Downloading NED (Elevation) Data NED data can be downloaded from the National Map Seamless Server: http://seamless.usgs.gov/website/seamless/viewer.htm The viewer seems to work the best using IE, once the viewer starts up look at the right hand side: Scale ~ 1:12,963,828 Out In 122 Display Download Structures Transportation Boundaries Hydrography Orthoimagery Land Cover Elevation - 1" NED 🔽 1/3" NED 1/9" NED SRTM Finished 3 arc sec SRTM Finished 1 arc sec National Atlas

Click on the Download tab and make sure that 1/3" (10m) NED is the only item selected.

Now look on the left hand side at the Downloads section:



Click on the second icon, "Define Download Area By Coordinates" and the following dialog will open:

🗿 http://seamless.usgs.gov - SDDS Gazetteer Query Results - Microsoft Internet Explorer 📃 🗖 🄀
The National Map Seamless Server - Interactive Data Viewer (Return to The National Map Seamless Server)Close Window
Enter the limits for a new area: Lat: DD.DDDDD Lon: DDD.DDDDDC Lat: DD.DDDDDI Lat: DD.DDDDDI (Use the minus sign (-) to indicate Southern and Western Hemisphere)
Add Area Clear Fields Close Switch to Degree, Minutes, Seconds

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The dialog will initially open with fields for Degrees, Minutes, Seconds - click on the bottom link to swith to Decimal Degrees (as shown in the figure).

Here you enter the coordinates for an area (**remember that east and west values have to be negative**) and click on the "Add Area" button. The system will break the area into chunks and present Download buttons. Once you hit a Download button the system will work on extracting the data and eventually present you with an actual download link - click that and download the data.

Some Notes

- The system will let you select area via the UI but it won't let you select the whole state (there is a MB limit), therefore using the coordinate entry dialog is the best way to get complete coverage (with no gaps or overlaps).

- I've found - for a typical size state - that using 100k quad areas is a good balance between area covered and number of tiles to download per area defined. But any size works as long as you can keep track of it all...

- The server can be really slow during prime time, performance is much better late at night or early in the morning.

- Some states, for example Utah, have agencies that have this data available via FTP which is MUCH, MUCH easier. So before you start on a state do some Googling....