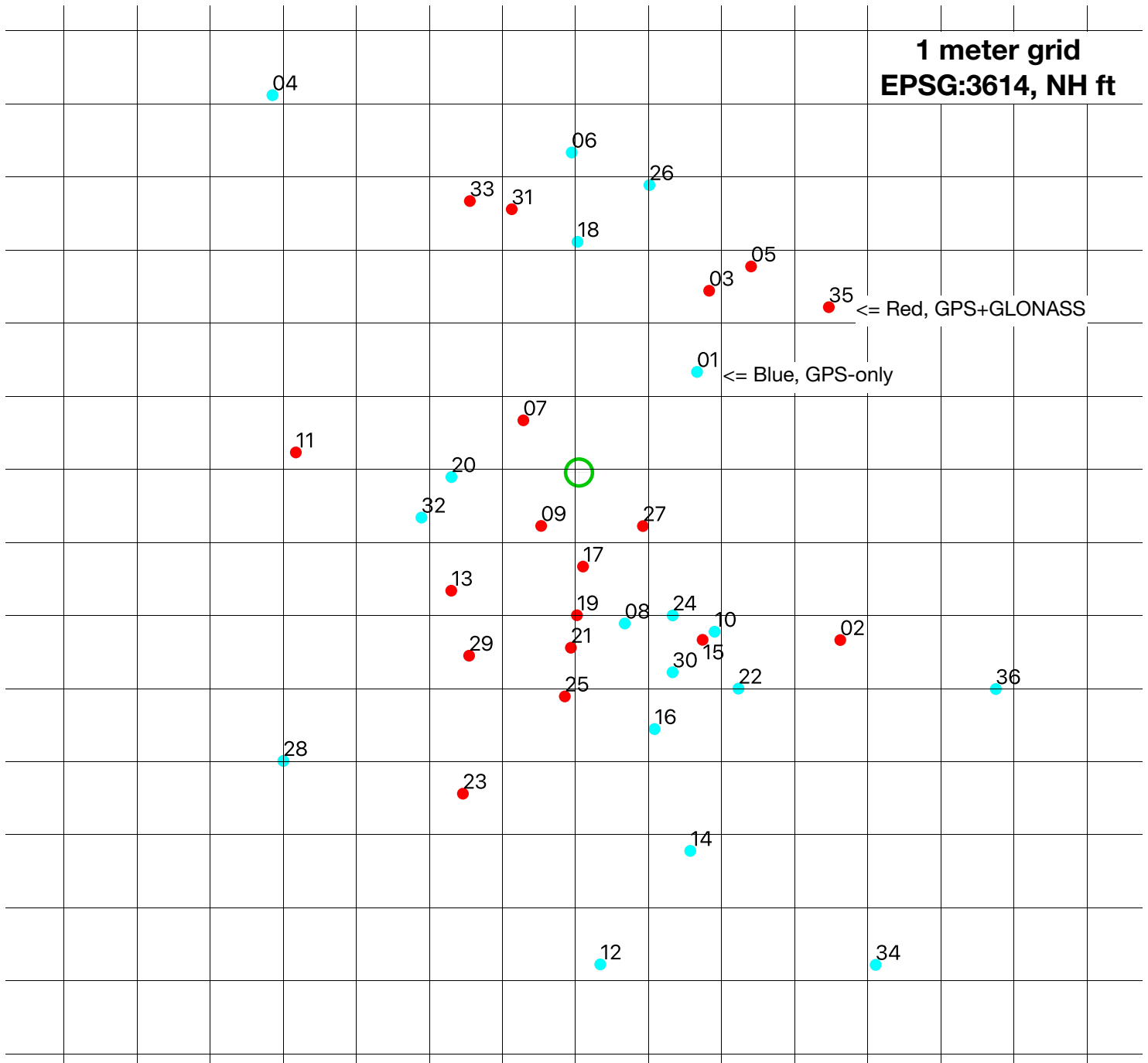


# Garmin eTrex 20: Accuracy Comparison of GPS versus GPS+GLONASS Modes



A Sep 2019 Forest Service comparison of GPS receivers, <https://www.fs.fed.us/database/gps/mtdcrept/accuracy/documents/GPS%20accuracy%2009-6-2019.pdf>, reported that the Garmin eTrex 30 errors were ~ 3X larger when GLONASS satellites were included than when only GPS satellites were used. This seemed very unlikely!

I have tested this possibility using my eTrex 20 and find that GPS+GLONASS slightly improves accuracy over GPS only. Garmin eTrex 20 (firmware rev 4.9) in a fixed location (42.716126,-71.805306) marked by green circle with +, determined with 350 minute occupation with dual-freq GNSS; post-processing 95% probability error ellipse = 2.4 cm x 1.2 cm.

38 readings ("Mark Waypoint") were taken, distributed over an 8 hour period, alternating GPS only v GPS+GLONASS mode:

Blue dots: using only GPS

Red dots: using GPS+GLONASS

In each case the mode was changed to either GPS only or GPS+GLONASS and then allowed to settle until all satellites indicated WAAS correction (indicated by "D" in satellite bars). Displayed error estimates were in 9' to 13' range.

Averaged errors abs(known location - eTrex report) in micro-degrees of Lat, Long (1  $\mu^\circ$  = ~0.11 m in Lat, 0.08 m in Long)

	Avg. Lat	Avg. Long	Max Lat	Max Long
GPS only	29.8 ±16.8	23.6 ±19.4	60.6	69.7
GPS+GLONASS	19.6 ±10.2	18.0 ±14.7	39.6	47.3

indicating a small but significant improvement in accuracy.

No "methods" section could be found for the FS report. The settling time is quite long when switching to GPS+GLONASS mode, perhaps the experimenters did not provide enough time. thus recording un-settled GPS+GLONASS?