ATAK

Map Depot

Plug-in Version: 1.14
ATAK 5.8.0
10 November 2026

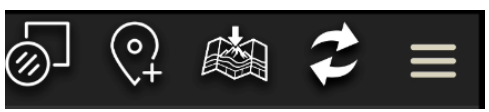


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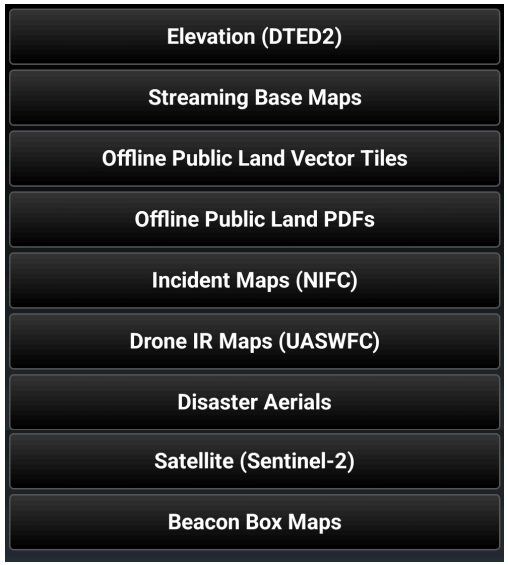
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Overview

Map Depot downloads map data from inside ATAK. Without it, getting a new base map or a terrain file onto a device means a browser, a download folder and the Import Manager – on a phone, in the field, often on a hotspot. Map Depot removes that trip: the catalog is in the plugin, and what you pick installs itself where ATAK expects to find it.



Open it from the toolbar. The icon sits with the other tools.

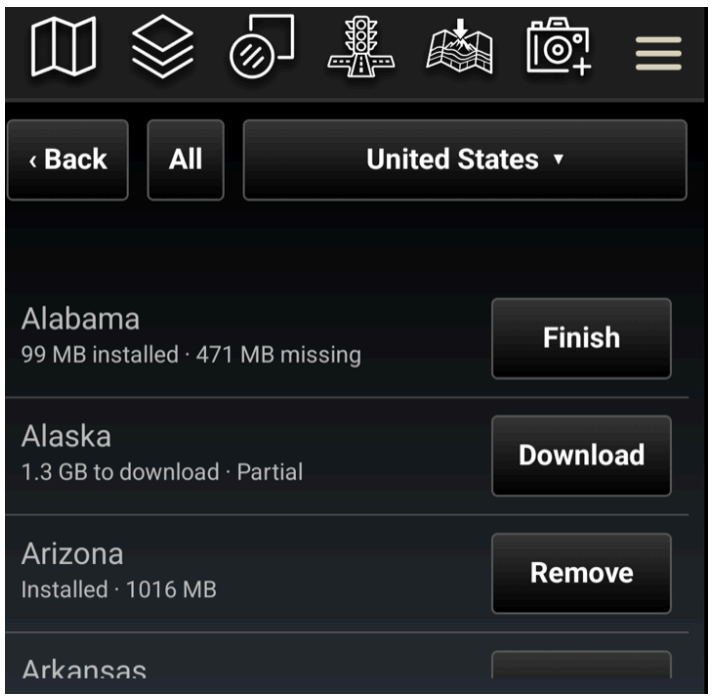


Nine kinds of data, each on its own page:

- **Elevation (DTED2)** – terrain, by state or province. What viewsheds and elevation readouts need.
- **Streaming Base Maps** – imagery and street maps served over the network, including transparent overlays.
- **Offline Public Land Vector Tiles** – Forest Service vector basemaps, one per national forest or grassland, held on the device.
- **Offline Public Land PDFs** – the printed map sheets, as GeoPDFs: ranger district, forest, regional, 100K and FSTopo.
- **Incident Maps (NIFC)** – the operational maps posted for a going fire: ops, division, air operations, IR.
- **Beacon Box Maps** – FlameMapper's neighborhood pre-plans, four sheets per neighborhood, as GeoPDFs.
- **Drone IR Maps (UASWFC)** – infrared products flown over a fire, as georeferenced PDFs and KMZs.
- **Disaster Aerials** – the imagery flown after a hurricane, flood, fire or tornado by NOAA, the Civil Air Patrol and Maxar, one overlay per flight.
- **Satellite (Sentinel-2)** – recent satellite passes over the map center or your position, in true color or as a fire view, streamed over the map.

Getting map data

Every page works the same way: a list of what is available, a **Download** button on each row, and a line at the top saying what is happening.



