



Why was the NDEP formed?

Accurate elevation data are necessary for a variety of purposes, such as the design of public works and engineering projects, emergency response planning, resource management, land use analysis and planning. Within the past decade, advances in technology have made it possible to collect and use digital land elevation data in a cost-effective manner. Consequently, the use of digital data has become common at all levels of government, and advances in the digital elevation collection and manipulation technologies will undoubtedly make its use even more widespread.

With an ever-growing demand for digital elevation data by Federal, State and local governments, the NDEP was established to promote the exchange of digital elevation data among government, private, and non-profit sectors and the academic community and to establish standards and guidance that will benefit all users.

What are the goals of the NDEP?

- ❑ Enhance data sharing among Federal, State, and local agencies; the private sector; and academia;
- ❑ Minimize redundant data production;
- ❑ Leverage resources to satisfy multiple requirements;
- ❑ Develop flexible standards that meet the needs of most users; and
- ❑ Ensure the availability and accuracy of digital topographic data.

Who will benefit?

- ❑ Federal, State, and local agencies: By coordinating agency efforts to develop digital elevation data, limited agency funding will be used most effectively. In addition, establishing common standards and guidelines will maximize the utility of the data and promote the sharing of data between agencies and organizations.
- ❑ Public: It is in the public's interest to make the most accurate, up-to-date data readily accessible to all that need it. Moreover, sharing these data and eliminating redundancy in data collection and development by government agencies will save tax dollars.
- ❑ Remote sensing industry: Establishing elevation data standards is a critical factor in supporting the remote sensing industry.

How is the NDEP organized?

The NDEP currently consists of a Steering Committee and two subcommittees: a Technical Subcommittee and a Project Coordination Subcommittee.

Steering Committee: The Steering Committee provides leadership and program oversight. It is responsible for establishing the vision, direction and goals of the program. It also provides oversight of the technical and project coordination subcommittees.

Technical Subcommittee: The Technical Subcommittee addresses technical issues related to the research, production, archiving, distribution, and application of digital elevation data. It has the lead in the development of national specifications and guidelines for the collection, distribution, and use of digital elevation data.

Project Coordination Subcommittee: The Project Coordination Subcommittee is responsible for coordinating requirements of the NDEP members, developing and monitoring production and funding plans, and addressing specific program issues.

Who are the current NDEP members?

The NDEP currently consists of representatives from the following:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)
- National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Other agencies and organizations may be included in the future.

How can I get more information about the NDEP?

For more information about the NDEP, please visit the NDEP World Wide Web site at: <http://www.ndep.gov> or e-mail to : elevation@ndep.gov.