Project Report

FY13 Suwannee River water Management LiDAR Area 2 Florida State Plane North

Prepared For:

United States Geological Survey



Prepared By: Digital Aerial Solutions, LLC



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2013 Suwannee Management LiDAR Task Order G13PD00141

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Suwannee FY13 Area 2 Area of Interest

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1 Introduction and Specifications

Digital Aerial Solutions, LLC (DAS) was tasked to collect and process a Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) derived elevation dataset for the Suwannee Management, FL. The FY13 Suwannee Management survey Area2 encompasses approximately 10 square miles. Aerial LiDAR data was collected utilizing an ALS60. The ALS60 is a discrete return topographic LiDAR mapping system manufactured by Leica Geosystems. LiDAR data collected for the Suwannee Management survey has a nominal pulse spacing of 0.9 meters, and includes up to 4 discrete returns per pulse, along with intensity values for each return.

LiDAR datasets were post processed to generate elevation point cloud swaths for each flight line. Deliverables include the point cloud swaths, tiled point clouds classified by land cover type, breaklines to support hydro-flattening of digital elevation models (DEM)s, and bare-earth DEM tiles. Point cloud deliverables are stored in the LAS version 1.2 format, point data record format 1. The tiling scheme for tiled deliverables is a 4900 Feet x 4900 Feet grid. All deliverables were generated in conformance with the U.S. Geological Survey National Geospatial Program Guidelines and Base Specifications, Version 1.

2 Spatial Reference System

The spatial reference of the data is as follows.

Horizontal Spatial Reference

- Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (National Spatial Reference System 2007)
- Coordinates: State Plane Florida North

Vertical Spatial Reference

All datasets are available with orthometric elevation; point cloud datasets are also available with ellipsoid heights

- Datum: North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (GEOID09)

3 LiDAR Acquisition

3.1 Survey Area

The FY13 Suwannee Management Area2 survey covers approximately 10 square miles located in north central Florida. The flight plan consisted of 54 survey lines and 3 control lines.



3.2 Acquisition Parameters

Acquisition parameters include the sensor configuration and the flight plan characteristics, and are selected based on a number of project specific criteria. Criteria reviewed include the required accuracies for the final dataset, the land cover types within the project survey area, and the required nominal pulse spacing. Acquisition parameters selected for the FY 13 Suwannee River water Management Area2 LiDAR project are summarized below.

Parameter	Value
Flying Height Above Ground Level	5,575 feet
Nominal Sidelap	30%
Nominal Speed Over Ground	140 knots
Field of View	34°
Laser Rate	200 kHz
Scan Rate	68.4 hz
Maximum Cross Track Spacing	0.98 meters
Maximum Along Track Spacing	0.98 meters
Average Spacing	1 meters

3.3 Acquisition Mission

The acquisition mission for the FY 13 Suwannee River water Management Area2 LiDAR survey was coordinated to be acquired in 1 week. Collection began on February 15th 2013 and was completed on February 15th, 2013, A complete flight log for the acquisition mission may be found in Appendix A.

3.4 Airborne GPS/IMU

Airborne global positioning system (GPS) and inertial measurement unit (IMU) data was collected on the aircraft during the acquisition mission, providing sensor position and orientation information for georeferencing the LiDAR data. Airborne GPS observations were collected at a frequency of 2Hz, and IMU observations are collected at a frequency of 200Hz.

Aircraft	Sensor	GPS Lever Arm (m)	IMU Lever Arm (m)
C421 - N112MJ	ALS60 - SN6130	x: -0.210, y: -0.060, z: -1.370	x: -0.450, y: -0.159, z: -0.169

In addition, GPS data was collected with ground base stations during the acquisition mission, providing corrections to support differential post-processing of the airborne GPS. One ground base station was setup at an NGS Benchmark (Keyport) as the base of operation. The additional ground base station were selected and place threw the project to ensure complete coverage. Ground GPS observations were collected at a frequency of 2Hz.

4 LiDAR Processing

4.1 Acquisition Post-Processing

Once the acquisition was completed, initial post-processing was performed to generate geo-referenced LiDAR elevation point clouds.

