



The University of Maryland

The University of Maryland has worked closely with the Maryland Department of the Environment, a Cooperating Technical Partner, to create hydrologic flood models by using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data that the university collected a few years ago. Dr. Andy Miller from the university said the school also provided topographic data sources for Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). The university was then asked to assess and evaluate how useful the data could be in the creation of the DFIRMs.

Complete Story (link)

The University of Maryland pulled data from various sources to update flood maps for Howard County, Maryland. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided some of the data for this project, but Howard County provided its own LiDAR. One of the limitations of LiDAR is that certain types of infrastructure (e.g., bridges and culverts) can prevent a true reading of the depth of streambeds, because they obstruct or limit data readings. To alleviate this problem, students were sent out into the field to verify the presence of structures that were obstructing or limiting the data. Students also obtained other data layers, such as State highway Geographic Information System data, and other useful LiDAR data. In the field, the university used a notebook device called a “Toughbook” to help with the field survey and LiDAR data collection. Benefits of this project included the students’ exposure to both the theory and application of these tools and the opportunity to explore career possibilities.