



West Virginia Statewide Imagery Contract

Prepared by Kurt Donaldson 8/28/2026

INFORMATION SHEET

West Virginia Statewide Imagery Program

A statewide contract through the WV GIS Technical Center at West Virginia University is available for the acquisition of digital orthoimagery in West Virginia. As part of the Statewide Imagery Program (WVSIP), the imagery is unit priced so that participants can budget for imagery years in advance as well as pay over multiple budget cycles. To meet the needs of the largest number of potential participants, a variety of product options are available through the WVSIP program to include countywide unit pricing for 12-inch, 6-inch, 4-inch, and 3-inch spatial resolutions. This contract allows for municipalities, counties, state agencies, and the federal government to tap into an existing contract to acquire imagery at a known unit price that is usable until June 30, 2027.

Pixel Resolution (Detail Level)	3-inch	4-inch	6-inch	12-inch
Cost per square mile	\$111	\$81	\$65	\$44
Map Scale	1" = 50'	1" = 67'	1" = 100'	1" = 200'
Horizontal Accuracy (ASPRS 1)	0.5 feet	0.66 feet	1.0 feet	2.0 feet

Note: 4-band stacked imagery that includes color infrared can be added at 25% of the acquisition cost

A target spatial resolution of 6 inches is recommended for counties that can afford this level of detail. The horizontal accuracy standard is ASPRS Class 1. The original state contract was awarded to Blue Mountain Inc. which is now part of The Thrasher Group, Inc. The state contact and county unit prices can be viewed at the following links: [Amendment #3 \(7/1/2025 to 6/30/2027\)](#) | [Amendment #2 \(7/1/2024-6/30/2025\)](#) | [Amendment #1](#) | [2019 Contract](#)

Performance Period

The total contracting period of this contract has been extended from 1 January 2026 through 30 June 2027 to include the spring 2027 leaf-off season.

How can you participate?

Any organization can participate in the Statewide Imagery Program. A [signed MOU](#) that states the specifications and costs is all that is needed to participate in the program. The MOU must be signed by **March 15** of the flight season. For more information, contact one of the following program representatives:

Kurt Donaldson, GISP, CFM
WVU GIS Technical Center
304.293.9467
kdonalds@wvu.edu

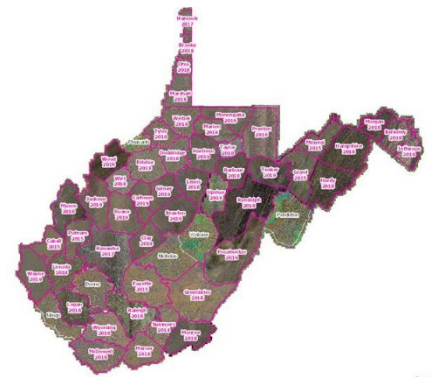
Craig Fry, CP
The Thrasher Group, Inc.
724.485.7060
CFry@thethrashergroup.com



View Aerial Imagery Examples

You can review the [aerial imagery](#) acquired via the State Contract by linking to the statewide aerial imagery web service below. Refer to counties of the [vendor acquisition map](#) by The Thrasher Group, Inc.

- [County Aerial Imagery Year Acquired](#)
- [County Aerial Imagery Resolution](#)
- [County Aerial Imagery Vendor](#)
- [Resolution Comparison – Baseball Fence](#)
- [Resolution Comparison – WVU Coliseum](#)
- [Statewide Leaf-Off imagery web map service](#)
- [Download County Aerial Imagery](#)



Detailed Imagery Resolution

The four-inch resolution imagery is high enough resolution to count cows on the imagery.

