

July 1, 2008

Dear *National Map Corps* Volunteer,

Due to budgetary considerations *The National Map Corps* volunteer program is being evaluated by a USGS committee to determine the program's future and how it may better serve the needs of *The National Map*. During the evaluation period, processing of submitted data will be suspended due to the demands on USGS personnel.

Consequently, we are asking all *National Map Corps* volunteers who are presently collecting data using a global positioning system (GPS) receiver to stop collecting structure data and send collected data to the USGS by August 1, 2008.

Although we are asking you to stop collecting structure data using your GPS receiver, we encourage you to continue your volunteer activity by using our prototype web-based collection procedure. You may visit the web-based collection site at <http://ims.er.usgs.gov/vfs/faces/index.jspx>. You will be asked to fill out a brief registration form and you may then collect structure data after you have familiarized yourself with the navigation and collection tools.

We appreciate your support over the past several years as the volunteer program evolved and grew. Since its inception the Earth Science Corps and *The National Map Corps* volunteers have contributed to the graphic mapping program and to building *The National Map* structures data theme. We hope that the current program assessment results in a renewed volunteer program supported by our current and many future volunteers.

Please refer to the web-based collection site for updates. You may also communicate with one another via the *National Map* forum at geocaching.com.
Best wishes in your future endeavors.

Thank you for your past service to the U.S. Geological Survey. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Morgan J Bearden, Coordinator
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U. S. Geological Survey
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To summarize:

- Cease GPS collection of structures and send all new GPS data to the mapping center:

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- If you desire to continue to collect structures, please do so via the web-based site. You may visit the site at <http://ims.er.usgs.gov/vfs/faces/index.jsp> to collect data via the web site.
- If you do not wish to continue as a volunteer on any level, please send all materials and your USGS volunteer identification card to the above address.
- Check the web site to see volunteer updates
- If we do not already have one, please provide us an e-mail address. We do not anticipate sending any more letters and plan to conduct business via e-mail and our web site to the greatest extent possible.