The airborne GPS dataset was differentially corrected using the ground base station GPS datasets collected by DAS in Lecia's IPAS software. IPAS computes the GPS dataset corrections in both forward and reverse chronological sequence, obtaining two solutions for the GPS trajectory. The differences between these two solutions were reviewed to ensure a consistent result, and agree within +/- 3cm. The forward and reverse solutions also show good fit between the two different base stations used in the post-processing.

Differentially corrected airborne GPS data was merged with the airborne IMU dataset in Leica's IPAS software through Kalman filtering techniques. IPAS applies the reference lever arms for the GPS and IMU measurement systems during processing to determine the trajectory (position and orientation) of the LiDAR sensor during the acquisition mission. Estimated lever arm values reported posteriori validate the measurements made during sensor installation in the aircraft.

Raw LiDAR sensor ranging data and the final sensor trajectory from IPAS were processed in Leica's ALSPP software to produce the LiDAR elevation point cloud swaths for each flightline, stored in LAS version 1.2 file format. Quality control of the swath point clouds was performed to validate proper function of the sensor systems, full coverage of the project AOI, and point density consistent with the planned nominal pulse spacing. The LiDAR data collected for the Suwannee Management survey area2 passed these quality control checks.

Swath point clouds were assigned a unique File Source ID within the LAS file format before further processing. Swath files for the FY 13 Suwannee River water Management Area2 LiDAR project were numbered in chronological order of acquisition.

4.2 Geometric Calibration

Geometric and positional accuracy of the LiDAR swath point clouds is highly dependent on accurate calibration of the various subsystems within the LiDAR sensor system. Sensor calibration parameters fall into two categories, one being those parameters proprietary to the manufacturer's sensor design, and the other being parameters common to most commercial airborne LiDAR sensors, the IMU to laser reference system alignment angles (bore-site), and mirror deformation constants (scaling).

The manufacturer specific calibration parameters are applied in Leica's ALSPP software for the ALS60 sensor system. Terrasolid's Terramatch software was used to calculate the IMU bore-site and mirror scale parameters for the FY13 Suwannee Management's Area2 LiDAR data. Within the TerraMatch software, the Tie-line workflow was used to solve for the parameters. The Tie-line workflow involves automated selection of numerous 'tie-lines', which represent a linear segment fit to the data that should have the same slope, azimuth, position and elevation, within the overlap sections of the survey lines and control lines. The tie-lines provide observations for algorithms within TerraMatch to solve for the boresite and mirror scale parameters for the lift.

The Tie-line workflow is dependent upon well distributed tie-lines throughout the swath point clouds to effectively solve for bore-site and mirror scale parameters with the automated algorithms. The FY13 Suwannee Management survey Area2 did not support this requirement, due to the large water area within the

survey and control lines. Manual estimation of the bore-site and mirror scale parameters was performed using the observed tie-lines in overlap areas.

The final step of geometric calibration is to determine elevation (z) offset corrections to be applied to the swath point clouds. Z values calculated during the course of the acquisition mission can vary at the centimeter level as the GPS satellite constellation observed in the survey area changes with satellites moving through their orbits over the course of the mission. Baseline length from the ground base station GPS to the airborne GPS can also impact the z values calculated for the swath point clouds. Z offset corrections are calculated in two steps; a relative step, where individual lines are corrected one to another using the adjusted tie-lines from the bore-site and mirror scale calculation step; and an absolute step, where groups of lines are leveled to project ground control.

For the FY 13 Suwannee River water Management Area2 LiDAR project, the control lines were used to determine relative z offset corrections in areas of discernible ground. The base station operated by DAS in the survey area provided for minimal baseline lengths, resulting in generally good z agreement between the survey lines and control lines.

The final geometrically calibrated swath point clouds were compared to the bare-earth profile survey data. The data fit the profile surveys within the vertical accuracy tolerance specified for the project. Full documentation of the vertical accuracy checks maybe found in section 5.1.

