Juneau_2012_DEM_error_tags_questionable_datas.shp in the NED--> errors folder. These are removed when USGS mosaics the project into a single DEM. *This area was addressed in the data redelivery.

☑ Image?



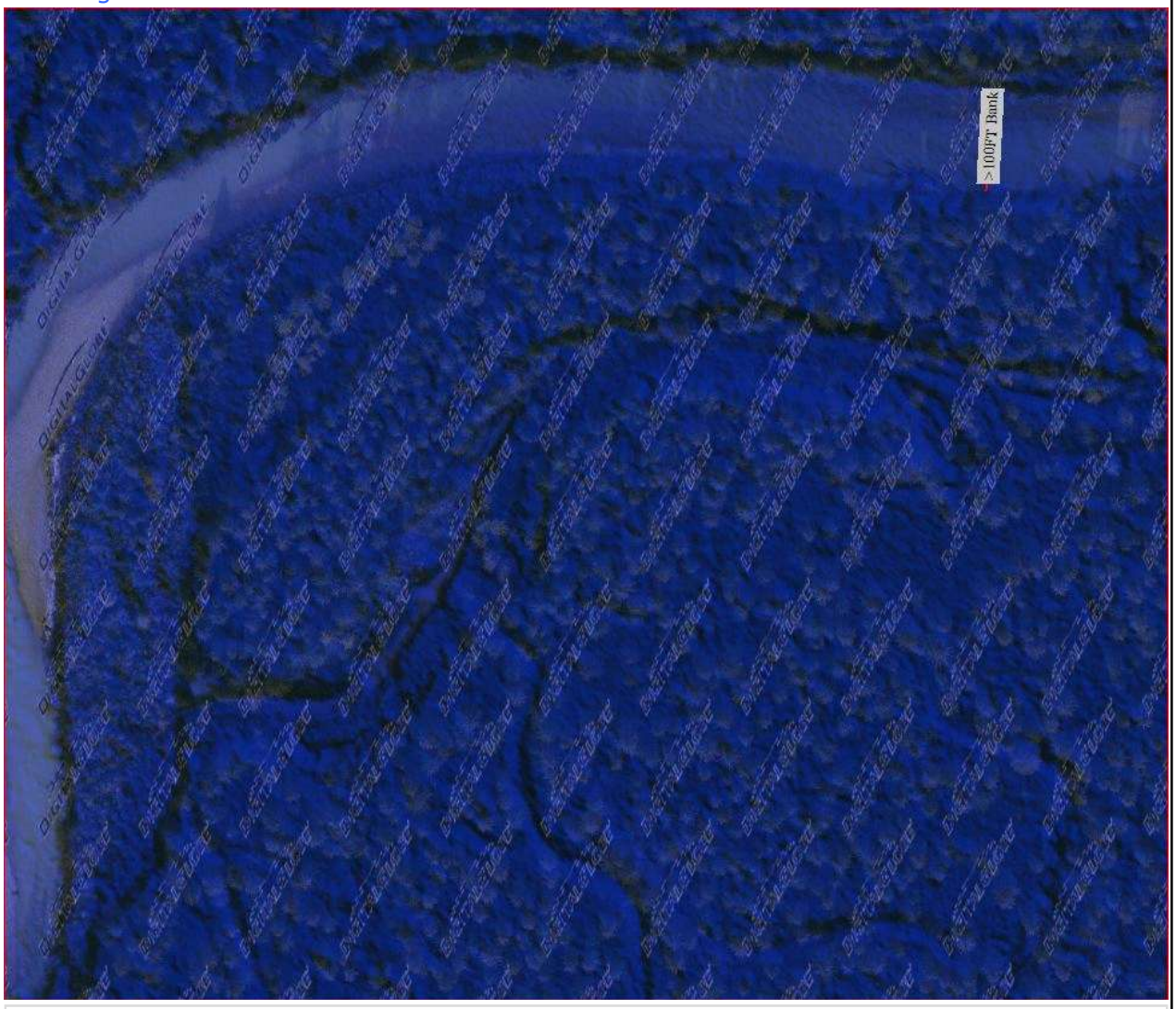
The Ocean Water Level varies throughout the project jumping in segments ranging from 1.2 to 4.1 M. It is not clear whether this is due to a datum issue or an issue with breaklines and/or leveling. *It was decided that this was acceptable for this project.

☑ Image?



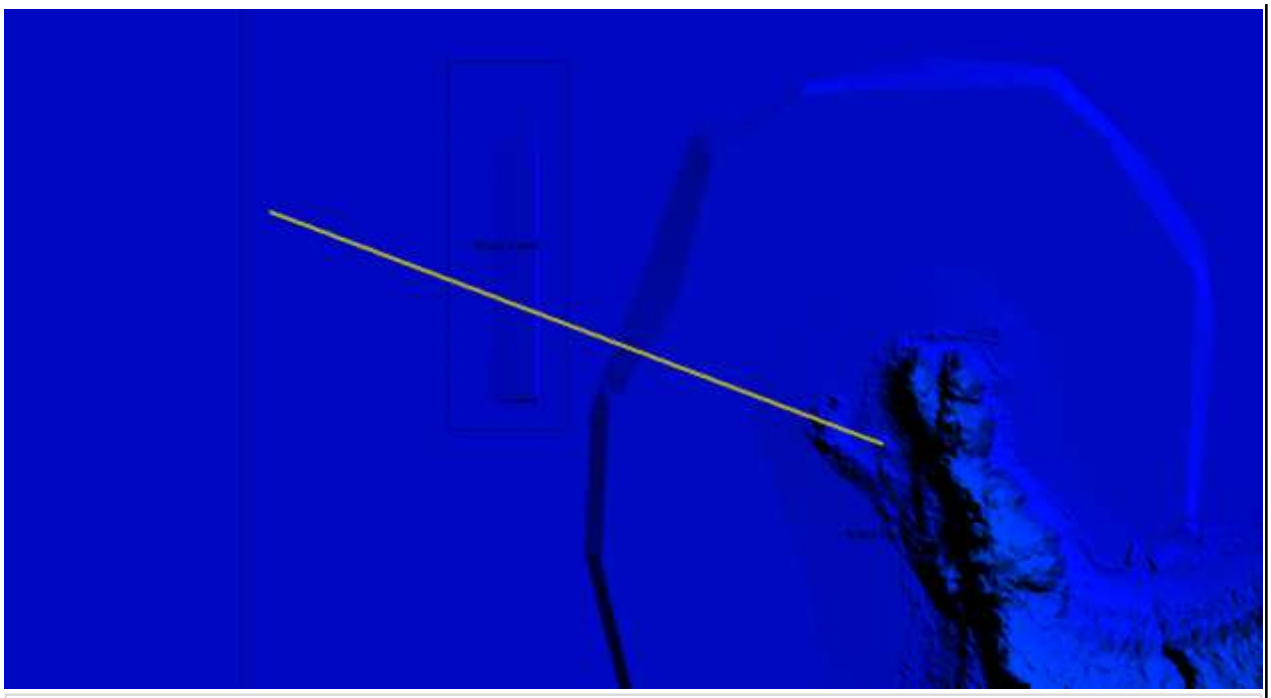
Some areas have very rigid water leveling and do not make sense given the underlying topography. *These areas were cleaned up in the redelivery.

☑ Image?



A few areas of streams with banks greater than 100ft that could be leveled. *These areas were addressed in the data redelivery.

☑ Image?



This water Level Issue is still questionable and was not addressed in the redelivered data.

This is the end of the report.

QA Form V1.4 12OCT11.xsn