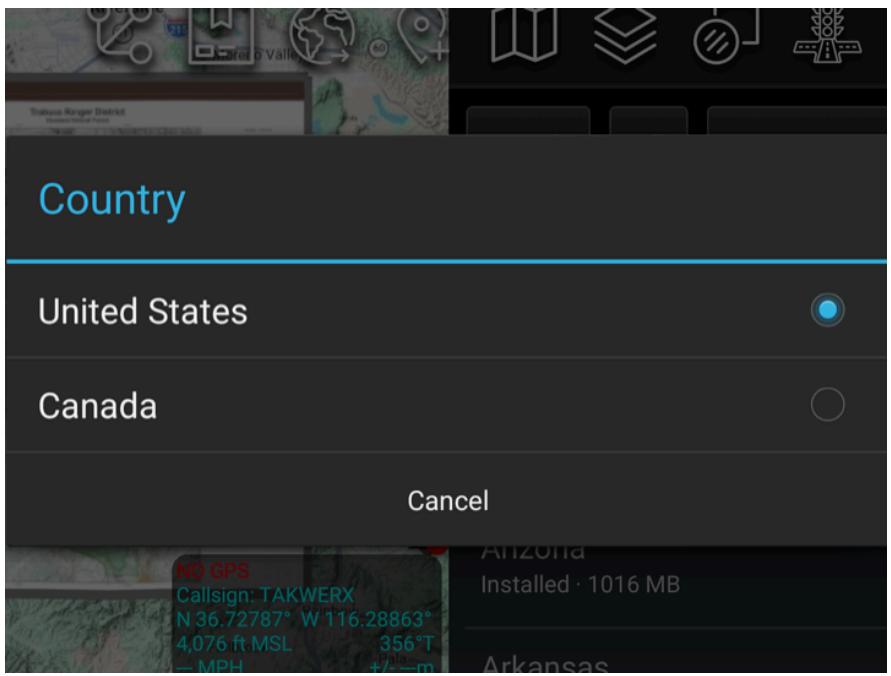
Rows report one of three states, so the list doubles as an inventory of what the device already holds:

- **Download** – none of it is here.
- **Finish** – some of it is. Only the missing part downloads.
- **Remove** – all of it is here.

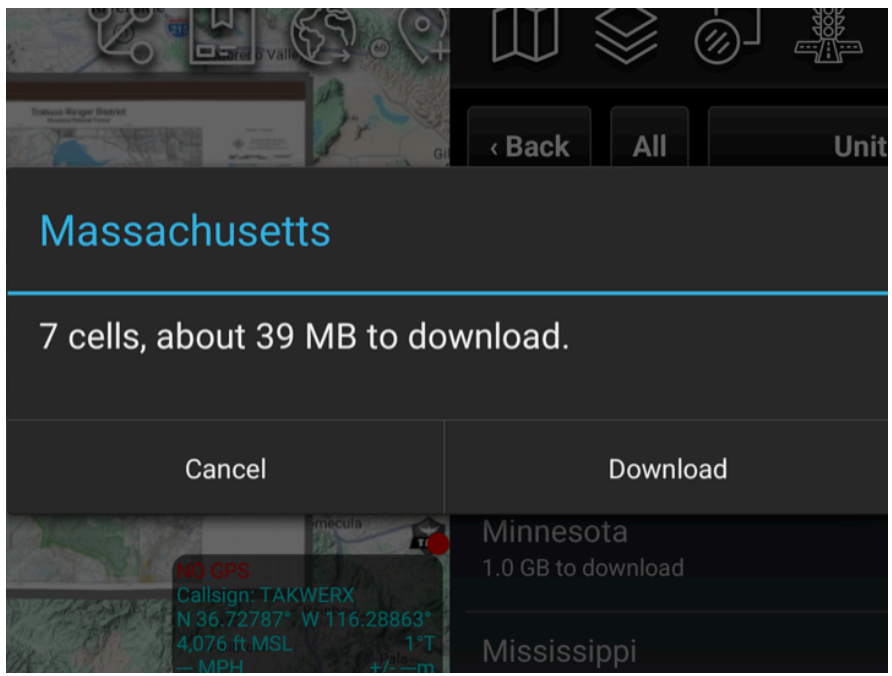
Downloads resume rather than restart after a dropped connection, and can be cancelled at any point. Whatever had already arrived is kept, and **Finish** picks it up from there.

