

News From and For the Washington GIS Community

THE SUMMIT

President's Column

Tami Faulker, Thurston County, WA

Hello to all and I hope you are all surviving, and indeed thriving despite all the challenges we find ourselves in. The job of President of WAGISA is giving me a unique look into the complexities of doing normal things in abnormal times! All the extra steps involved with becoming our own Washington State-based GIS professional organization are reaching closure but have been more challenging to complete in this environment. What seems like a straightforward task, purchasing insurance for our organization, has taken months, and provided unique challenges but we have got it done! Purchasing insurance has required we further update our bylaws including non-harassment language and other items. Your Board took the opportunity to make further modifications to the bylaws to bring them that much closer to how we operate in the world right now. All of this has been done remotely.

Although our Board has not been able to meet face-to-face in over two years, we are accomplishing things that will benefit you. The

special interest groups (SIGs) are areas where things are happening all the time.

The Drones SIG has 100 people on their e-mail list and meets monthly over Zoom with around 15-25 people attending monthly. They review various usage of the technology and follow technical development, regulatory changes, best practices and regular question and answer sessions.

Washington Local Government GIS Leaders (WGGL) SIG has an active membership and arranges presentations regularly. The



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2022 Washington GIS Conference
 Make plans to join our virtual conference May 24-26
 See [page 3](#) for information on
 Call for Speakers &
 Sponsorship Opportunities
 Check our website [Regularly for Updates](#)

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upcoming plan from this group is to host a Summit on ArcGIS Enterprise Portal (called the Portal Summit). This is a follow-up to the summit hosted in February 2020. So much has changed since then! This summit will be in April and will be a virtual event. The last summit was well attended, and we anticipate this one will be as well.

We are planning our annual conference too. It will, again, be virtual this year. We will consider having a couple of regional social events, although it will be dependent upon having volunteers to host and, of course, where we are with Covid at that point in time. The Board has identified a Conference Liaison on the Board, and we have secured an excellent conference coordinator. We will be leveraging what we learned last year, as well as feedback we received from many of you, in running this conference. The conference will be held May 24-26. Volunteers are always helpful for the conference so if you wish to volunteer please visit our Conference Committee page to learn more and email cc@wagisa.org to sign up or ask questions.

The measures of our success are many, but surely one measure is how we adapt to the unpredictable and the uncontrollable. I am proud and happy to be a member of WAGISA where the people I work with continue supporting the members of our profession while adapting and interacting with our new reality in a meaningful way. We are beginning to plan again those things we had to drop. For example, our annual face-to-face board meeting has been online for the past two years to help protect against COVID-19 exposure. We hope to have to have this important planning meeting in person next September.

We are so happy with the results of our first online conference. A lot of that success is due to a wonderful group of volunteers, led by Katie Heim of the City of Arlington. They did a fantastic job putting together a completely new event for WAGISA. We are so thankful for all their hard work. We are also very grateful to all of you for attending our conference and actively participating in the events.

So, what are we doing next year? We are going to look at the whole range of options, including having a hybrid event. We

(President's Column; [continued](#) on page 3)



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will know more as time goes on.

If you would like to participate in a group that is committed to helping GIS professionals at all levels, I encourage you to visit our website and get involved. We are looking for committee members and some committee leads. For instance, we could use someone to lead the Professional Development committee. This committee organizes timely and affordable educational events (i.e., in-person workshops and online webinars) for our members and the broader Washington geospatial community. I have found the board and volunteers to be a good group of people to work with and helpful people to know in the GIS community! Welcome to WAGISA! Please help us as we move forward. 

Portal Summit 2022 Announcements

All Day Virtual Event Thursday, April 21, 2022

Join your GIS colleagues to share collective knowledge and experiences gained implementing Esri's ArcGIS Enterprise Portal. This event is geared for any organization who has already implemented the software, is considering doing so, or is anywhere in between. Topics will include updates on progress from a variety of organizations in Washington State, lessons learned along the way, discussions of tools used to administer the software and content, and opportunities to share ideas and seek advice from each other. This event is a follow-up to the first Portal Summit, held in 2020. We expect Portal Summit 2022 to be just as exciting and informative as the previous event. We hope to see you there!

Sponsored by Washington Government GIS Leaders (WGGL), a WAGISA Special Interest Group. Check our [website](#) for event details and to register (\$50)

URISA GIS-Pro 2022 Conference

[GIS-Pro 2022](#) will take place in Boise, Idaho October 3-6, 2022. Jack Dangermond of Esri is the keynote speaker. This is URISA's 60th Anniversary conference! [Learn more here.](#) 



Washington State GIS Association

Virtual Conference May 24-26, 2022

2022 Washington GIS Conference Call for Speakers

We are seeking speakers to share on a wide range of GIS topics. We are open to highly technical presentations that get into the weeds of the technology and also presentations that focus on user stories and meeting business needs. Interested?

[Submit your presentation abstract](#)

- Presentations can be live or prerecorded
- Presentations can be 30, 60 or 90 minutes in duration
- Submissions are due **April 8th**. Late submissions are welcome, but priority will be given to those submitted by the deadline.
- Presenters must register for the conference and will be provided a discounted rate.

If you have questions regarding presenting, contact us at presentations@wagisa.org

Become a 2022 Washington GIS Conference Sponsor!

