

The following was presented at DMT'09  
(May 10-13, 2009).

The contents are provisional and will be  
superseded by a paper in the  
DMT'09 Proceedings.

See also earlier Proceedings (1997-2008)  
<http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/info/dmt/>

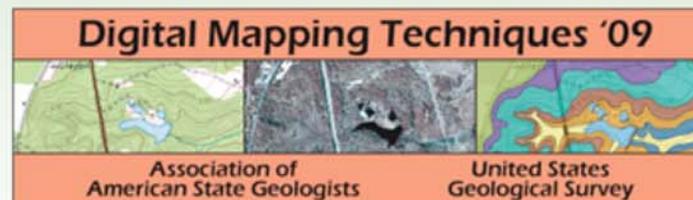
# Lidar based DEM slope-shapes – seeing through the canopy

Thomas G. Whitfield, P.G.

Pennsylvania Geological Survey

DMT 2009

Morgantown, WV



[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)



# PAMAP lidar program

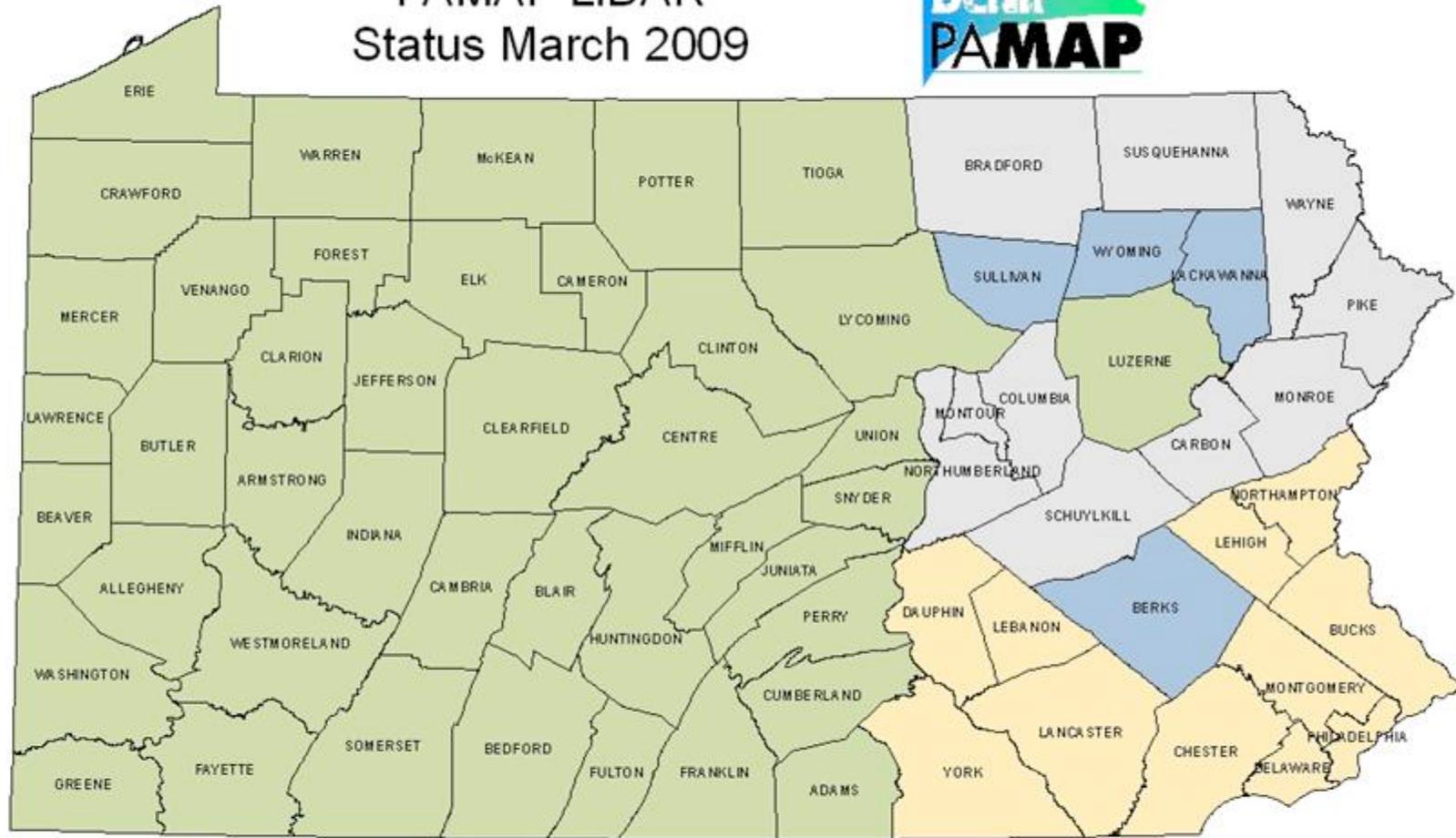
- Statewide program
- Generates a very detailed DEM (digital elevation model)
- Pixel resolution is 3.2 feet (~1 meter)
- 10,000-foot grid tile for whole state
- Flown in conjunction with high-resolution full color aerial imagery (1-foot pixels)

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)





# PAMAP LiDAR Status March 2009



- 2008 Northern Area
- 2008 Southern Area; USGS Priority
- 2008 Production Complete; In QA
- Complete



# PAMAP lidar program

- Aerial imagery flown between 2004 – 2008 covers the entire state and is available for download from PASDA
- Lidar for entire state has been acquired, but parts have not been processed (no \$\$)
- Actively engaged in seeking funding to finish processing

# Lidar review

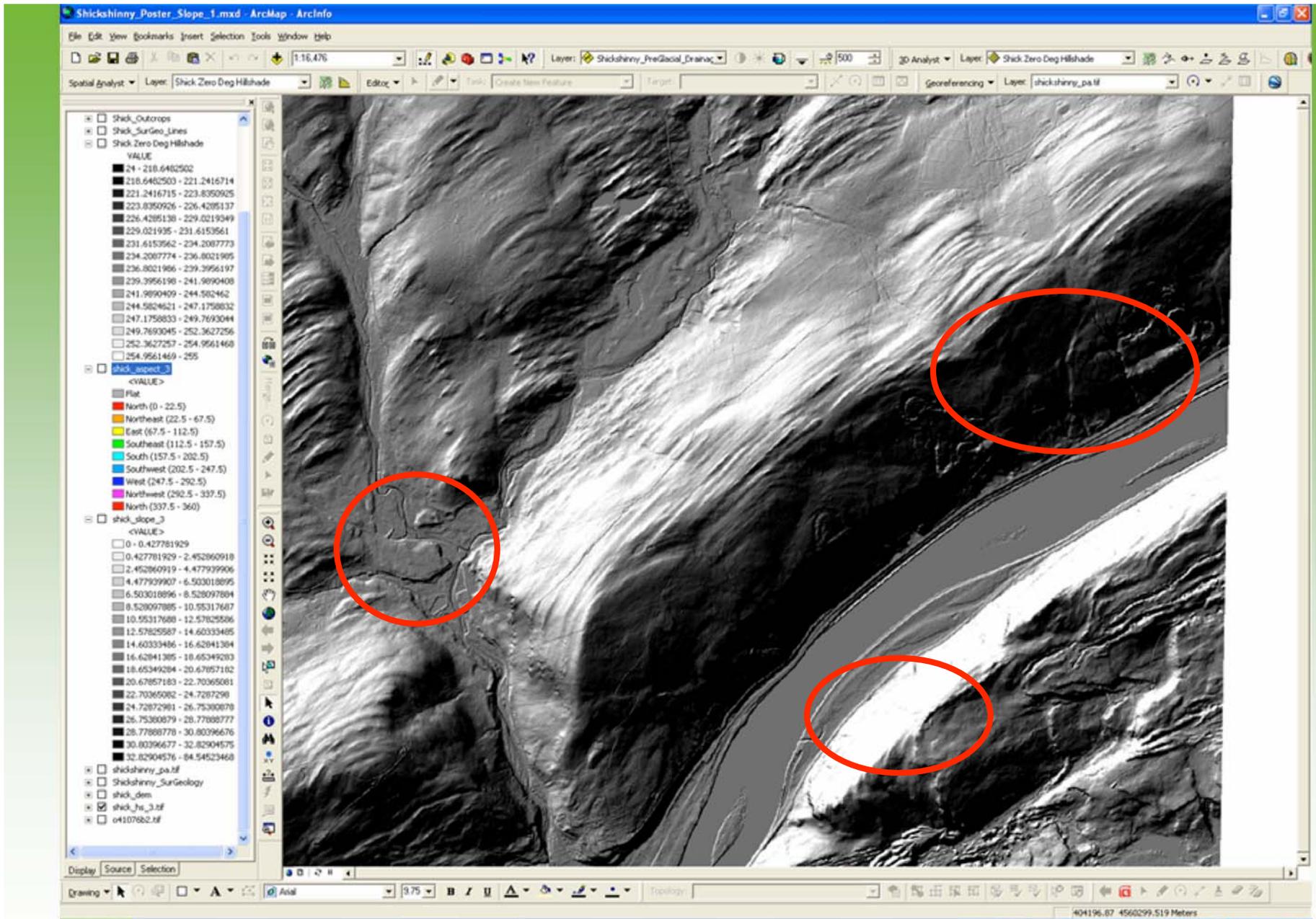
- Lots of processing (\$\$\$) and filtering
- Multiple derivative products
- Lots of uses
- We are interested in the “bare earth” or “last returns” model
- Our lidar derived DEM is a 32-bit, floating point GRID with 3.2-foot pixel resolution



[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)

# The (In)famous hillshade

- The first thing everyone tries
- Wow factor – lots of Oooos and Ahhhs...
- BUT, take a good look....
  
- Details get lost in “bright sunlit” areas and “dark shadow” areas



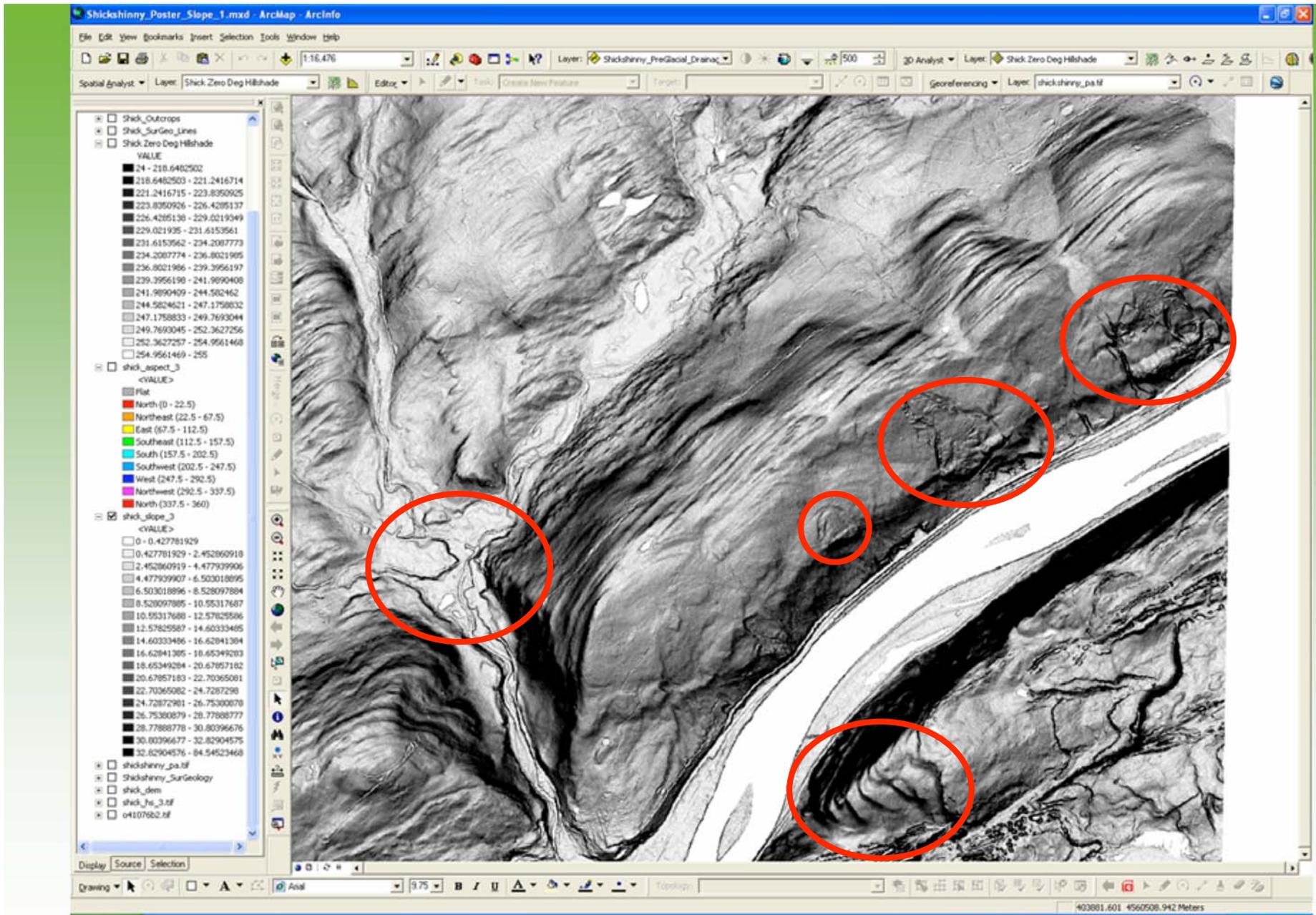
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)

# Hillshade continued

- One solution, multiple hillshades with varied sun azimuth and altitudes
- Can't see everything at once
- Your “mind's eye” inverts things
- Can't remember which grid shows what or where it you put it (us older people)
- Lots of disk space cost

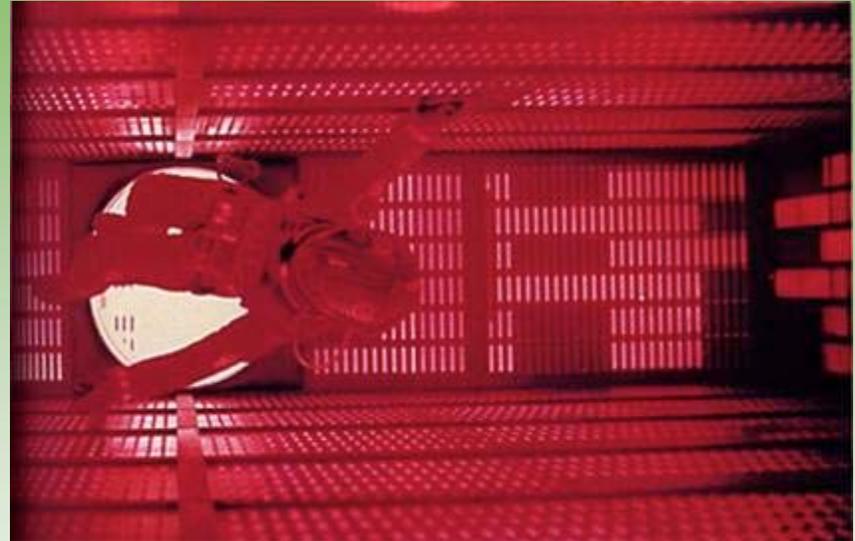
# The slope-shape

- Ralph Haugerud of the USGS introduced the slope-shape concept at DMT 2008 in Moscow, Idaho
- Differs from a hillshade – slope, aspect, sun azimuth, sun angle are used in an algorithm to compute grayscale “sun/shadow” values (0 – 256)
- Slope-shape is simply a slope grid generated from a DEM



# Slope-shape – “How to’s”

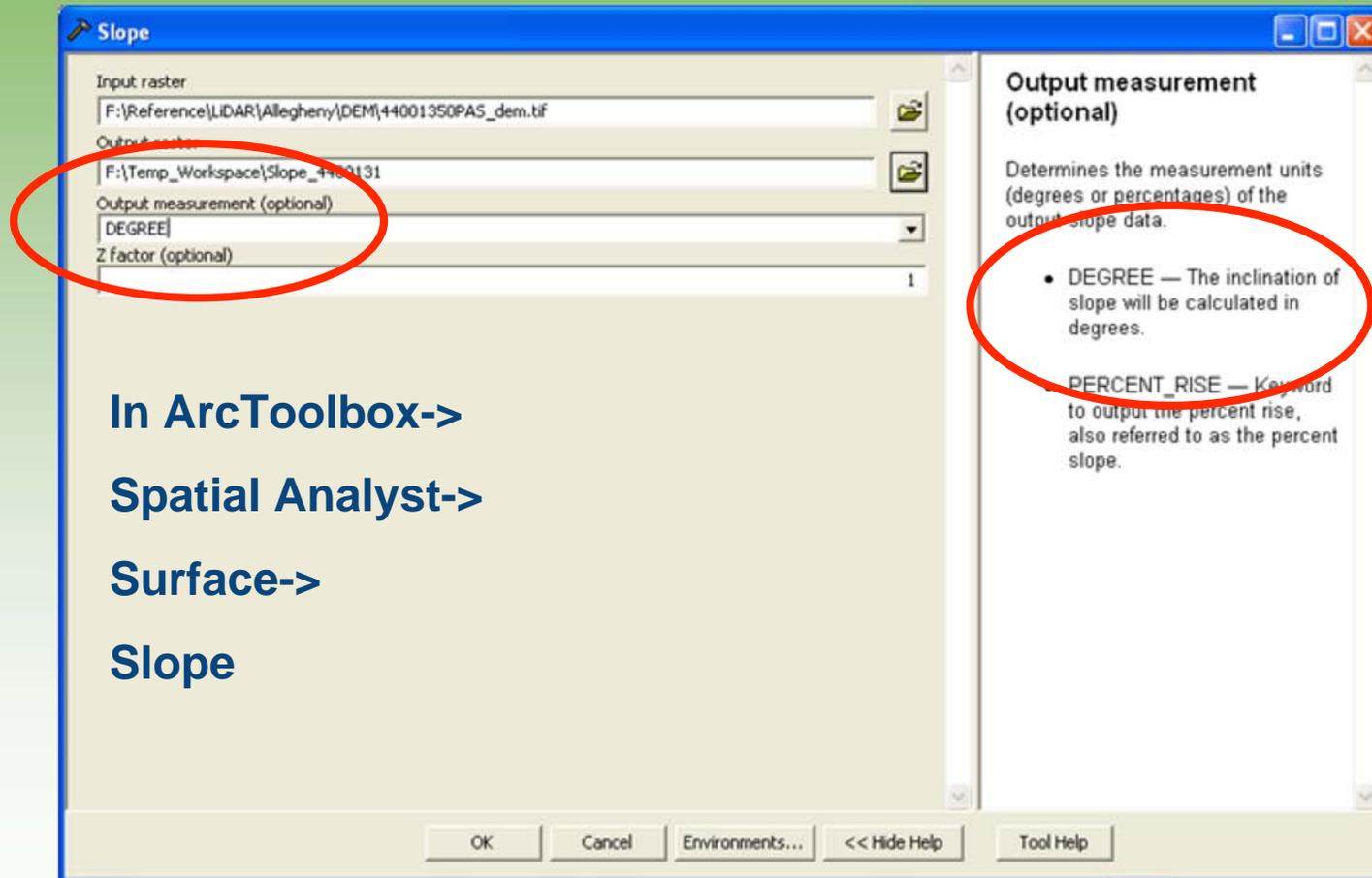
- Ain’t rocket science
- Easy to create
- Easy to display – most important part
- Easy to interpret
- One grid to track
- No right way, no wrong way, but there is always the.....