4.3 Point Cloud Classification

Georeference information was applied to the swath point could LAS files. Geometrically calibrated swath point clouds were cut into 4900 Feet x 4900 Feet LAS format tiles for point cloud classification and derived product creation. It is important to note that US National Grid tiles are non- orthogonal when stored and displayed in a geographic coordinate system. As a result, tiled vector data does not have overlap, but tiled raster data does have overlap to permit seamless display of the data products.

Tiled point cloud data was processed in Terrasolid's Terrascan software to assign initial classification values. The Terrascan software provides a number of routines to algorithmically detect and assign points to their appropriate class. Points left unclassified by the algorithmic routine remain as Class 1 – Processed, but unclassified. Automated classification routines assigned points to one of the following classes:

- Class 1 Processed, but unclassified
- Class 2 Bare-earth ground
- Class 7 Noise
- o Class 9 Water
- Class 10 Ignored Ground
- o Class 11 Withheld
- Class 17 Reserve
- Class 18 Reserve

Automated classification results were reviewed for each tiled point cloud, and manual edits made where necessary to correct for misclassified points. Points remaining in Class 1 after the automated classification routines were run were left in Class 1. Points falling outside of a 105 meter buffer of the project AOI polygon were excluded from the tiled point clouds.

4.4 Breakline Collection

Manual breakline collection was performed to support the hydro-flattening requirements of the project's DEM deliverables. Breaklines were collected directly from the classified point clouds and from triangulated irregular network (TIN) surface models built from the classified point clouds, in Terrasolids's Terrascan and Terramodeler software. Breakline features were collected as design file elements in Bentley's Microstation software. Breaklines were converted to ESRI 3D shapefile format for the breakline deliverable, and tiled to the project US National Grid index.

The data collected for the Suwannee Management LiDAR area 2 survey maintained significant point density in the water, marsh, and swamp, limiting the usefulness of point density as guiding factor in breakline placement.

Points classified as Class 2 – Bare-earth ground, falling within a one meter buffer of the collected breaklines, were reassigned to Class 10 – Ignored Ground. These points are excluded from the surface model during DEM generation to preserve the hydro-flattening characteristics of the breaklines.

4.5 DEM Generation

The final classified point clouds and collected breaklines were reviewed for completeness and conformance to the task order scope of work and the NGP version 13 guidelines. Within the Terramodeler software, points in Class 2 – Bare-earth ground and the breaklines were combined to generate TIN elevation models for each tile, from which the bare-earth DEM tiles were interpolated and exported as 32 bit float Arc Grid.

5 Quality Control

5.1 Point Clouds

Accuracy and completeness of the LiDAR point clouds directly impacts the quality of all other derived LiDAR derived products. Ensuring a quality LiDAR dataset begins with proper mission planning and execution. Ground GPS base stations are located such that GPS baselines between the ground and airborne receivers do not exceed 30km. For the Suwannee Management LiDAR project, two base stations were run to meet this requirement, one at the field operations airport and one within the survey area. Static alignment is performed both before take-off and after landing to allow for GPS integer ambiguity resolution. Sensor operators carefully monitor the LiDAR unit and its various subsystems during the acquisition mission to ensure proper function. Airborne GPS positional dilution of precision (PDOP) estimates are monitored to ensure they remain less than 3.The optical system is monitored to ensure there are no ranging errors encountered during the flight lines.

During acquisition post-processing estimates of the trajectory data accuracy are reviewed to ensure they will support the required accuracies of the point cloud data. The trajectory accuracy is a function of the differentially corrected GPS data and the IMU data.

The raw swath point clouds generated from ALSPP are reviewed as another check for proper sensor function. The point clouds are reviewed for full coverage of the AOI, required point density and nominal pulse spacing, clustering, proper intensity values, full swath coverage within the planned field of view, and planned survey line overlap.

Geometric calibration quality control validates that the positional accuracy requirements of the project are met, and includes relative accuracy assessments for intra-swath (within) and inter-swath (between) accuracy, along with absolute accuracy assessments against project ground control.

Relative vertical accuracy assessments are normally made using the tie-lines generated in the Terramatch software, as these lines provide positional observations throughout the extent of individual swaths, and between neighboring swaths.