Elevation

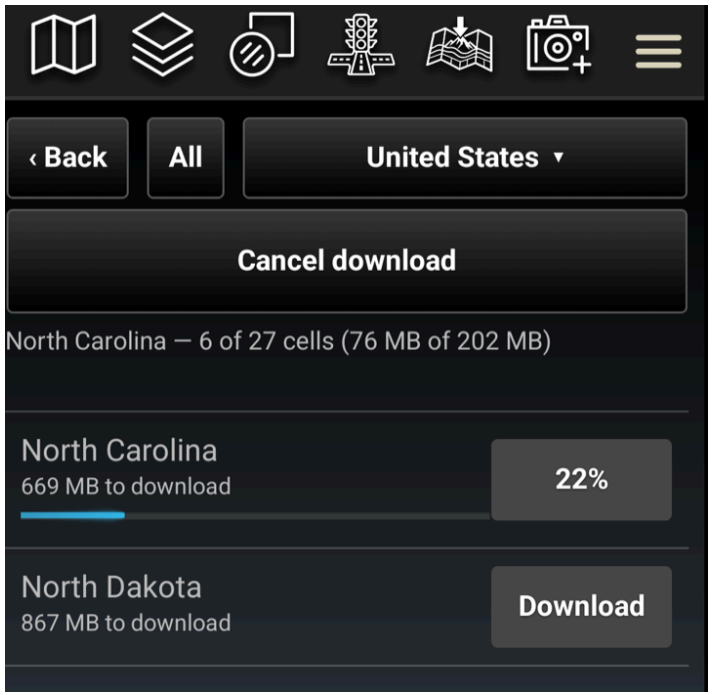
DTED level 2, by state and province, and shared between neighbors: elevation comes in one-degree squares, and a square covering one state usually covers part of the next. The depot stores each square once, so a second state near the first is much smaller than its own size suggests.



The country button switches between the United States and Canada.



Confirming quotes what **this** device still needs, and says how much it will skip.



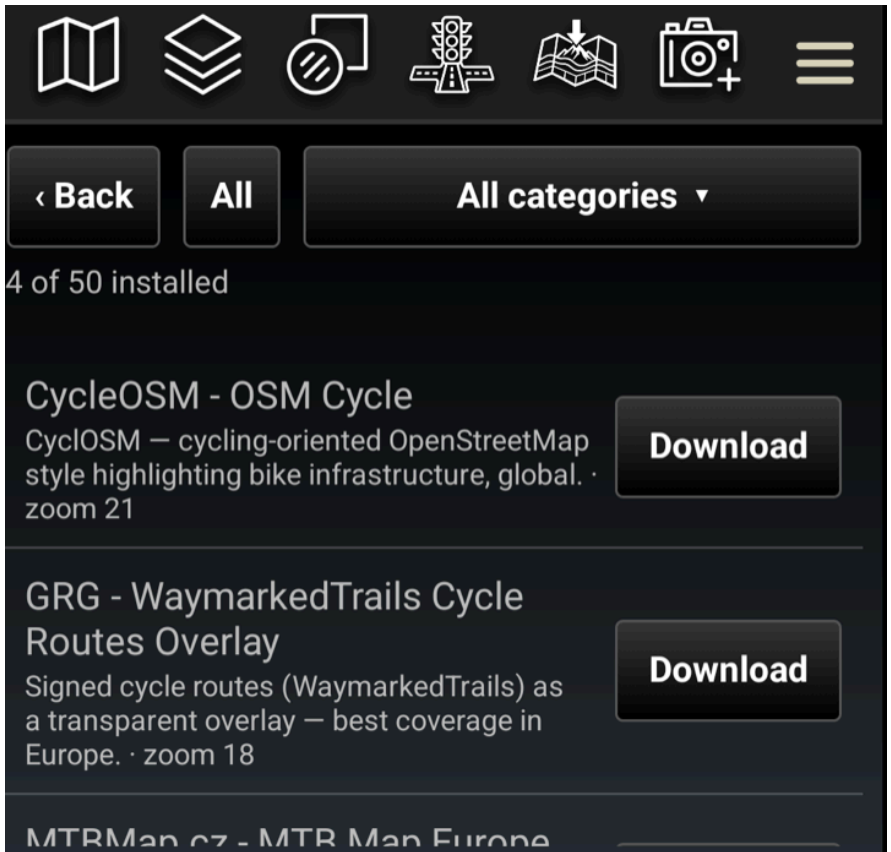
While a region downloads, its row carries a progress bar and a percentage, and the line above counts cells and megabytes.

Cancel download sits above the list, full width, where it can be hit without hunting for it. Cancelling keeps every cell that had already finished: the row becomes **Finish**, and picking it up later downloads only what is left.

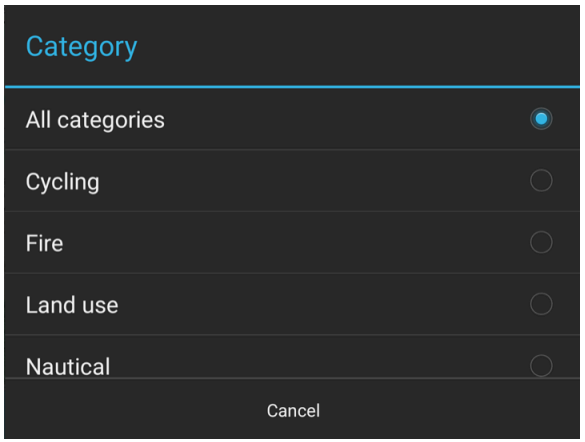
Other rows wait while one is downloading. One region at a time.