[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)



# Create a slope grid



In ArcToolbox->  
Spatial Analyst->  
Surface->  
Slope

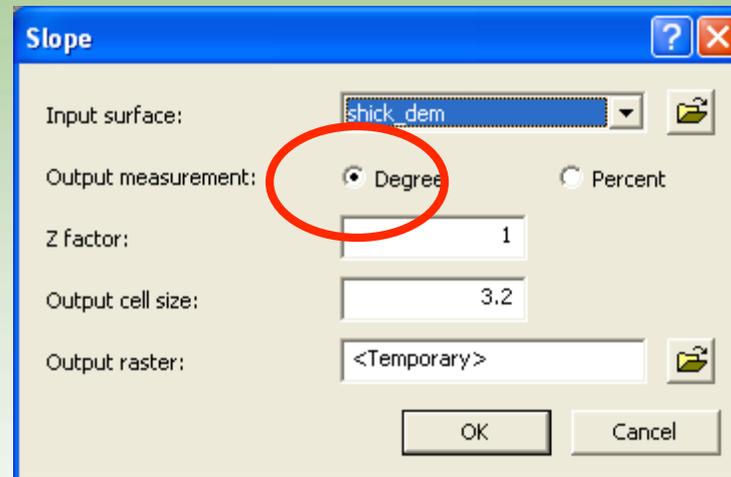
# Alternative slope creation method

In ArcMap->

Spatial Analyst->

Surface Analysis->

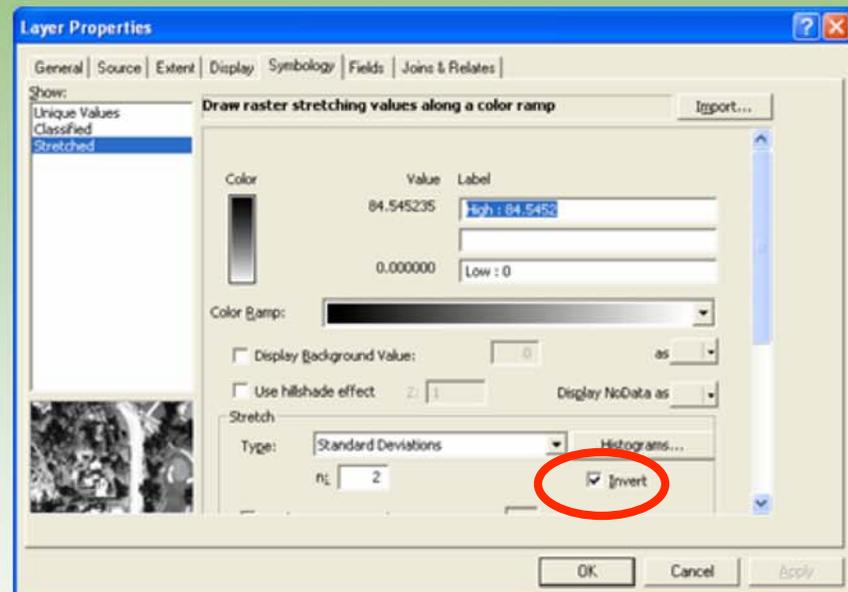
Slope

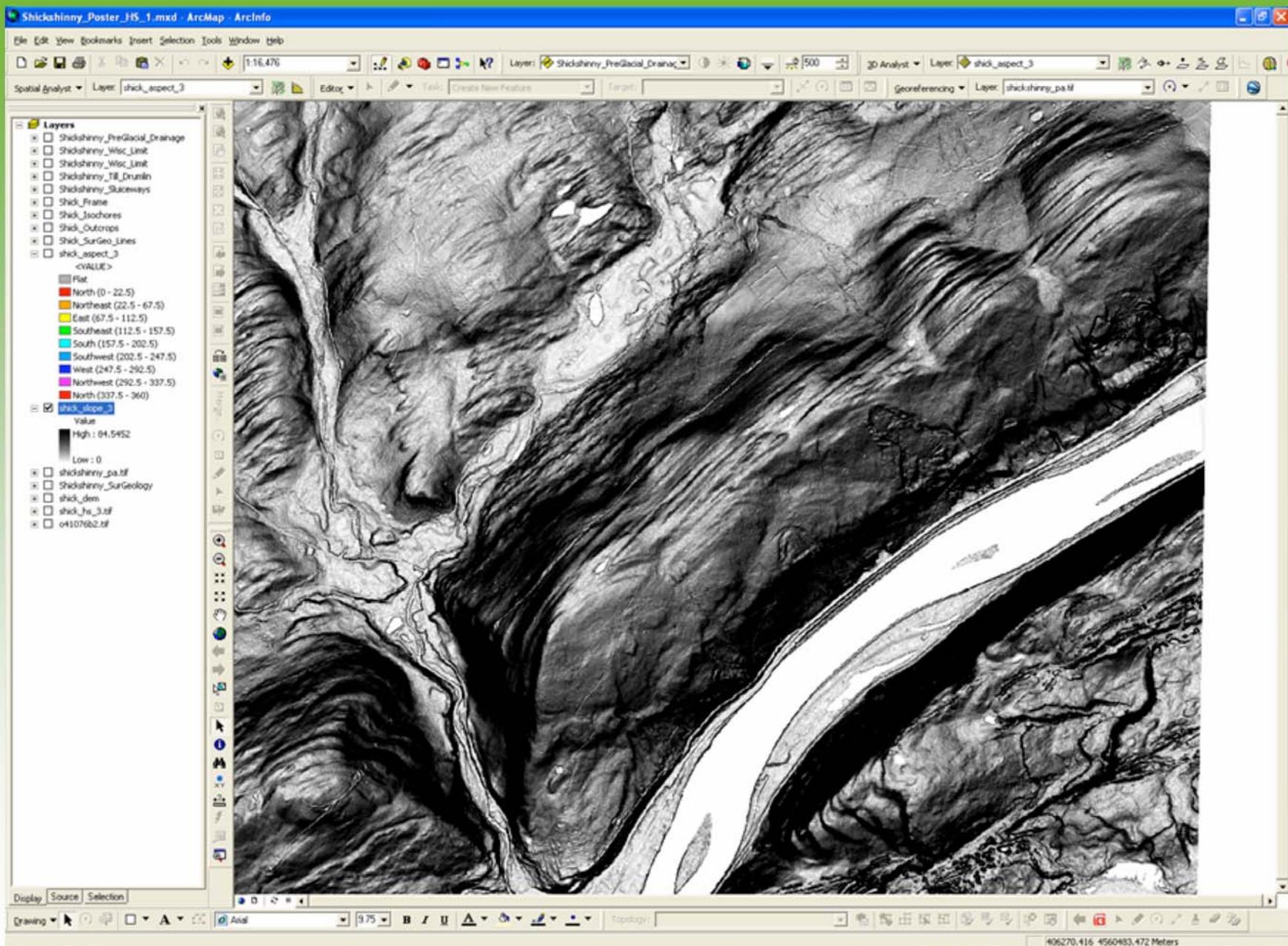




# Resetting the display

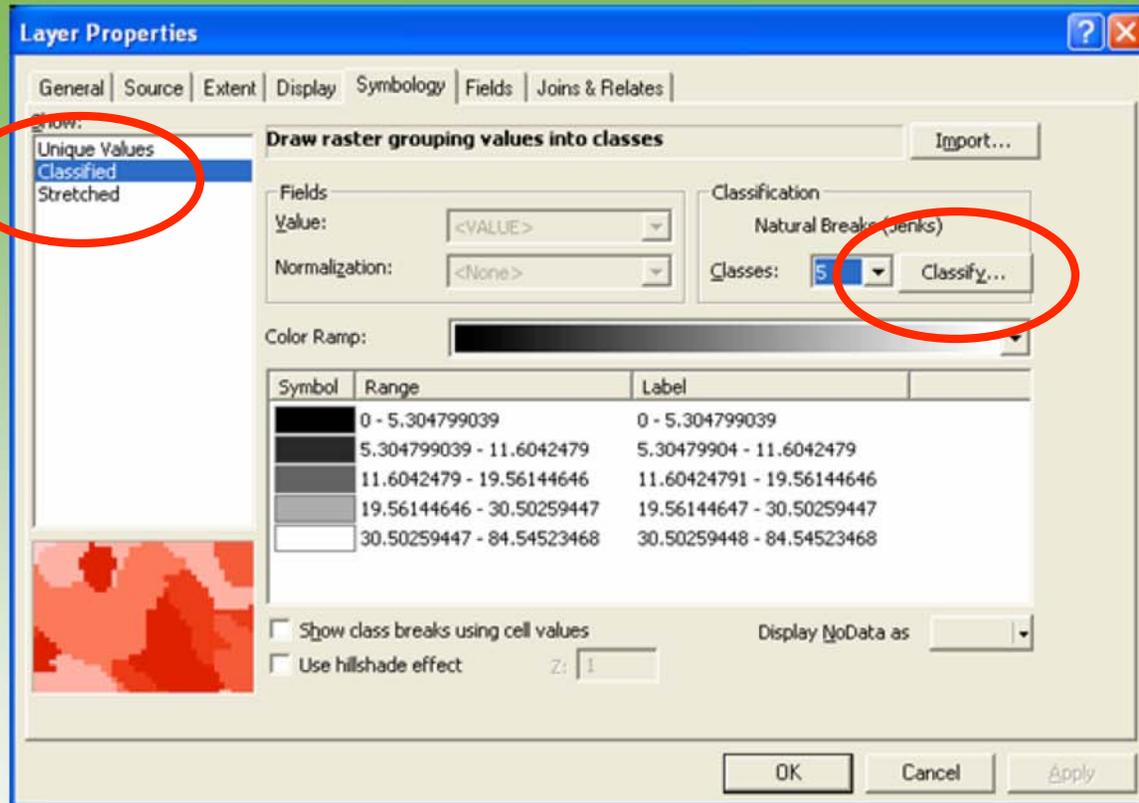
- To get the most out of this, we need to reset the display
- Inverting the color ramp helps, but not enough contrast



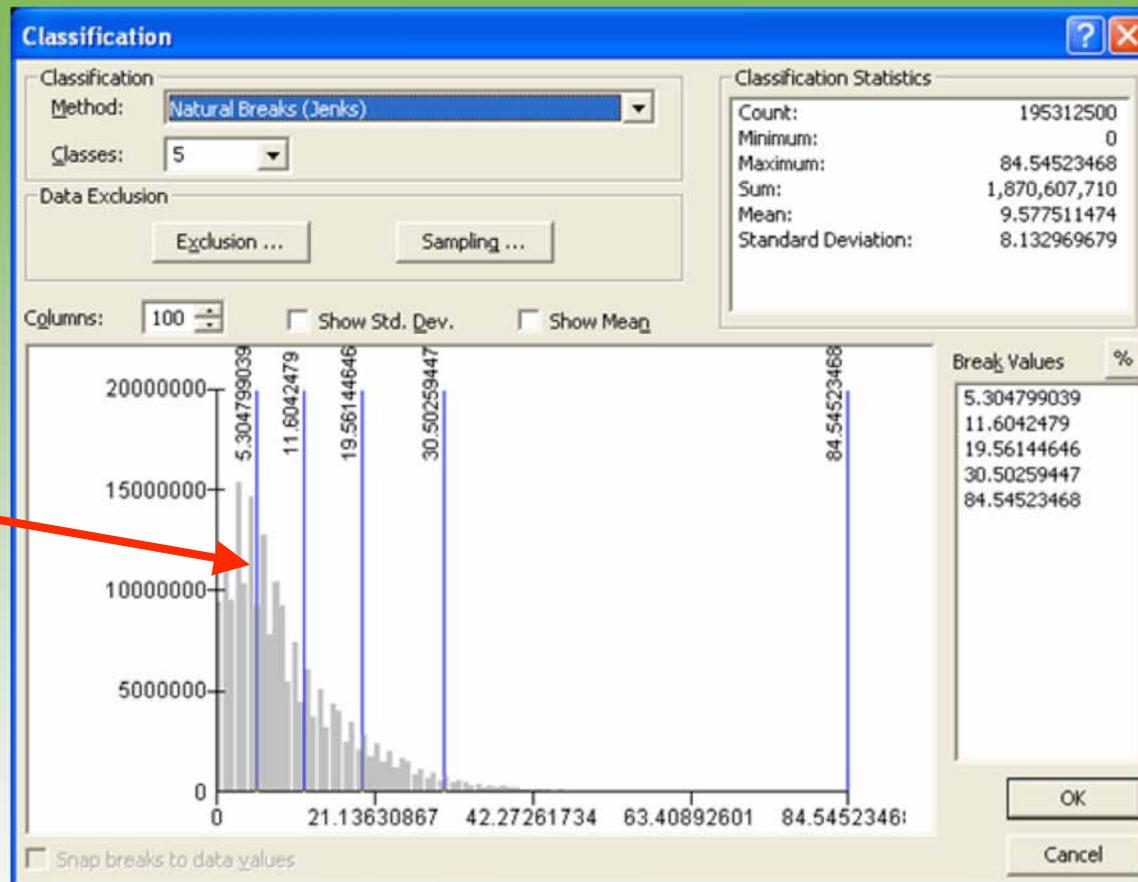


# Resetting the display

- Want to get most contrast across the low end of the display range ( $0^{\circ}$  to  $\sim 30^{\circ}$ )
- Want to set the flat and nearly flat areas to white and near-vertical to black
- Switch from a stretched display to a classified display

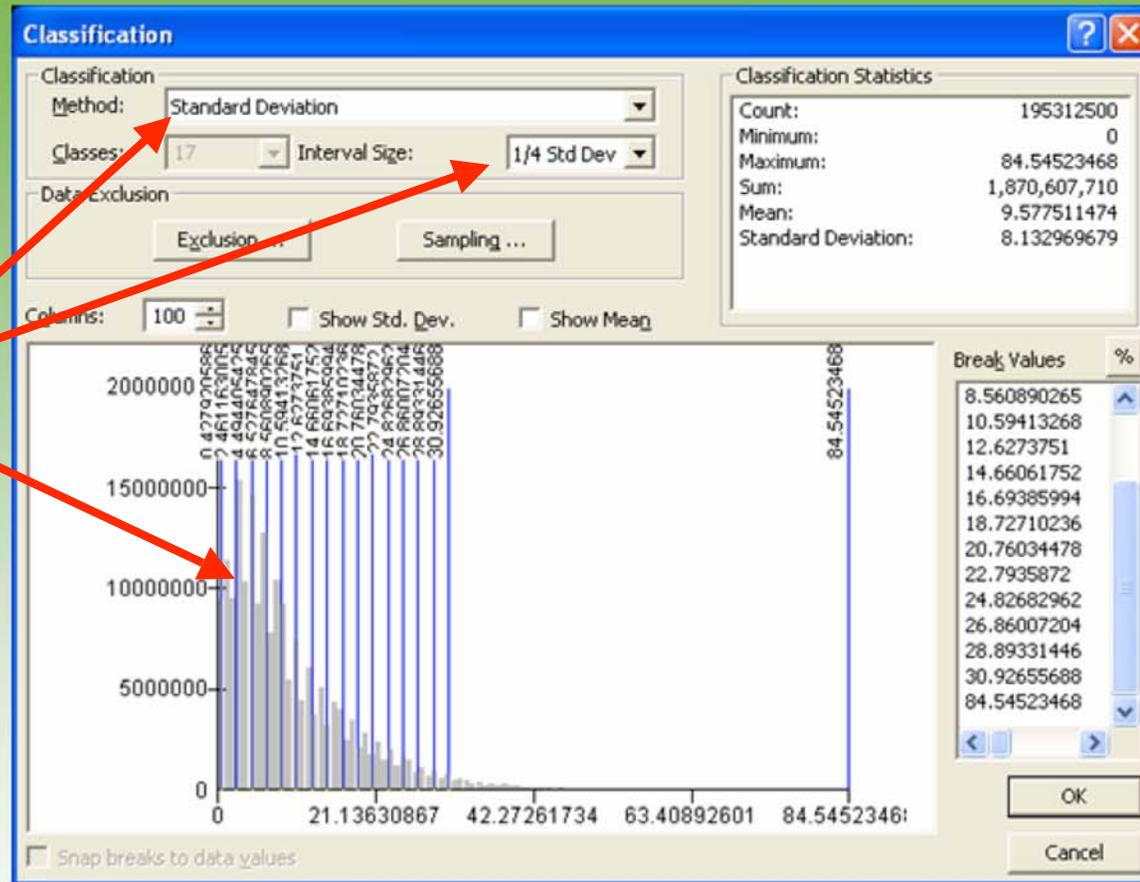


Want to get more divisions across the bell part of the histogram

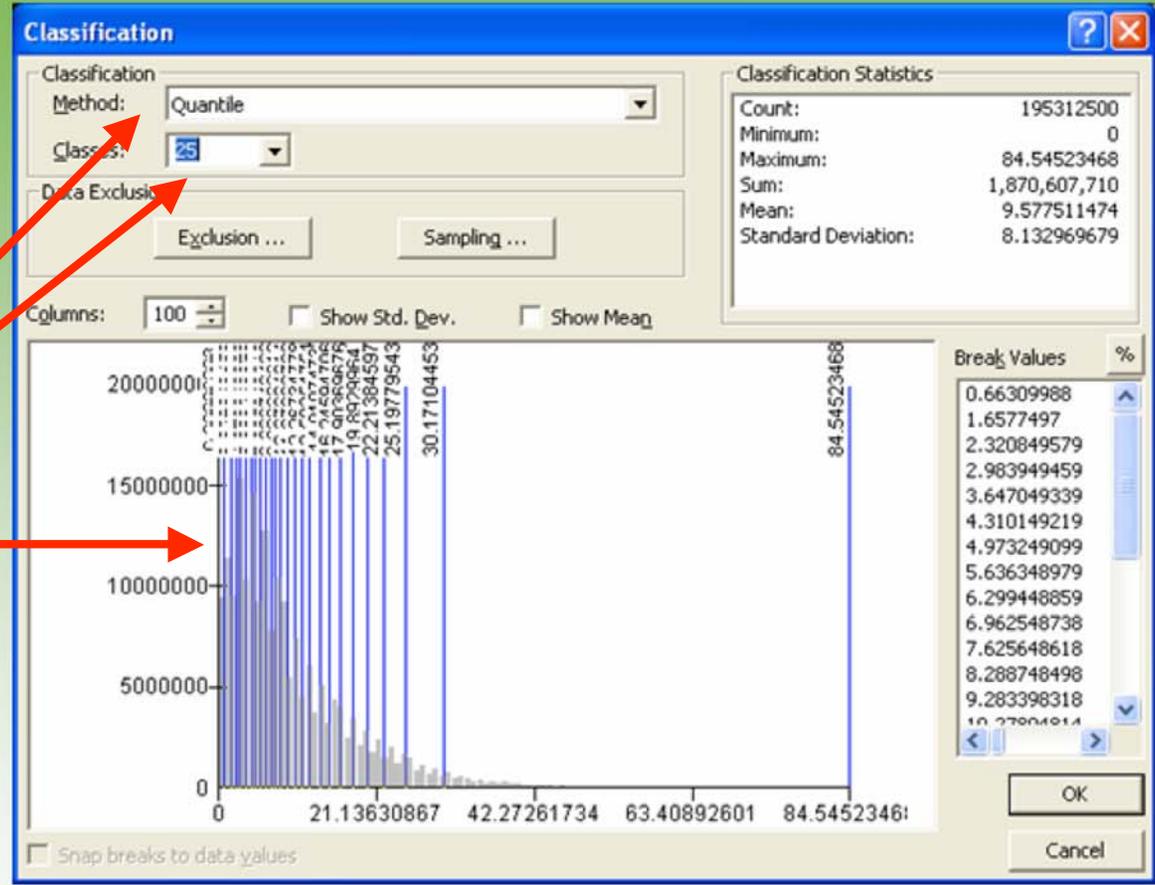


A standard deviation and 1/4 interval size gives a nice spread over the bell curve

