

**1 SUPPORTING STATEMENT A
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

**Topographic and Hydrography Data Grants
OMB Control Number 1028-0092**

Terms of Clearance: None

Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection.

Provide background information about the program and describe how the collection supports it. After reading this response, the reader should have a full understanding of why we must collect the information described. Include the citation, common name, and brief description of all authorities authorizing or requiring the collection, as well as any pending regulations on which revisions are based, if applicable. Detail any specific program problems you hope to resolve.

NOTE: Electronic copies of the most current version of each authority cited must be provided to the Bureau ICCO to be uploaded to the RISC and OIRA Consolidated Information System (ROCIS). ROCIS is the automated system used to electronically transmit PRA packages to OMB.

The 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM) is the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) integrated framework for producing modern, high-resolution topographic data for the Nation. By unifying the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) and the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP), 3DNTM delivers a comprehensive, data-rich three-dimensional representation of the landscape that supports mission-critical applications such as hazard mitigation, infrastructure planning, critical minerals and energy development, environmental management, and scientific research. Through coordinated data acquisition, advanced processing, and consistent national standards, 3DNTM provides an authoritative, up-to-date model of the Nation's elevation and surface-water features.

To support this national framework, the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) administers the 3DNTM Data Collaboration Announcement (DCA), which gathers essential information from federal, state, Tribal, academic, private, nonprofit, and local partners interested in jointly supporting topographic data acquisition projects. Because 3DNTM's nationwide data acquisition goals cannot be achieved through federal appropriations alone, partner participation and cost-sharing are fundamental to the program's success. The DCA submission process provides the information needed to evaluate proposed projects, determine eligibility, assess feasibility, prioritize investments, and ensure that federal resources are directed toward activities that best advance national geospatial needs. This structured process enables the USGS NGP to solicit and select projects for elevation and hydrography data collection that meet shared federal and partner requirements.

Information collected through the DCA is central to identifying where partner needs align with federal priorities and where shared investments can most effectively strengthen national geospatial infrastructure. Information collected through the DCA supports:

- Identification of geographic areas where elevation and hydrography data needs are emerging or changing.
- Evaluation of technical specifications and data quality requirements.
- Annual planning of data acquisition timing, contractor capacity considerations, and geographic distribution of projects.
- Prioritization of limited federal and partner resources for the greatest national benefit.
- Avoidance of duplicative data collection across all levels of government.

The DCA information collection is authorized and supported by the following authorities:

Executive Order 12906 called for the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. The USGS promotes geospatial data sharing throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and academia. The USGS is working to deliver new ways of accessing, sharing and using geographic data that enable comprehensive analysis of data to help decision-makers choose the best course(s) of action (see: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12906.pdf>)

Executive Order 13286 which was published in the March 5, 2003, edition of the Federal Register, Volume 68, Number 43, pp. 10619-10633 updates and Executive Order 12906 and maintains federal responsibilities for developing and maintaining shared geospatial resources. (See: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2003-03-05/pdf/03-5343.pdf>)

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 defines the National Spatial Data Infrastructure as the technology, policies, criteria, standards, and employees necessary to promote geospatial data sharing throughout the federal government, state, tribal, and local governments, and the private sector (including nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education). The USGS promotes geospatial data sharing throughout all levels of government, private and non-profit sectors, and academia, and is working to deliver new ways of accessing, sharing and using geographic data that enable comprehensive analyses of data to help decision-makers choose the best course(s) of action (see: [Geospatial Data Act of 2018 — Federal Geographic Data Committee \(fgdc.gov\)](#) and [\[USC05\] 43 USC Ch. 46: GEOSPATIAL DATA \(house.gov\)](#))

The USGS is designated to collect data as the federal government agency co-lead for the Elevation and Water-Inland Themes under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16. This Circular outlines our responsibilities for coordinating federal surveying, mapping, and related spatial data activities that are financed in whole or in part by federal funds. The USGS is using this opportunity to supplement ongoing data collection activities to respond to an increasing demand for more accurate and current geospatial data, including elevation and hydrography. (See: <https://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/index.html>)

The USGS NGP archives and disseminates base layer geospatial data as part of *The National Map* products and services. Many organizations, including state, local, and Tribal governments, private and non-profit firms, as well as many federal government agencies, will use these data to support requirements for planning, infrastructure improvements, and hazard assessments.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection. Be specific. If this collection is a form or a questionnaire, every question needs to be justified.

