



Thanksgiving Greetings

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It's already that time of year again, when we finally slow down and think long and hard about those big piles of juicy turkey, and sticky sweet pies....I mean, when we reflect on the opportunities, experiences, and people that we're grateful for! Sometimes it's too easy to lose sight of what's really important, especially when time is limited and challenges abound. We've had our fair share of challenges here at The National Map Corps this year, the biggest of which was preparing and launching our new online map editor. We relied heavily on your support and feedback to make these efforts a success, and you really stepped up to the plate! We are truly grateful to you, our growing network of awesome volunteers, for diligently keeping the gears of The National Map Corps turning!

From all of us working behind the scenes for The National Map Corps, we want to wish you a happy Thanksgiving, and a heartfelt thank you. This project wouldn't exist without your contributions and dedication. You truly are the sugar to our cranberries, the gravy to our potatoes, and the whipped cream to our pie!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!



Coming Soon to an Editor Near You!



We are excited to announce that a new version of the editor will be released in the next few weeks. Thanks for sending your suggestions! Below are a few of the improvements that you've been requesting:

- You will have the ability to see the edit history of any point based on username or the name of the point
- You'll be able to see the status of an edited point and whether it has been approved or not and the ability to see what the automated checks have flagged as possible errors
- We've added a comment field!!!

NOTE: The editor will be taken offline November 29-30 in order to apply the updates. Thank you for your patience.

New Comment Field

Good news! We're adding a comment field in the editing window so you can tell us about your edits!

Use the comment field if you would like to:

1. List the sources you used to research your edits
2. List reasons for why you created or deleted a point
3. Note other information you think might be useful

You are not required to leave a comment, but it's really helpful for making the peer review process more efficient.

To access the comment field, open the editing window



, and scroll to the bottom. After accurately and completely filling out the name and address fields, enter the comments you'd like to share, and click SAVE.

Administration Type

Unknown

Enter your comments here

Don't forget to save your edits

Comment

Cancel Save Delete

Improved Edit History

The screenshot shows the USGS web interface. On the left sidebar, the 'Edit History Tab' is highlighted with a red box and a callout. At the top of the main panel, there is a blue 'Fetch' button with a refresh icon, also highlighted with a red box and a callout. Below the 'Fetch' button is a 'Filter:' search field and a 'Current User' dropdown menu. A table lists edit history entries with columns for 'Name' and 'Date'. A map of Oregon is visible on the right side of the interface.

Name	Date
Test Fire Station	08/01/2016 07:51 PM
Houston School of Carpentry	08/01/2016 07:44 PM
asdfasdf	07/29/2016 06:20 PM
General Testing School	07/29/2016 06:19 PM
Testing Testing School	07/29/2016 06:18 PM
New Legacy Charter School	07/26/2016

You asked, we listened!! In addition to seeing the history of your own edits, in the next week or so you'll be able to view the editing history of any point. We've also added more information about the status of each edit.

Click on the Edit History tab to show a list of all of your edits and the dates they were made, or use the drop down menu to view a list of the edits made by other users. To narrow your search, enter any part of a feature's name in the filter search field.