Works well for moderate to moderately high relief areas

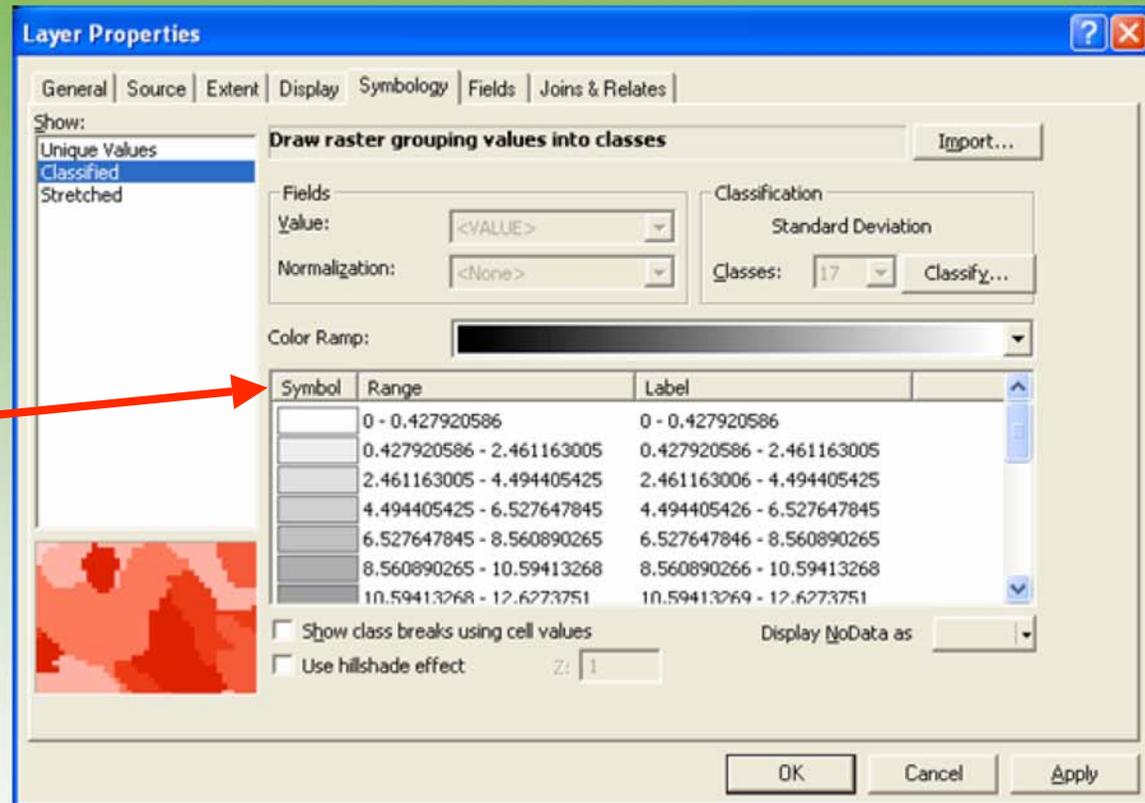


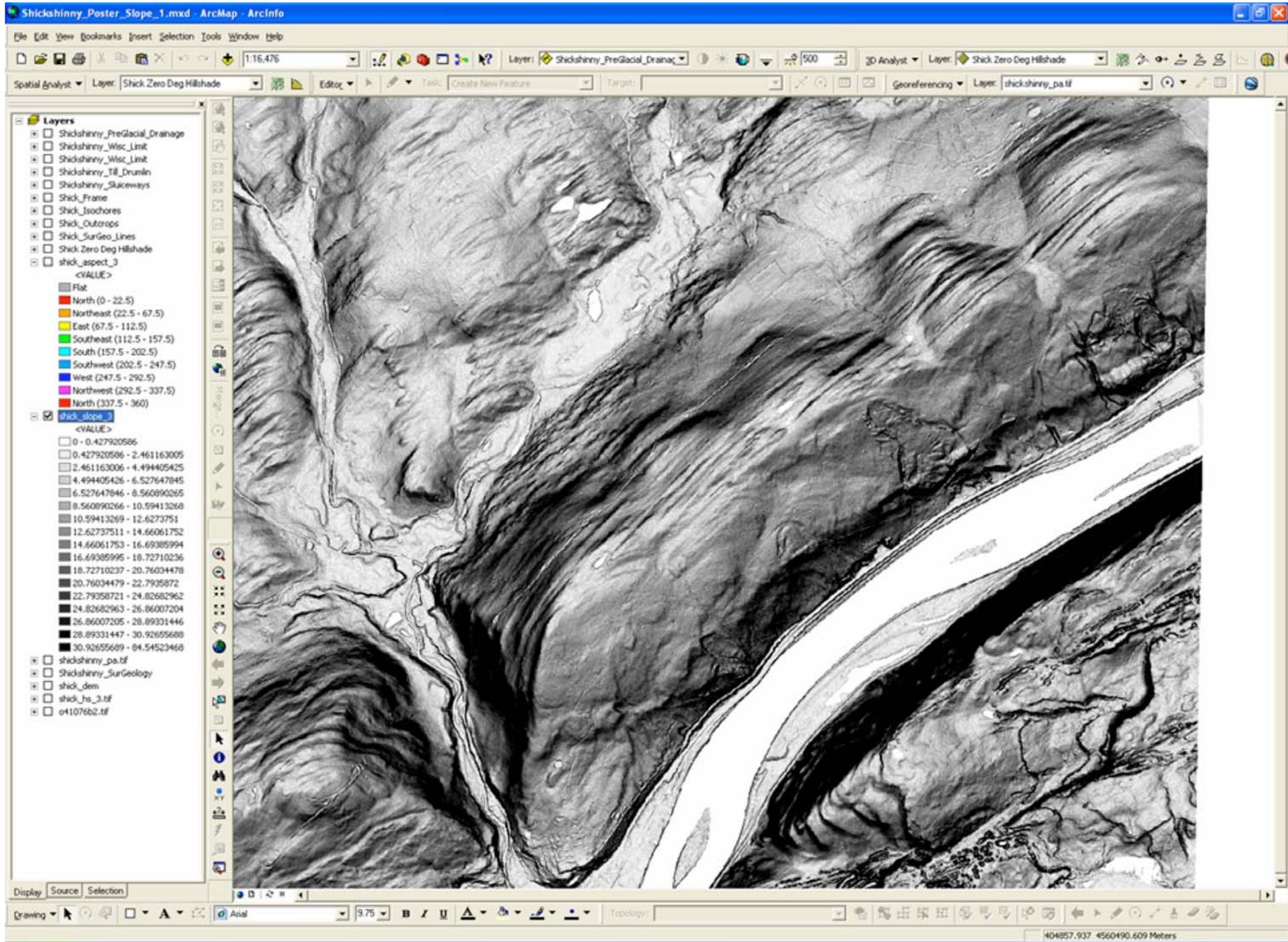
In areas of relatively low relief, Quantile puts more division breaks on the lower angles



Go back to layer properties

If necessary, push the symbol button and invert the color ramp so white is flat and low angles progress in gray



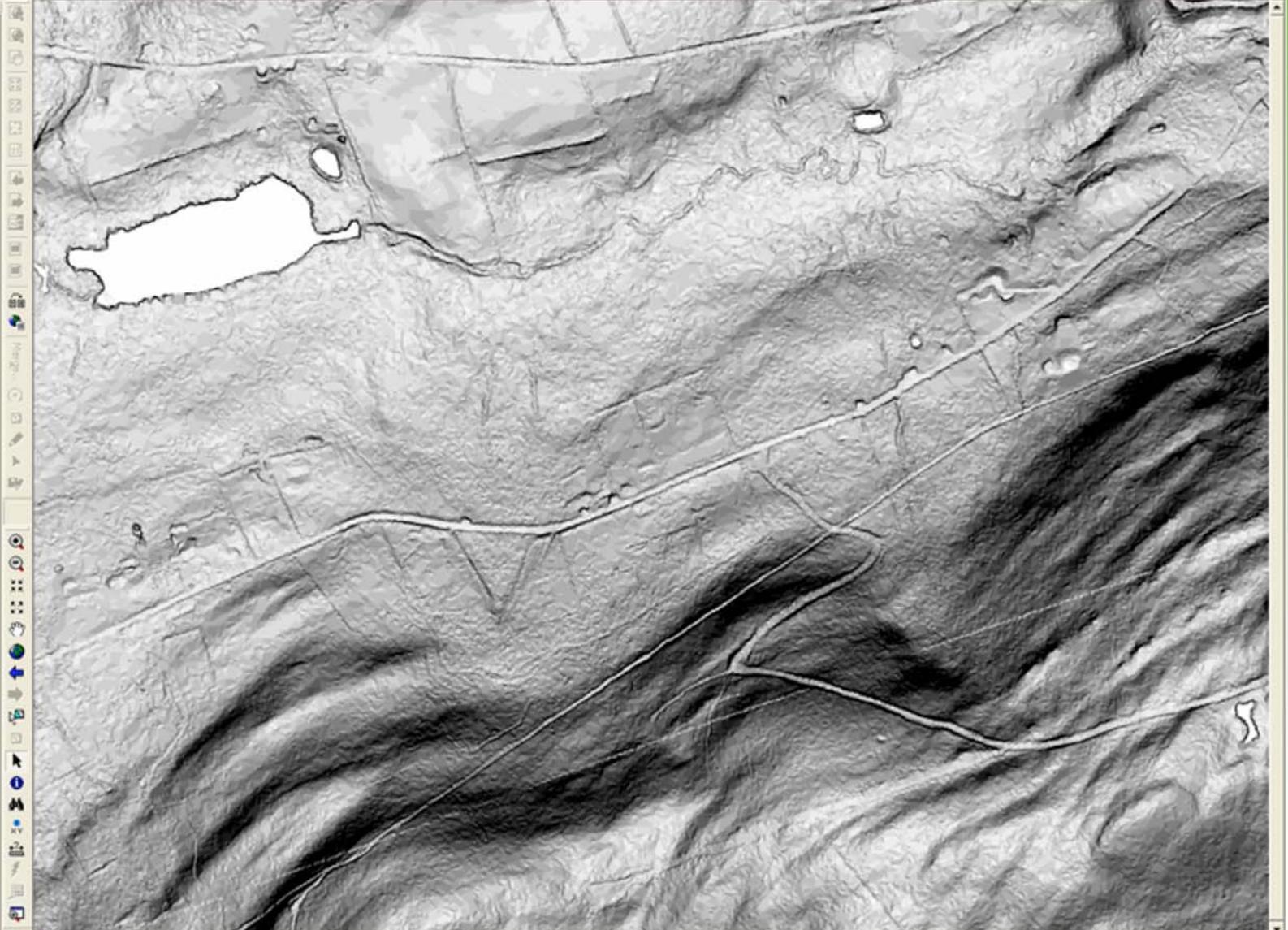


**Layers**

- Shickshinny\_PreGlacial\_Drainage
- Shickshinny\_Wisc\_Limit
- Shickshinny\_Wisc\_Limit
- Shickshinny\_Till\_Drumlin
- Shickshinny\_Sluiceways
- Shick\_Frame
- Shick\_Isochores
- Shick\_Outcrops
- Shick\_SurGeo\_Lines
- Shick Zero Deg Hillshade
- shick\_aspect\_3
- shick\_slope\_3
- shickshinny\_pa.tif
- Shickshinny\_SurGeology
- shick\_dem
- shick\_hs\_3.tif
- o41076b2.tif

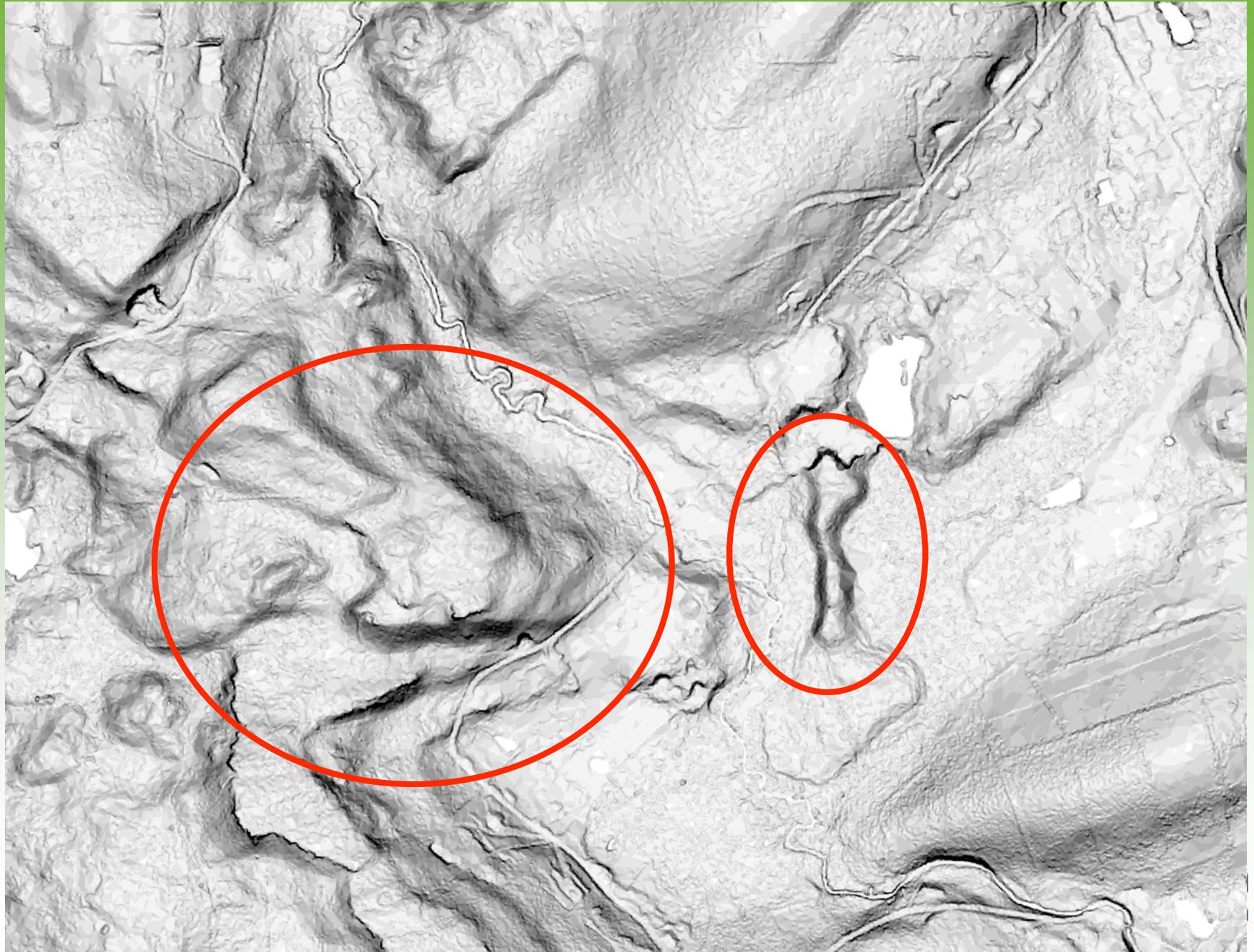
**shick\_slope\_3**  
<VALUE>

0 - 0.427920586
0.427920586 - 2.461163005
2.461163006 - 4.494405425
4.494405426 - 6.527647845
6.527647846 - 8.560890265
8.560890266 - 10.59413268
10.59413269 - 12.6273751
12.62737511 - 14.66061752
14.66061753 - 16.69385994
16.69385995 - 18.72710236
18.72710237 - 20.76034478
20.76034479 - 22.7935872
22.79358721 - 24.82682962
24.82682963 - 26.86007204
26.86007205 - 28.89331446
28.89331447 - 30.92655688
30.92655689 - 32.95980000

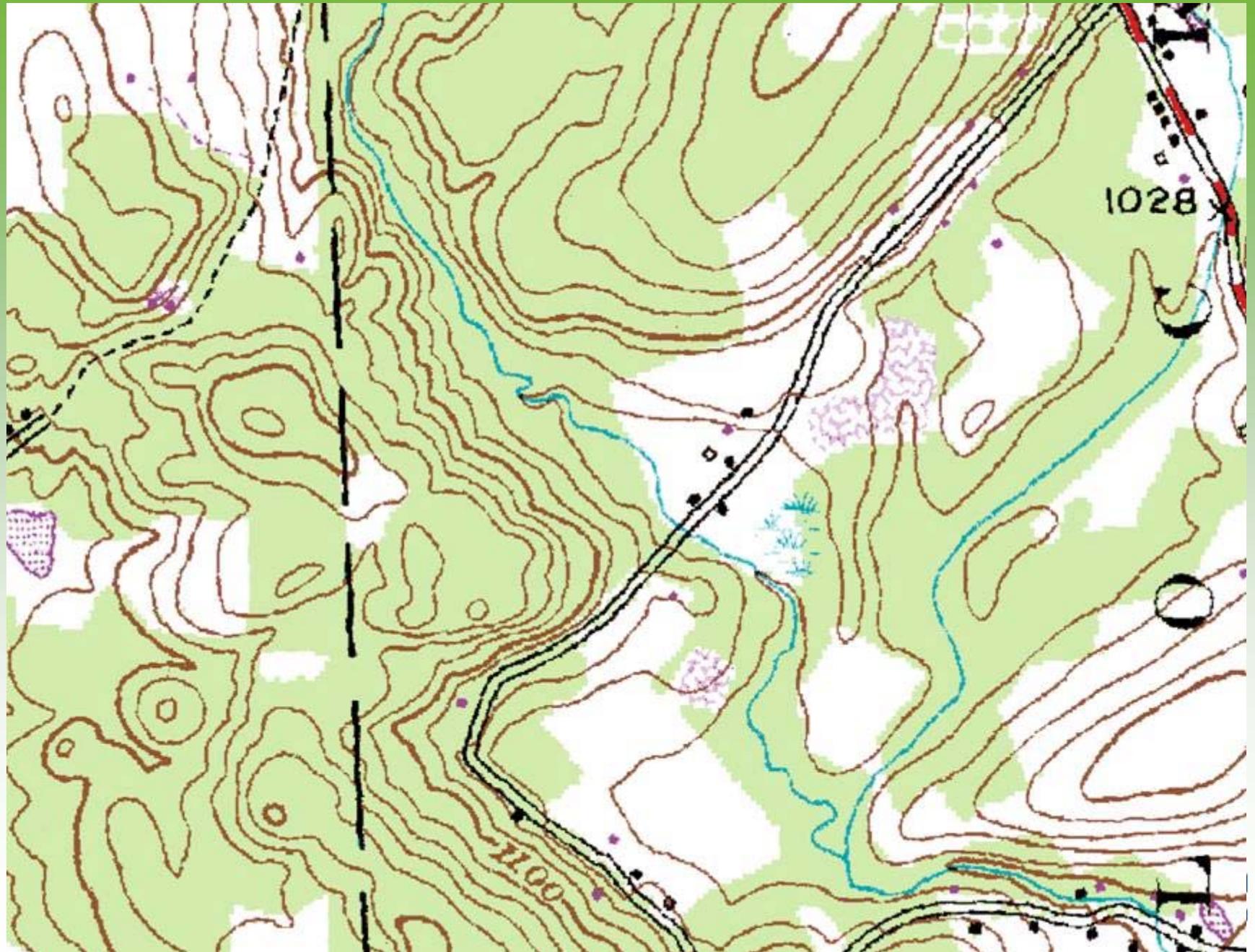


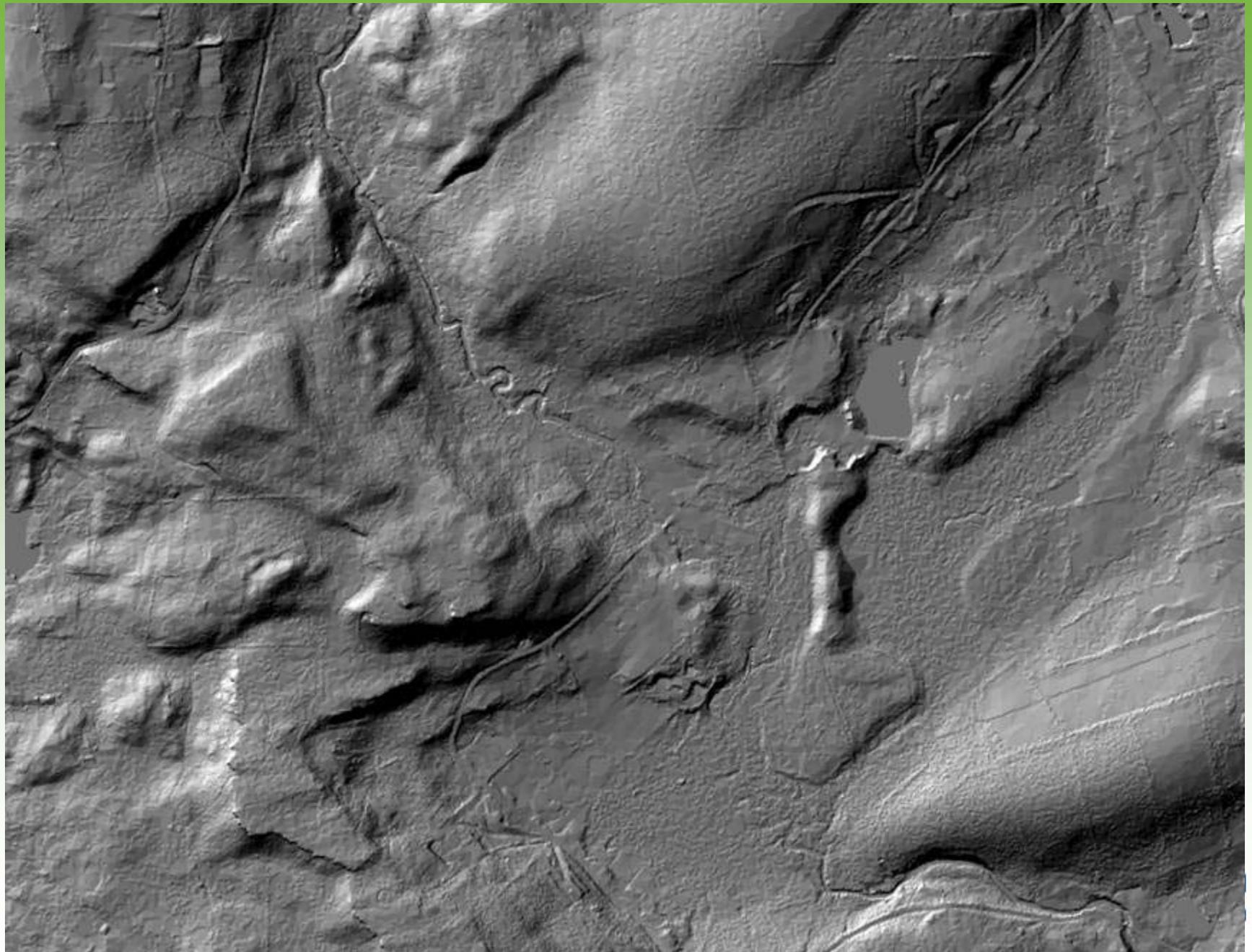
# The caveat page.....

- We are looking strictly at slope angle
- We do not have “sun and shadow” effects
- We lose the sense of “up and down”
- Without visual clues – we cannot tell high points from low points



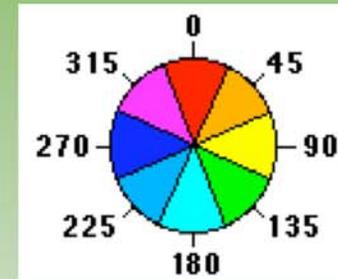






# Using Aspect for Slope Direction

- Aspect identifies the downslope direction of the maximum rate of change in value from each cell to its neighbors.
- Aspect can be thought of as the slope direction. The values of the output raster will be the compass direction of the aspect.
- Setting azimuth divisions to colors gives a visual indication of direction.