Become a virtual conference sponsor in support of our great community of GIS professionals! A partial list of sponsorship benefits include:

- One conference registration pass
- Virtual exhibitor booth for meetings and company materials
- Option to present in our vendor track
- Post-event attendee list with email addresses
- Inclusion in an afternoon break trivia game focused around sponsors
- Acknowledgment throughout the conference

Email vendorsupport@wagisa.org for details

Prevent, Monitor, Report: GIS and Wildfire Response

By: Georgianna Strobin, City of Tumwater

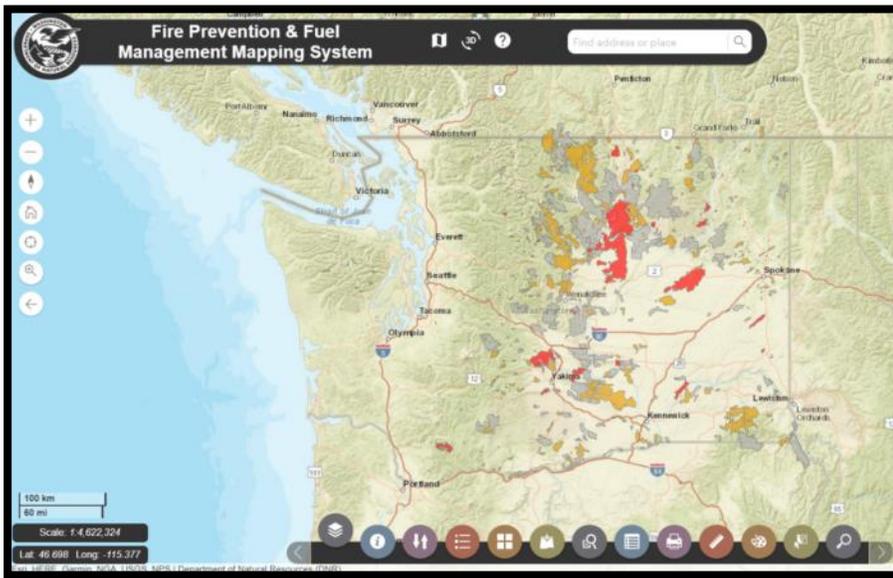
What used to be known as late spring, summer, and early fall has taken on a new name in Washington: fire season. As of mid-August 2021, thirty-nine major wildfires burned their way across Washington. They covered 484,045 acres. Last year presents a stark contrast to 2020, which saw only [18 major fires](#) which burned 38,993 acres. In both years, numerous small fires contributed additional burned acreage,

Map. An overview of these resources are described below.

The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintains a wealth of information on preventing and monitoring wildfires, including the Fire Prevention and Fuel Mapping System, the Burn Portal, and the Fire Danger and Outdoor Burning app. With about 600 fire fighters that fight fires on millions of acres and provide added support to fire departments around

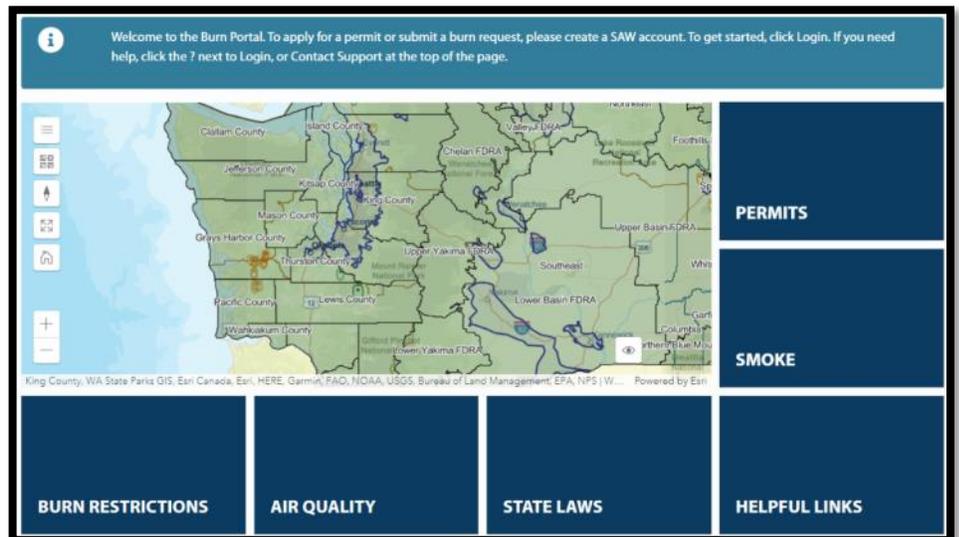
the state, DNR has the largest fire department in Washington. Additional information regarding DNR wildfire response and resources can be found on their website: [DNR Wildfires](#) and [DNR Wildfire Resources](#).

The [DNR's Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System](#) is an interactive web app containing information about wildfires and wildfire prevention, forest health, smoke management, and other related wildfire factors. Active wildfires are shown on the map, and users can download data, perform queries, and add their own data. Additionally, the app shows historic large fires, maintains information on



