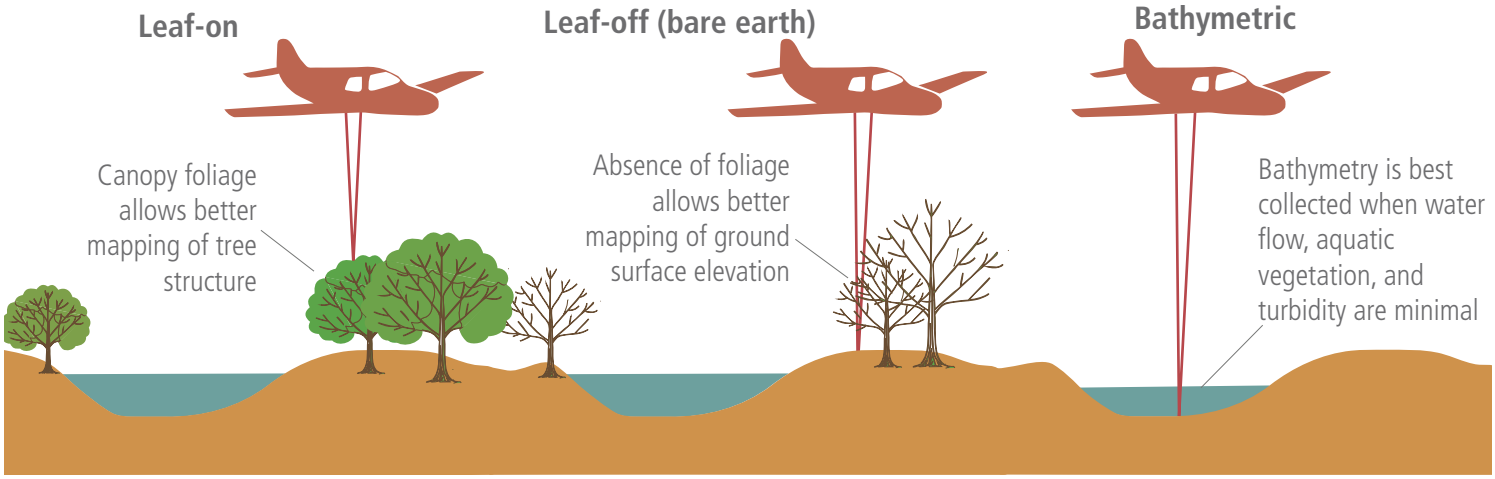
Lidar Contracting with WGS

The Washington Geological Survey (WGS) Lidar Program collects and distributes high-quality lidar data for Washington State. We are able to work with groups to collect lidar for their purposes using a master contract. This fact sheet explains the process of completing a lidar project with us. We'll work with you to determine your goals, advise you of ideal collection conditions, and recommend derivative products to ensure a successful project.

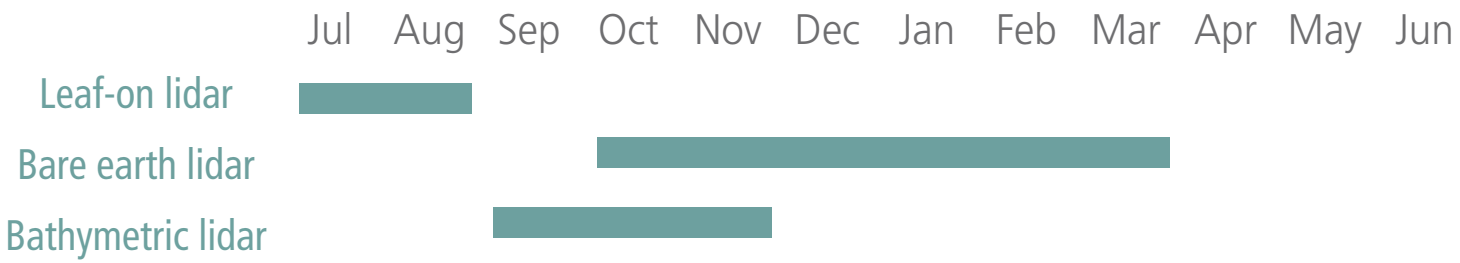
TYPES OF LIDAR COLLECTIONS

We collect three types of lidar data. Leaf-on, terrestrial lidar focuses on mapping the tree canopy and vegetation structures; leaf-off, terrestrial lidar focuses on mapping the ground surface; and bathymetric lidar maps the beds of rivers and other water bodies.



NEED TO COLLECT LIDAR? PLAN AHEAD AND CONTACT US EARLY!

Each type of lidar is best collected at a certain time of year. The following chart shows the best times for each type of lidar collection.



- Contact WGS at least six months prior to your anticipated collection date. For example, contact WGS prior to September for a spring terrestrial lidar project.
- Consider pairing your lidar collection with other types of remote sensing data like thermal infrared or ortho imagery.

LIFECYCLE OF A LIDAR PROJECT

1. The process starts with an initial consultation where we help determine scope, funding, collection goals, and schedules.
2. Depending upon collection type, terrain, project size, and add-ons, lidar collection and processing are typically completed within three to nine months from the start of collection.
3. We then validate the data products through rigorous quality control.
4. Once the data have been validated, we ensure prompt data delivery and invoicing. We also place the data onto our public Washington Lidar Portal (lidarportal.dnr.wa.gov).

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PROJECT COSTS

	Collection Type	**Terrestrial lidar, bathymetry, and imagery have different base costs**
+	**Project Size**	**Larger, contiguous project areas reduce costs per unit area**
+	**Terrain Type**	**Mountainous terrain requires extra planning and logistics**
+	**Add-On Deliverables**	**Derivative maps like solar heating estimates, building footprints, or relative elevation models increase costs**
=	**Lidar Project Cost**	

HELPFUL TIPS

- Check the lidar portal before you engage—we may have already collected over your area of interest.
- Communicate deadlines, funding dependencies, or grant conditions to avoid surprises.
- Think about how you will store the lidar data.
- Allow WGS to be the liaison with the lidar vendor to ensure reliable communication.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WASHINGTON GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MORE RESOURCES

- WGS Lidar Webpage
- Washington Lidar Portal
- Washington State Lidar Plan

CONTACT

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