Horizontal accuracy assessments of LiDAR data require the presence of vertical targets such as buildings within in the survey area. Field check points are surveyed at the corners of the building roofs, and the surveyed locations compared to the estimated corner locations in the LiDAR point cloud. The FY 13 Suwannee Management survey Area2 did not present any accessible buildings for use as vertical targets. From the manufacturer's specifications, the estimated horizontal accuracy at one sigma, based on flying height for the project, is between 10cm and 20cm.

Absolute vertical accuracy assessments for the point cloud data are made against ground check point data. For the FY13 Suwannee Management Area2 survey, ground check point data consisted of the ground GPS base station, and real-time kinematic (RTK) GPS techniques.

Check point locations were collected at 1 - second intervals during the RTK survey. Points collected during the static pre-initialization and post-initialization were removed from the assessment so as not to bias the assessment.

Local TIN models of the elevation points are built around each ground check points. The tin model elevation is sampled at the horizontal position of the ground check point. The TIN model elevation and ground check point survey elevation values were used to calculate the fundamental vertical accuracy (FVA) of the swath point clouds as described in NDEP Elevation Guidelines Version 1. The FVA of the TIN tested RMSEz 0.111 Feet and 0.216 Feet at the 95% confidence level in open terrain. FVA of the DEM tested at an RMSEz of 0.108 Feet and 0.213 Feet at the 95% confidence level in open terrain. The full calculations for all check points can be found in Appendix B. Note that the Urban category comprised 1.21% of landcover across these areas, as a result no Urban checkpoints are collected.

$RMSE_{Z} =$	0.111	Feet
NSSDA=	0.216	Feet

FVA of DEM

$RMSE_{Z} =$	0.108	Feet	
NSSDA=	0.213	Feet	

The tiled point cloud products were reviewed for full coverage of the AOI and proper classification. As part of the QC process, TINs are built in the Terramodeler software for each tile using the ground class and the hydro-flattening breaklines. The TINs are reviewed for non-ground features, and edited where necessary to remove any remaining non-ground features. Points were also reviewed for absolute elevation, and points falling below the selected orthometric elevation for water were removed from the ground class.

5.2 Breaklines

The final breaklines in ESRI 3D shapefile format were reviewed for topological consistency and correct elevation. Breaklines features are continuous and do not have overlaps or dangles.

5.3 Digital Elevation Models

Digital elevation models (DEMs) were reviewed for conformance with the SOW and the NGP version 1 guidelines. DEM files were loaded in the Global Mapper software and inspected visually for edge matching between tiles, void areas within the project AOI, and proper coding of the NODATA values. DEM file naming was verified for consistency with the US National Grid tile index.

Appendix A. Flight Logs

	0.	Digital Aerial Soli	utions											
ALS	50 L	iDAR FI	ight Log											
11120	<i>70</i> L		igin Log		ALS60	N6130 090724								Sensor Operator/s
Project		Suwa	annee 2013			_					-			Bertin Evina-Ze
Date/J	ılian:	2/15/2013	Suwannee		N	lem Drive MM60	Int. Time:	TAR AIRSI	PD (KNTS)			Base PID:		Pilot/s
Hobbs	End	682.5				3-600093051		14	40			BD2735		MWAZ
Hobbs	ST	681.2				LIFT A		TAR ALT	AGL (ft):	Fligh	nt Plan(s):	Base Height:	Aircraft	Airport Idnt:
Flight	Time	1.3						5,5	575	E	Block 8	1.500	421C 112MJ	24J
1 :64		Elight Line	Mission Line	UTC	time:	GPS Altitude:	Direction	Speed:		6Mai	Posit	ion Acc.		Comments and Conditions
Lint		r ngin Line	MISSION LINE	в:	E:	ASL:		kts:	Memory	3/13.	PDOP	HDOP		comments and conditions.
Block 8						-	-	-	44					Static Alignment
		103	130216_000255	00:02	00:05	5,652	270.6	132	43	17	1.1	0.6		CLEAR
		102	130216_000911	00:09	00:11	5,652	90.6	138	42	18	1.1	0.6		CLEAR
		101	130216_001510	00:15	00:17	5,652	270.6	132	42	18	1.2	0.6		CLEAR
		100	130216_002032	00:20	00:22	5,652	90.6	140	41	18	1.2	0.6		CLEAR
		99	130216 002640	00:26	00:28	5,652	270.6	133	41	18	1.2	0.6		CLEAR
		98	130216 003207	00:32	00:34	5,575	90	138	41	19	1.2	0.6		CLEAR
		104	130216 003830	00:38	00:39	5,575	178.6	138	40	18	1.2	0.6		X-STRIP
		104	130216 004330	00:43	00:44	5,562	358.6	135	40	18	1.3	0.6		X-STRIP
											1			
											1			
											1			
				1			1				1			