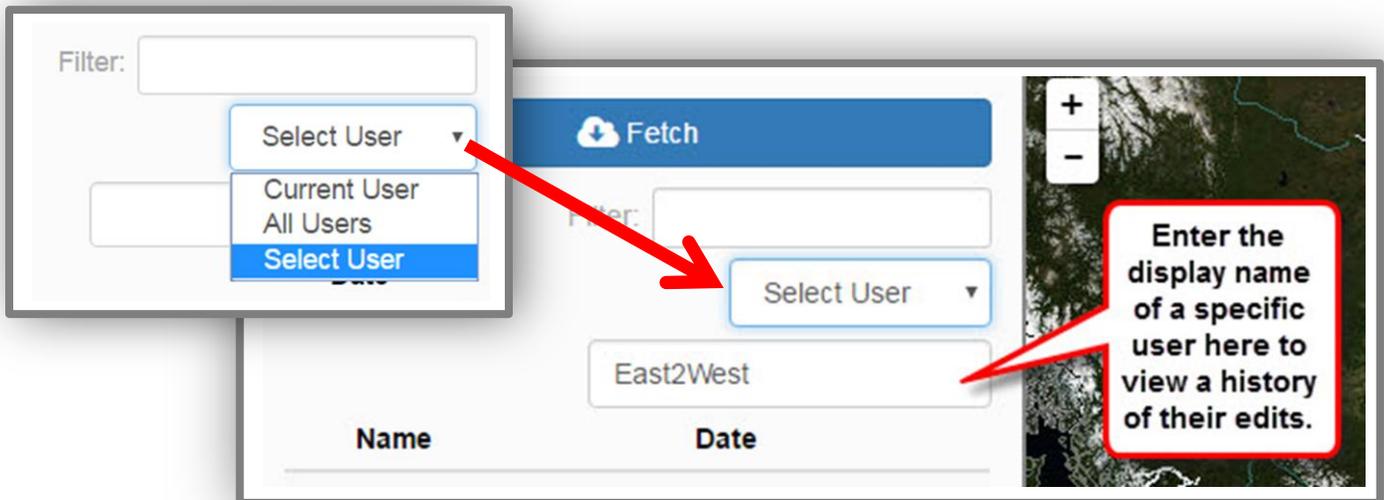
IMPORTANT: Use the "Fetch" button to refresh the list of edits anytime you use change the user or add a filter to be sure you are getting the most recent list.

The new dropdown menu allows you to select the editing history of your points only, the editing history of all points of all users, or the editing history of a specific user.

This screenshot is similar to the first one but highlights different features. A callout points to the 'Fetch' button with the text: "Don't forget to click 'Fetch' after making a selection". Another callout points to the 'Filter:' search field with the text: "Use the filter to search for specific edits. You can search using any part of a feature's name (e.g. 'school,' or 'Denver')." A third callout points to the 'Current User' dropdown menu with the text: "The new drop-down menu allows you to select your edits, everyone's edits, or the edits of a specific user." The table and map are also visible.

Improved Edit History Continued

The **Current User** option will bring up the history of your own edits.
The **All Users** option will bring up the editing history of every point edited by every volunteer.
The **Select User** option will bring up an additional search field where you can enter the display name of another volunteer and view their editing history.



Name	Date
 Denver Police Department Headquarters	11/21/2016 03:56 PM
 Mile High Post Office	11/18/2016
 Eldon Fire De	016
 ELDON CAREER CTR.	11/18/2016 03:41 PM
 Mount Vernon Cemetery	11/18/2016 03:40 PM

Click the green plus sign to view details about a particular point.

When the list of edits shows up, click on the green plus-sign to view details about that point. The details include the name of the feature, the date and time it was edited, the display name of each editor who edited that point, any potential errors, and the review status of the point.

Improved Edit History Continued

If the review status says open, that point has not yet been reviewed by the USGS. If it says accepted, the point was reviewed and approved by the USGS. If it says rejected, the point was reviewed but returned to its previous version due to significant errors in location, spelling, or name and address formatting.

NOTE: If you're working on a smaller computer screen, you may need to scroll to the right to see the status box.

The screenshot shows the USGS M Corps web interface. At the top, there is a 'Fetch' button and a 'Filter:' dropdown menu set to 'All Users'. Below this is a table of edit history. The table has columns for Name, Date, Owner, Errors, and Status. The first row shows an edit for 'Tims Union Cemetery' with a status of 'Open'. A callout box points to the feature name with the text 'Click on the feature name to zoom to the point'. Another callout box points to the 'Status' column with the text 'See review status here'. A third callout box points to the 'Errors' column with the text 'Click here to view potential errors with this edit'. The 'Errors' column for this row contains a button labeled 'Show potential Editing Mistakes'. The second row shows an edit for 'Jackson Elementary School' with a status of 'Approved' and no errors.

Name	Date	Owner	Errors	Status
Tims Union Cemetery	11/21/2016 09:27 PM	erjaramillo	Show potential Editing Mistakes	Open
Jackson Elementary School	11/21/2016 09:19 PM	Itemple	No editing mistakes for this edit!	Approved

Quick Tip



If you're researching a point (such as a cemetery), and can't find an address or set of cross streets to enter into the address field, it is perfectly OK to leave the address field blank.