Streaming base maps

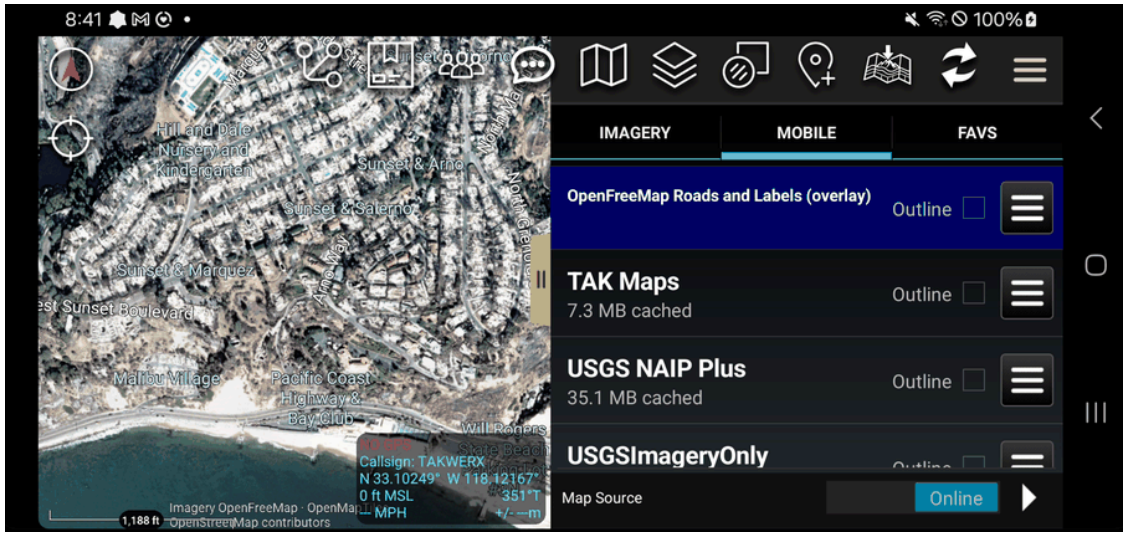
Map sources served over the network rather than stored on the device: satellite imagery, street maps, nautical charts, topographic sheets. Installing one adds it to ATAK's map source list; ATAK fetches tiles as you pan and caches what it has drawn.



The category button narrows a long list.



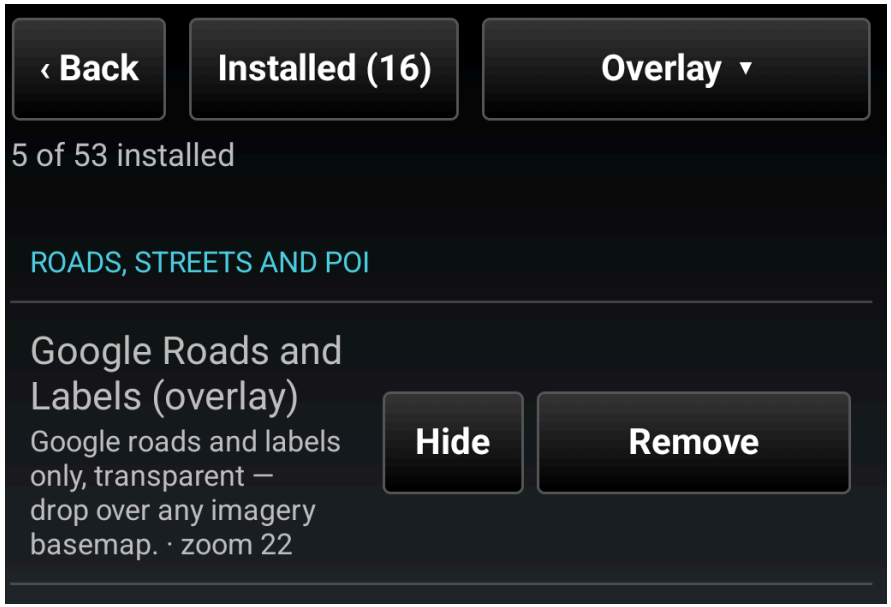
Each row says who serves the map and how far it can be zoomed.



Some sources are **overlays** rather than base maps: roads, labels, contour lines, flood zones or radar on a transparent background, drawn over whatever is underneath. The **Overlay** category lists them.

An overlay is something you switch on, not something you switch to. Adding one switches it on over the map you already have, and over any disaster aerial, and any number can be on at once. The list is sectioned, roads and points of interest first, and each added row keeps a **Hide** button, so nobody has to find it under Overlay Manager.

