

Texas Geographic Data Collection Coordination Meeting

05/03/11

Participants dial-in number (877) 226-9790, participant access code #9101076.

The Purpose of this meeting is to share status of current and potential geographic data collection activities in Texas among State and Federal collaborators. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.tnris.org/TexasDataUpdates.

Attendees: Jim Scott, Felicia Retiz, Shelby Coder (TNRIS), Claire DeVaughan (USGS), Bryon Haney (USACE), Rob Aanstoos (DIR), Larry Voice (FEMA-Region VI), Dennis Williamson (NRCS - Temple)

Lidar status map included at the end of this document as Figure 1.

USGS Topics

1. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) Urban Areas Program:
The NGA is looking to contribute funding to high-resolution (+1 ft) orthoimagery acquisitions in Texas and is considering Houston, Austin, Corpus Christi, and/or El Paso for 2012. In the past, \$50k has gone to both Austin and Houston, \$25k to both El Paso and Lubbock, and \$12k to CTCOG. TNRIS and USGS will plan to make contact with federal/state/regional/local organizations in these areas for feedback. Felicia to contact Aaron Burciaga in El Paso, Claire to find contact for Corpus Christi. Bryon suggested that military groups be kept in the loop as they may have funding to contribute as well.
2. National Enhanced Elevation Assessment – NEEA:
The NEEA is a USGS-led effort to catalog existing elevation data covering the U.S. and then undertake a comprehensive assessment of future acquisition needs. Surveys will be collected from relevant federal/state/regional/local organizations to make these determinations. Representatives from 12 agencies have been identified and are currently within the time window to complete the surveys. It is too early to determine how many have been completed.
3. NHD Stewardship for Texas :
TNRIS and the USGS are working to finalize a Stewardship Agreement that to designate TNRIS as the state NHD/WBD steward. It was suggested that language be added to the MOU regarding the collaborative relationship with INEGI (Mexico) to monitor changes made on either side of the international border in Texas. Paul Kimsey (NHD Program, USGS) is working on this.

A new GIS web service has been created by the USGS for the NHD/WBD, which appears to be well symbolized and renders quickly at multiple scales. Felicia will send a follow-up email with the link.

4. Geographic Names Information System (GNIS):

The University of Alabama has partially completed a contract with the USGS to update GNIS names for the nation. Features being updated include: airports, mines, schools, churches, parks, post offices, cemeteries, and bridges. The first three have been completed. The team is checking existing features, adding new ones, and reconciling duplicates.

There are two names being proposed in Texas: 1) a reservoir in Fayette County 2) a summit in Guadalupe National Park. Dr. Stacy Lyle has proposed Pratt Peak as the name for the summit to honor the person who dedicated the land for the park, but since the peak is on federal lands, there is hesitation from federal agencies to name natural features. Eventually the suggested names will make their way to the GNIS Names Coordinator, who is currently TNRIS's own Richard Wade.

The Council of Geographic Names Authority includes members from most states along with Canada and Britain, and is holding their annual conference in Honolulu, HI in 2011. Claire DeVaughan has offered to host the conference for 2013 and is considering Austin or San Antonio.

State of Texas Topics

1. Lidar and Orthoimagery Project Updates:

All 5 TNRIS 2011 lidar projects are currently in the processing phase and are on time, if not early. Merrick has delivered a 20 tile pilot area in Denton County for TNRIS review/comment. Thus far the data are of excellent quality. The Merrick project areas will be divided into 4 areas based on existing geographic breaks, and will be delivered incrementally throughout the summer/fall. FEMA has requested that the piece containing Guadalupe and Caldwell Counties be processed first, and we are certain Merrick will accommodate this. Bexar County has been delivered and should be released to the public within the next month or so.

Larry confirmed that FEMA will fully process the AOI collected in Comal and Guadalupe Counties, but he believes Parker and Liberty Counties will be partially processed (read: stream buffers only).

FEMA is working to identify future targets for LiDAR collection based on their Discovery process for RiskMAP. Further refinement of potential areas will occur this week. One area south of Fort Worth which extends down toward current collection areas in the Waco area is of interest to the NRCS. As these areas are refined an update will be provided. (See Figure 1.)

The Brazos County orthoimagery has been submitted to TNRIS for review by Kucera. The data are all 4-band and are 6-inch resolution over the cities and 1-foot resolution for the remaining areas. There will be additional deliverables for portions of the AOI to be delivered at a later date, including 1' contours, planimetrics, buildings, and coarse resolution lidar.

Open Discussion

1. Texas Wildfires:

Dennis expressed interest in getting data pertaining to the wildfires in Texas. TNRIS has been processing MODIS data, which has been loaded into GEMSS along with Landsat images. Other services have been included in GEMSS as well, including polygons showing burn scars. Curt

Stripling with the Texas Forest Service was recommended as a good contact for further information. Felicia will respond with a follow-up email listing the map services and Curt's contact info.

2. Rob mentioned that NSGIC will be conducting a meeting during the annual international ESRI conference in San Diego. It is unlikely that TNRS representatives will be at that conference, but Jim may attend at the NSGIC conference in September (Boise).

Next meeting date – Tuesday, June 7, 2011 @ 2:30 p.m. (CDT)

Figure 1. – Status map depicting Lidar status in Texas overlaid with 8-digit hydrologic unit code boundaries (HUC 8).