You don't need to enter coordinates into the address field because placing the point in the correct location gives us the correct coordinate information.

Editor Role Spotlight: Peer Reviewer

Since the release of the new TMNCorps Editor, our team has been working diligently to ensure that every editor and their points are reviewed to ensure the highest data quality. However, if you've been editing hundreds of points and were only recently offered the Peer Review role, you may have noticed that we could use some help! Each of our editor roles has their purpose within the larger project. All TNMCorps volunteers begin as a standard editor, which provides basic information for each point. The next important role in the process is the Peer Reviewer.

What is a Peer Reviewer?

A peer reviewer is a higher level editor who has successfully edited 25 points and can now check the points of Standard Editors. If you recall from your diligent and thorough review of the [User Guide](#), points edited by Standard Editors are surrounded by a green halo. We encourage Peer Reviewers to review points edited by Standard Editors (green halos) in addition to updating unedited points (red halos). The peer review process goes a long way in helping us maintain high data quality.

What does a Peer Reviewer do?

We expect more from our Peer Reviewers than we do from Standard Editors. Peer Reviewers are responsible for:

- Researching the point to ensure that the name, address, city, and state are spelled correctly according to an [authoritative source](#).
- Correctly and accurately locating a point over the center of a building or on a school campus.
- Ensuring acronyms for addresses are spelled out: RD = Road St= Street etc.

How do I become a Peer Reviewer?

If you have edited 25 points or more and would like to be a Peer Reviewer please send us an [email](#).



Patch Winner Profiles



Congratulations and a huge thank you to the volunteers who have already earned the patch for our [International Map Year](#) editing challenge!

Volunteers contributing 2,016 or more edits before December 31, 2016 will receive a limited edition embroidered cloth patch, so if you've been working towards this goal, keep going, you still have time! Just don't forget to slow down enough to make sure your edits are accurate, complete, and formatted properly! 😊

This month we're honored to feature several volunteers who earned the patch. Read on to learn a little bit about who they are and why they volunteer with The National Map Corps.

Cassie Tammy Wang:

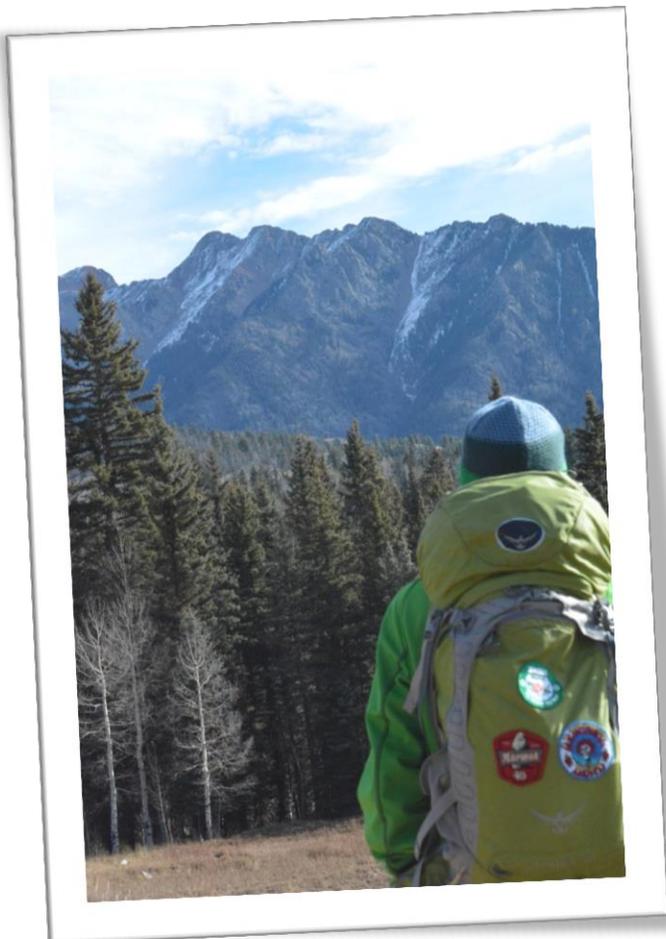
Cassie loves nature most. She would like to support the natural and cultural resources of our nation, and get involved in and contribute to the U.S. Geological Survey's The National Map Corps. Within 3 months, Cassie has made more than 2600 edits and entered the "Theodolite Assemblage", the seventh of USGS volunteer recognition categories!