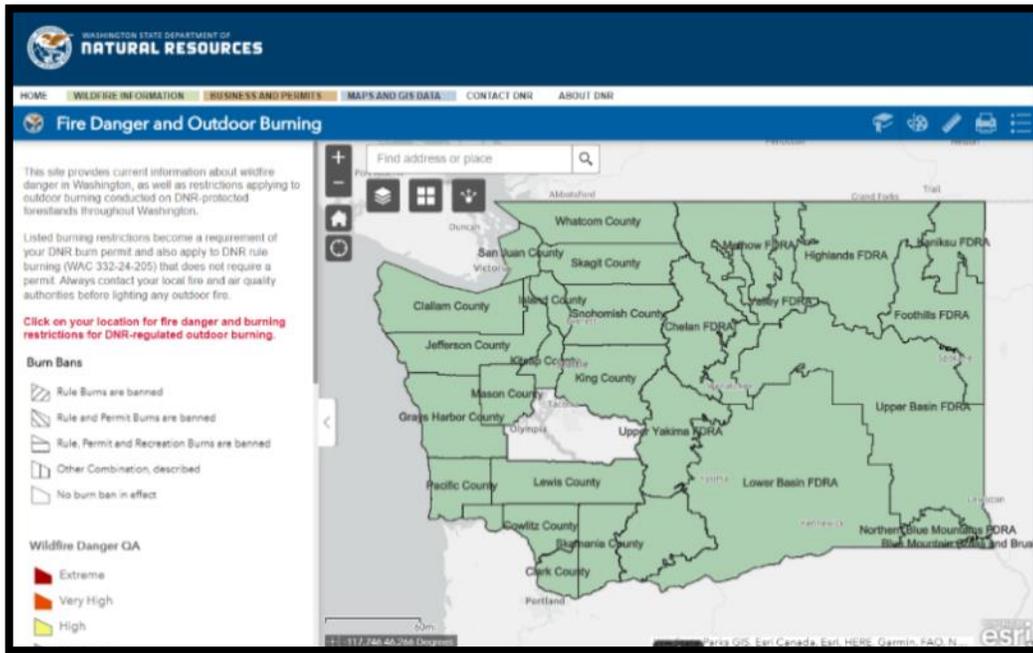
Washington State Department of Natural Resources Fire Prevention & Fuel Management Mapping System features a wealth of fire-related data for analysis.

filled the air with more smoke, and increased the strain on first responders. With such a dramatic increase in wildfires from 2020 to 2021, it is only natural to wonder what could be in store this upcoming fire season. Luckily, several agencies use GIS in their work of wildfire prevention, monitoring, and reporting. They produce interactive web maps and web applications. Notable amongst these are the Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System, the Burn Portal, the Fire Danger and Outdoor Burning app, Esri's collection of wildfire monitoring apps (including air quality maps), InciWeb, and the Fire and Smoke



Washington State Department of Natural Resources Burn Portal provides valuable restriction and regulation information for Washington residents.

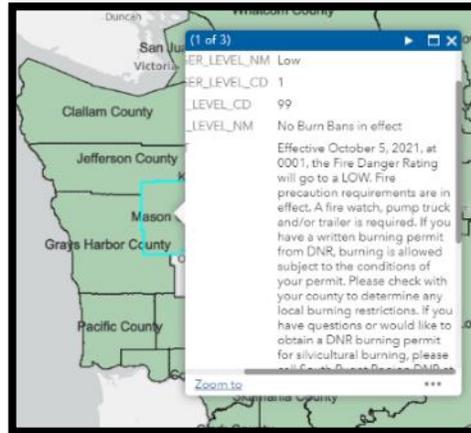
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Washington State Department of Natural Resources Fire Danger and Outdoor Burning web app provides current county-level fire and burn-ban information.

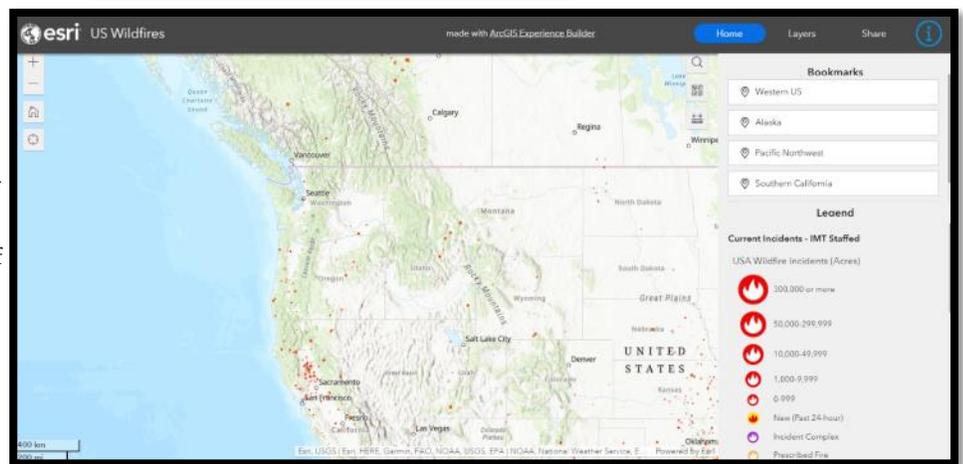
soil erosion potential, topography, and tracks canopy cover and vegetation. Data can even be viewed in 3D! These tools make the Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System an invaluable tool for fire monitoring and prevention.

According to Washington State DNR, humans cause about 85% of wildfires each year. For information on burn bans, burn permitting, and other related information to individual burning, look no further than the DNR Burn Portal. The Burn Portal is an interactive dashboard that tracks burn bans, fire danger, smoke planning areas, and has a multitude of links to additional resources. Users can acquire permits to burn, check the air quality prior to burning, and understand state laws around burning. It is an effective “one-stop-shop” of information that every individual should utilize prior to burning to lessen the occurrence of wildfires.