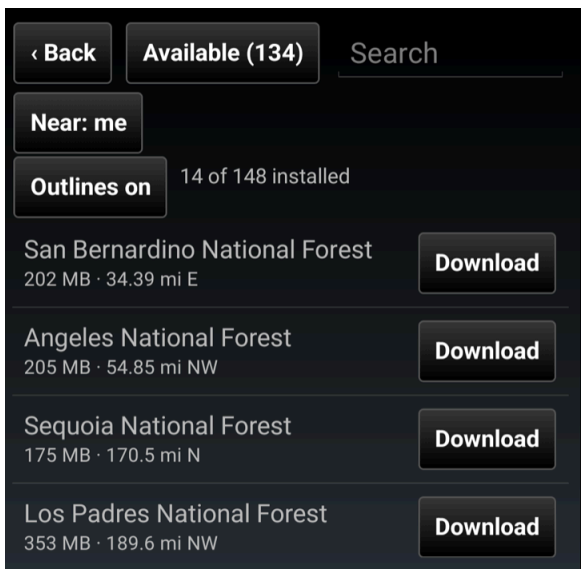
Aerial imagery flown after an event has no street names on it. **Google Roads and Labels (overlay)** puts them back without hiding the imagery.



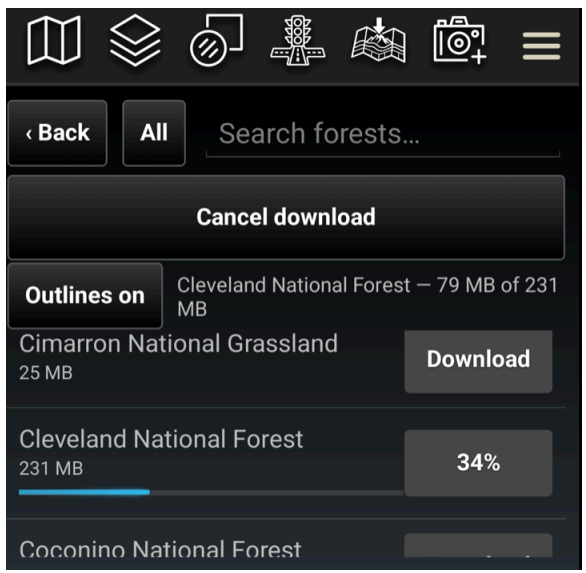
The overlay list under its headings, roads first. An added row carries **Hide** and **Remove**; Hide switches the overlay off and keeps it.

Offline public land vector tiles

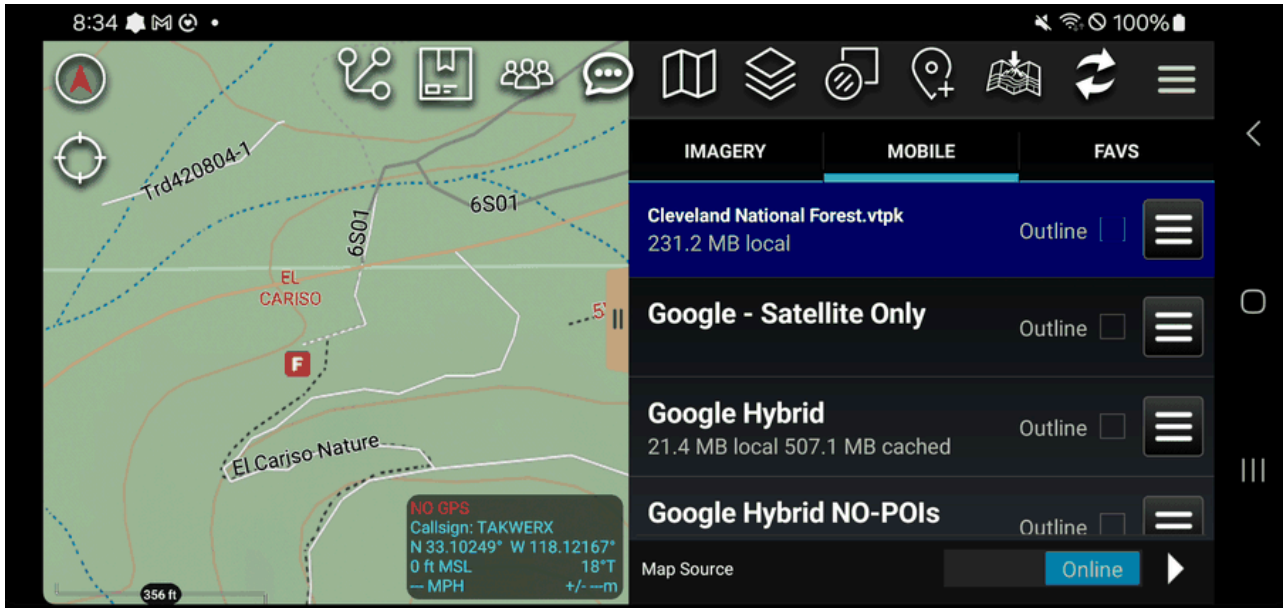
A Forest Service vector basemap for each national forest and grassland – roads, trails, boundaries, contours and labels – held on the device and drawn with no network at all. These are large: tens of megabytes for a grassland, over a gigabyte for the biggest forests.