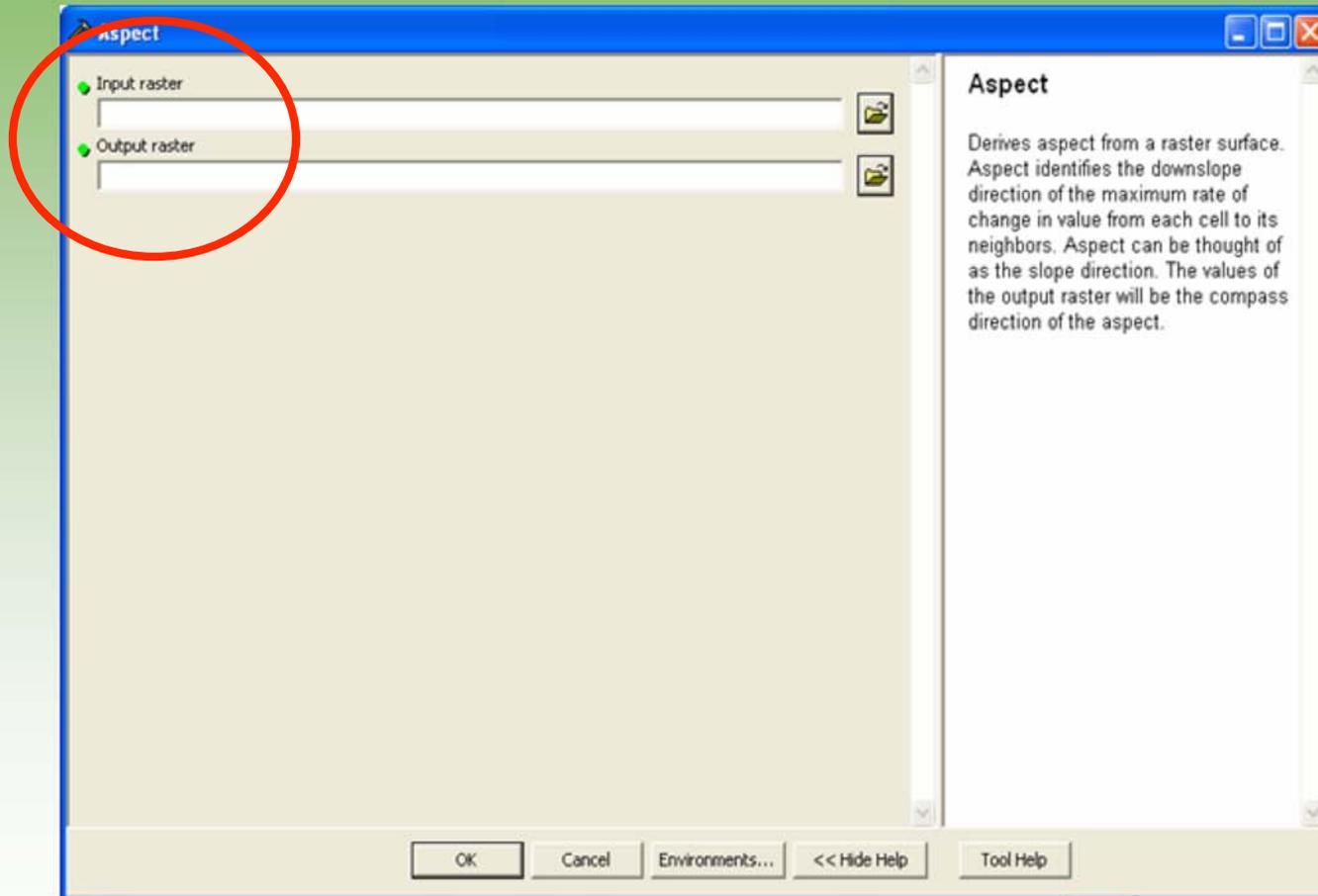


108	87	71
91	92	96
72	96	114

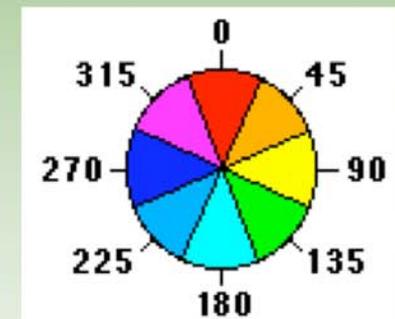
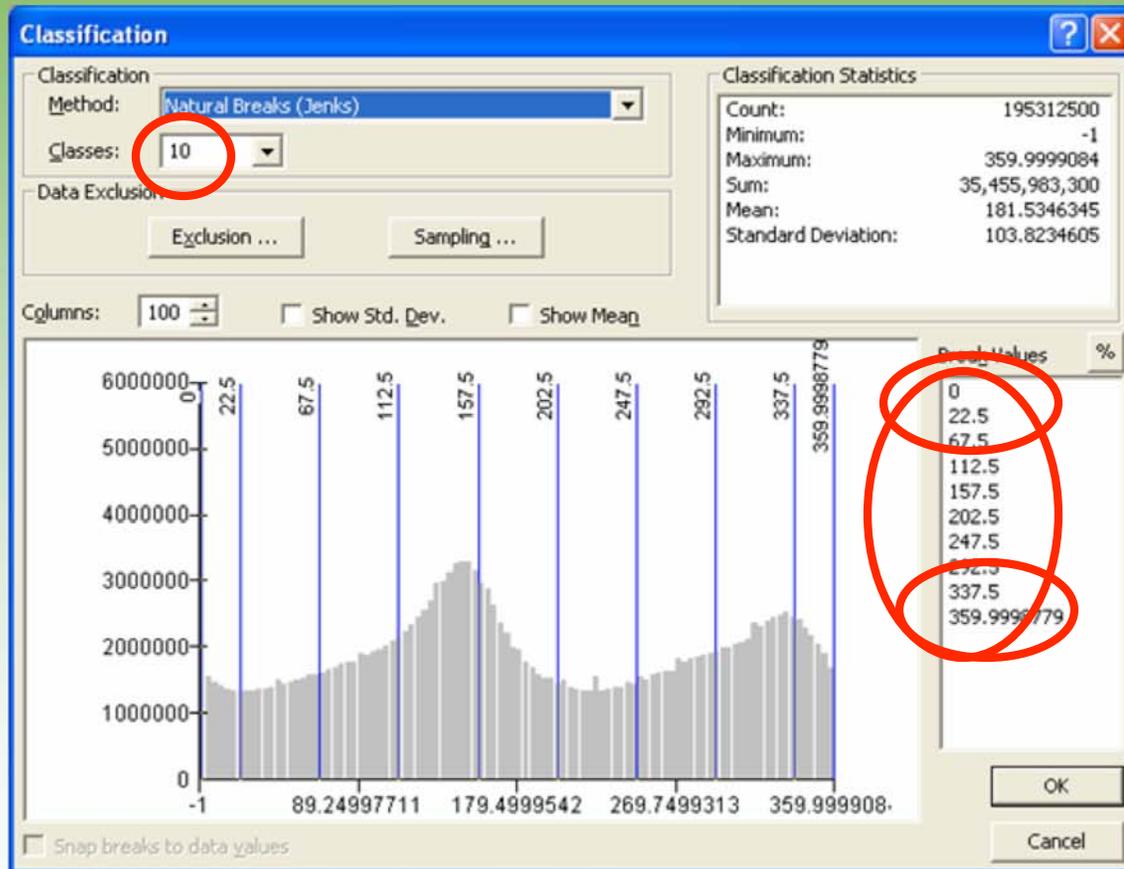
Aspect of elevation

- Flat (-1)
- North (0-22.5)
- Northeast (22.5-67.5)
- East (67.5-112.5)
- Southeast (112.5-157.5)
- South (157.5-202.5)
- Southwest (202.5-247.5)
- West (247.5-292.5)
- Northwest (292.5-337.5)
- North (337.5-360)

# Creating an aspect grid



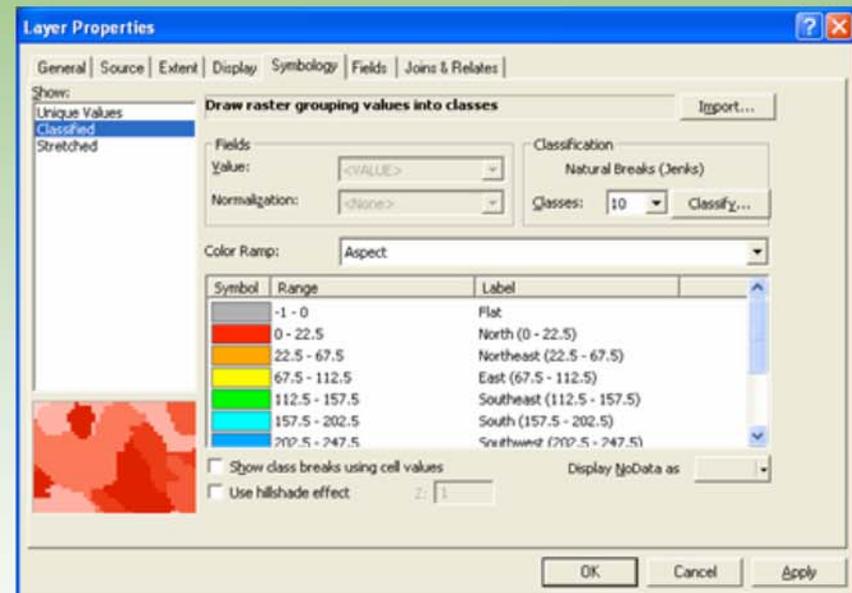
# Setting azimuth break points



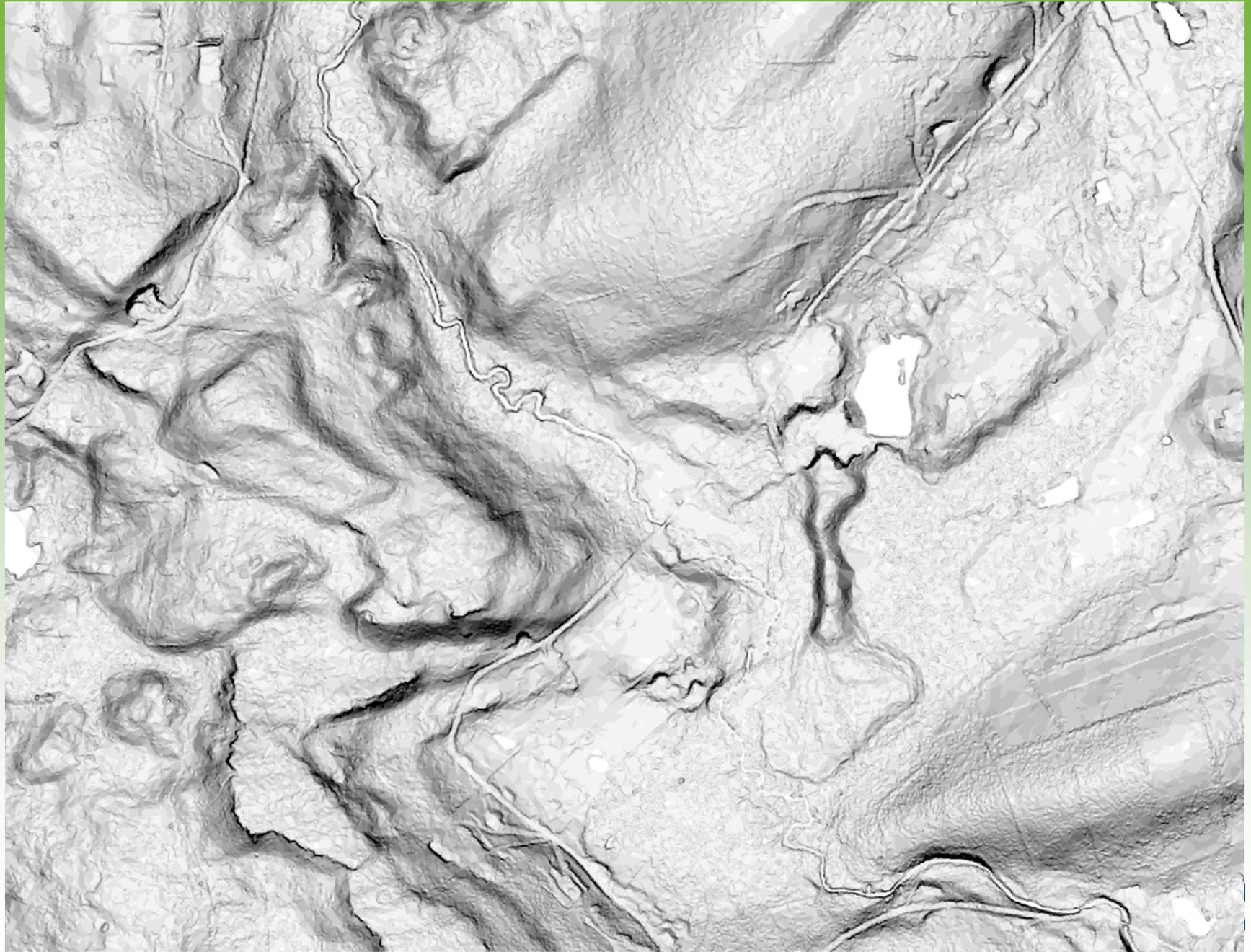
# Color display settings

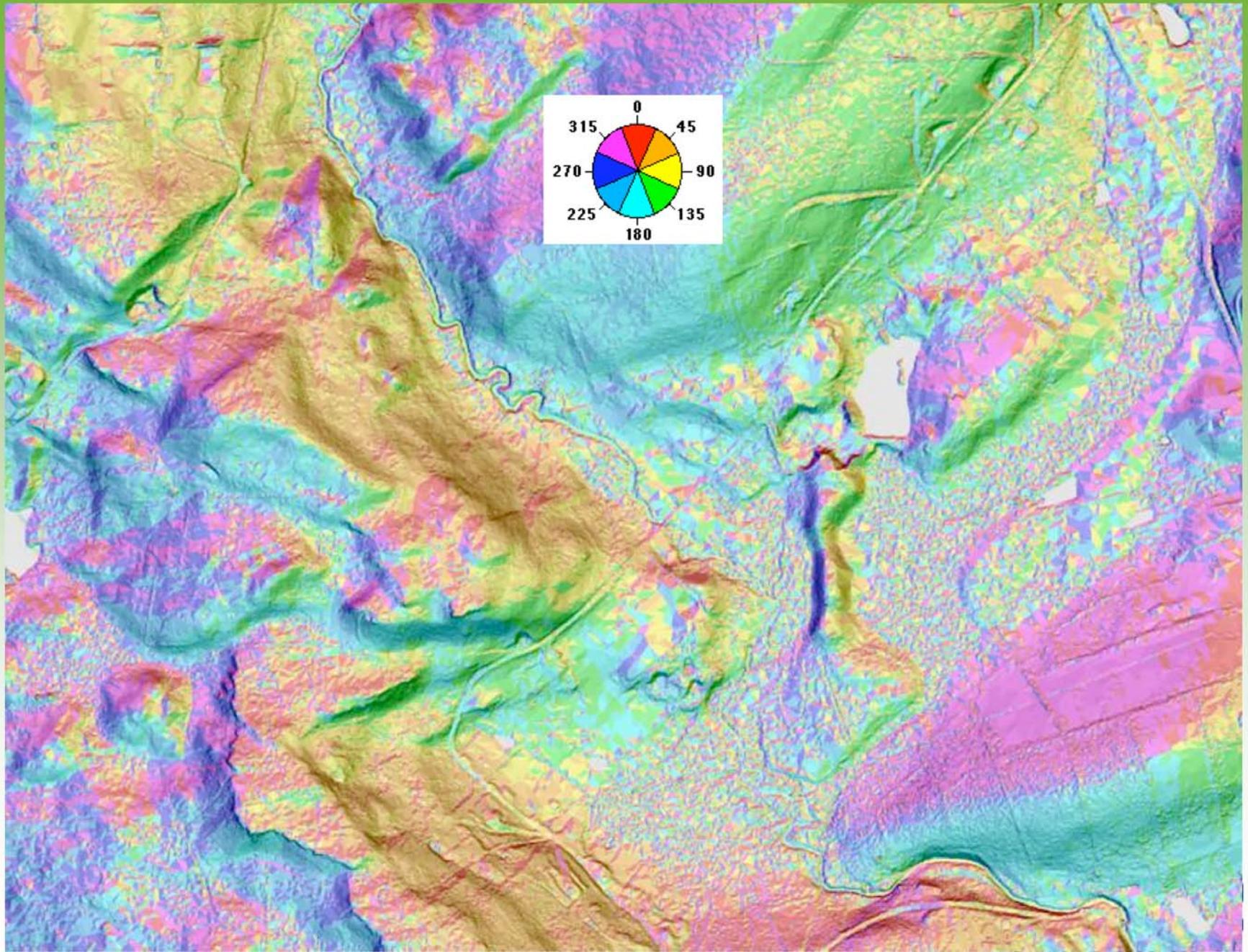
Break Settings at 45°

Break Range	Red	Green	Blue
North (0 - 22.5)	255	0	0
Northeast (22.5 - 67.5)	166	0	255
East (67.5 - 112.5)	255	255	0
Southeast (112.5 - 157.5)	0	255	0
South (157.5 - 202.5)	0	255	255
Southwest (202.5 - 247.5)	0	166	255
West (247.5 - 292.5)	0	0	255
Northwest (292.5 - 337.5)	0	550	255
North (337.5 - 359.9999)	255	0	0



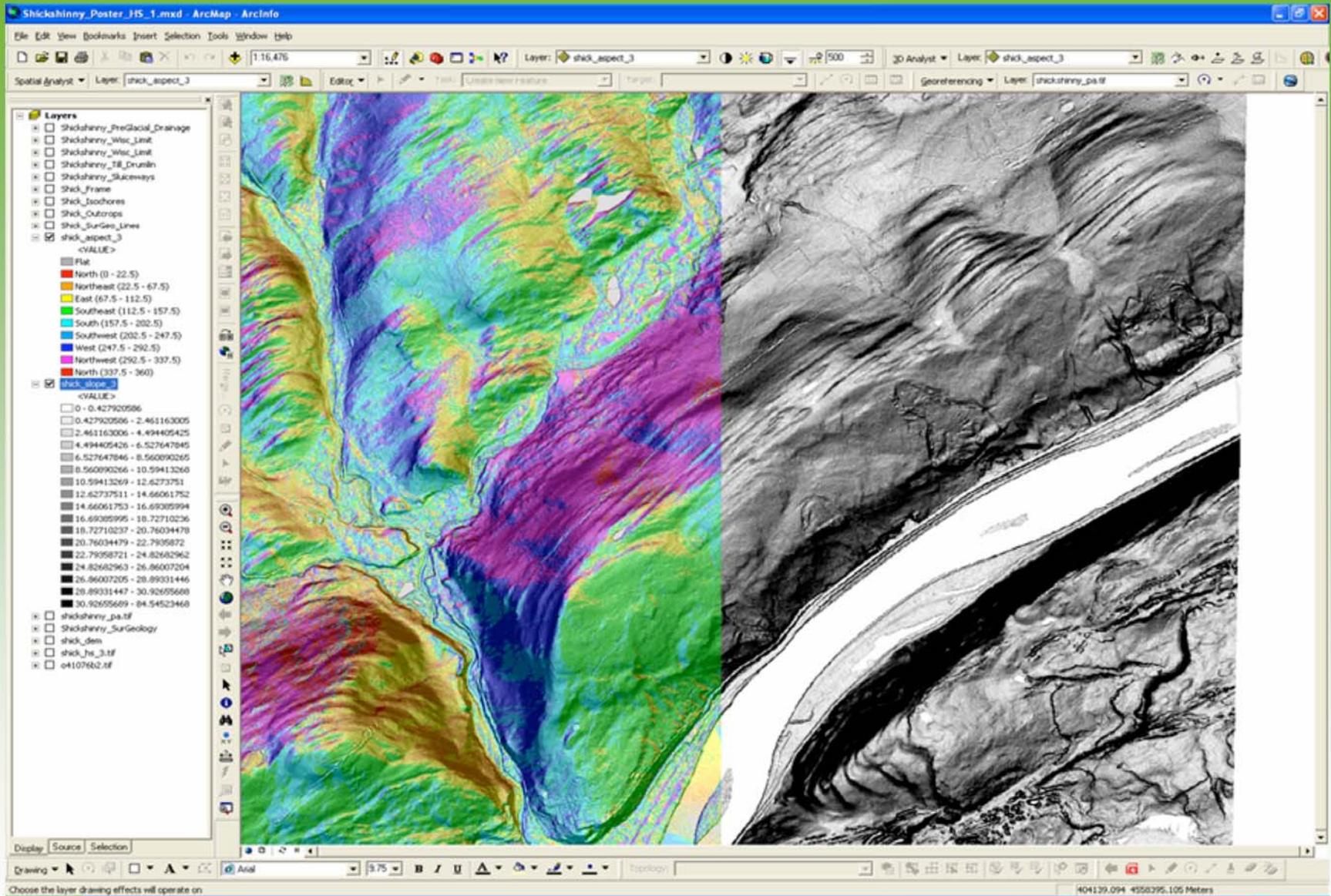
Closing the North Point at 22.5° each





# Aspect

- Can be displayed over a slope-shape
- Use transparency
- Use the “swipe tool”