The [Fire Danger and Outdoor Burning](#) web app shares information on wildfire danger and burn bans in the state. It has helpful links about wildfire information, how to get burn permits, and how to download GIS data. Additionally, by clicking on a county in the map users gain access to a pop-up with detailed explanation of the wildfire danger or burn bans in effect.

Esri’s [Disaster Response Program for wildfires](#) maintains a suite of maps and apps that actively track wildfires around the globe. The Wildfire Public Information Map monitors active wildfires by size, newness, and differentiates between prescribed and accidental burns. In addition to fire monitoring, this web map also includes inclement weather information like Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches, among other fire-related weather. Other apps and maps in the Disaster Response Program for wildfires include air quality monitoring, smoke forecasts for active wild-



Esri’s Wildfire Public Information Map offers up-to-date details about wildfires world-

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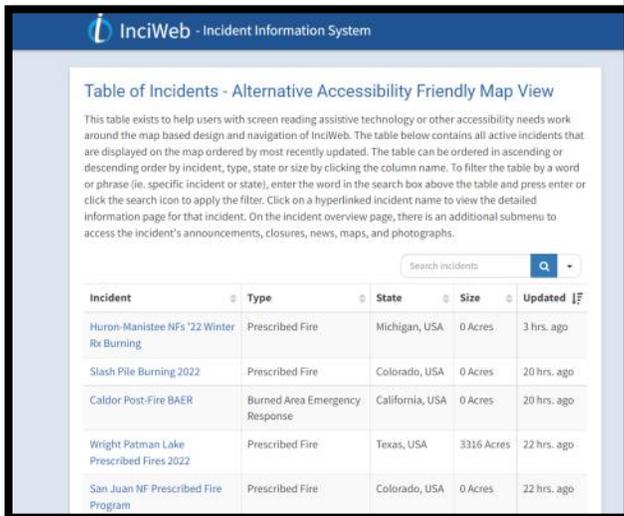
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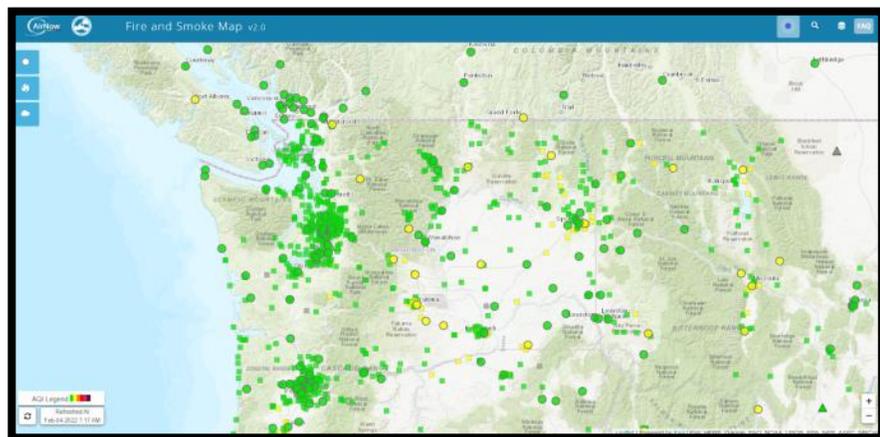
InciWeb is designed to provide to report wildfire incidents to the public from one trusted source.

fires, wildfire evacuation apps, a collection of maps from 2020 wildfires, and specific fire apps, maps, and Story Maps.

[InciWeb](#), the result of coordination between several federal agencies and the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), is an interactive map designed to report wildfire incidents to the public from one trusted source. It uses simple and effective symbology to clearly communicate if the incident is a wildfire, prescribed burn, or a fire department response to a burned area. InciWeb includes a comprehensive glossary of fire-related terms used both in the map and in firefighting. An accessible attribute table designed for screen readers assists viewers in navigating

through the map with the use of hyperlinks and additional information about each fire.

The [Fire and Smoke Map](#) made by AirNow, part of the US Forest Service Interagency [Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program](#) monitors air quality through data from permanent and temporary monitors. Using satellites from NOAA, it detects fires and smoke plumes based on hotspots (higher than normal temperatures) and adds them to the map. Additionally, other large fires are mapped using information from the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and updated automatically every 15 minutes. Extensive information on air quality, fires, smoke, and more is



available in the FAQ section. This map is a great resource for those who are sensitive to air quality. When used in conjunction with reading the [WA Smoke Blog](#), readers can stay up to date on all aspects of wildfire smoke and make informed decisions for their health and safety.

While it is hard to predict exactly what fire season will bring this year, there are plenty of resources available to keep us all safe and informed. From mapping smoke plumes by satellite to monitoring wildfires to providing information about local burn bans, these maps and apps continue to highlight the value of using GIS in wildfire response. [↪](#)

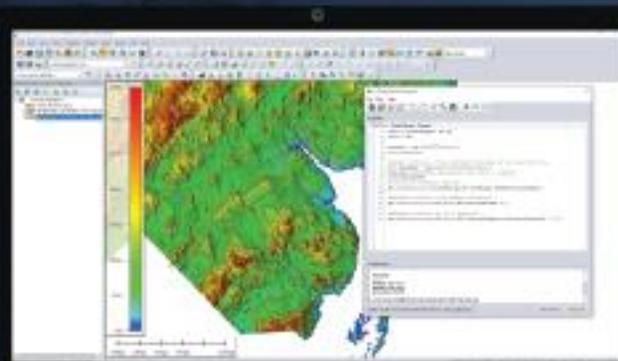
AirNow's Fire and Smoke Map is a great resource for understanding air quality issues arising from wildfire smoke.



