The National Cartographic Information Center (NCIC) exists to help you find maps of all kinds—and much of the data and materials used to compile and to print them. NCIC collects, sorts and describes all types of cartographic information from Federal, State and local government agencies and, where possible, from private companies in the mapping business. It is the public's primary source for cartographic information. (See partial list of Federal agencies and their map and other cartographic products.)

At your request, the NCIC staff will—
- Inform you about maps and other cartographic information you can obtain from many government and private sources.
- Take your orders for any of the full range of maps, map byproducts, and other cartographic information produced by the Geological Survey, including millions of aerial photos and space images. Prepayment is required.
- Search vast holdings of maps and other cartographic information to help you obtain quickly the information or products you may be seeking to meet a highly specific need.

If materials you learn about through NCIC are held by the Geological Survey, they may be ordered, or some may be purchased directly. If not, you will be referred to the proper source.

NCIC can sell you these map data products


Some NCIC regional offices also sell U.S. Geological Survey topographic and thematic maps.

Services—Information

If what you need is information rather than a cartographic product, such as an aerial photograph, NCIC researchers will try to respond as straightforwardly as possible. Perhaps a return telephone call will be enough to answer your question. Other times you may receive a detailed letter. It all depends on the nature of your request.

If you ask about aerial photos or a type of map or chart, you may receive a computer printout that directs you to the information you need—whether it is the address of an agency holding 1943 soil maps or a list of aerial photos taken over Sioux City, Iowa.

The NCIC staff uses four major search systems that provide rapid access to details about millions of aerial photos, millions of space images, and hundreds of thousands of maps and charts. From the mass of data, NCIC people can help you find the one item you may be seeking to fill a special need.

If your question can be answered best by a leaflet or a simple handout, it will be sent to you free of charge. NCIC researchers may have to contact you for more details so they can find the best answer to your question. Most of NCIC's research services are free. If a charge is necessary, you will be informed before the research is started.

NCIC's professional researchers also can answer mapping inquiries dealing with such matters, for example, as technical specifications of a computer file of elevations.

If your question is answered best by a leaflet or a simple handout, it will be sent to you free of charge. NCIC researchers may have to contact you for more details so they can find the best answer to your question. Most of NCIC's research services are free. If a charge is necessary, you will be informed before the research is started.

Please send me information about the following items:
- Map data
- Aerial photographs
- Satellite images
- Digital cartographic data

Send to:

Business telephone

Name

Residence telephone

Street address

City, State, and zip code

Historic map reproduction
NCIC can inform you about the cartographic products of these Federal agencies


NCIC Services—Ordering

NCIC can take your order for National Mapping Program map data products. For example, prints of many of the aerial photos used to make today's maps can be ordered through any NCIC office. Many farmers and cattle ranchers like to have low-altitude photos of their farms and ranches. But you don't have to live in the country to enjoy a photo of your area. One of the most popular photos that can be ordered through NCIC is a color photo of New York that shows the Statue of Liberty, the New Jersey coast, Queens, and Manhattan Island from the Battery to midway up Central Park. Other items are the map-size film positives and negatives of the separate features and/or colors that are prepared for printing each Geological Survey topographic map. Map separations, either singly or in various composites, are usually purchased by other Federal and State agencies or private mapping companies so they can selectively choose their own maps using only part of the information that appears on a standard USGS topographic map. For example, a State planning agency in Missouri might need maps showing only open water and drainage patterns—without the highway system, county boundaries, and topography. This agency would order only film separations which show drainage. Because of a trend toward digital mapping, recording map information in computer files has become an integral part of the National Mapping Program. NCIC has begun distributing digital elevation models that may be used for portraying land profiles. Customers use the models in computer programs correlating land terrain with other information. The digital elevation models help customers prepare unusual thematic maps or such special-purpose maps as those portraying steep slopes or visual aspects of areas. NCIC also distributes digital terrain tapes containing records of elevations on a 1:250,000-scale map series. (See list of map data products.)

For more information

To use NCIC research services or to order National Mapping Program products, fill in and mail the attached card or telephone or write to one of the following NCIC offices.

National Headquarters

U.S. Geological Survey
536 National Center
Resoton, WA 20292
703-860-4045
FTS 928-6045

Regional Offices

Eastern Mapping Center-NCIC
U.S. Geological Survey
536 National Center
Resoton, WA 20292
703-860-6336
FTS 928-6336

Mid-Continent Mapping Center-NCIC
U.S. Geological Survey
1400 Independence Road
Rolla, MO 65401
314-541-0851
FTS 277-0851

National Cartographic Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
National Space Technology Laboratories
Building 301
NSTL, MS 39529
601-688-3544
FTS 494-3544

Rocky Mountain Mapping Center-NCIC
U.S. Geological Survey
Box 20506, Stop 54 Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
303-234-2326
FTS 234-2326

State affiliate NCICs

NCIC has established affiliated offices with many State governments. For the address of the nearest one, contact the nearest regional NCIC office.

As the Nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nation’s public lands and natural resources. This includes: protecting the widest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks, historical parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.