For all but new collection requests, indicate how the Department or Bureau has used the information it has received. This explanation of the proposed and any past use of the information is key and must be detailed. One of OMB's key standards under the PRA is whether the information has "practical utility." You must thoroughly demonstrate that you will be using all of the information collected for a practical and necessary program purpose.

The response to this question must address:

- What information will be collected - reported or recorded.
- From whom the information will be collected. If there are different respondent categories, describe each along with the type of collection activity that applies.
- For what the information will be used (provide ALL uses).
- How the Bureau will collect the information (e.g., form, electronically, face-to-face, over the phone, over the internet).
- If the respondent has multiple options for providing the information, and if so, what they are.
- How frequently the information will be collected.
- If the information will be shared with any other organizations inside or outside the agency.

Do not make general statements about the overall use of the information, but address the specific items of information being collected. You should explain individually each question or type of question being asked in your survey or on your form unless the purpose of the question is obvious to someone not familiar with your program.

In addition, programs offices should demonstrate how information collected complies with DOI guidelines designed to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information distribute by Bureaus. This guidance authorizes the affected persons to seek corrected information that complies with applicable guidelines. Program offices should be familiar with DOI's [Information Quality Guidelines](#) (or Bureau-specific guidelines shown below) to determine if they apply to the proposed collection. If they do apply (e.g., the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public), explain how the information collected complies with applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The USGS collects structured partner provided information on an annual basis to plan, coordinate, and sequence 3DEP and 3DHP data acquisition activities across the Nation. The collected information is actively used to (1) select candidate areas for near-term data acquisition, (2) validate technical feasibility of projects and their conformance to standards, (3) avoid duplication with existing datasets, and (4) integrate partner priorities into annual national and regional data acquisition plans.

Project submissions to the 3DNTM DCA require specific, structured information through a downloadable form. Each element of the project submission is used directly by the USGS for practical, necessary program functions:

- Geospatial planning
- Technical validation
- Schedule integration
- Stakeholder coordination
- Quality assurance
- Program tracking
- Annual and multiyear national data acquisition strategy development

Applicants to the 3DNTM DCA may include federal, state, Tribal, academic, private, nonprofit, and local partners interested in jointly supporting topographic data acquisition projects.

Project submissions are required to provide detailed information including:

- *Contact Information* – Details about the applicant's name and organization is used by the USGS staff to request clarifications, confirm technical details, coordinate planning meetings, and maintain communication throughout the review cycle.
- *Project Summary* - The applicant clearly explains the purpose and justification for the proposed data acquisition, providing reviewers with a concise description of the project's goals, priorities, intended outcomes, and relevance to national topographic needs.
- *Project Synopsis* – A short, plain-language description used in internal briefings, planning dashboards, and, for selected projects, publication on public webpages summarizing annual data acquisition plans.
- *Location and Coverage Area of the Project* - A vector Geographic Information Systems (GIS) file defining the location and coverage area of the project is submitted. This file is accepted in widely used digital geospatial formats and is used to conduct geospatial planning and gap analysis, compare against existing datasets to avoid duplication; to evaluate boundaries, tribal lands, and agency intersections; and to estimate workload.
- *Project Timeline* - The applicant identifies the desired data acquisition window, which is used to evaluate seasonal requirements and feasibility (e.g., snow cover, river conditions, leaf-off periods) and to align or deconflict the project with adjacent or overlapping partner efforts.
- *Data Specifications and Data Deliverables* - The applicant describes the specifications to which the data will be collected and identifies any additional data deliverables. This information is used to determine whether the proposed project conforms to 3DEP or 3DHP standards and requirements, and to assess whether downstream products can integrate cleanly into national datasets.
- *Project Cost and Finances* - The applicant provides an estimate for the cost of data acquisition, data deliverables, and how much they are requesting from the USGS. This information supports internal budget planning and allows the USGS to assess the scale of the proposed effort, anticipate resource needs, identify whether cost estimates align with typical market ranges, and ensure cost share requirements, as defined in 43 USC 50, are met.
- *List of Funding Partners* - The proposed funding partners are supplied which enables the USGS

to identify multiparty coordination opportunities, anticipate shared constraints, and plan communications across all entities engaged in the proposed data acquisition.