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Global Mapper Pro®, the newest addition to the Global Mapper family, is finally here! Global Mapper Pro incorporates all of the powerful point cloud processing tools previously available in the now-retired Global Mapper Lidar Module, and expands the functionality to include more terrain analysis and automated tools.



The new, advanced application incorporates all of the features and functions in the base version of Global Mapper v23 with a varied collection of professional-grade geospatial tools that will take your workflow to the next level.

Advanced GIS processing tools at your fingertips

Point Cloud Segmentation by Spectral Graph Partitioning



The Segmentation tool analyzes the characteristics of points in order to identify clusters and apply a Segment ID that can be visualized, searched, and selected.

Python Programming Language Integration



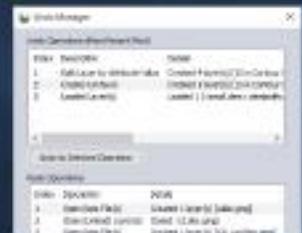
Based in Python v3.9, Global Mapper users are now able to automate workflows in the program using the Python programming language.

Automatic Breakline Creation



The new breakline extraction tool in Global Mapper Pro finds changes in elevation or slope and extracts these edges as 3D vector breaklines.

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A customizable undo manager allows the user to specify which actions to record in order to easily return to a previous data state.

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Remembering the Legacy of Ed Fairbanks: *Geography Matters*

Compiled by Heather Glock from contributions by many in the Washington geospatial community

On Sunday January 23, 2022, our GIS community lost someone very special. Ed Fairbanks passed away in Everett, Washington at the age of 56 after a long struggle with congestive heart disease.

Ed was born April 6, 1965, in Hamilton, Ohio, to Joseph P. and Elizabeth (Sehlstedt) Fairbanks. He was the 13th of their 14 children, and was educated in Hamilton schools, graduating from Badin High School in 1983. Ed studied at Miami of Ohio, later moved to southern California, and graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a degree in Geology.

One of Ed's first jobs was an internship with the City of Los Angeles' planning department, cartography section, in the late 80s. There he met Ruth Bunch (now with the City of Longview, WA) and together the two of them worked with Esri to digitize the county's old linen maps. For years, these linen maps were manually updated by the city's cartographers. It was a massive project involving scanning hundreds of linen maps and much research to create the digital data layers for each tax lot. Ed and Ruth created the procedural documentation, met with ESRI staff bi-weekly in Redlands, oversaw and led the charge of eight additional interns for the project.

At the end of the LA digitizing project in 1990 Ed, now married to Maria Monaco and a new father, moved to Marysville, Washington, where he and his wife raised three children. Ed worked in GIS for the city of Everett, followed by a stint with the Snohomish PUD, and on November 1, 1998 Ed settled in at Snohomish County, Washington, in the Department of Information Technology as a senior programmer analyst.

Ed was highly regarded for his GIS programming talents at Snohomish county. But perhaps even more so, Ed was revered for his ability to lead change and support his colleagues in both their work and life endeavors.

Several of Ed's colleagues share their thoughts about Ed's selfless nature:

"You won't find another person like Ed; he was one-of-a-kind."

**Melody Ovard, Sr. GIS Analyst, Snohomish County Dept. of
Emergency Management**



Ruth Bunch moved to Washington in 1998 and she and Ed continued the friendship they developed while working together at the city of Los Angeles. They often co-hosted poker parties and enjoyed catching up at GIS conferences.

"Ed was a true mentor from my first month at the county back in 2016. It's amazing how many people he was important to."

Brenden McLane, Snohomish County Senior GIS Analyst

"Ed is one of the best people I have ever worked with. His enthusiasm for GIS, patience to share his knowledge and smile every time you engaged with him will be missed."

Suzy Brunzell, City of Seattle WebGIS Program Manager

"[Ed was] Truly one of the best people I've been lucky enough to meet working at Esri."

Erin Richmond, Esri Enterprise Engineer

"Ed was always a positive force for change in the GIS community and interested in what we were doing at Snohomish County Emergency Management, we will miss him greatly."

Robert Thurston, Snohomish County EESCS Manager

(Continued on page 10)



Ed hanging out at a "Mappy Hour" event at Elemental Cider Company in Arlington, WA July 8, 2021. Left to right: Joshua Greenberg WA-DOE GIS, Janice Baird - Skagit County GIS, Robin Cummings - City of Bellingham GIS, Chris Dunphy Snohomish IT, Ed Fairbanks, and Melody Ovard - Snohomish DEM

Ed loved sports of all kinds. He was a skier and loved to play ultimate frisbee and disc golf with his friends. He was a challenging chess player and played every day with his son Monaco, who lives in Germany. Ed loved to travel with his family to the Cascades and go hiking in the Pacific Northwest mountains. Ed had recently taken up kayaking and enjoyed paddling around Puget Sound. A close colleague for over ten years, Ann Stark, a Senior GIS Analyst with the city of Bellingham, remembers the fun of being a disc golf caddy for Ed:

"He introduced me to competitive disc golf by inviting me to be his caddy. Ignorant at the time, I promptly guffawed and gave him grief for needing someone to carry a bag of plastic circles around for him. But he convinced me it would really help his game and having played disc golf non-competitively myself, I was curious, so I gave in. That started my education about the NW Washington Disc Golf League and disc golf from Ed's point of view. And it was an eye-opener. But in the process, I met a lot of great people, had one hell of a good time, and got out of the house, walking miles at courses while trekking around north Puget Sound to tournaments as Ed's caddy. It did seem to help his game and that bag was pretty heavy, even though he only used his two favorite discs most of the time."

