

Florida LiDAR Acquisition

A coalition of GIS practitioners, including the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corp of Engineers Jacksonville District, and other state and federal agencies, have come together to develop baseline specifications for orthophotography and LiDAR data collection for publicly funded projects within Florida.

Interest in acquiring orthophotography and LiDAR has risen significantly as beneficiaries of the data learn about the many uses of remote-sensing technologies. These uses range from floodplain mapping to homeland security planning. As interest in remote sensing technologies has grown so has the understanding of the need to coordinate data collection. Growth management, map modernization/floodplain mapping, natural lands stewardship, and disaster preparedness are statewide issues with statewide impacts.

A number of projects managed through state agencies, Water Management Districts, and federal and local governments have been used for conducting hydrological studies, monitoring coastline changes, creating highly accurate elevation data, managing growth, and more. Beneficiaries of statewide datasets include local county and city governments, a majority of state agencies (especially those with growth management, land stewardship, and disaster management responsibilities), and federal partners.

In an effort not to duplicate acquisitions the NFWFMD, along with County support, has collaborated with FDEM to acquire LiDAR for its entire sixteen county jurisdiction (see figure 1). After all of the LiDAR has been acquired and processed, the District will merge the overlapping LiDAR datasets together into a seamless mosaic. Since watersheds do not follow county boundaries, this seamless mosaic dataset will be a valuable asset for floodplain mapping and watershed management.

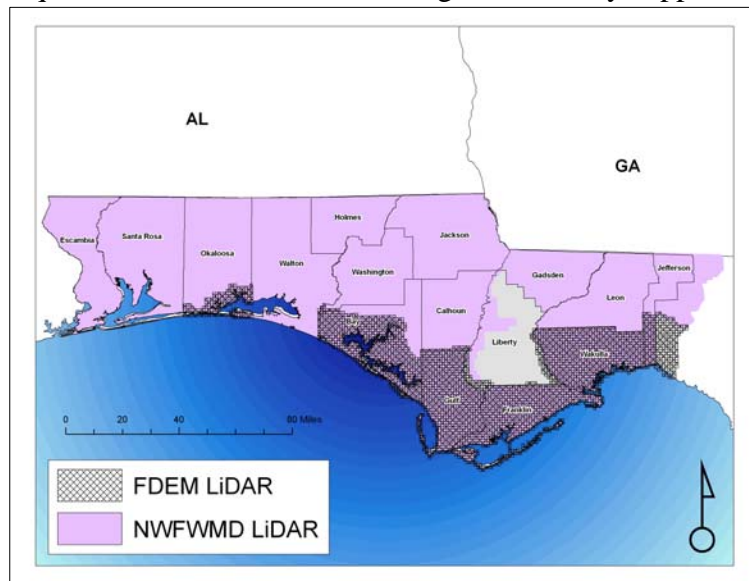


Figure 1

For more information on the FDEM acquisition:
<http://www.floridadisaster.org/gis/LiDAR/index.htm>