- *Statement of Past Performance*- A summary of the applicant's history of managing large data acquisitions with multiple funding partners is used to assess a respondent's track record of successfully partnering on data acquisition tasks and to determine whether additional technical oversight will be needed. Provides information to help anticipate risks such as recurring data quality problems, late deliverables, or funding issues and supports workload planning for technical evaluation teams.

Information will be collected electronically through a standardized digital form along with electronic submission of the GIS files and any supporting documentation. Project submissions are required to be emailed to the established DCA program inboxes. Project information will be shared with the USGS elevation and hydrography staff as well as select federal partners who have an interest in partnering on 3DNTM projects and have an existing funding agreement with the USGS.

When any resulting planning products or aggregated information derived from these submissions are disseminated to the public, the USGS ensures compliance with Department of the Interior Information Quality Guidelines. All submitted technical and geospatial information undergoes review for accuracy, completeness, and adherence to quality standards. This process ensures the objectivity, utility, and integrity of information used in or supporting dissemination

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden and specifically how this collection meets GPEA requirements.

Explain the basis for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration you have given or are giving to the use of improved information technology to reduce the burden on the public. You must address the following:

- Is the electronic submission of responses possible?
- What percentage of respondents are expected to respond electronically?
- If a form is involved, is it available on the Internet for public printing?
- Will the results of the information collection be made available to the public over the Internet?

If the answer to any of these questions is "no", are there plans to do so? If not, why not?

The 3DNTM DCA information collection is conducted entirely through electronic means, consistent with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) and Department of the Interior requirements to reduce respondent burden through expanded use of information technology. Respondents submit all required materials using standardized digital forms and geospatial file formats. The electronic submission form is made available for public download from the 3DNTM DCA webpage, enabling respondents to print or save the form if needed. This satisfies GPEA requirements for electronic access to federal forms.

The USGS provides a downloadable electronic submission form that respondents complete and return via email to the designated DCA program inboxes. GIS files defining the Area of Interest (AOI) are submitted in widely used digital geospatial formats (e.g., shapefile, geopackage, KML/KMZ). This electronic submission process supports accurate and timely evaluation of proposed data acquisition areas, technical specifications, timelines, and coordination opportunities. Because all respondents are expected to have access to email and basic GIS capabilities, 100 percent of respondents are expected and required to submit electronically.

The use of electronic forms and geospatial data formats minimizes respondent burden, ensures consistent submission structure, and streamlines internal processing. Information submitted electronically can be incorporated directly into the USGS review tools, planning dashboards, and data acquisition modeling environments without the need for manual transcription or conversion. This approach supports efficient and accurate evaluation of proposed data acquisition areas, timelines, and specifications.

The individual results of this information collection, such as detailed project submissions, GIS files, partner specific cost information, or technical approaches, will not be made publicly available on the Internet. These materials contain partner provided planning information that is intended for internal program use and interagency coordination and are not suitable for public release in raw form.

However, high-level aggregated outcomes derived from the submissions may be made publicly available. Examples include:

- Summaries of selected projects
- Annual data acquisition planning maps
- Descriptions of national or regional priorities
- Public-facing status updates on 3DEP or 3DHP data acquisition progress

These materials will be disseminated only after they have been processed and reviewed to ensure compliance with Department of the Interior Information Quality Guidelines.

There are no current plans to publish the underlying raw submission data, as doing so would not support program needs and could cause confusion without the appropriate technical context. The information collected is intended to support internal planning workflows and coordination with existing federal partners, rather than to serve as a standalone public dataset.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

Describe your efforts to identify other collections (under other OMB control numbers or collections by other agencies, etc.) that may be gathering the same or similar information. If the same or similar information is available, describe why you cannot use or modify it for the purposes described in item 2 above.

The USGS has evaluated whether similar information is already available from internal or external sources and has determined that the information requested through the 3DNTM DCA is not duplicated elsewhere. Because the USGS serves as the authoritative federal lead for elevation and hydrography data acquisition, no other federal agency collects this information, and federal partners rely on the USGS

to coordinate and manage national elevation and hydrography data acquisition planning on their behalf.