There was a quiet side to Ed too. He enjoyed spotting and identifying birds and would never pass up a beautiful sunset. He loved a good sci-fi movie, a clever word puzzle, a game of

Yahtzee or backgammon. He wrote poetry about things in the world that moved him. Ed was a huge supporter of his local community – from artists, to events to local stores. He enjoyed his bluegrass tunes on his favorite local indie radio station, KSER. He was perhaps local band Narrow Taro's biggest fan. He claimed GIS helped him understand how much geography matters, and the local communities Ed was a part of are too numerous to list.

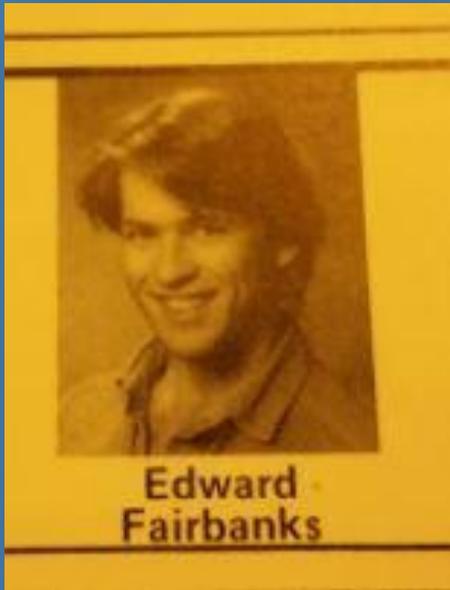


Ann Stark was a tournament disc golf caddy for Ed. Ed gave 110% to everything he did.

Ed is missed dearly by many both professionally and personally, and our GIS community expresses condolences to the whole Fairbanks family. Perhaps some small measure of consolation may be found in the words of the poet, Walt Whitman:

*He is not gone. He is just away,
With a cheery smile and the wave of the hand,
He has wandered into an unknown land,
And left us wondering how very fair that land
May be, since he tarries there.*

Ed Fairbanks through the years



Ed's City of LA Planning employee photo



Ed and his motorcycle



Ed and his world-class COVID beard



Ed growing up in Ohio

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The University of Washington Tacoma offers a 5-course certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Designed for entry-level and intermediate-level GIS users, the certification program provides an excellent conceptual foundation necessary for spatial modeling and develops the analytical and practical skills needed for research and employment.

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WAGISA: Here For You!

By: Tami Faulkner, WAGISA President

The focus of this issue's column is WAGISA's efforts to support GIS education in the community in Washington State. This work happens through the efforts of WAGISA's Community Outreach committee. The committee supports college GIS programs, students, and GIS professors. In recent years, the committee has extended this support into the k-12 school system for younger students, looking for opportunities to show them how GIS is used in many school subjects. I'm going to highlight our Community Outreach committee's work in higher education and K-12 education, followed by one of its committee member's experiences bringing GIS into her children's schools.

College Outreach:

One of the committee's main activities is to administer the Richard "Dick" Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition and Award or DTA for short. Named for the Seattle native, Dick Thomas, who went on to become a GIS advocate and a founding member of the Central Puget Sound GIS User Group (CPSGUG), the DTA Student Presentation Competition is open to all currently enrolled college students, and students who have graduated or completed classes within the last year (projects presented need to have occurred while students were still attending school). The intent of the competition is to continue Dick's work of encouraging students to excel in their studies and transition successfully into careers in the field of GIS. Traditionally, the competition was held during the annual Washington GIS Conference in May. During the last two years, due to the COVID pandemic, the competition has been held in a virtual environment. For more information please go to <https://wagisa.org/DTA>.

ESRI ArcGIS Online School Competition:

Over the last few years, the Community Engagement committee has helped support the Esri ArcGIS Online Competition for US High School and Middle School Students. In Washington, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has taken the lead in organizing the event for students in our state. This competition is open to students in grades 4-12, split into two categories, Middle School (Grades 4-8) and High School (Grades 9-

12). WAGISA members have been involved as mentors and as judges for the competition. The GIS software is free to all schools K-12 (public, private and home school) in the United States through Esri, so it's matter of engaging teachers and students to dive into the world of GIS, often using StoryMaps to display their projects. As we know, a picture (and a map) can be worth 1,000 words! For more details about Washington's participation in the competition, please visit 2022 [Washington State ArcGIS Online School Competition](#).

Engaging the Classroom:

The third way the Community Engagement committee assists the industry is by supporting GIS professionals who want to help in a classroom. This can be the most challenging, but in the end, the most rewarding way to engage a community in GIS education. As mentioned above, GIS software is available at no cost through Esri for all K-12 grades nationwide. Using educational resources from Esri or creating something from scratch is a great way to supplement what is being taught in the classroom. Several WAGISA members have had success assisting teachers by adding their GIS skills to what is already being taught, offering students an opportunity to learn new STEM skills. We highly encourage more WAGISA members to spend some time engaging students and teachers by sharing the geospatial work we love to do each day! <https://washingtonstem.org/> and <https://teach-with-gis-learn.org/hub.arcgis.com/>.