Type part of a forest's name to narrow the list.



Downloads report progress and can be cancelled.

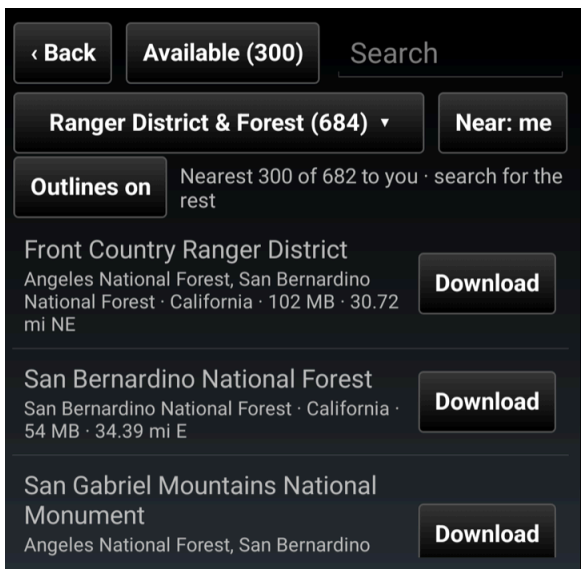


Installed, the forest basemap is a map source like any other: forest road numbers, trail names and boundaries, all held locally.

Being vector rather than imagery it stays sharp at any zoom, and takes far less space than the equivalent tiles would.

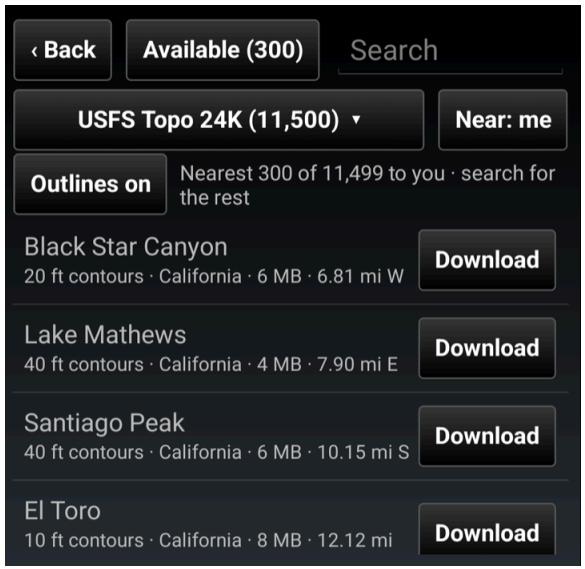
Offline public land PDFs

The Forest Service's printed map sheets, as GeoPDFs. Where a forest basemap is the whole forest at map scale, a sheet is what an office hands out, with its margin, legend and printed detail. Four series, picked with the button beside Back; each entry says how many sheets it holds.



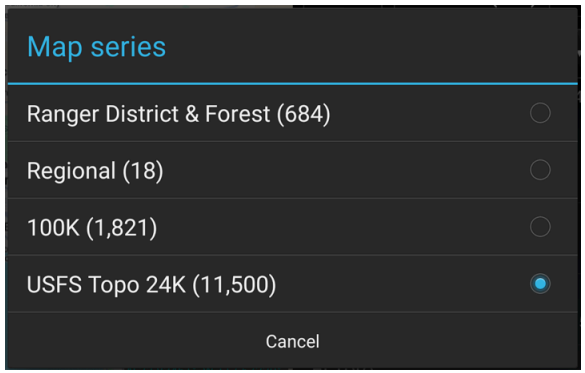
- **Ranger District & Forest** – the district maps and the whole-forest visitor maps. Search by forest name to see its districts.
- **Regional** – one map per Forest Service region, with district or with forest boundaries. Eighteen sheets.
- **100K** – the 1:100,000 series, nationwide. About 1,800 sheets.
- **USFS Topo 24K** – the 1:24,000 quads. About 18,000 sheets, fetched the first time you choose it and then kept on the device.

