Public GIS Resources Pertaining to Colorado Wildfires

1. [Bureau of Land Management - Fire Information Dashboard](#)

In the state of Colorado, the BLM consistently runs and updates this dashboard web application provided by Esri/ ArcGIS Dashboards. The application shows in real time how many fires, fire types, acreage burned, along with an interactive map showing locations of each incident. Data is managed by BLM but may also have input from WildCAD, IROC, InFORM and other third-party organizations or web applications. In the perspective of a GIS Administrator, this is a crucial tool to have proper operational awareness and decision support for local fire and police departments in the event of a fire incident. In my limited experience, I do not have much critique of this dashboard. I thoroughly like the mix of visual and graphical data side by side in an interactive environment. I also have enjoyed making dashboards in my class experiences so far.

2. [Colorado Hayman Fire Case Study](#)

One of the areas I frequent in the mountains of Colorado was affected by, at the time, one of the largest wildfires in Colorado's history. I have always been intrigued by the burn scars throughout this area, so I thought it would only be fitting to do some research on the incident while I'm focused on wildfires. The Hayman fire broke out in June of 2002 and burned almost the entire month before it was contained with a final burn of 138,114 acres; the case study was finished in 2003. This case study was published in a PDF format leaning more towards a data scientists' workflow rather than a GIS professional. It is unclear if the maps created in the PDF used early ESRI software; however, Landsat imagery along with the USGS played a role in acquiring most of the data used in the maps and graphs created in the PDF. GIS professionals today have access to a plethora of GIS tools that didn't exist 25 years ago, but having published case studies that date back decades help provide great information to better understand and protect current communities and areas from destructive wildfires. I enjoyed being able to read through a case study of this nature because it was how I remembered all case studies being structured in college. With that said, newer web applications provide a more intriguing and visually appealing way to view and learn data.

3. [East Troublesome Fire](#)

The East Troublesome fire will always hold a special place in my heart for it caused my Wife and I to postpone our wedding in Estes Park, CO due to evacuation orders 4 days before the wedding date. This fire started in Grand County in the Fall of 2020 and was one of the first

fires in Colorado history to be powerful enough to jump over the continental divide. Due to this fire being a relatively recent incident, there are ample GIS resources to be found, however; I really like the visual representation of this story map created by a student at Colorado State University. The story map gives a little background to the incident and then shows multiple interactive maps with detailed layers, all with a description of the map layer displayed that goes beyond a basic legend. Story maps are an incredibly useful tool at a GIS professional's disposal that do a great job at displaying information and data in an easy-to-understand format to the public. I have seen story maps be used in tons of applications from case studies to presentations and they always provide a professional public facing option for data.

CITATIONS

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