One GIS Professional's Story:



Kelly Alfaro Haugen

Kelly Alfaro Haugen is a GIS Analyst III with Thurston County and a parent of two school-aged children. Here is Kelly's take on

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(WAGISA: Here for you!; [Continued](#) from page 13)

why the educational outreach activities are so important for bringing GIS into the schools:

“Encouraging and supporting GIS at schools, particularly in secondary education, is especially important in our current day and age. We have seen GIS take off during the COVID pandemic as most of the data related to the pandemic has been shared by private, non-profit, and public entities at all levels of government, using GIS platforms. This exposure has made more people in the community, businesses, and leaders aware of the power GIS can bring to analyzing and communicating information across a wide variety of disciplines. Additionally, as a STEM skill, it fits into an important aspect of our education system today. These factors make it even more important to grow GIS access, education, and opportunities within the secondary and even primary school systems, preparing students for a future that includes GIS as a multi-disciplinary skill.

Over the past couple of years, I have been engaging with my children’s school looking for ways to incorporate GIS into the classroom. The school and many of the teachers were excited about the opportunity, but implementing the program, administering it, and building it out was more than they were prepared to take on. By partnering with the school, I agreed to administer the GIS software and support them with resources. This partnership enabled them to take the plunge and begin incorporating GIS activities into their curriculum. Now the real work begins! Being able to leverage industry resources, knowledgeable and encouraging colleagues, and schools willing to develop a partnership is imperative to incorporating GIS skills in the classroom, and help support a sustainable, long-term integrated program.

Having been a member of WAGISA on and off over the years I realized that the Community Engagement committee is the perfect place to find the type of support, encouragement, and partnerships necessary to grow GIS in a secondary education setting. In the past couple of years, I had let my membership lapse, primarily due to COVID and work commitments, but with my recent experiences in my kid’s schools, I’ve renewed my membership and joined this committee. Already I have been able to attend a meeting, listen to what is working in other schools, ask questions, and network on ways to grow and support this committee and its goals.

Teachers in many disciplines are excited by what this technology can bring to their classrooms and students. Students benefit because GIS is a multidisciplinary field and the more exposure we can bring to them earlier in their educational career, the more competent and savvy they will be at utilizing these tools in the future. The private and public sectors benefit as GIS is implemented to support new and expanded business areas.

Providing a community where GIS professionals are encouraged to partner with schools, and each other, is imperative in making it possible to bring GIS awareness to schools and classrooms. WAGISA, and the Community Engagement committee, is an important resource to all GIS professionals for engaging and promoting GIS to future GIS users, consumers, educators and leaders.” 

Want to learn more about WAGISA’s Community Engagement activities? Please email committee chair Dan Miller at dan.miller@mil.wa.gov.

URISA GIS-Pro 2022 Conference

[GIS-Pro 2022](#) will take place in Boise, Idaho October 3-6, 2022. Jack Dangermond of Esri is the keynote speaker. This is URISA’s 60th Anniversary conference! [Learn more here](#).



Being Vulnerable: Three WWGT Women Share Their Experiences with the GISP Exam

By Christina Chelf - City of Tacoma, Rhonda Perozzo - South Sound 911, and Kaitlin Schrup - Puyallup Tribe of Indians

The Washington Women in GIS and Technology (WWGT) group continued to push themselves and support each other last fall. Three women in particular decided to live up to the lessons learned during their summer book club selection, *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown, and practice leading through vulnerability. In November, the group sat down for a session dedicated to hearing the stories of three GIS professionals who attempted the much feared [GISP](#) (Certified GIS Professional) exam and portfolio review.

First up was Christina Chelf who told her story about how as a new GIS manager she realized it was now or never to earn her GISP as she was moving away from much of the technical work. After a very minimal amount of studying, she went into the June 2021 testing session cautiously optimistic. But she ended up failing by the slimmest



Christina, Kaitlin, and Rhonda shared their GISP experiences.

EXAM

- Computer based Exam at a PSI Location
 - PSI will provide a scratch paper and calculator. No other technology is allowed. Personal items are stored away.
- Exams are only available June or December each year
- Exam can be taken regardless of the status of your Portfolio
- Given 4 hours to complete the Exam
- Exam consists of ~180 Multiple Choice Questions
 - 100 will be counted towards your score
 - ~80 questions are used as Pre-Test for future Exams
- Passing exam is 73%-- A report is given to those who do not pass
- Questions will be based off of Geospatial Knowledge Areas

of margins. Christina is now preparing for her second attempt this summer. Kaitlin Schrup was up next to tell her story about how after failing at the exam her first time, she, with the support of her director and employer, attended several classes on the GISP exam. Kaitlin shared her elaborate study guide, tools and resources that she created to help herself excel. She, of course, passed with flying colors in June of 2021.

Finally, Rhonda Perozzo told her story about initially passing the GISP exam in early 2018, only to be

The GISP exam is only given twice per year and requires a score of 73% or higher to pass.

(Continued on page 17)

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Check out some of the inspirational message cards WWGT “Galentine’s Day” participants crafted

(WWGT; [Continued](#) from page 15)

informed days later that she actually failed due to a testing center grading error that affected many testers that session. However, that emotional setback didn’t stop her and in winter of 2018 Rhonda successfully passed the exam and earned her GISP.

All three women showed up ready to share resources, answer questions and tell their stories. The Zoom event was well attended and several WWGT members later said they decided to pursue the GISP because of this session. You can view a recording of the meeting and recommended resources on the [WWGT website](#). If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Christina, Rhonda, and Kaitlin directly:

- Christina Chelf: CChelf@cityoftacoma.org
- Rhonda Perozzo: rhonda.perozzo@southsound911.org
- Kaitlin Schrup: kaitlin.schrup@gmail.com

For information about upcoming WWGT events follow Washington Women in GIS and Technology on social media, visit the [WWGT website](#) or email Tonya Kauhi at TKauhi@cityoftacoma.org to add yourself to the email list.