Nearest_first

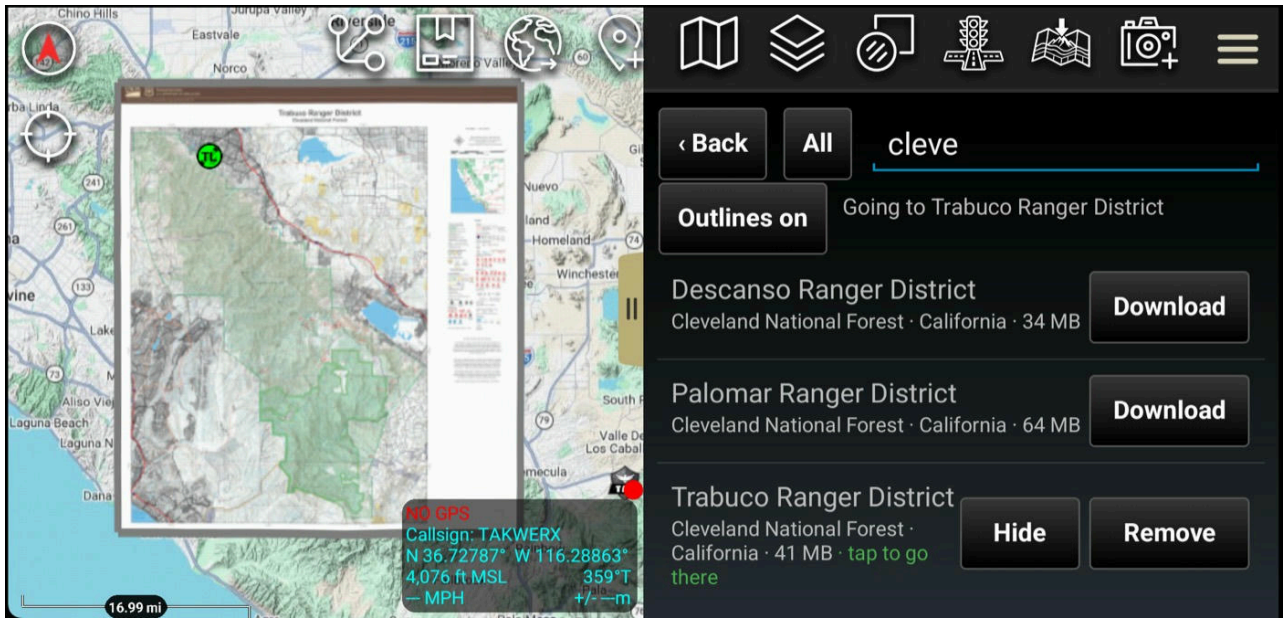


Every offline list is sorted by distance, nearest first, and every row says how far and in which direction, in the units your ATAK is set to. The **Near** button says what that is measured from: the center of the map, or you. Pan the map to where you are working, open the list, and the sheet you want is at the top.

The big series list the nearest 300 and the status line says so. Move the map, or type part of a name, to reach the rest.



The series button says how many sheets each series holds. Ranger District & Forest is where the list opens; the others are one tap away.



Installed, a district map lands as a georeferenced overlay, in the right place on the ground, over whatever base map is showing.

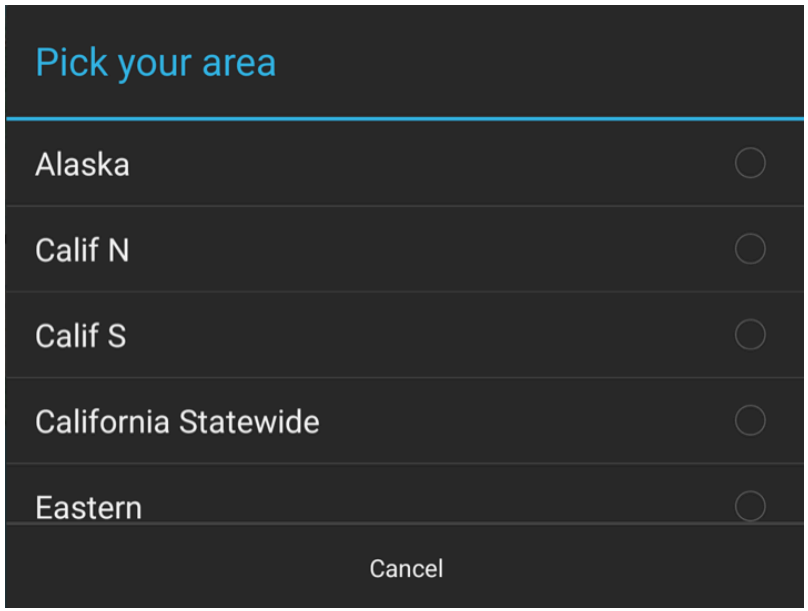
Show and **Hide** work here too – a district map is a GeoPDF like any incident map.

