The National Elevation Dataset (NED) serves the elevation layer of The National Map, and provides basic elevation information for earth science studies and mapping applications in the United States. Scientists and resource managers use NED to achieve a "best fit" registration to the Ownership Parcels Map. While great care was taken in this process, maps from different sources rarely agree as to the precise location of geographic features. The relative positioning of map features to one another results from combining different map sources, data that are processed to a common coordinate system and unit of vertical measure. NED data are edited to flatten water bodies and improve stream surfaces. These data are referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). All elevation values are in meters and, over the conterminous United States, are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). The vertical reference will vary in other areas. NED data are available over the conterminous 48 states at resolutions of 1 arc-second in latitude and longitude (approx. 30 meters) and 1/3 arc-second (approx. 10 meters), and over about one-third of the Nation at 1/9 arc-second (approx. 3 meters). NED data for Alaska are at 2-arc-second resolution.