Washington Women in GIS & Technology: February “Galentine’s Day” Recap

Twenty wonderful gals from WWGT gathered virtually on March 16, 2022 to celebrate chocolate, crafts and each other’s company. Activity bags containing chocolates for tasting and supplies for a craft were sent out ahead of the gathering and the hour and a half event flew by with attendees first learning about the origins of chocolate then rating the taste of the chocolates they received in their activity bag. The rest of the event was spent crafting inspirational map-based message cards to remind us that we’ve got what it takes to make a difference and do good in the world, while talking about GIS jobs and sharing advice about career development.

Make plans to join the WWGT **March 23rd** meeting, which will take a dive into the topic of Dashboards and Data. Details at [wawomeningis.com](#). We’d love to have you join us!

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A Brief Recap of the 2021 Washington State Joint Agency GIS Week

By Joanne Markert, State of Washington GIS Coordinator

Last November several Washington state agencies organized the 10th annual Joint Agency GIS Week to highlight how GIS solutions help transform data management, customer service, decision making and much more. This virtual event spanned three days of approximately 4 hours of presentations each day. There were roughly 180 unique users logging in each day and over 280 overall registrations.

[A StoryMap of the event is available to review the agenda and presentation abstracts](#)

[Governor Inslee's 3rd Washington State Geography Awareness Week Proclamation](#)

Government helping Government Award from OCIO/WAGISA – John Spence, City of Bellevue, WA

John was nominated for his work figuring out how to consume data from Puget Sound Energy and map it for the city of Bellevue so that impacts of power outages could be viewed in real time. John went above and beyond by sharing his process with many surrounding jurisdictions in Washington and even reached out to help the state of California.

Geospatial Excellence Award from NSGIC (National State Geographic Information Council): Innovator Award, Adam Oestreich, Dept of Ecology

Adam Oestreich made monumental improvements in the Washington state Department of Ecology's ability to implement Clean Water Act responsibilities. Adam coded the complex hierarchy of water quality standards, which are the backbone of the regulations that describe how clean lakes, rivers, groundwater, and marine waters need to be for the health of people, species, and to control pollution. He utilized network tracing, polygon division, and hydrologic event

management on the National Hydrography Dataset to produce usable map layers of water quality standards and associated geographic extents for assessing sediment and water quality that are used for permitting and decision making. These datasets can now be updated by a repeatable process when regulatory rules or hydrography data have changed.



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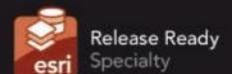
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New In Town

The GIS community is growing in Washington-let's meet one of the new faces in town!

By: Katie Heim, City of Arlington

Sam Jenkins

Job Title:

GIS Administrator at the City of Pullman

Current Job Responsibilities:

Like many local government GIS administrators I have the opportunity to work with many city departments and regional stakeholders – it's a job that presents infinite opportunities to learn. The City of Pullman is in its first year of enterprise GIS, so I have ahead of me a lot of implementation workflows and data development projects, as well as evangelizing on the importance of location.

Previous employment/school:

I came to the City of Pullman from Washington State University where I worked with Facilities Services to implement a Web GIS mapping platform. I also developed their utility networks and flew drones for mapping and inspections. Before moving to the Palouse area in 2016, I lived in Fargo, North Dakota, where I developed a GIS for the municipal power and water utility in Moorhead, Minnesota. Winters are much kinder here! I came to the US in 2001, from Australia, where I was born and raised – winters were much kinder still, there.

Personal Fun Facts/Achievements/Hobbies:

I brought sailing with me from Australia. In summer I sail with my family in an Erikson 27 on Lake Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho. I picked up curling in Fargo, North Dakota and during the winters, curl with the Palouse Curling Club in Moscow, Idaho. We also have a new dog, and he keeps me running the hills and trails of Pullman year-round.



Sam Jenkins, City of Pullman, WA

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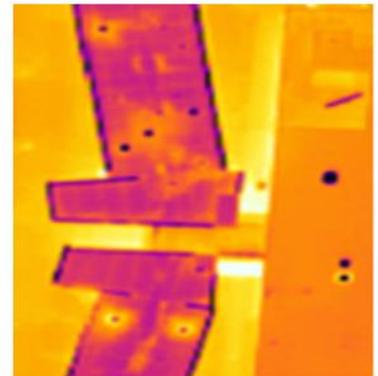
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Contact [Karsten Vennemann](#)

Central Puget Sound GIS User Group

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Central Washington GIS User Group

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Contact the group: swgis.usersgroup@gmail.com or group organizer Amanda Taub: ataub.gis@gmail.com

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum GIS User Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm at the Cowlitz County Administration Annex Building, CWCOG meeting room, 207 North 4th Ave, Kelso WA (*unless other location is announced*).

Contact [Ken Pearrow](#)

King County GIS User Group

www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/UserGroups.aspx

Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

Northwest Washington GIS User Group

www.wvu.edu/huxley/spatial/nwwgis/nwwgis_mtgs.htm

Snohomish County GIS User Group

<https://snoco-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=d9ee08e6b1c648db8cd077fc8bb5f27c>

Southeast Washington/Northwest Oregon GIS User Group

<http://gisgroup.wordpress.com>

Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

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