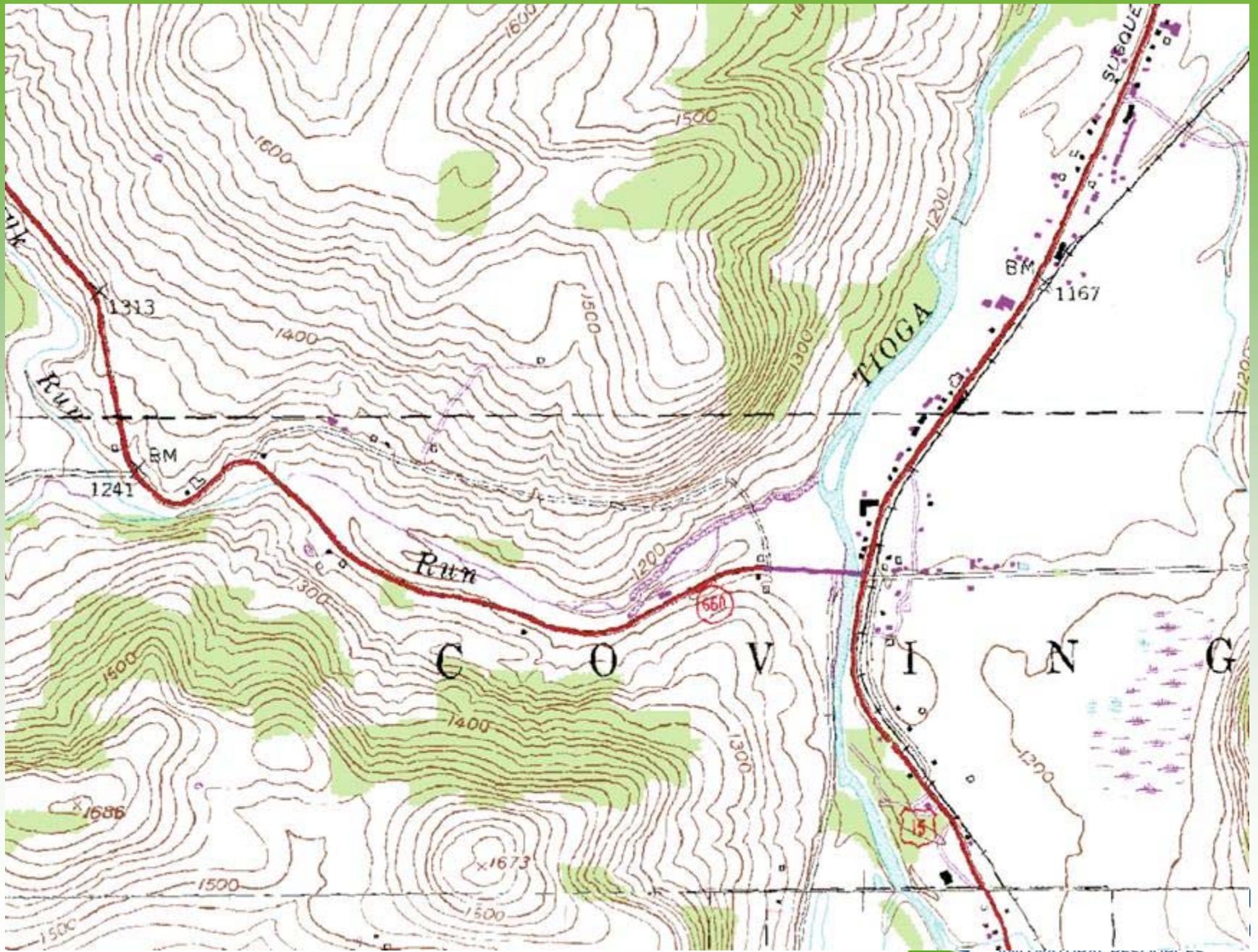


[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)

# Examples

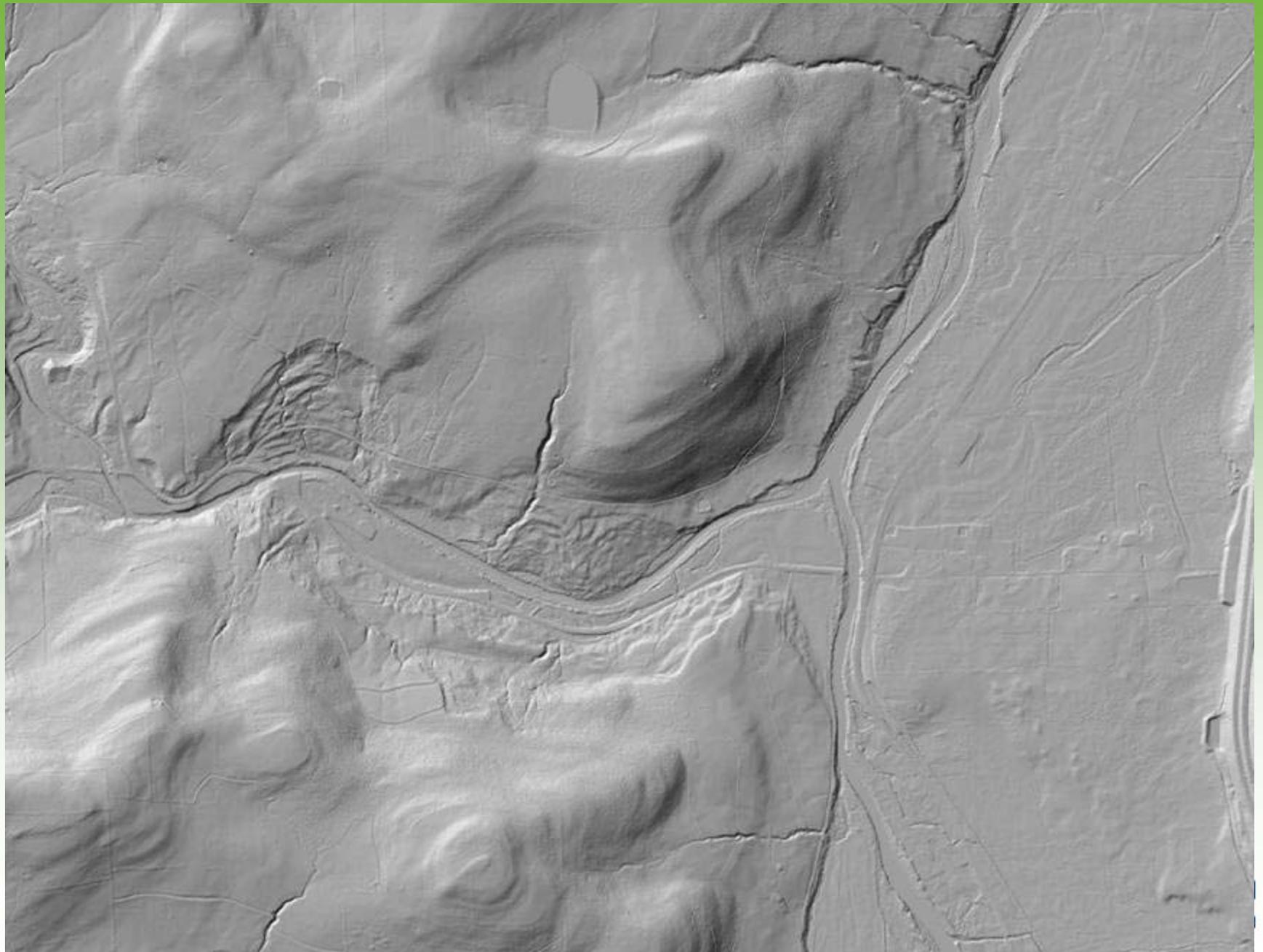
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)