Each project submission provides partner-specific, geographically precise, and time-sensitive information necessary for annual data acquisition planning under the 3DEP and 3DHP.

The project submission information is unique to each respondent and to each project submission and is not maintained in any existing federal database or system. Because data acquisition priorities, geographic extents, funding conditions, and environmental windows change annually, previously submitted information cannot be reused or adapted for current planning needs.

The USGS also works closely with federal, state, Tribal, regional, and local partners through regular stakeholder calls and other engagement activities. These interactions help ensure that the information requested is not being collected through another program or reporting mechanism. Through this coordination and periodic review of existing holdings and partner data, the USGS has confirmed that the required information does not exist elsewhere and cannot be obtained from prior collections or other federal sources.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

If the collection will have a significant impact on small entities such as small businesses, organizations, or government bodies, describe the methods used to minimize the burden on them.

The 3DNTM DCA is designed to minimize burden on small governmental and nongovernmental entities that may participate in 3DNTM data acquisition projects. The information collected through the DCA is strictly limited to what is essential for evaluating proposed collaboration opportunities and ensuring alignment with 3DNTM program requirements. The USGS has implemented several measures consistent with Department of the Interior guidance and the Paperwork Reduction Act's (PRA) requirement to reduce unnecessary burden.

The USGS provides a standardized downloadable electronic submission form that allows all respondents, regardless of organizational size, to report required information in a consistent, streamlined format. The form includes clear instructions, predefined fields, and prompts designed to reduce preparation time and limit the need for additional documentation. The form is available online for easy access and printing when needed.

The information requested is limited to what is essential for evaluating proposed data acquisition areas, technical specifications, and partner readiness. Respondents are not required to submit proprietary, sensitive, or complex data that would impose an undue burden on smaller entities. GIS files defining Areas of Interest (AOIs) may be submitted using widely available formats such as shapefile, geopackage, or KML/KMZ, which can be created using commonly used geospatial software, including free, open-source software. All materials are submitted electronically, allowing small entities to complete and transmit forms without specialized systems.

The design of the information collection minimizes burden by requesting only essential information, using clear and concise templates, and enabling electronic submission.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted

or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Address both parts of the question: not conducting the collection AND doing it less frequently. Generally one or two paragraphs are sufficient.

If this information is not collected, the USGS would be unable to determine current partner priorities, identify geographic areas where elevation or hydrography data are needed, or evaluate technical feasibility and environmental readiness for proposed data acquisition activities. Without these inputs the USGS could not accurately plan or sequence 3DEP and 3DHP data acquisitions, avoid duplication with existing datasets, or ensure alignment with national 3DNTM objectives. This would result in inefficient use of federal resources, incomplete or overlapping data coverage, and reduced ability to coordinate data acquisition activities across the Nation. The federal government cannot accomplish nationwide 3D elevation and hydrography coverage alone. A significant portion of 3DNTM data acquisition depends on cost-shared investments from state, Tribal, local, and other non-federal partners identified through this information collection request.

If collected less frequently, the USGS would lose visibility into annually changing environmental conditions, seasonal data acquisition windows, and partner planning cycles. Data acquisition opportunities often shift from year to year, and outdated information would lead to inaccurate planning assumptions and reduced effectiveness of national data acquisition strategies. Annual collection is therefore necessary to maintain current and reliable information needed to fulfill the USGS's role in coordinating national elevation and hydrography data acquisition efforts and to cost-share with partners on these efforts.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- * **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- * **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- * **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- * **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;**
- * **in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- * **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- * **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- * **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information, unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

If the ICR contains surveys or censuses or employs statistical methods (see questions #5 and #6 above), then a Supporting Statement B is required. If the collection is not consistent with OMB guidelines, you must thoroughly explain the need for any inconsistencies.

There are no circumstances that require us to collect the information in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the *Federal Register* of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and in response to the PRA statement associated with the collection over the past three years, and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every three years — even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

[Responses to question 8 need to include two sections – section 1 pertains to the publication of the 60-day Notice and section 2 pertains to the required outreach]

On April 24, 2026, a 60-Day *Federal Register* notice was published 91 FR 22164 (Vol. 91, No. 79). **No comments were received in response to that notice.**

In addition to the *Federal Register* notice, the individuals identified in Table 8.1 who are familiar with this collection of information and regularly participate in the 3DNTM coordination process were consulted.