She's also glad to receive the first ever embroidered patch celebrating International Map Year! Cassie enjoys editing structures and volunteering, because she is proud of her contributions to the USGS's ability to provide the Nation with accurate mapping information.

**DillonParker8:**

I was born and raised in Farmington, New Mexico, and began climbing 15 years ago as an after school activity at the local college in Farmington. Once my friends and I were able to drive we began backpacking and mountaineering in the La Platas and San Juans (Southwest Colorado). I enjoys trad climbing, sport climbing, multi-pitch, and peak bagging. He tends to find himself playing in New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

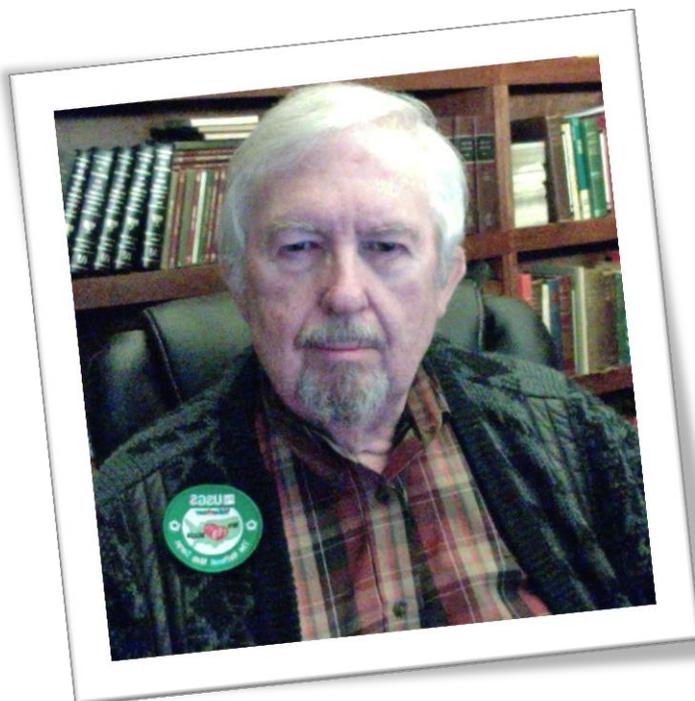
One day I was looking around on the USGS website looking to print off topo maps for a climbing project. I saw the need for volunteers and felt like that was something I could take part in. I spend a good week or more traveling with work and in hotels, so what better time than then to bust out a phone book, make some calls, and edit. I found a weird joy in doing the edits, learning about some old forest roads and trails to fire look-out towers, and small remote fire stations.



fconley:

My mother loved maps and travel (not that she got to do much). So I'm sure I received my love of maps from her. I have a pretty good collection of old state highway maps (which you used to get free at service stations). I came across, All the Roads of Texas which I immediately obtained, and now have several atlases of the various states. Bible atlases are also in my collection. Then came computers, the wonderful Delorme maps, GPS devices! -- and ultimately the Internet and the amazing aerial and street maps.

Now I could travel and explore and map without leaving my desk. Along the way came retirement (from ministry). I was looking for a pastime and discovered the original USGS volunteer program. It was exciting. I had my pin-on nametag credential, GPS device, maps of my quadrant, car, gasoline (not so expensive then) and set out to pinpoint everything I could. I sent in several lists of coordinates. When the new TNMCorps came along I was even more enthralled. The rest is history. I continue to enjoy surfing the web for its geographic photos (aerial, satellite, and other) online maps, and research information (hints and clues) -- and then finally putting my cursor on the exact points requested. I am contributing to a legacy of information for future map lovers and researchers. I have enjoyed every minute. It has provided me hours of pleasure and a feeling of septuagenarian usefulness! Sincere thanks to the TNMCorps staff who do such a great job. Hope the program long outlives me.

**rjerrard:**

My virtual travels around the country have been an education, and here is my diploma: The USGS National Map Corps volunteer patch! Some of the changes I've observed include the transition of the Nashville, Tennessee area to a metropolitan police organization; the all-in adoption of K-8 school construction (replacing elementary and junior high schools) in Toledo, Ohio; and the national trend of charter schools, evident in Minneapolis and many other places. The USGS mapping challenges are fun, and you can use them to collect points toward winning your own patch. Try one of the challenges soon!