New 2019 Leaf-Off Aerial Imagery

<http://www.mapwv.gov/flood/map/?wkid=102100&x=-9176624&y=4583558&l=13&v=1>

4-inch
Resolution
Leaf-Off Aerial
Imagery

- Braxton
- Calhoun
- Clay
- Gilmer
- Harrison
- Jackson
- Monongalia
- Pocahontas
- Roane
- Monongalia
- Wayne

More 2019 county
aerial imagery to
be added

Choose **WV Best Leaves Off** Base Map

Bing Hybrid

WV Best Leaves
Off

Bing Imagery

Cows in the Floodway
West Fork Twelvepole
Creek, Wayne County

State Contract Aerial Imagery Pricing

AERIAL IMAGERY PRICING Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Pixel Resolution (Detail Level)	3-inch	4-inch	6-inch	12-inch
Cost per square mile	\$111	\$81	\$65	\$44
Map Scale	1" = 50'	1" = 67'	1" = 100'	1" = 200'
Horizontal Accuracy (ASPRS 1)	0.5 feet	0.66 feet	1.0 feet	2.0 feet

Notes:

4-band stacked imagery that includes color infrared can be added at 25% of the acquisition cost.

The county border buffer is 1000 feet unless otherwise noted.

County	Square Miles	12" @ \$44 per square mile	6" @ \$65 per square mile	4" @ \$81 per square mile	3" @ \$111 per square mile
BARBOUR COUNTY	343	\$15,092	\$22,295	\$27,783	\$38,073
BERKELEY COUNTY	322	\$14,168	\$20,930	\$26,082	\$35,742
BOONE COUNTY	503	\$22,132	\$32,695	\$40,743	\$55,833
BRAXTON COUNTY	516	\$22,704	\$33,540	\$41,796	\$57,276
BROOKE COUNTY	93	\$4,092	\$6,045	\$7,533	\$10,323
CABELL COUNTY	288	\$12,672	\$18,720	\$23,328	\$31,968
CALHOUN COUNTY	280	\$12,320	\$18,200	\$22,680	\$31,080
CLAY COUNTY	344	\$15,136	\$22,360	\$27,864	\$38,184
DODDRIDGE COUNTY	320	\$14,080	\$20,800	\$25,920	\$35,520
FAYETTE COUNTY	668	\$29,392	\$43,420	\$54,108	\$74,148
GILMER COUNTY	339	\$14,916	\$22,035	\$27,459	\$37,629
GRANT COUNTY	480	\$21,120	\$31,200	\$38,880	\$53,280
GREENBRIER COUNTY	1024	\$45,056	\$66,560	\$82,944	\$113,664
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY	645	\$28,380	\$41,925	\$52,245	\$71,595
HANCOCK COUNTY	88	\$3,872	\$5,720	\$7,128	\$9,768
HARDY COUNTY	584	\$25,696	\$37,960	\$47,304	\$64,824
HARRISON COUNTY	416	\$18,304	\$27,040	\$33,696	\$46,176
JACKSON COUNTY	471	\$20,724	\$30,615	\$38,151	\$52,281
JEFFERSON COUNTY	212	\$9,328	\$13,780	\$17,172	\$23,532
KANAWHA COUNTY	910	\$40,040	\$59,150	\$73,710	\$101,010
LEWIS COUNTY	389	\$17,116	\$25,285	\$31,509	\$43,179
LINCOLN COUNTY	439	\$19,316	\$28,535	\$35,559	\$48,729
LOGAN COUNTY	455	\$20,020	\$29,575	\$36,855	\$50,505
MARION COUNTY	311	\$13,684	\$20,215	\$25,191	\$34,521
MARSHALL COUNTY	312	\$13,728	\$20,280	\$25,272	\$34,632