Table 8.1

Organization	Title
National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)	FY26 3DNTM Data Collaboration Announcement
Past Participants of the Data Collaboration Announcement	FY26 3DNTM Data Collaboration Announcement
3DNTM Working Groups	FY26 3DNTM Data Collaboration Announcement
National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)	Assessment of the 3D Elevation Program

“Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility; whether there are any questions they felt were unnecessary”

Comments: Respondents agreed the information collection is necessary for effective planning and coordination of national 3DNTM data acquisitions. The requested information is essential for evaluating project feasibility, aligning data acquisitions, and supporting national planning. Some respondents suggested that the Statement of Past Performance may be redundant for

long-standing, successful partners, though others indicated it remains helpful for demonstrating their history of collaboration

Agency Response/Action Taken: The USGS will continue collecting all current data elements. No changes to the requested information were required based on these comments.

“The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information”

Comments: Respondents indicated that the proposed burden estimates were reasonable and consistent with their experience completing prior-year submissions. Variability due to project complexity and pre-application coordination remains within the estimated range.

Agency Response/Action Taken: The USGS retained the existing burden estimate. No adjustments were necessary.

“Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected”

Comments: Respondents found the instructions clear and data elements appropriate. Minor suggestions included clarifying expectations for funding partners and improving consistency in describing areas of interest. No substantive concerns were raised.

Agency Response/Action Taken: The USGS will update the annual announcement to clarify requirements and add examples to improve consistency and reduce follow-up.

“Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents”

Comments: Respondents expressed appreciation for the stability of the submission process and noted that familiarity with the format reduces annual burden. One partner was surprised by the requirement to submit cost estimate request weeks before full package submission. Others noted that having a generalized cost-per-square-mile estimate to help partners initiate planning or allowing a rough initial cost estimate with refinement later would be helpful.

Agency Response/Action Taken: The USGS will assess opportunities to improve communication regarding the submission timeline, its underlying rationale, as well as how to obtain a cost estimate. The USGS will retain the current submission format while continuing to provide clear and comprehensive annual instructions.

Additional comments received during the outreach: (if you received any add'l comments – if not, you can delete this section)

Comments: Participants expressed strong support for the 3DNTM DCA program, noting its critical role in

state and federal missions and its value as a foundational geospatial resource. Multiple case examples highlight the importance of accessible, accurate topographic data for areas such as transportation planning, landslide hazard modeling, flood forecasting, and emergency response.

Agency Response/Action Taken: The USGS appreciates the strong support expressed for the 3DNTM DCA program and recognizes the essential role that high-quality, openly available topographic data plays in supporting federal, state, Tribal, and local missions. The feedback reinforces the importance of the DCA process and validates that the information collected through this ICR is critical for coordinating data acquisitions, targeting priority areas, and ensuring national consistency in the 3DNTM portfolio. In response, the USGS will continue to refine the annual DCA guidance to clearly articulate required information, ensure transparency in evaluation criteria, and maintain a streamlined submission process that supports effective partnership development. The program will also continue to use collected information to prioritize projects that advance hazard resilience, infrastructure planning, water-resource management, and emergency response needs across the Nation.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

Payments or gifts are generally not permissible. If you are proposing to do so, provide a thorough explanation, including a justification for this action, description and monetary value of the item, and basis for the decision to take such action.

Payments or gifts will not be provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The USGS does not provide any assurance of confidentiality to respondents.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

Questions of a sensitive nature are not asked.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- * Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or

complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.

- * If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**
- * Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here.**

Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, you should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample of potential respondents (fewer than 10) is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.

Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. Do not include the cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities here. Instead, this cost should be included under item 13.

We estimate that there will be approximately 80 respondents and 80 responses annually, totaling 3,280 annual burden hours. The completion time for each information collection varies as shown in Table 12.1 below.

We estimate the total dollar value of the annual burden hours for this collection to be \$156,764 (rounded). We used the Bureau of Labor Statistics news release [USDL-26-0505](#), March 20, 2026, “Employer Costs for Employee Compensation—December 2025”, to calculate the total annual burden. Table 1 lists the hourly rates for all workers as:

- Private Sector – \$46.15, including benefits.
- Government/Civilian – \$48.78, including benefits.