Appendix B. Vertical Accuracy Calculations

Tiled-Data Area

Note that the Urban category comprised 1.21% of landcover across these areas, as a result no Urban checkpoints are collected.

405 4 4 5 9 4 1 2		1 989 2		
415			394	
	19 00		3383 3383 30	

LiDAR Accuracy Assessment Summary

LC Туре	# of Points	FVA	SVA	CVA
LAS				
ALL	21			0.583
FVA	8	0.216		
Tallweeds	4		0.547	
Brushland	4		0.826	
Forested	5		0.341	
Total	21			
DEM				
ALL	21			0.567
FVA	8	0.213		
Tallweeds	4		0.534	
Brushland	4		0.833	
Forested	5		0.341	
Total	21			

Units: Feet

Coordinates and Offsets of Analyzed Locations

ID					
	Survey X	Survey Y	Z1	Z DEM	Z LAS
			AZ DEM	AZ LAS	LC Туре
383					
	279686.123	3360403.335	25.638	25.627	25.625
			-0.011	-0.013	FVA
393					
	279710.852	3360360.02	24.709	24.713	24.696
			0.004	-0.013	FVA
400	I	I		I	I
	279007.525	3363391.236	28.284	28.224	28.221
			-0.06	-0.063	FVA
4 01	I			I	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	279023.315	3363364.369	27.935	27.903	27.903
			-0.032	-0.032	FVA
✓ 405	I				
	274326.027	3363784.71	29.057	29.085	29.065
			0.028	0.008	FVA
✓ 453	1			I	• •
	274363.482	3363675.761	28.546	28.55	28.557
			0.004	0.011	FVA
✓ 454	I				
	274986.385	3360914.652	28.809	28.752	28.756
			-0.057	-0.053	FVA

Coordinates and Offsets of Analyzed Locations (Continued)

ID					
	Survey X	Survey Y	Z1	Z DEM	Z LAS
			ΔΖ DEM	ΔZ LAS	LC Type
455					
	275001.694	3360838.793	28.159	28.15	28.133
			-0.009	-0.026	FVA
387					
	279713.992	3360331.652	24.734	24.824	24.792
			0.09	0.058	Tallweeds
✓ 402					
	279061.215	3363350.395	28.068	28.174	28.17
			0.106	0.102	Tallweeds
409	I				
	274331.628	3363782.638	28.966	29.139	29.144
			0.173	0.178	Tallweeds
✓ 415					
	274700.878	3362593.656	27.277	27.335	27.338
			0.058	0.061	Tallweeds
✓ 390	I				
	279904.017	3360396.973	25.508	25.5	25.492
			-0.008	-0.016	Brushland
✓ 394	I	I		I	I
	279527.314	3362719.478	27.215	27.342	27.343
			0.127	0.128	Brushland

Coordinates and Offsets of Analyzed Locations (Continued)