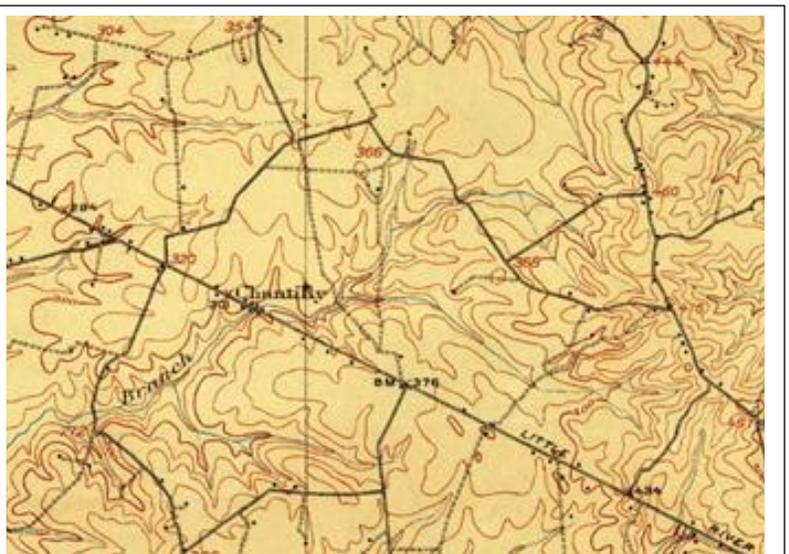
meyerkv:

I've always loved maps, aerial imagery, and cartography. In this age of GPS devices, I still believe much can be learned from examining maps. So, I was attracted to the NMC and the ability to volunteer from home. I work county-by-county as I go through the Mid-Atlantic states, using available databases, and doing a little research on each jurisdiction before editing structures in the county. Since I grew up here and spent most of my life in Virginia and visiting nearby states I figured it would be a good match to update areas where I had some familiarity with.

Another reason for volunteering for the NMC was I wanted to support the Federal government. I worked for several Federal agencies for 34 years before retiring. I started my Federal career working with aerial imagery in the late 1970s while employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) full time and going to school full time at George Mason University. We used aerial imagery for random sampling of land areas in each of the 50 states for crop surveys. A secondary issue for the USDA in these surveys was to identify resources in rural areas such as fire departments, colleges, schools, police stations, hospitals, cemeteries, etc, available for farmers. We tried to identify these resources with the resources available aerial imagery, topographic maps and phone books. So working with the NMC has been a pleasant flashback to my college days.

One of my favorite maps is the historic 1915 USGS 15' topographic map, Fairfax. This map covers the area near my parents home and it is also halfway in time between the end of the Civil War (another favorite subject) and when we moved to Chantilly in 1965. Many of the roads and structures depicted in Civil War maps and sketches can still be found on the 1915 Fairfax map and several still existed in 1965. It has been fun and educational editing the National Map.

Thanks for the opportunity.



USGS 15 Minute Topographic Map, 1915

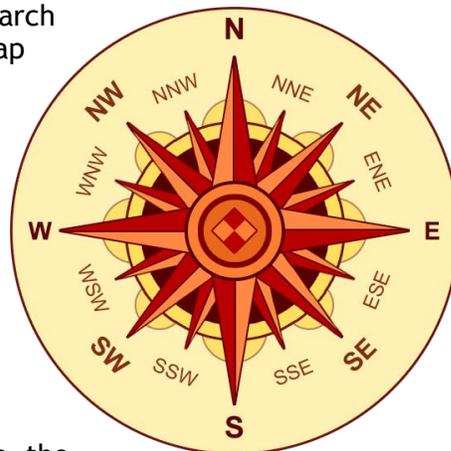
Geo163:

Being a National Map Corps volunteer is a good fit with my educational background, professional experiences, and genuine interests. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Geography with a minor equivalent in Landscape Architecture, and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning.