Table 12.1

Respondent	Activity	Annual # of Respondents	# of Submissions Each	Avg. Time per Response (hours)	Total Annual Burden Hours	Hourly Labor Costs Incl. Benefits	Dollar Value of Annual Burden Hours
<i>Elevation (3DEP)</i>							
Private Sector	Narrative Preparation	15	1	41	615	\$46.15	\$28,382.25
Government/Civilian (Federal, State, Local, Tribal)	Narrative Preparation	25	1	41	1,025	\$48.78	\$49,999.50
<i>Elevation Subtotal</i>		40	1	41	1,640		\$78,381.75
<i>Hydrography (3DHP)</i>							
Private Sector	Narrative Preparation	15	1	41	615	\$46.15	\$28,382.25
Government/Civilian (Federal, State, Local, Tribal)	Narrative Preparation	25	1	41	1,025	\$48.78	\$49,999.50
<i>Hydrography Subtotal</i>		40	1	41	1,640		\$78,381.75
<i>Total Elevation & Hydrography</i>		80			3,280		\$156,763.50

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual non-hour cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected in item 12.)

- * The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation, maintenance, and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information (including filing fees paid for form processing). Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.

- * If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
- * Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the Government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

No non-hour cost burden associated with this collection were identified.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

Include here a description of the method used to estimate costs to the Federal Government, which should show the quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and staff support), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. If there will be no costs beyond the normal labor costs for staff, state that here.

The estimated annual cost to the federal government to administer this information collection is \$53,961 (rounded). To determine average hourly rates, the Office of Personnel Management Salary Table 2026-RUS was used as an average nationwide rate. Bureau of Labor Statistics news release dated March 20, 2026, "Employer Costs for Employee Compensation—December 2025" (USDLE-26-0505), was used to calculate benefits.

Action	Position	Grade/Step	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate incl. benefits (1.3 x hourly pay rate)	Estimated time spent by Federal Employees (hours)	Annual Cost
Process 80 Applications	Project Manager	GS-13/05	\$57.80	\$75.14	80	\$6,011.20
	Data Acquisition Specialist	GS-12/05	\$48.61	\$63.19	80	\$5,055.44
Review 80 Applications	Data Acquisition Lead	GS-14/05	\$68.30	\$88.79	120	\$10,654.80
Evaluate 80 Applications	Subject Matter Specialist (3)	GS-13/05	\$57.80	\$75.14	240	\$18,033.60
	Subject Matter Specialist (2)	GS-14/05	\$68.30	\$88.79	160	\$14,206.40
Totals					680	\$53,961.44

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments in hour or cost burden.

Program changes are new collections or changes in requirements. Adjustments are updated estimates of the number of respondents, responses, or the response times for existing requirements. Please be more specific than, for example, "Changes were due to the requirement that ____". List at least net changes and the specific reasons for them; for example, "Increased reporting or recordkeeping costs are due to the capital costs of ..." If there are no changes, simply state, "There are no changes or adjustments to report" with no further explanation.

There are no program changes or adjustments to report.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide a time schedule for the collection, publication, and other actions. Also, will the results of the collection be made available on your organization's Web site? If not, why not?

The USGS does not plan to publish individual project submissions or raw data provided through this information collection. Project-level details, such as areas of interest, technical specifications, cost information, and partner-specific data acquisition plans, are used internally to support data acquisition coordination and national planning and are not appropriate for public release as standalone products. However, the USGS may publish aggregated, high-level information derived from the collection. Examples include summaries of selected projects, maps illustrating planned data acquisition areas, descriptions of national or regional priorities, and public-facing updates on the progress of 3DEP and 3DHP data acquisition.

Geospatial data generated as a part of work funded under this program will be made publicly available without delay or restriction through The National Map databases (<http://nationalmap.gov/>); there is no provision for principal investigators to have exclusive access to data for a proprietary period of time. The USGS reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, the data for Government purposes.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

If your collection consists of a paper form, you may request exemption from printing the expiration date on the forms based on the high cost of reprinting. However, if you have an electronic application, for example, online data entry screens, you may not claim this exemption.

The OMB Control Number and expiration date will be displayed on appropriate materials.

18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement identified in "Certification for

Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.