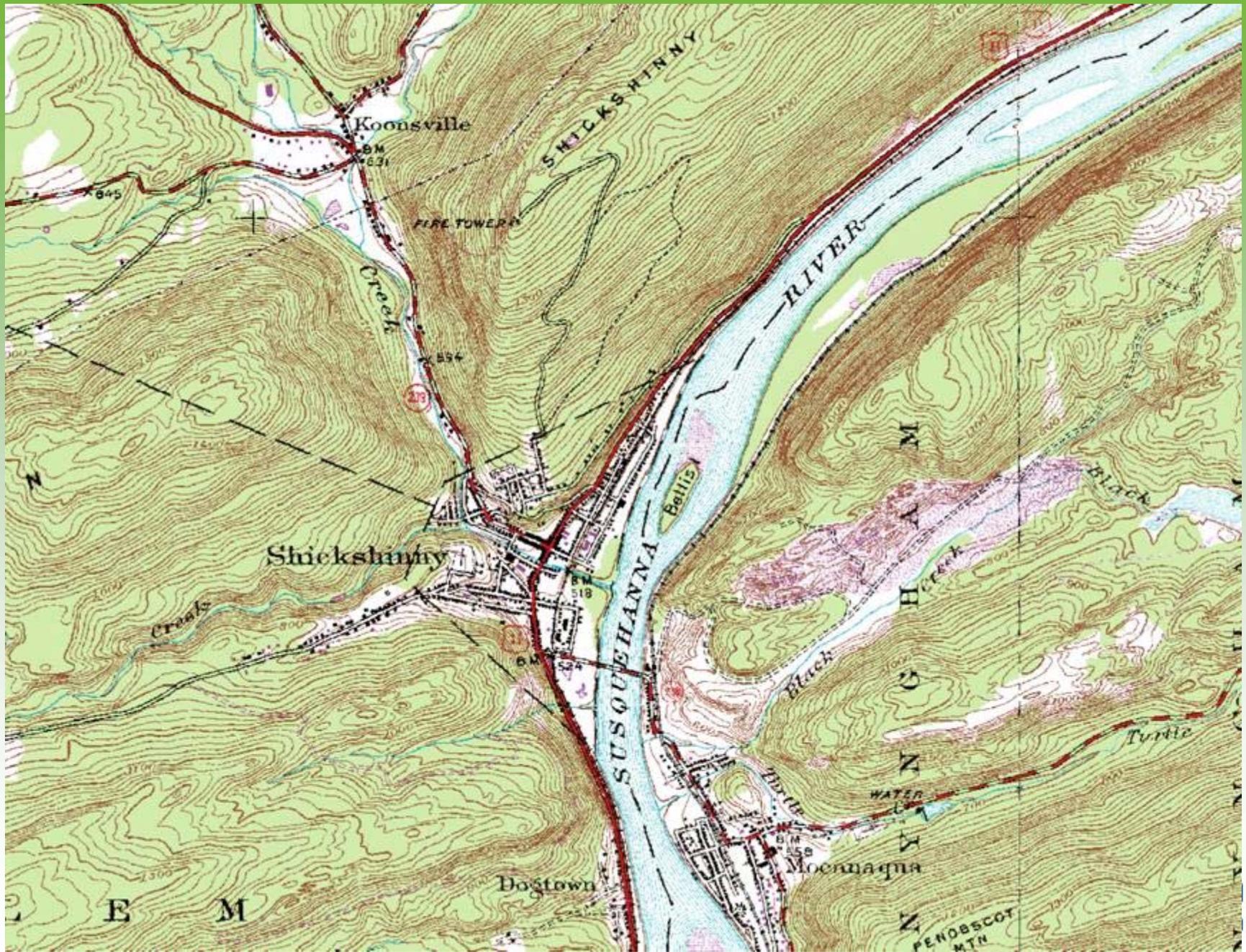


AND NATURAL RESOURCES



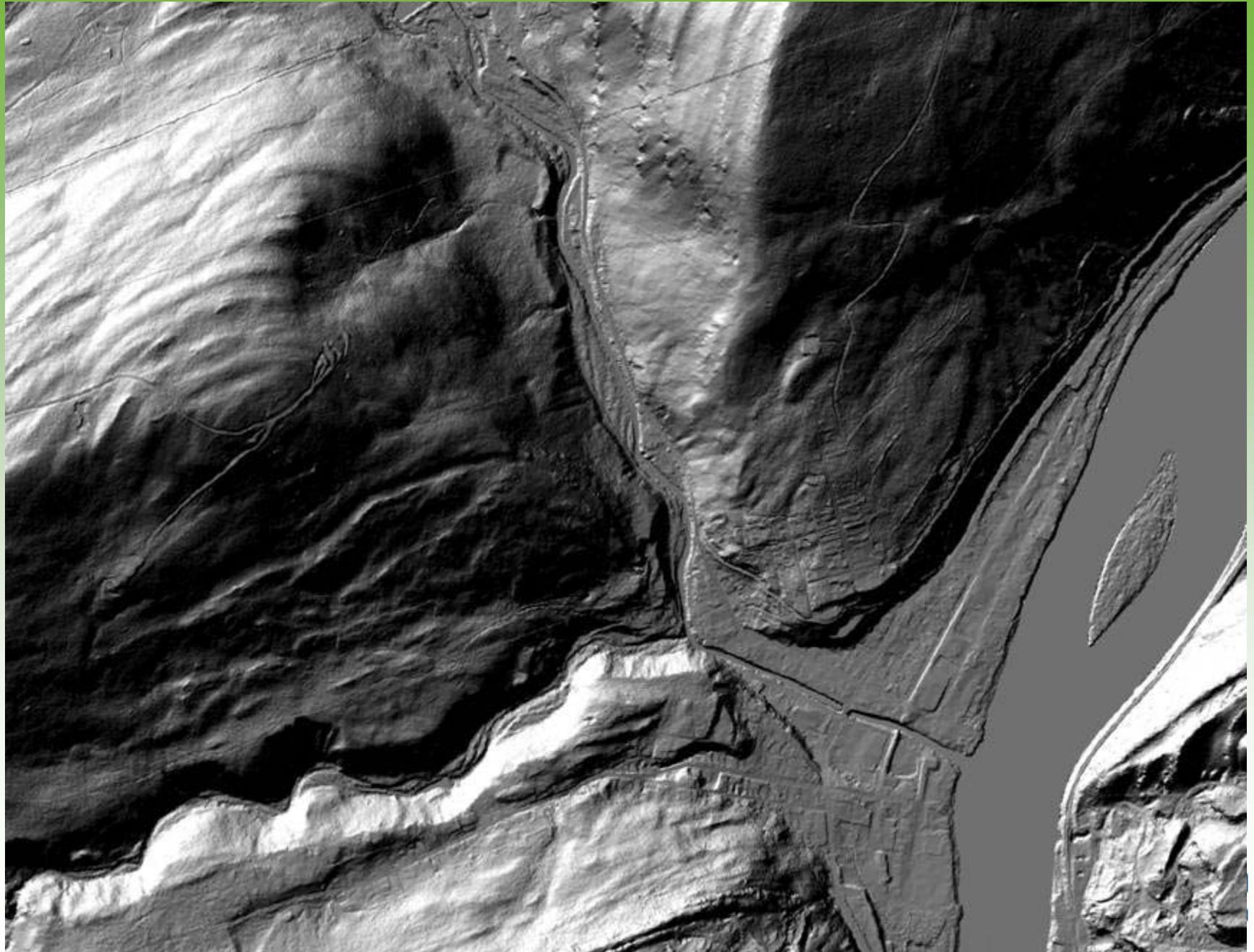


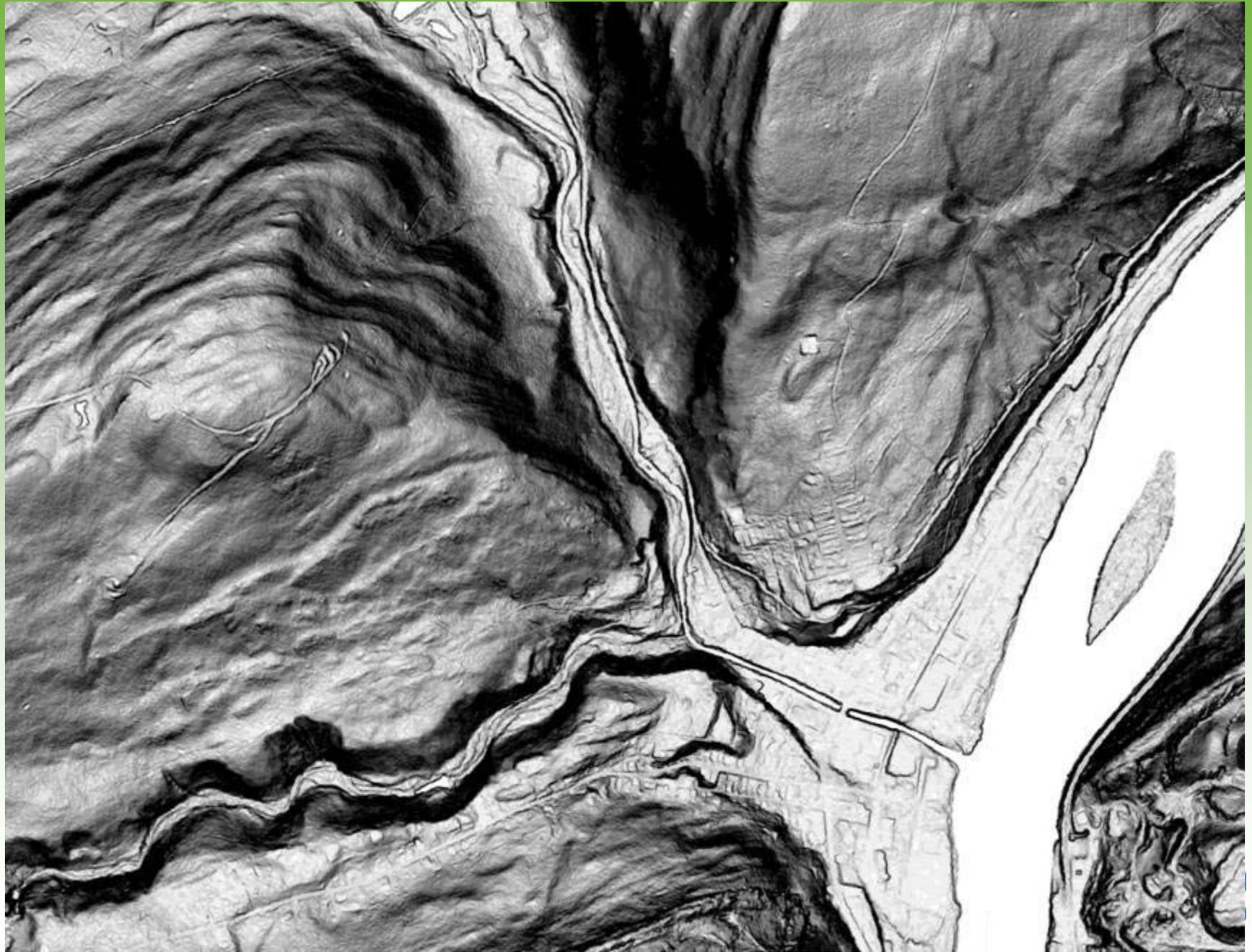


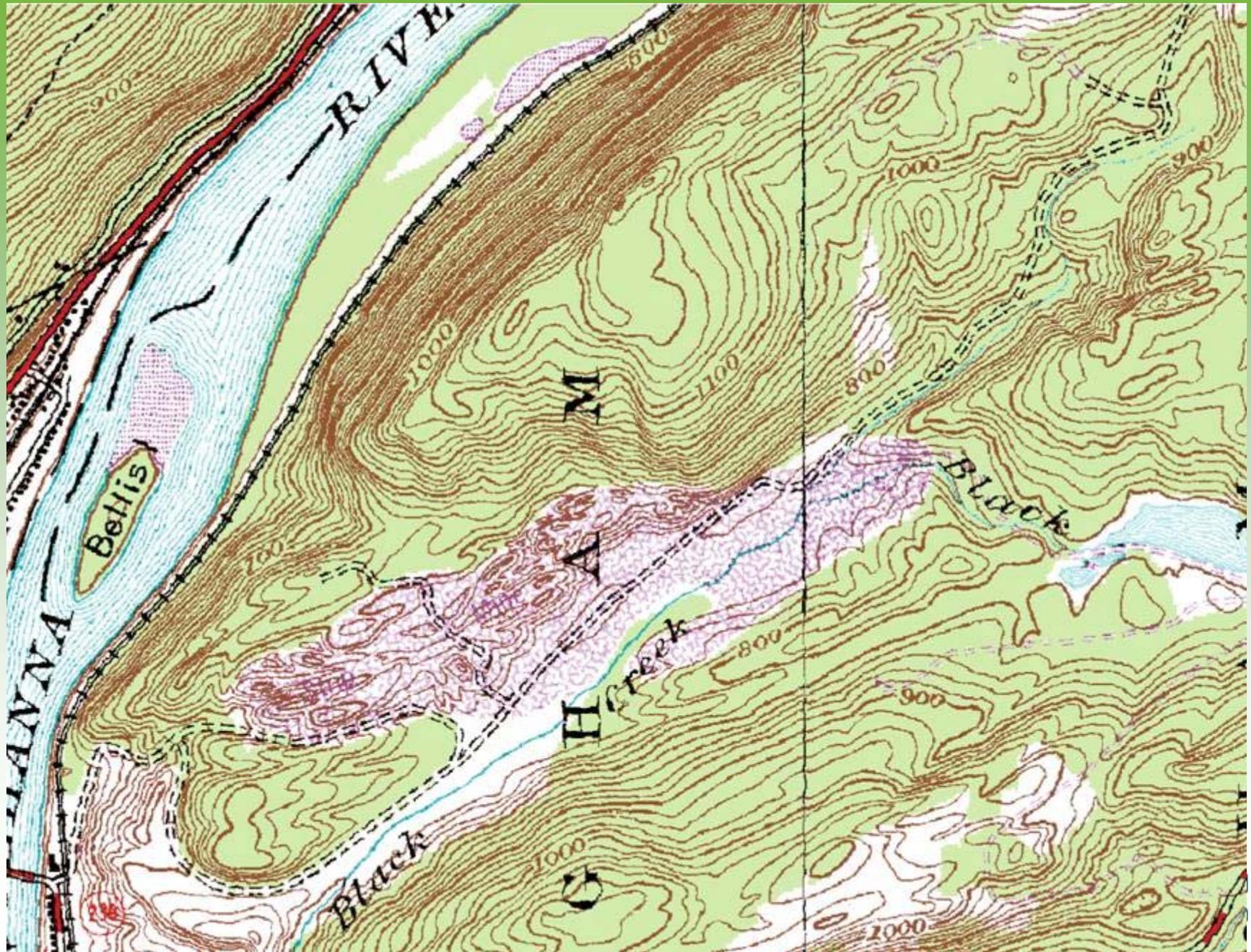


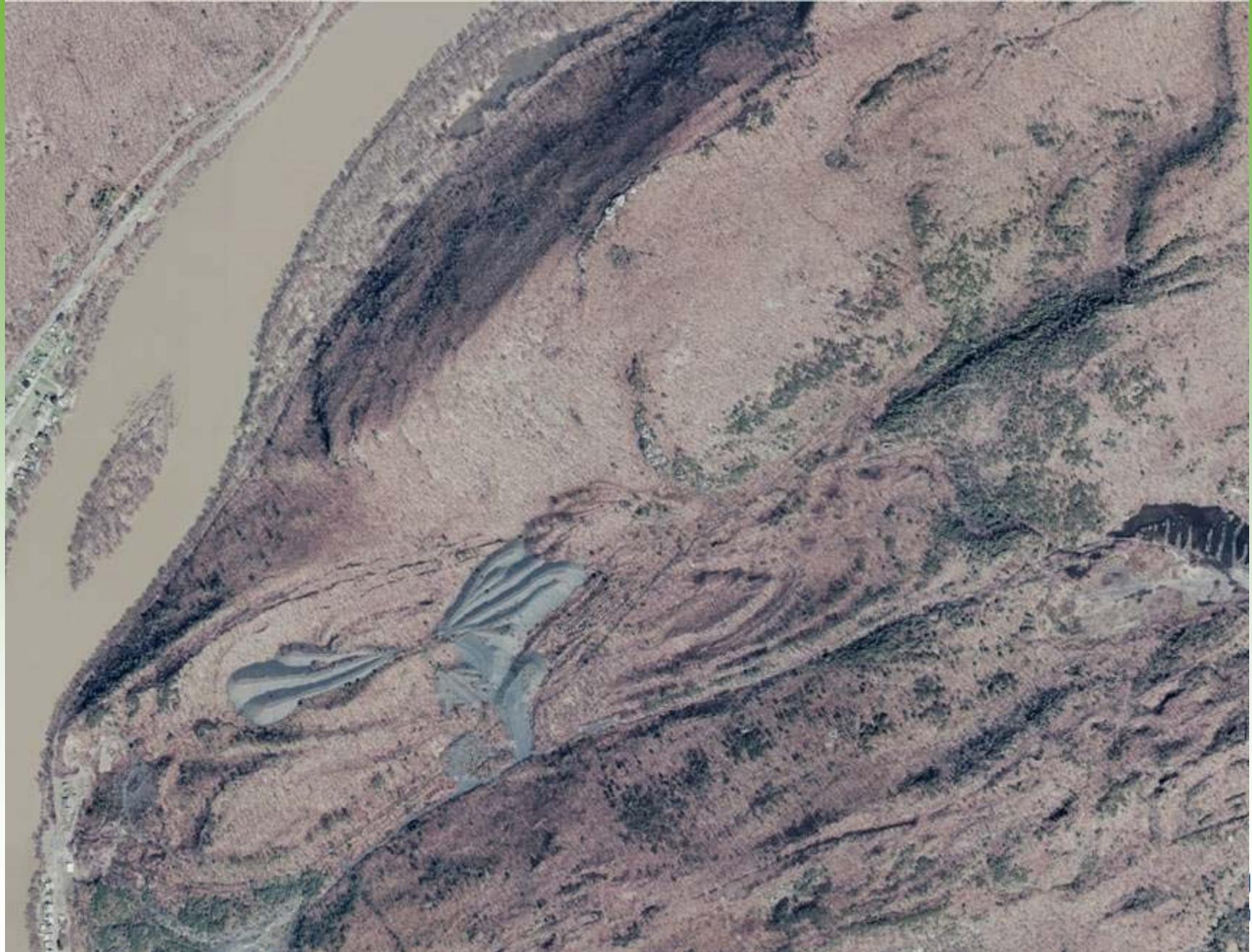


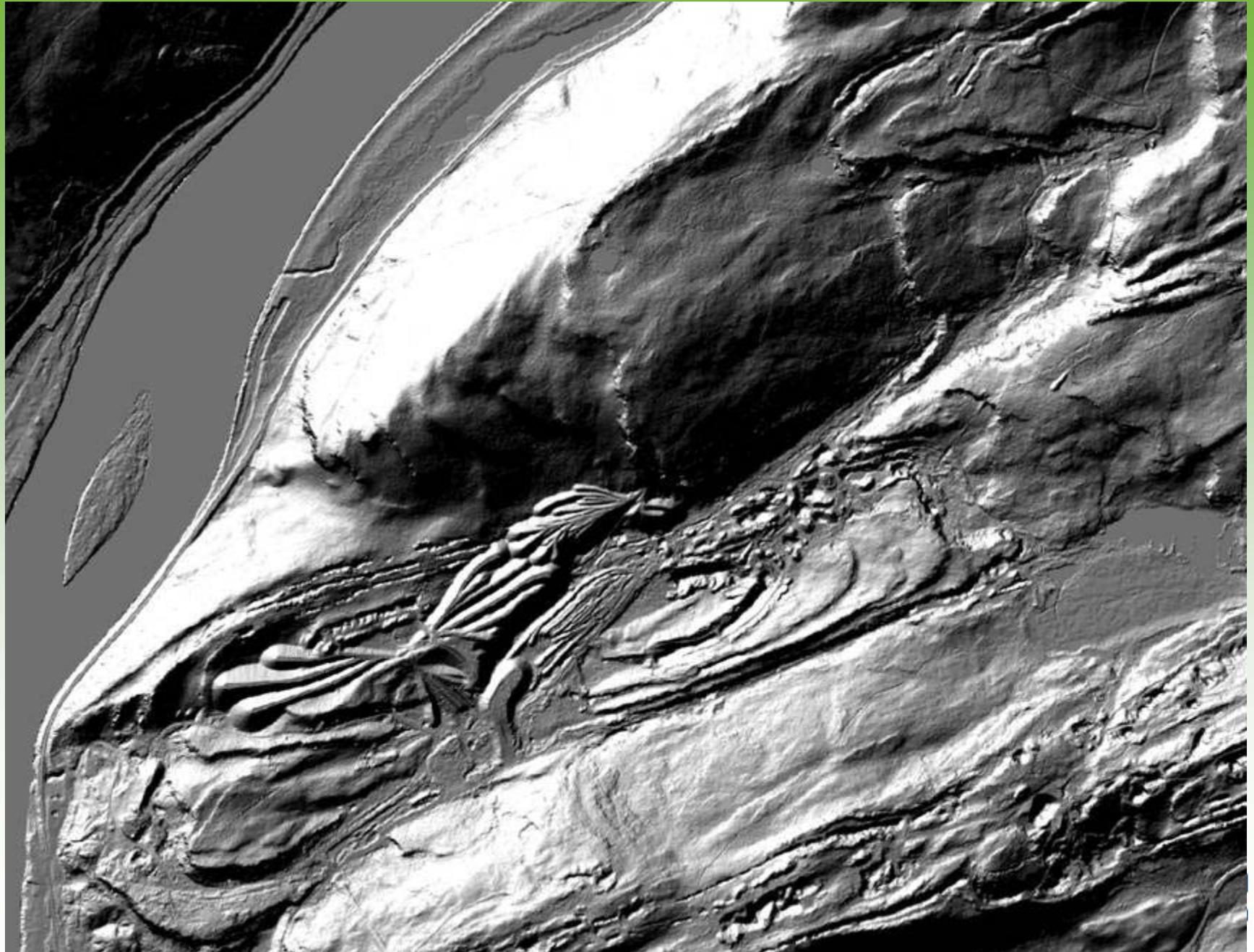


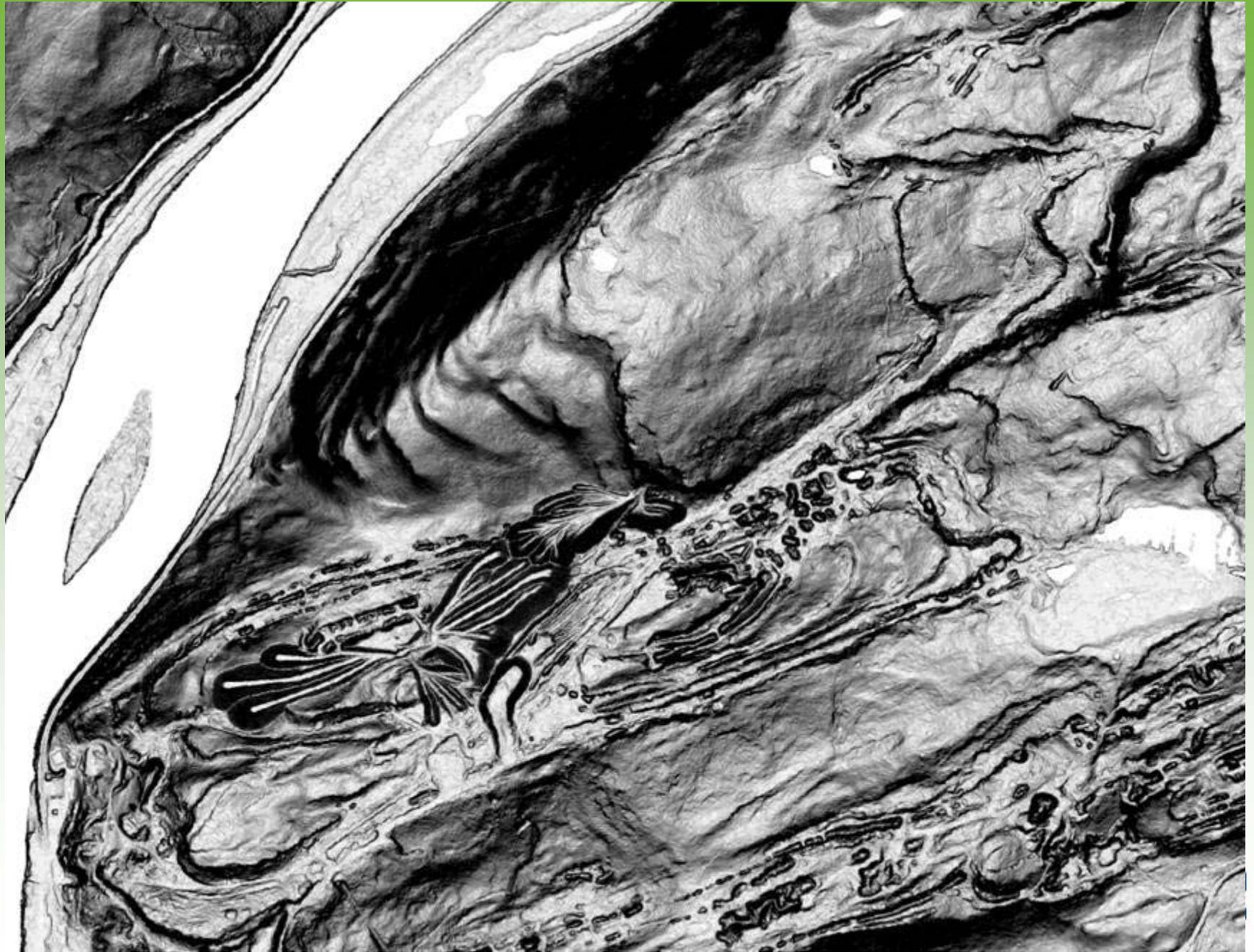


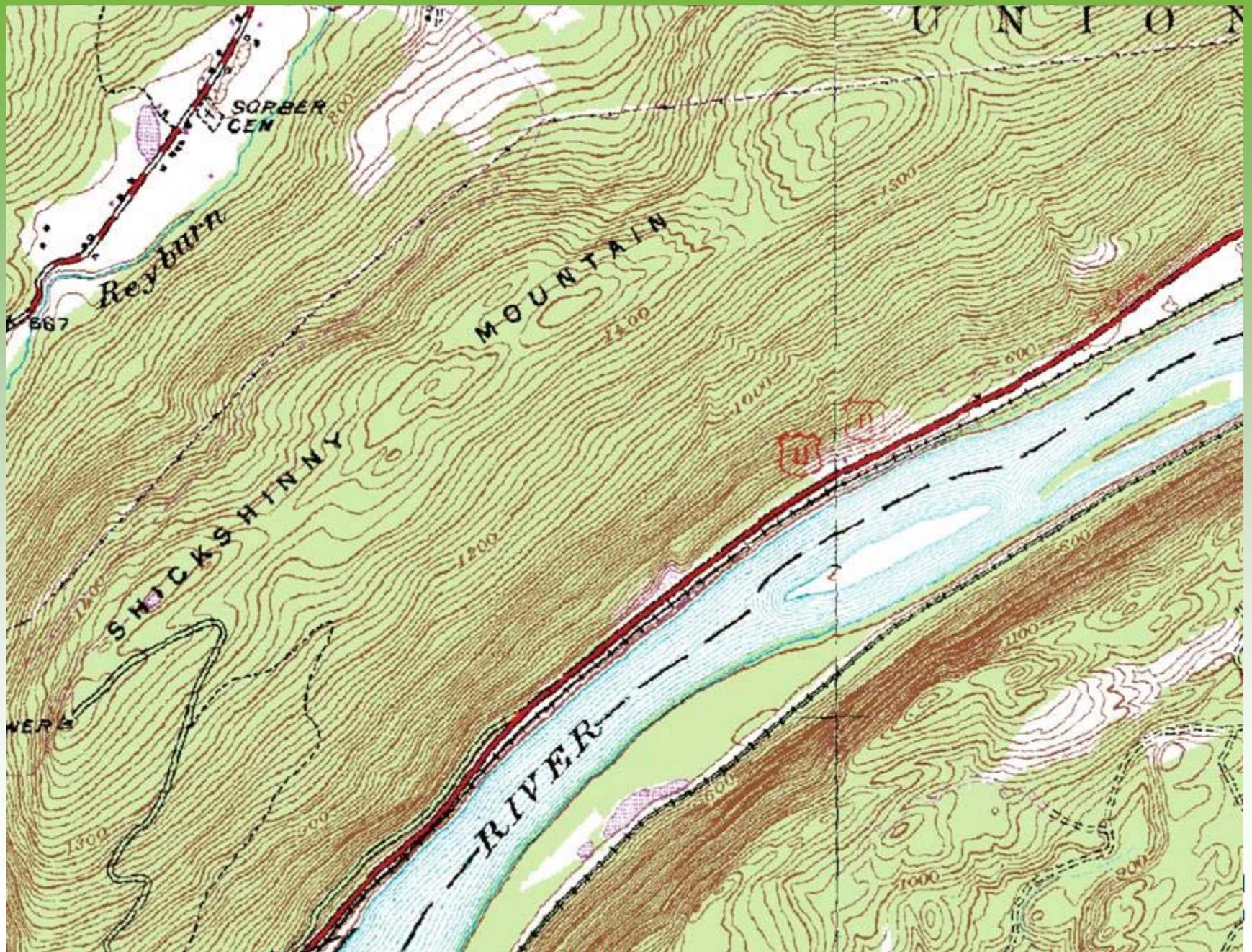




