

## Procedures for Accessing Virginia LiDAR data

LiDAR data collected according to the USGS 3DEP specification in Virginia can be accessed in this folder with the following steps:

- 1) Download the **project report pdf** to obtain background on the project specifications and the level of accuracy obtained.
- 2) Download the **extent.zip** archive file which contains compressed shapefiles with a tile index (or multiple tile indices in some cases). Extract these shapefiles and add them to a map document to find your desired set of data tiles.
- 3) Be aware that some projects are in **Virginia State Plane** coordinates and tiled according to the **VBMP** tiling scheme, while other projects may be in **UTM** coordinates and tiled according to the **USNG** tiling scheme.
- 4) The Virginia State Plane coordinate projects will have elevations in feet, while the UTM coordinate projects will have elevations in meters.
- 5) All projects used the NAVD88 datum, but different projects used different geoids, which should be specified in the project report.
- 6) Find your desired tiles (or all tiles) in the following folders:
  - a) **dem** (bare earth raster digital elevation models)
  - b) **zlas** (classified point clouds in the compressed ZLAS format)
- 7) If you need to decompress the ZLAS point clouds to the uncompressed LAS format download and use the free ESRI [LAS Optimizer 1.2](#) application.
- 8) If you wish to use the point clouds with the hydro-flattening break lines download the project level **breaklines.zip** archive which will contain one or more shapefiles of break lines covering the entire project extent.
- 9) FGDC compliant metadata in XML format is also available for download in the **metadata.zip** archive.

Sample folder organization:

Suggestions for using LiDAR in ArcGIS Desktop

LAS Datasets

Mosaic Datasets

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