County	Square Miles	12" @ \$44 per square mile	6" @ \$65 per square mile	4" @ \$81 per square mile	3" @ \$111 per square mile
MASON COUNTY	445	\$19,580	\$28,925	\$36,045	\$49,395
MCDOWELL COUNTY	535	\$23,540	\$34,775	\$43,335	\$59,385
MERCER COUNTY	420	\$18,480	\$27,300	\$34,020	\$46,620
MINERAL COUNTY	329	\$14,476	\$21,385	\$26,649	\$36,519
MINGO COUNTY	424	\$18,656	\$27,560	\$34,344	\$47,064
MONONGALIA COUNTY	366	\$16,104	\$23,790	\$29,646	\$40,626
MONROE COUNTY	473	\$20,812	\$30,745	\$38,313	\$52,503
MORGAN COUNTY	230	\$10,120	\$14,950	\$18,630	\$25,530
NICHOLAS COUNTY	654	\$28,776	\$42,510	\$52,974	\$72,594
OHIO COUNTY	109	\$4,796	\$7,085	\$8,829	\$12,099
PENDLETON COUNTY	698	\$30,712	\$45,370	\$56,538	\$77,478
PLEASANTS COUNTY	134	\$5,896	\$8,710	\$10,854	\$14,874
POCAHONTAS COUNTY	941	\$41,404	\$61,165	\$76,221	\$104,451
PRESTON COUNTY	651	\$28,644	\$42,315	\$52,731	\$72,261
PUTNAM COUNTY	350	\$15,400	\$22,750	\$28,350	\$38,850
RALEIGH COUNTY	609	\$26,796	\$39,585	\$49,329	\$67,599
RANDOLPH COUNTY	1039	\$45,716	\$67,535	\$84,159	\$115,329
RITCHIE COUNTY	454	\$19,976	\$29,510	\$36,774	\$50,394
ROANE COUNTY	483	\$21,252	\$31,395	\$39,123	\$53,613
SUMMERS COUNTY	367	\$16,148	\$23,855	\$29,727	\$40,737
TAYLOR COUNTY	176	\$7,744	\$11,440	\$14,256	\$19,536
TUCKER COUNTY	421	\$18,524	\$27,365	\$34,101	\$46,731
TYLER COUNTY	261	\$11,484	\$16,965	\$21,141	\$28,971
UPSHUR COUNTY	355	\$15,620	\$23,075	\$28,755	\$39,405
WAYNE COUNTY	512	\$22,528	\$33,280	\$41,472	\$56,832
WEBSTER COUNTY	556	\$24,464	\$36,140	\$45,036	\$61,716
WETZEL COUNTY	361	\$15,884	\$23,465	\$29,241	\$40,071
WIRT COUNTY	235	\$10,340	\$15,275	\$19,035	\$26,085
WOOD COUNTY	377	\$16,588	\$24,505	\$30,537	\$41,847
WYOMING COUNTY	502	\$22,088	\$32,630	\$40,662	\$55,722

Note: A countywide buffer of 1000 feet is flown beyond the county border.

Vendor agrees to not exceed the countywide unit rates or price schedule listed for the services rendered:



FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Aerial Imagery?

Aerial imagery refers to digital pictures taken from the air. These pictures are normally taken from a vertical perspective looking straight down from the airplane onto the rooftops. Digital aerial imagery requires bright sunlight and cloud free conditions for good results. Digital orthoimagery is the foundation for GIS, forming the base layer from which many additional data layers are created. It combines the characteristics of an aerial image with the geometric qualities of a map. This allows GIS and CAD software to accurately measure all visible ground features in their true geographic position and lets users:

- Make accurate distance and area calculations across the entire image mosaic
- Measure the true position of any feature observed in the orthoimagery

What is the best resolution for your needs?

Your organization should capture aerial imagery at the smallest feature and highest positional accuracy that you require, while not to paying for more than you need if there is no benefit. Refer to the table below to choose the best resolution. Digital aerial imagery can vary greatly in accuracy and pixel resolution. Pixel resolution (a single point in a graphic image) refers to the actual distance on the ground each pixel represents in the orthoimagery. For example, one-foot pixel resolution means each pixel in the image covers one foot on the ground.