While I was in graduate school I had a great experience helping research and create the first color editions of the Urban Trails in Colorado map series as a volunteer with Colorado State Parks. I received a State Parks annual award For my efforts. As a planner I have been responsible for designing maps for community plans for Jefferson County, Colorado and Vanderburgh County, Indiana both manually drafted and GIS generated. I have had numerous GIS experiences from an undergraduate class using punch cards to create the Harvard Design School grid overstrike maps, to creating GIS polygons for a community, to the above mentioned community plans.

I have had great satisfaction as a National Map Corps volunteer both from a participation and personal achievement perspective. This includes the New York and Pennsylvania law enforcement challenges, the 2016 International Map Patch challenge, achieving the Theodolite Assemblage recognition badge, and the highest of all becoming an Advanced Editor.

Also I know from my professional experience and training the value of accurately mapping critical infrastructure which the National Map helps provide.



TNMCorps Team Corner

Get to know the TNMCorps team members!



David has been working as an intern with The National Map Corp for just over a month. He is currently working on his BS in Land Use with an emphasis on GIS at Metropolitan State University of Colorado. David, his wife Breanne and two dogs (Packer and Shadow) moved to Denver in 2012 from Colorado Springs. Since moving here he working as a geospatial analyst for the Department of Defense at Buckley Air Force Base, which included a deployment to Afghanistan in late 2012. David is honored to be a part of the USGS TNMCorps!

Name that App!

We've been calling the new editor, "new editor" or "TNMCORPS Map Editor." But we could really use some help in coming up with a creative name! If you have any suggestions for a name for our online editor, please email your suggestions to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the "public domain," and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)

- msean21
- superlemur



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)

- superlemur



Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)

- superlemur



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)

- superlemur



Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)

- SM14
- Mr Ballwin
- geo163
- Cassie Tammy Wang
- PorkChop



Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- RagingSeas
- tbrown
- SM14
- Mr Ballwin
- bobjggeo
- Cassie Tammy Wang
- WanderingSoul
- PorkChop



Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- WanderingSoul
- RIsailor
- owrtho
- Mr Ballwin
- Cassie Tammy Wang
- bobjggeo
- PorkChop
- Casia Terenzoni



Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)

- amg832
- Mr Ballwin
- Cassie Tammy Wang
- bobjggeo
- PorkChop
- Casia Terenzoni
- DianaDiazSing
- flyin' mama
- D. Duty
- mapeditor040790



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- jgaddis
- Veja57
- Alchemist312
- amg832
- Mr Ballwin
- bobjggeo
- PorkChop
- Casia Terenzoni
- DianaDiazSing
- flyin' mama
- SBrellen
- anstewart27
- whuw232
- Bmnewman
- Thejashwini
- D. Duty
- mapeditor040790
- Cassie Tammy Wang



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- SamAKAStilts
- Nolbec
- stonewall072
- Alchemist312
- amg832
- Mr Ballwin
- Cassie Tammy Wang
- bobjggeo
- PorkChop
- Casia Terenzoni
- DianaDiazSing
- flyin' mama
- SBrellen
- anstewart27
- whuw232
- Bmnewman
- Mark Chandler
- D.Sakurai
- caryesings
- Rik Barrios
- micah
- Megalania
- Brett Toler
- Lucasbecca
- Freyja
- James Tralie
- AndyC
- D. Duty
- mapeditor040790



Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)

- robonick28
- SamAKAStilts
- Mr Ballwin
- Cassie Tammy Wang
- bobjggeo
- PorkChop
- Casia Terenzoni
- DianaDiazSing
- flyin' mama
- SBrellen
- anstewart27
- whuw232
- Bmnewman
- Mark Chandler
- D.Sakurai
- caryesings
- Rik Barrios
- micah
- Megalania
- lucasbecca
- TL
- D. Duty
- DrewKimura
- Cmjm11u
- athensdoc
- ACPersephone
- onsoop
- AlanaC
- kclipp
- wgralston
- Ash13y
- rml93
- GeoND
- Reiserer
- Craig A. Carman
- James Tralie
- Freyja
- mapeditor040790
- AndyC
- LTPZ
- JillianEmilia
- Ashwins9999
- MARTBRUJ
- Paul Bellah

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

Or call Elizabeth McCartney at 573-308-3696