ID					
	Survey X	Survey Y	Z1	Z DEM	Z LAS
	·		ΔΖ DEM	AZ LAS	LC Type
✓ 412					
	274473.424	3363276.822	27.65	27.927	27.924
			0.277	0.274	Brushland
✓ 462					
	275003.08	3360932.012	28.655	28.728	28.745
			0.073	0.09	Brushland
1000					
	275047.477	3360860.985	28.558	28.553	28.572
			-0.005	0.014	Forested
1004					
	274371.469	3363719.669	29.308	29.196	29.197
			-0.112	-0.111	Forested
1007					
	278932.595	3363398.622	27.092	27.034	27.037
			-0.058	-0.055	Forested
1 010					
	279667.303	3360329.709	23.961	23.92	23.908
			-0.041	-0.053	Forested
1013	I	<u> </u>		1	I
	279760.13	3360415.698	24.479	24.404	24.403
			-0.075	-0.076	Forested

spatial information solutions one research boulevard, suite 105 starkville, mississippi 39759 http://www.spatialis.com

LAS

Fundamental Vertical Accuracy

LandCover Type: FVA Minimum DZ: -0.206 Maximum DZ: 0.036 Mean DZ: -0.075 Mean Magnitude DZ: 0.544 Number Observations: 8 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.085 RMSE Z: 0.111 95% Confidence Level Z: 0.216 Units: Feet

LAS (Continued)

Supplemental Vertical Accuracy LandCover Type: Tallweeds Minimum DZ: 0.190 Maximum DZ: 0.583 Mean DZ: 0.328 Mean Magnitude DZ: 1.036 Number Observations: 4 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.183 RMSE Z: 0.364 95th Percentile: 0.547 Units: Feet

LAS (Continued)

Supplemental Vertical Accuracy LandCover Type: Brushland Minimum DZ: -0.052 Maximum DZ: 0.898 Mean DZ: 0.390 Mean Magnitude DZ: 1.167 Number Observations: 4 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.393 RMSE Z: 0.518 95th Percentile: 0.826 Units: Feet

LAS (Continued)

Supplemental Vertical Accuracy LandCover Type: Forested Minimum DZ: -0.364 Maximum DZ: 0.045 Mean DZ: -0.183 Mean Magnitude DZ: 0.816 Number Observations: 5 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.150 RMSE Z: 0.229 95th Percentile: 0.341 Units: Feet

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LAS (Continued)

Consolidated Vertical Accuracy

LandCover Type: ALL Minimum DZ: -0.364 Maximum DZ: 0.898 Mean DZ: 0.065 Mean Magnitude DZ: 0.856 Number Observations: 21 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.305 RMSE Z: 0.305 95th Percentile: 0.583 Units: Feet

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DEM

Fundamental Vertical Accuracy

LandCover Type: FVA Minimum DZ: -0.196 Maximum DZ: 0.091 Mean DZ: -0.052 Mean Magnitude DZ: 0.524 Number Observations: 8 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.101 RMSE Z: 0.108 95% Confidence Level Z: 0.213 Units: Feet

DEM (Continued)

Supplemental Vertical Accuracy LandCover Type: Tallweeds Minimum DZ: 0.190 Maximum DZ: 0.567 Mean DZ: 0.351 Mean Magnitude DZ: 1.072 Number Observations: 4 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.157 RMSE Z: 0.377 95th Percentile: 0.534 Units: Feet

DEM (Continued)

Supplemental Vertical Accuracy LandCover Type: Brushland Minimum DZ: -0.026 Maximum DZ: 0.908 Mean DZ: 0.383 Mean Magnitude DZ: 1.141 Number Observations: 4 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.393 RMSE Z: 0.511 95th Percentile: 0.833 Units: Feet

DEM (Continued)

Supplemental Vertical Accuracy LandCover Type: Forested Minimum DZ: -0.367 Maximum DZ: -0.016 Mean DZ: -0.190 Mean Magnitude DZ: 0.790 Number Observations: 5 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.131 RMSE Z: 0.223 95th Percentile: 0.341 Units: Feet

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DEM (Continued)

Consolidated Vertical Accuracy

LandCover Type: ALL Minimum DZ: -0.367 Maximum DZ: 0.908 Mean DZ: 0.072 Mean Magnitude DZ: 0.849 Number Observations: 21 Standard Deviation DZ: 0.305 RMSE Z: 0.305 95th Percentile: 0.567 Units: Feet