Table 1. Comparison of Aerial Imagery Resolution

Resolution	3-inch	4-inch	6-inch	12-inch
Cost per square mile	\$111	\$81	\$65	\$44
Mapping of:	Utilities and public works	Utilities and public works	Urban and more developed areas	Rural and less developed areas
Mapping Scale	1:600 Map Scale 1" = 50'	1:800 Map Scale 1" = 67'	1:1200 Map Scale 1" = 100'	1:2400 Map Scale 1" = 200' or 1" = 400'
Positional Accuracy	Very High	Higher than 6" Lower than 3"	Higher than 12" Lower than 4"	Lowest
Key Features Visible	<i>Very Small Infrastructure</i> ▪ Fire Hydrants ▪ Manhole Covers ▪ Individual people and animals ▪ Finer details on roads including markings and skid marks	<i>Smaller Infrastructure</i> ▪ Clearer Road Markings ▪ Power Lines	<i>Infrastructure</i> ▪ Property line fences ▪ Utility Poles ▪ Individual Trees ▪ Vehicle Types ▪ Road markings	<i>Large Infrastructure</i> ▪ Buildings ▪ Paved Roads ▪ Railroads ▪ Vehicles ▪ Tree/shrub line
Tax Parcel Conversion Projects or Re-mapping	Identifiability of small features somewhat improved over 4". Lower cost-to-benefit ratio	Ideal for mapping fences and other survey features at a higher positional accuracy than 6"	Ideal for mapping fences, survey features, and land divisions (e.g., fences, walls, tree lines, roads)	Satisfactory for conversion projects
Other Notes	More building lean may be noticeable at 3" resolution for taller structures	2-foot contours for engineering grade maps generated at this resolution		

**What is Uncorrected versus Corrected (Ortho) Aerial Imagery?**

If you are planning to measure ground features or to create maps from your aerial images, then orthorectified imagery is necessary. Orthorectification corrects for tip or tilt of the aircraft and displacement in the photograph caused by changes in the ground elevation.

How often should aerial imagery be purchased by your organization?

We would like to see all counties flown once every five years at a minimum resolution of 12 inches. Rapidly growing counties or developing areas may choose to fly every year.

How is a client billed for the imagery?

Clients are billed upon the complete delivery of the imagery products. Organizations may be able to pay the aerial imagery company over more than one budget cycle.

When is leaf-off aerial imagery flown in West Virginia?

Leaf-off aerial imagery is flown from late February to early April when there is neither no snow on the ground nor flooding. Leaf-on conditions occur about April 10 of every year, depending on the location in the state.

When will the aerial imagery be delivered?

For spring flights, all ensuing deliverables must be completed before the end of the calendar year, and preferably before October 1.

What is color-infrared imagery?

Color-infrared imagery is a false-color image that includes the near-infrared spectral band. Color infrared imagery is good at penetrating atmospheric haze and for determining the health of vegetation.

What is oblique imagery?

Oblique imagery is aerial photography that is captured at approximately a 45-degree angle with the ground and thus allows viewers to see and measure not only the top of objects but the sides as well. Typically, oblique imagery requires proprietary software to view.

What are Benefits of a Statewide Imagery Program?

A coordinated statewide imagery program employs a collective approach where partners share imagery acquisition costs in an equitable manner and based on the available funding of organizations.

- Excellent value through:
 - economy of scale
 - partner funding
 - efficiency in implementation
- Data-sharing among members
- Specifications and QA/QC support
- RFP and contract administrative support

**Business Case for Aerial Imagery. What is it used for?**

- Aerial imagery is used throughout West Virginia to meet daily business needs. Imagery has many uses, including providing a common operating picture and accurately mapping the locations of natural and man-made features.
- Access to current imagery improves business efficiency and informs decision making.

What is the MrSID compression ratio?

MrSID (Multi-resolution Seamless Image Database) is a highly compressed format used to store images of photographs. The MrSIDs by default are compressed to a 20 to 1 ratio generation 4.

What is the defaults county border buffer?

The county border buffer is 1000 feet unless otherwise noted. The county can expand the buffer by adding these specifications to the Memorandum of Understanding.

What does The Thrasher Group offer a 4-inch resolution product?

The 4-inch resolution allows for two-foot contour accuracy, provides a spatial resolution that is slightly better than Google Earth, and captures slightly more detail than the 6-inch resolution product.