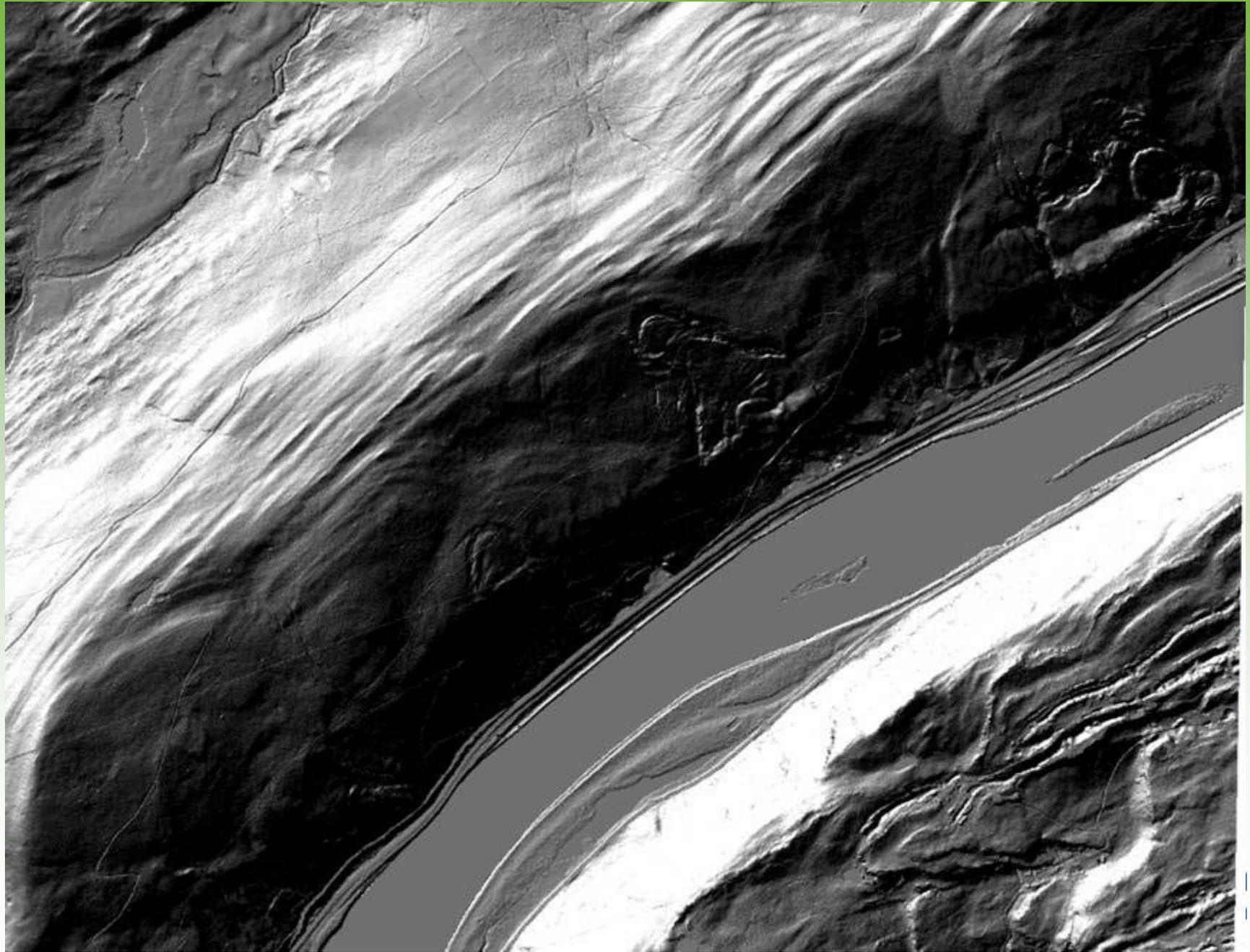


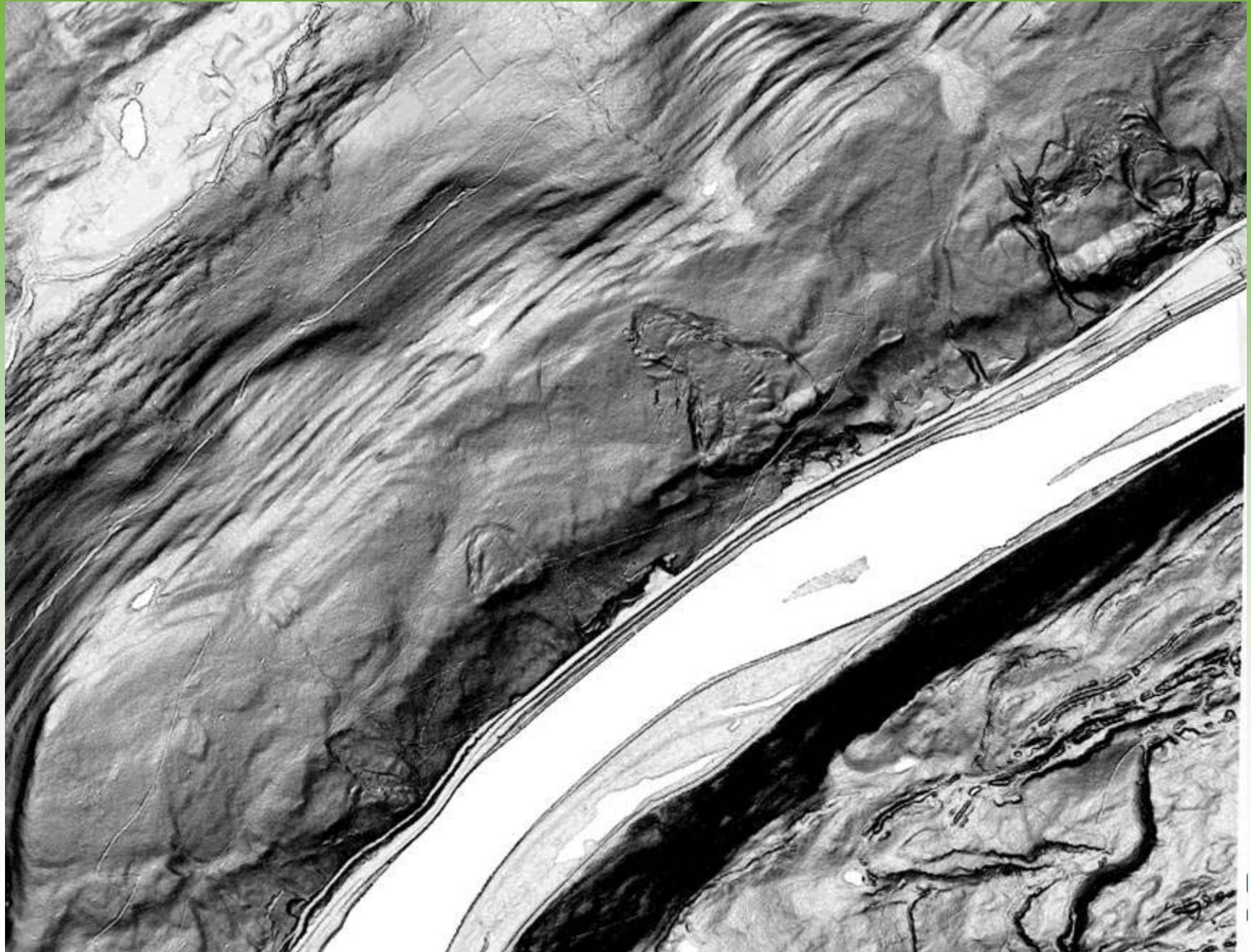


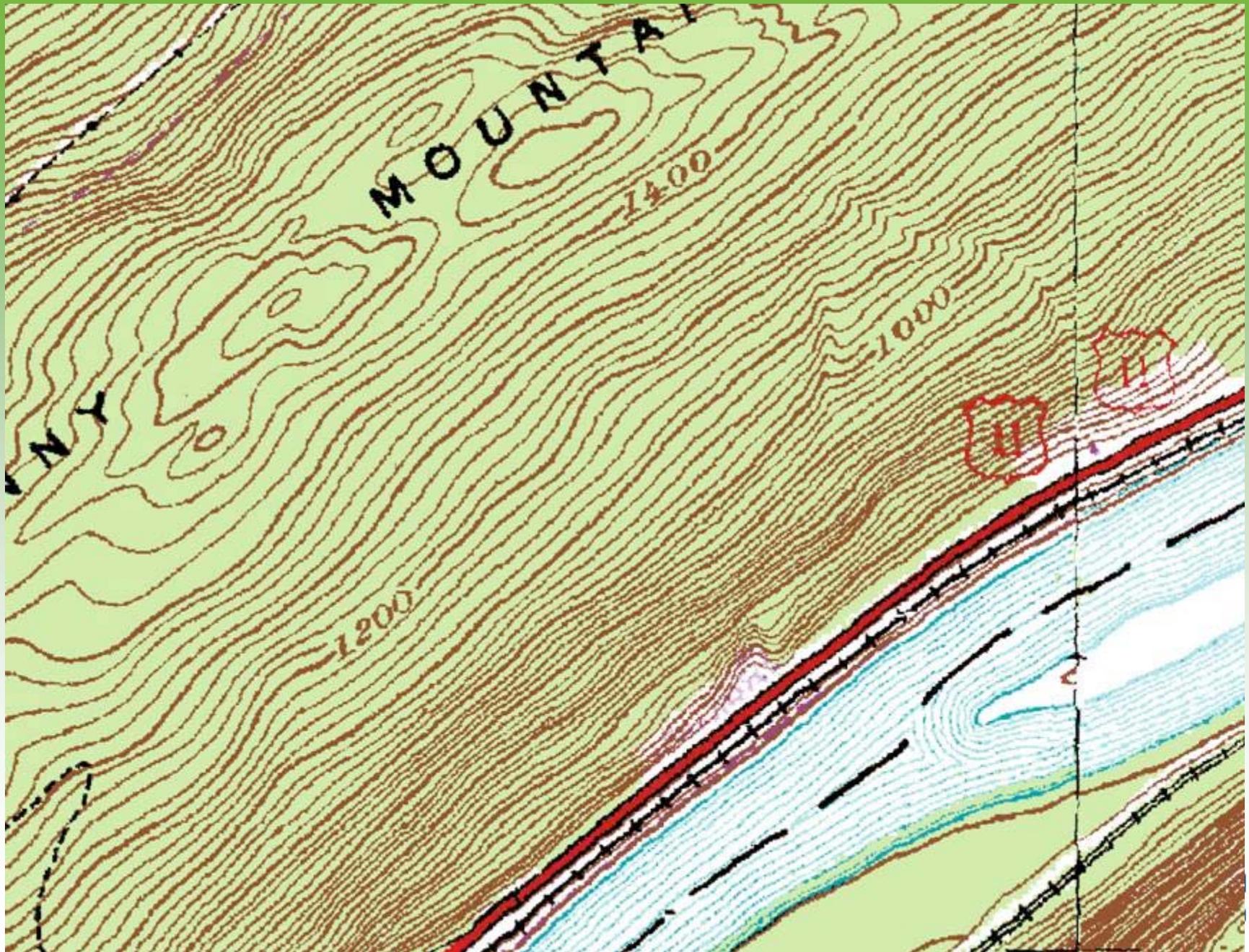




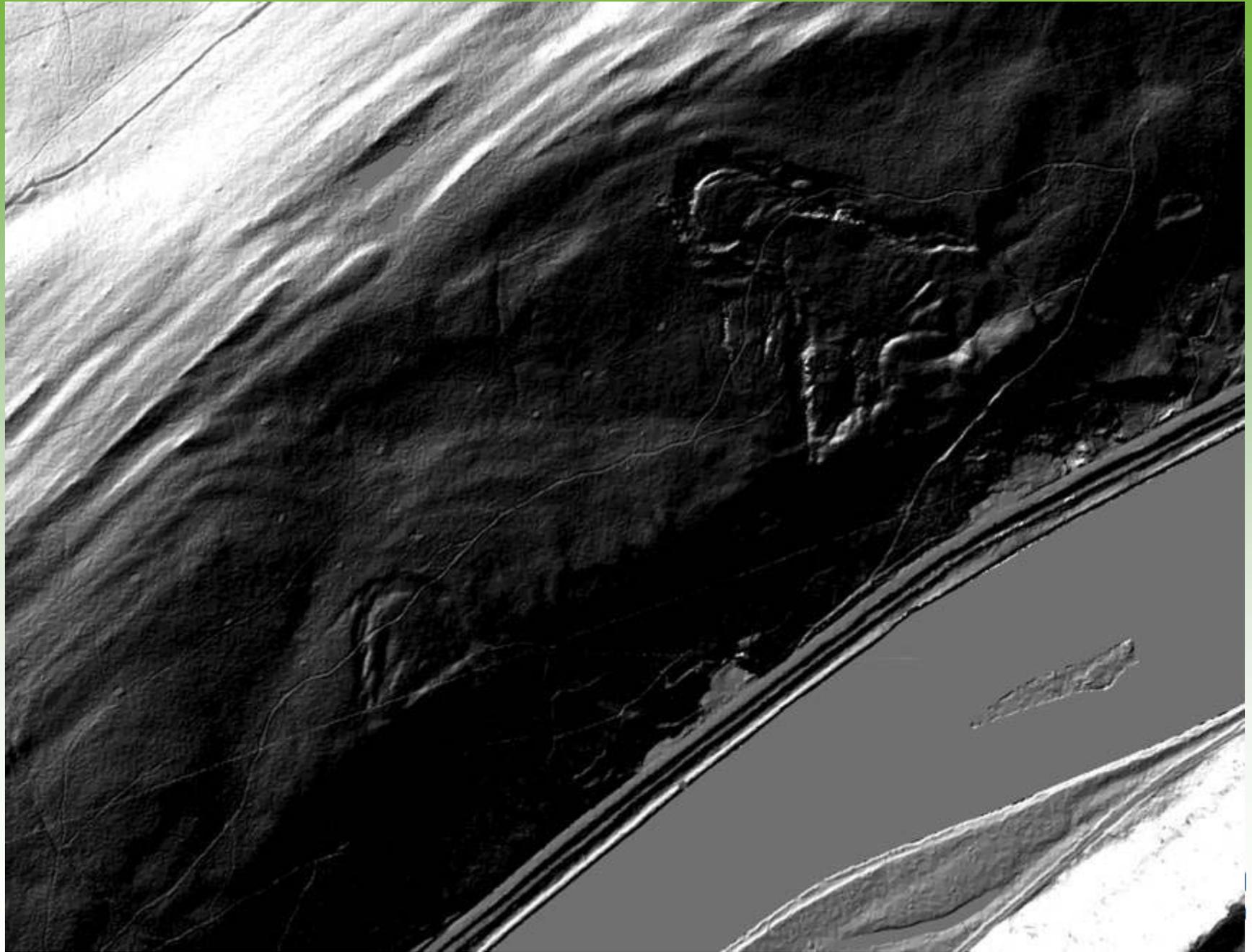


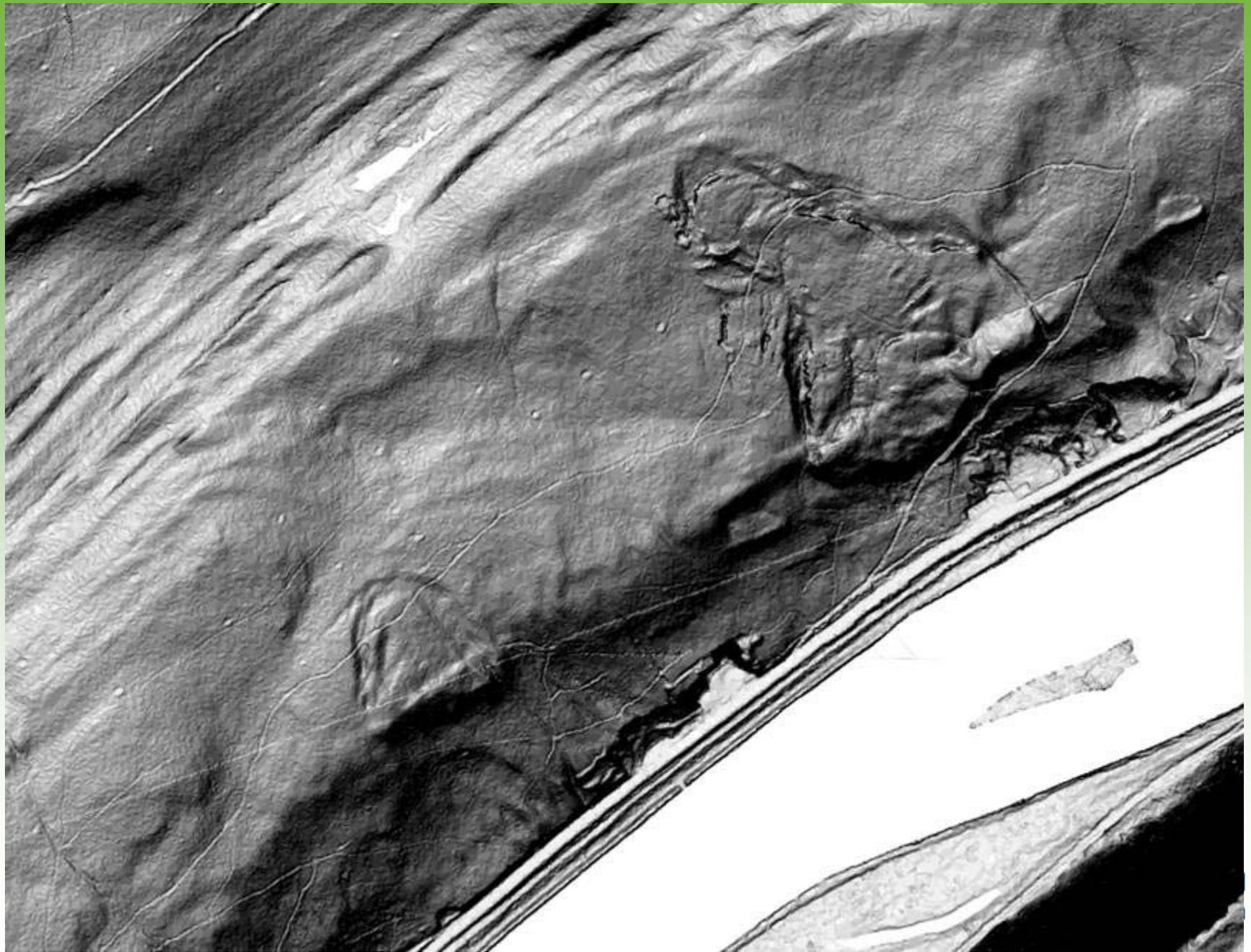


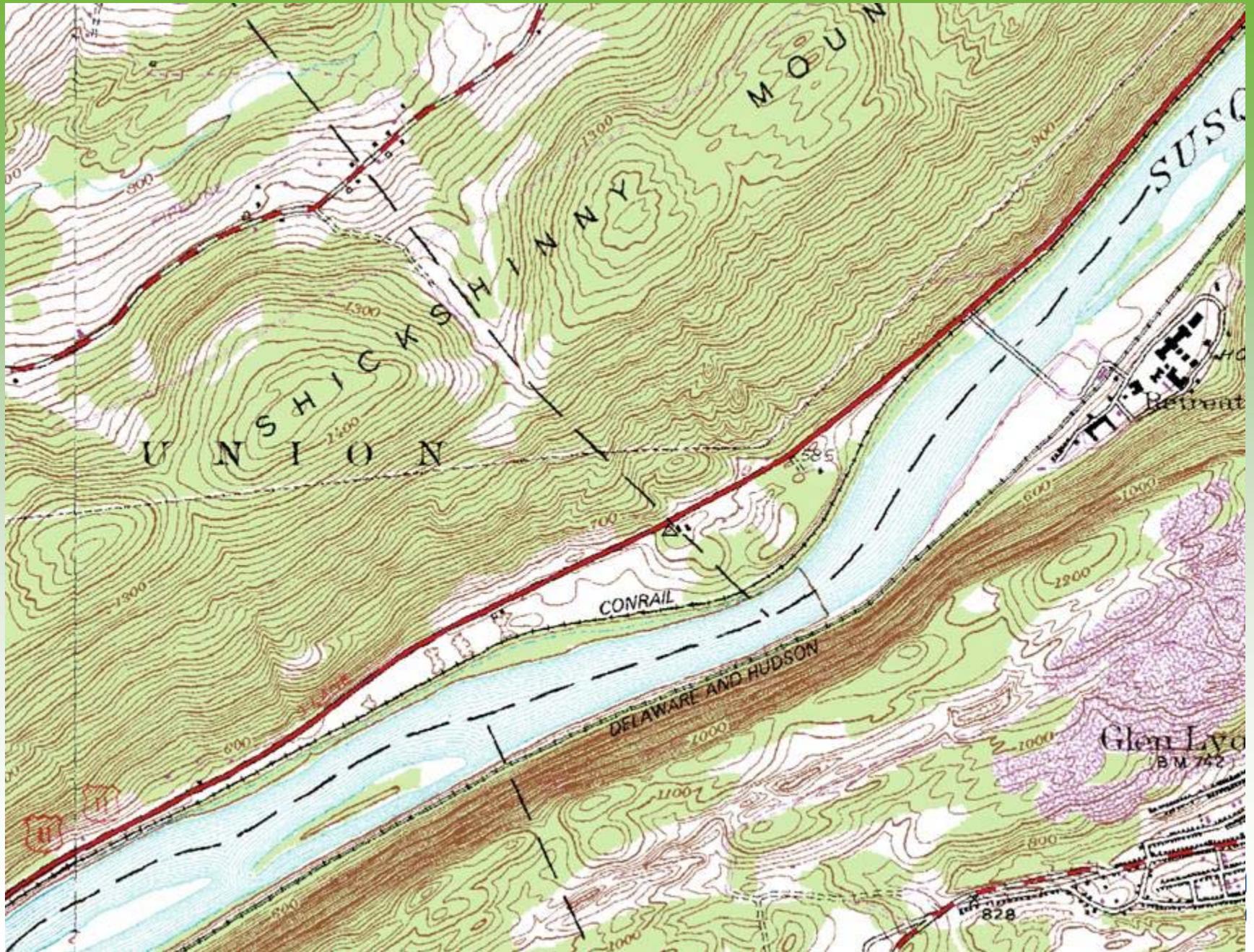






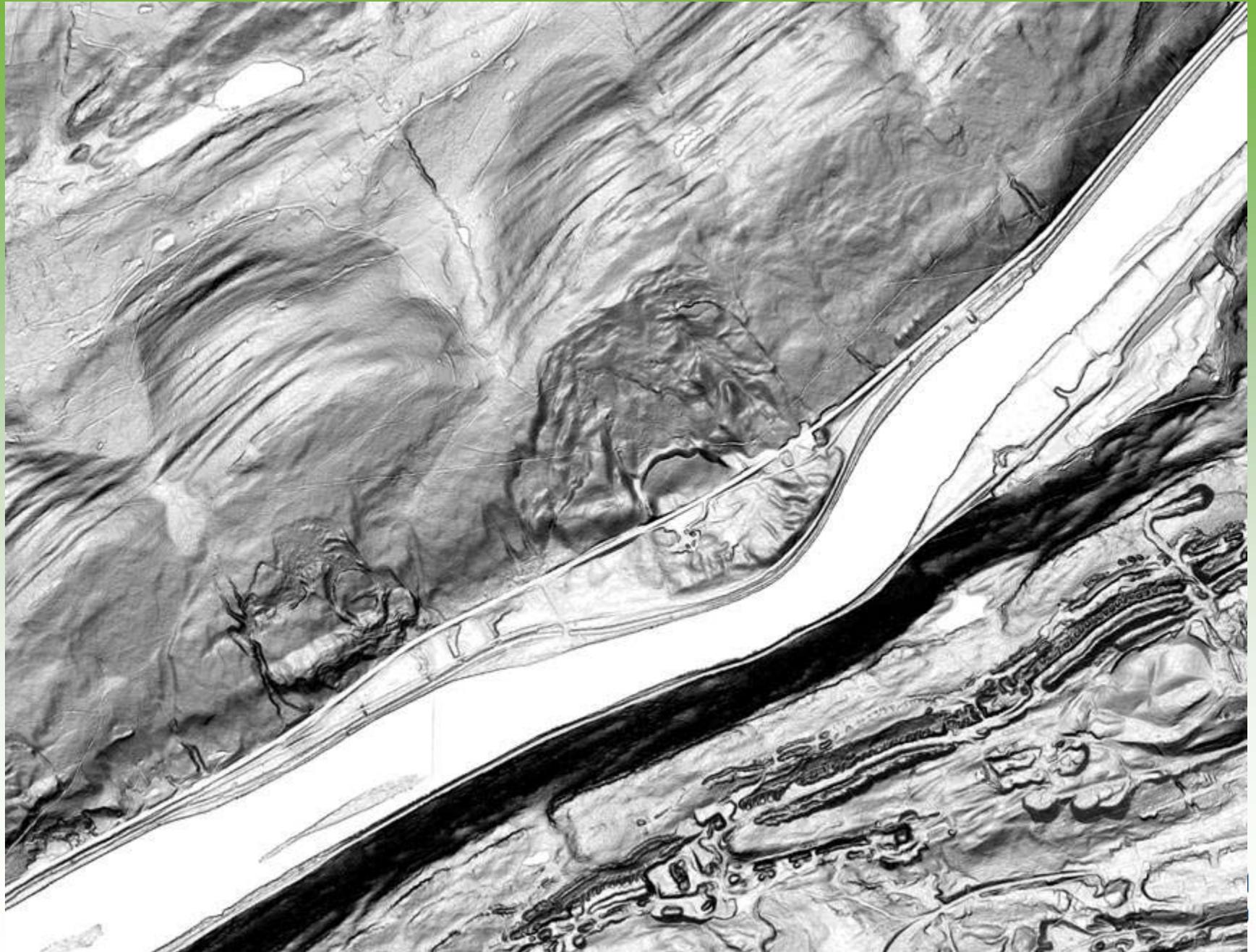


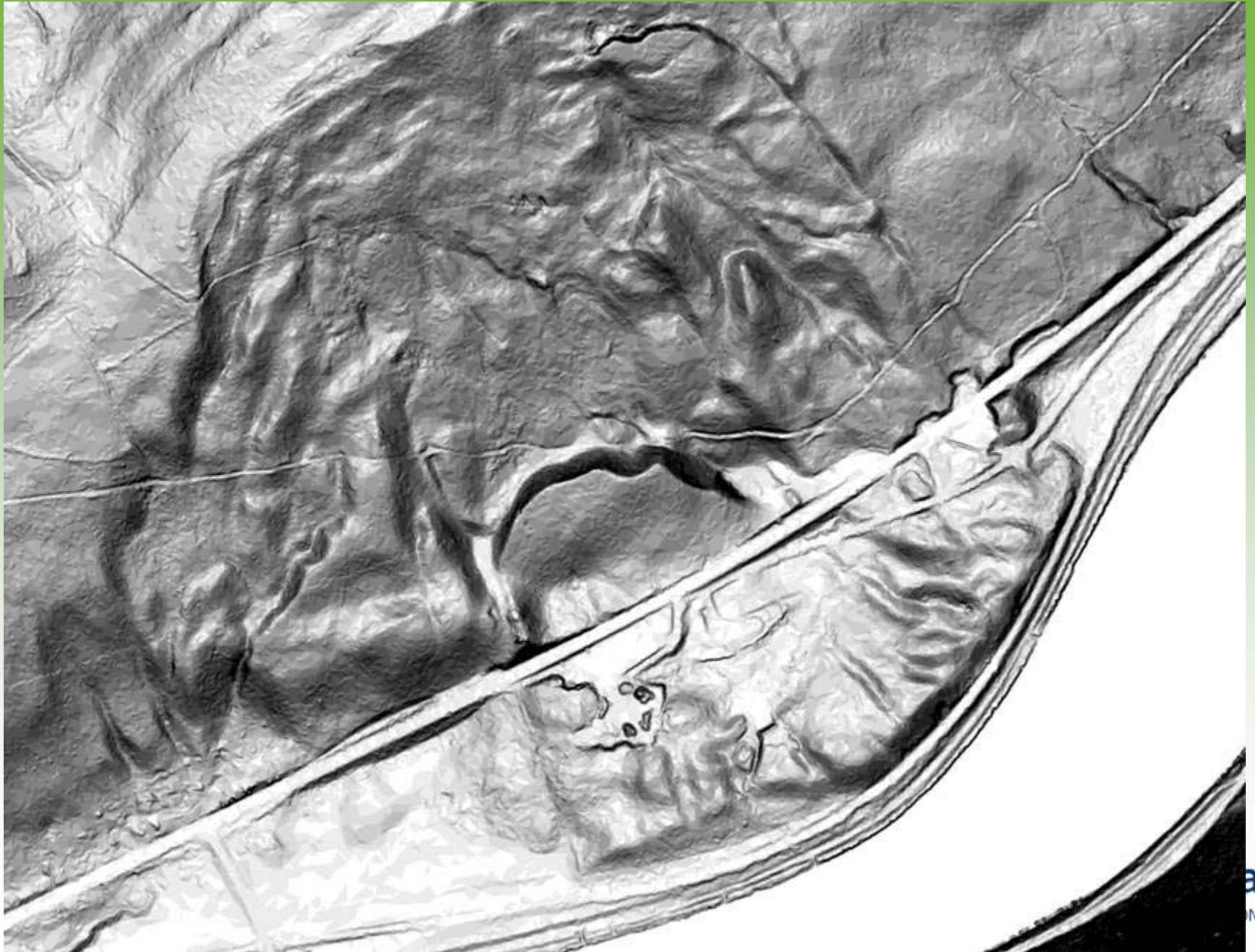


