



Your resource for mapping and geographic information in the state of Wisconsin

March 2018

Wisconsin Aerial Imagery

Thanks to the <u>Wisconsin Regional Ortho-photography Consortium (WROC)</u>¹ significant aerial imagery was acquired over the majority of the state in 2015. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) once again took on a lead coordination role for the consortium, working in close cooperation with the other Regional Planning Commissions in the state. The 2015 projects were funded primarily by local government budgets, the Wisconsin Land Information Program, and additional partnership funding.

Planning is already underway for the next round of major aerial imagery acquisitions expected to happen in 2020. A smaller number of counties will acquire new orthophotography in 2018 or 2019 through the consortium.

Unit pricing for WROC imagery products is uniform across the consortium, as described in a <u>WROC InfoSheet</u>.²

Summer 2017 NAIP imagery now available from NRCS

Wisconsin was flown during the summer of 2017 as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) <u>National Agriculture Imagery Program</u> (<u>NAIP</u>).³ The state was last flown by FSA during the summer of 2015.

All 2017 Wisconsin NAIP imagery has a 1meter ground resolution, and is designed to meet a 6-meter horizontal accuracy specification at a 95% confidence interval. A fourth near-infrared band, which is useful for vegetation and wetlands analyses, is now a standard part of the product.

NAIP data are available for free from a <u>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Ser-vice (NRCS) data download site.</u>⁴ However, imagery from the download site is available only as a three-band compressed MrSID county mosaic projected to UTM zone 15 or 16.

The original 4-band GeoTIFF-format images will be available on the <u>Wiscon-</u> <u>sinView Data Portal</u>⁵ later in 2018, in both the original UTM projection, and also reprojected to Wisconsin Transverse Mercator (WTM). Compressed county mosaics projected to WTM by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are expected to be available from WisconsinView as well.

Future of NAIP?

Moving forward, the future of publicdomain NAIP imagery is uncertain. In November 2017, the geospatial community learned USDA-FSA is evaluating a <u>new li-</u> <u>censed data model for NAIP starting in federal fiscal year 2019</u>.⁶ Check out our online, interactive status map of Wisconsin Aerial Imagery Projects : https://tinyurl.com/wis-imagery

The evaluation is in response to several factors, including 2018 budget reductions, and shortfalls in financial contributions by other federal agencies. Agency officials estimate FSA could reduce their own costs by 50% if they moved to a licensed model.



Map Source: 2016-2018 County Land Information Plans, County LIOs, Ayres Associates. Updated March 6, 2018. Please send corrections to sco@wisc.edu.

WWW.SCO.WISC.EDU

If FSA does move to a licensed model, data could not be shared with other agencies or the public. This would be a major departure from the past practice of making NAIP data freely available in the public domain.

As of March 2018, USDA-FSA is evaluating options, and no final decisions have been made.

1930's aerial photography available online for free with "WHAIFinder"

The University of Wisconsin-Madison maintains an online tool designed to help users find and download historic aerial photography. The <u>Wisconsin Historic Aerial</u> <u>Imagery Finder (WHAIFinder)</u>⁷ includes a statewide set of 38,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture aerial photographs acquired from 1937 to 1941. Using a simple interface, users can locate and then download free, public domain images in JPEG or TIFF format.

Major update to Wisconsin Aerial Photography Catalog

During 2017, the SCO and <u>UW-Madison</u> <u>Arthur H. Robinson Map Library</u> (UW-RML)⁸ collaborated to significantly improve the quality of records in the <u>Wisconsin Aerial</u> <u>Photography Catalog</u>.⁹ The "AP Catalog" is designed to help users identify and locate historic aerial photography acquired between the late 1930s and present. The AP Catalog has been maintained by the SCO in a variety of formats since the inception of our office in 1975.

While only the 1930s/40s-era imagery in WHAIFinder are available for download at this time, the catalog provides detailed contact information for each source of photography listed. The AP Catalog frequently references aerial photography held by the UW-RML, one of richest archives of aerial photography in the state. The RML offers a scanning service for a nominal fee, which allows users to receive digital copies of photography held at the library.



The Wisconsin Historic Aerial Imagery Finder received a major update in 2017. WHAIFinder provides free online access to the oldest set of statewide aerial photography in Wisconsin. See <u>maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder</u>.

WI AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY CATALOG				elp About	Contact	sco
Search	+ Back to Map					
Counties (max. 5)	34 Results			Export results	to CSV	🖨 Print
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	+ 1960, SUMMER	Brown		Brown County		

The Wisconsin Aerial Photography Catalog was redesigned and updated in 2017. See <u>maps.sco.wisc.edu/</u> apcat.

Web References

1. Wisconsin Regional Orthophoto Consortium ncwrpc.org/WROC2020/

2. WROC InfoSheet tinyurl.com/y8bmr7a2

3. National Agriculture Imagery Program tinyurl.com/yd456qcl 4. NRCS NAIP Data Download Site nrcs.app.box.com/v/naip

5. WisconsinView Data Portal www.wisconsinview.org

6. 2019 NAIP Presentation by USDA tinyurl.com/ydhsd547 7. Wisconsin Historic Aerial Imagery Finder maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/

8. UW-Madison Robinson Map Library www.geography.wisc.edu/maplibrary

9. Wisconsin Aerial Photography Catalog maps.sco.wisc.edu/apcat

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