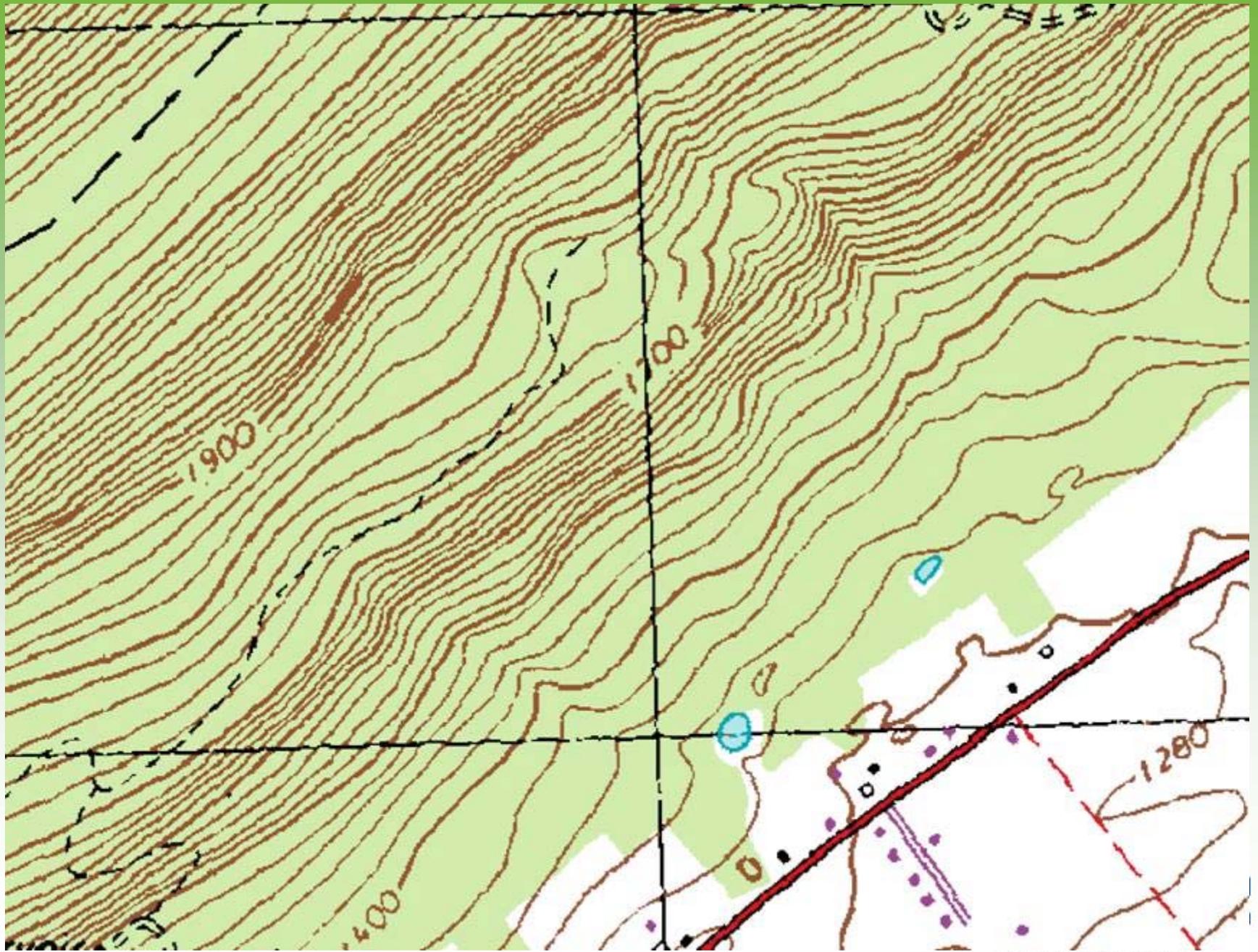




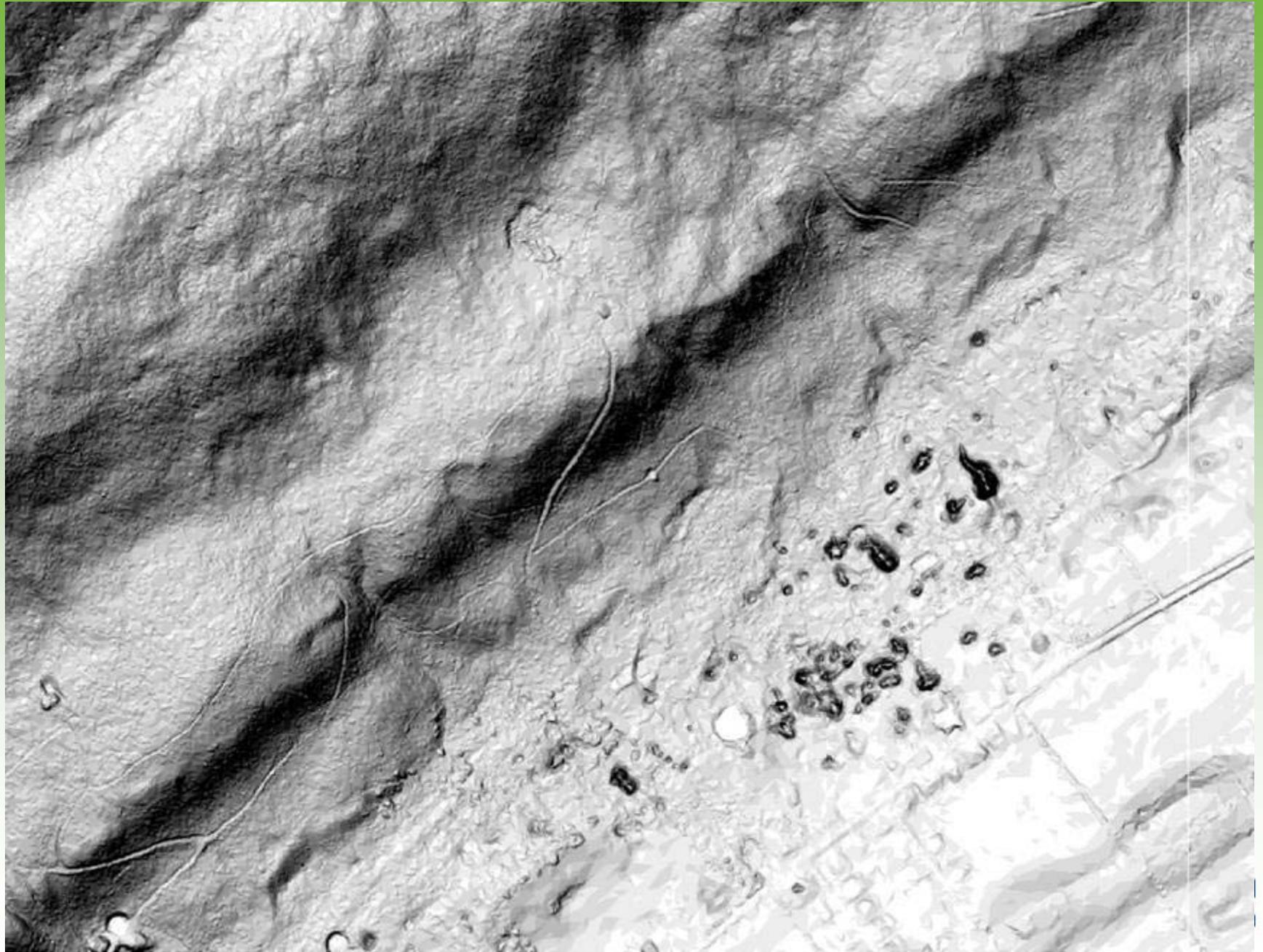


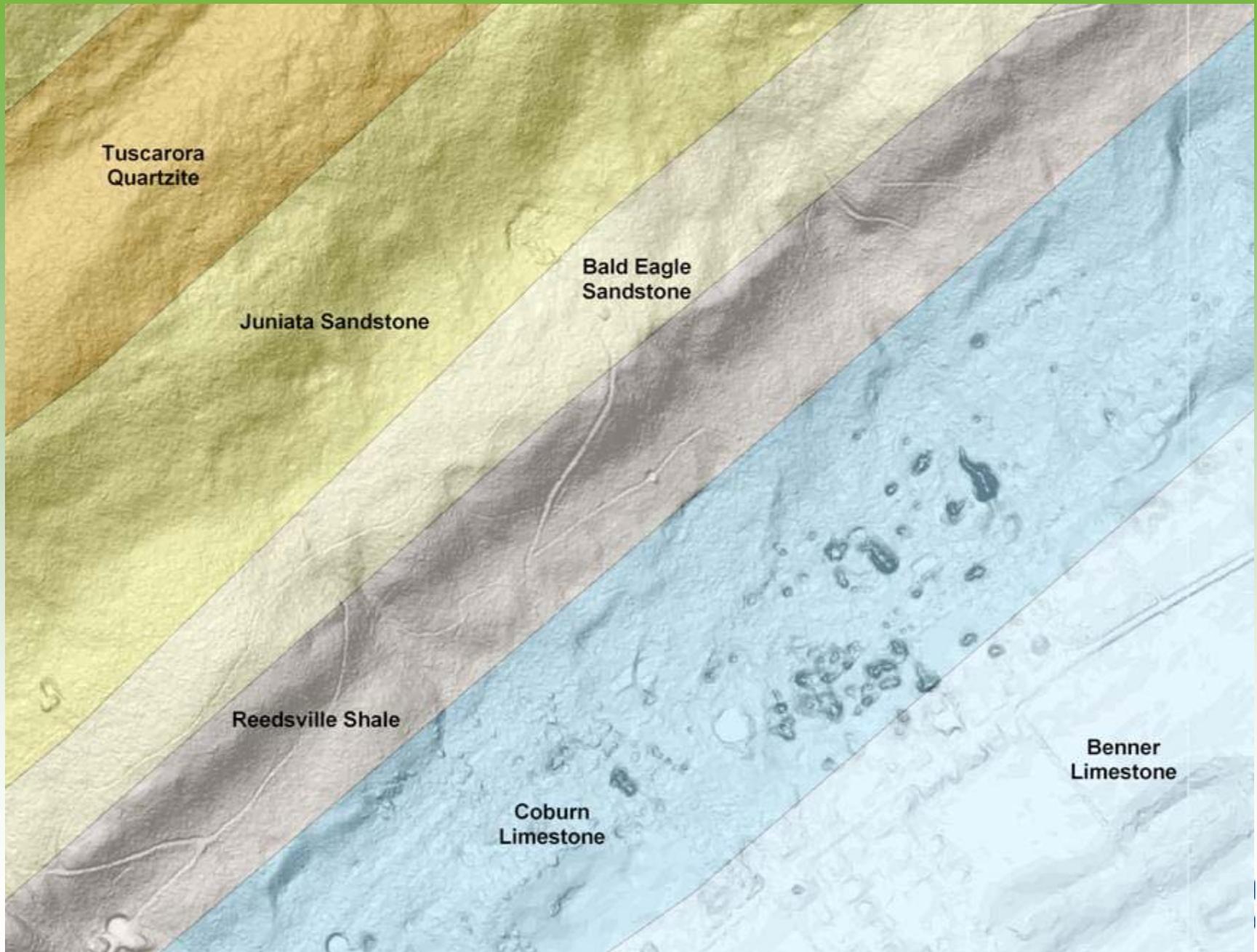


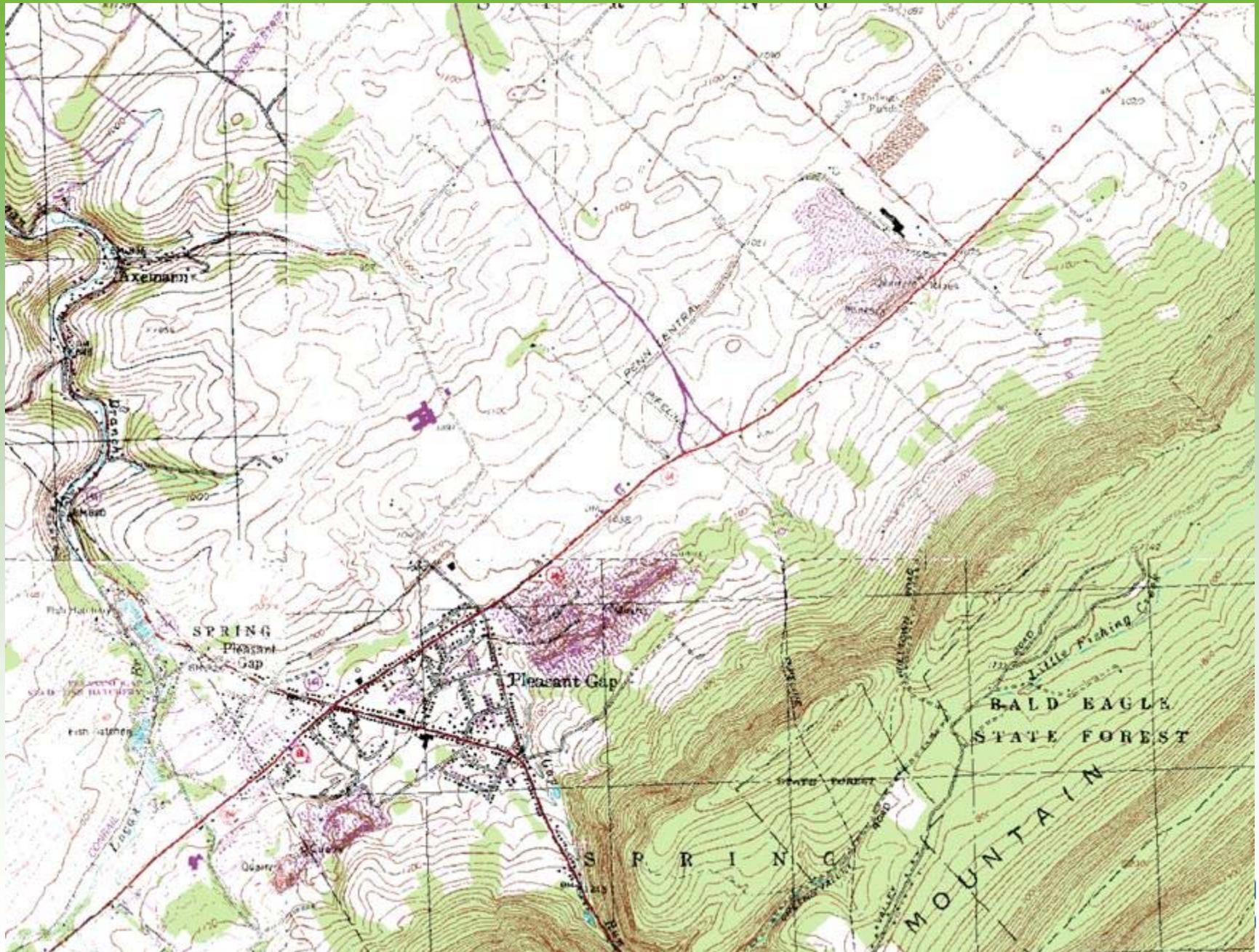






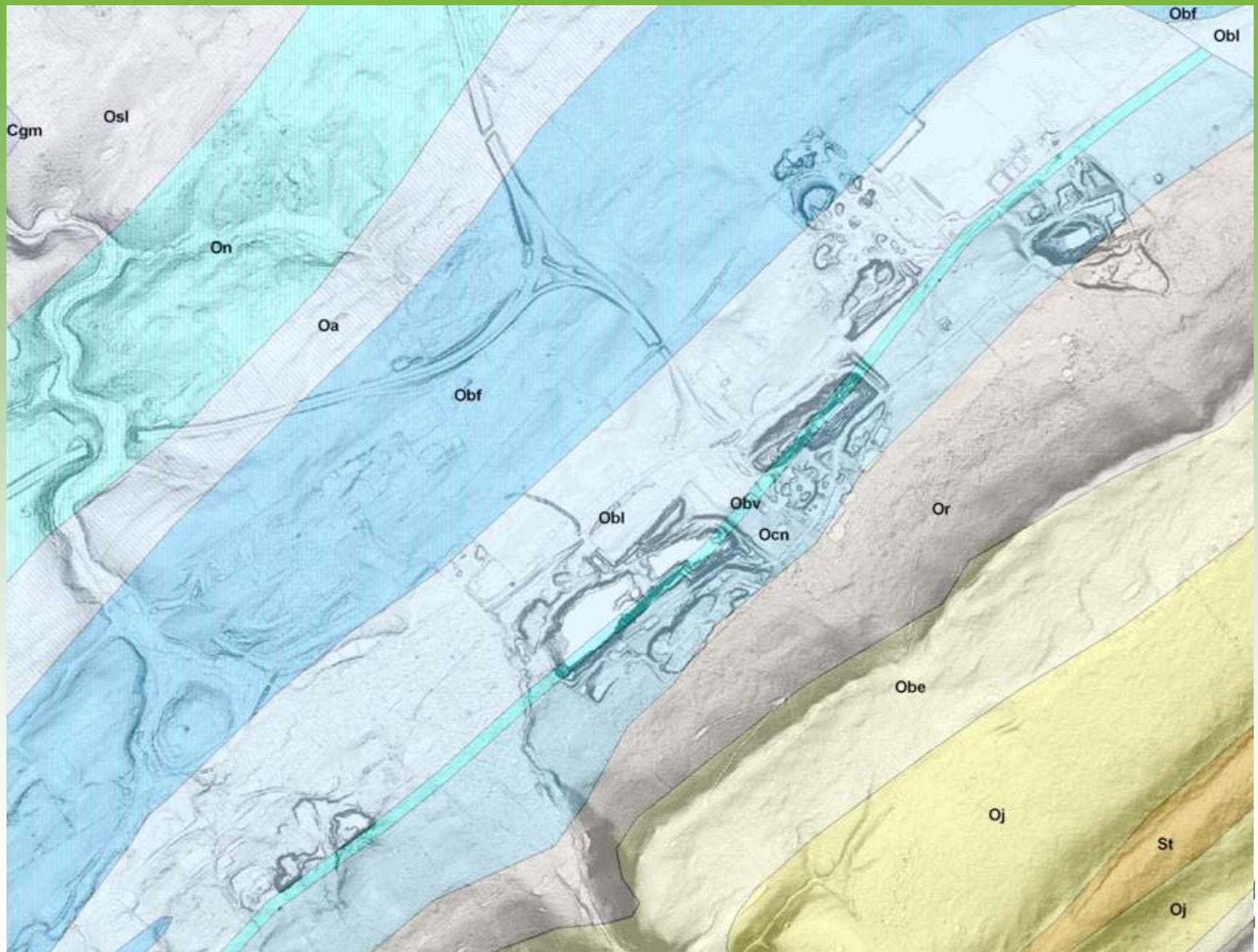












# Questions?

[twhitfield@state.pa.us](mailto:twhitfield@state.pa.us)

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo)