Incident maps

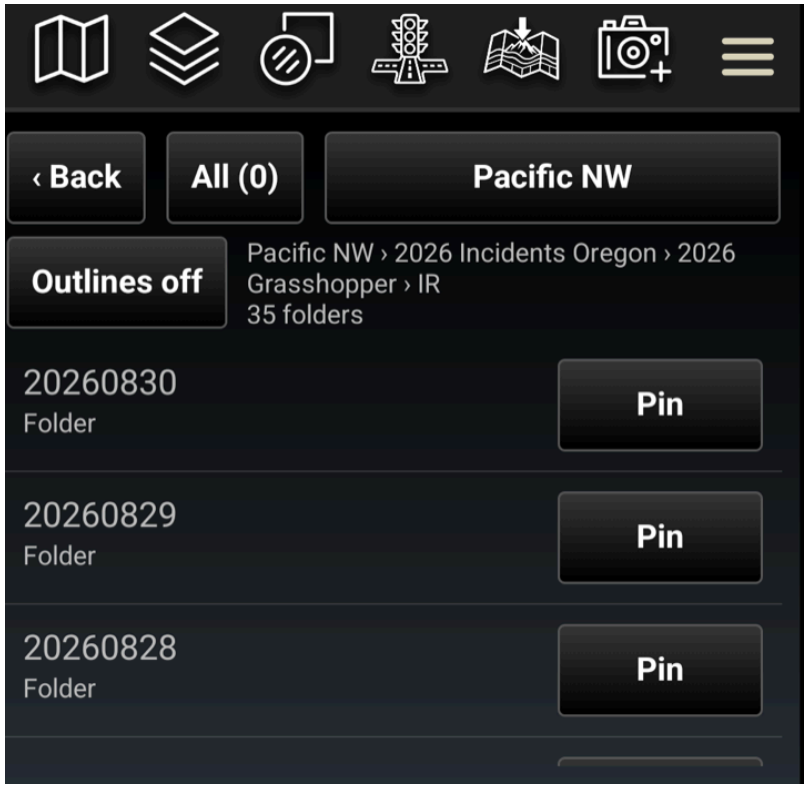
The maps posted for a going fire, from the two archives the incident community publishes to. Where every other page is a catalog that changes with a release, these change hourly: what is on the page is what the fire's GIS shop uploaded this morning.

- **Incident Maps (NIFC)** – `ftp.wildfire.gov`. Ops, division, air operations, transport, briefing and IR products, for every fire in the country.
- **Drone IR Maps (UASWFC)** – `uaswfc.org`. Infrared flown by uncrewed aircraft, as georeferenced PDFs and KMZs.

Both are public and need no account.

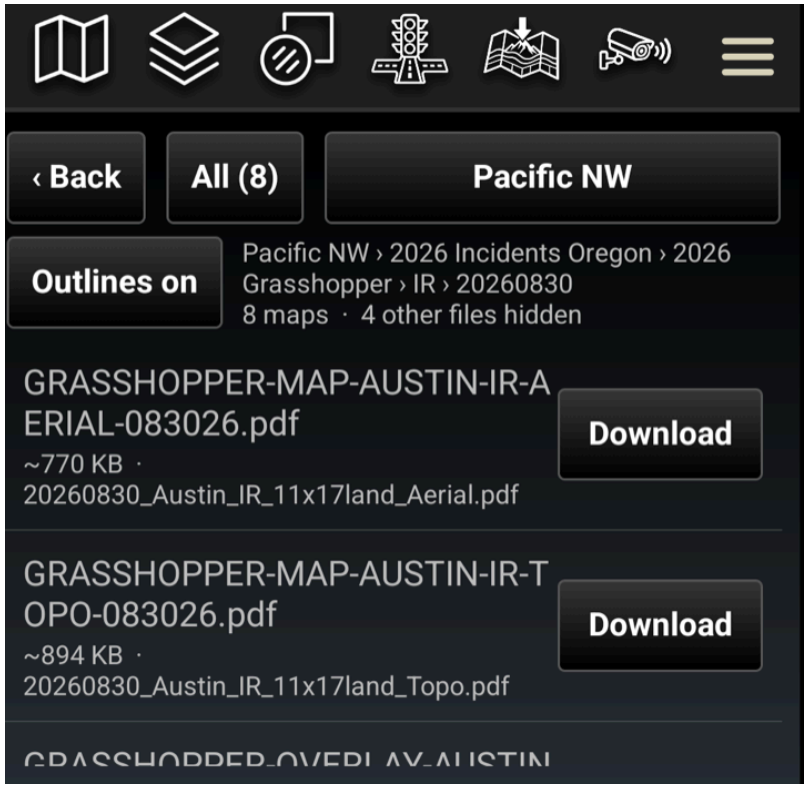


Pick your geographic area once and it is remembered. You can change it whenever you like – the next fire may be somewhere else.



From there you walk down to your fire and into whatever folder that shop uses. They do not all agree, so the plugin shows what is actually there rather than a fixed set of screens.

Folders named by date are listed newest first, because the map you want is almost always today's.



Only maps are offered: PDFs and KMZs. Geodatabases, shapefile bundles and flight logs are not maps and are left out.

The line under the buttons says how many were hidden, so a short list is never mistaken for an empty folder.

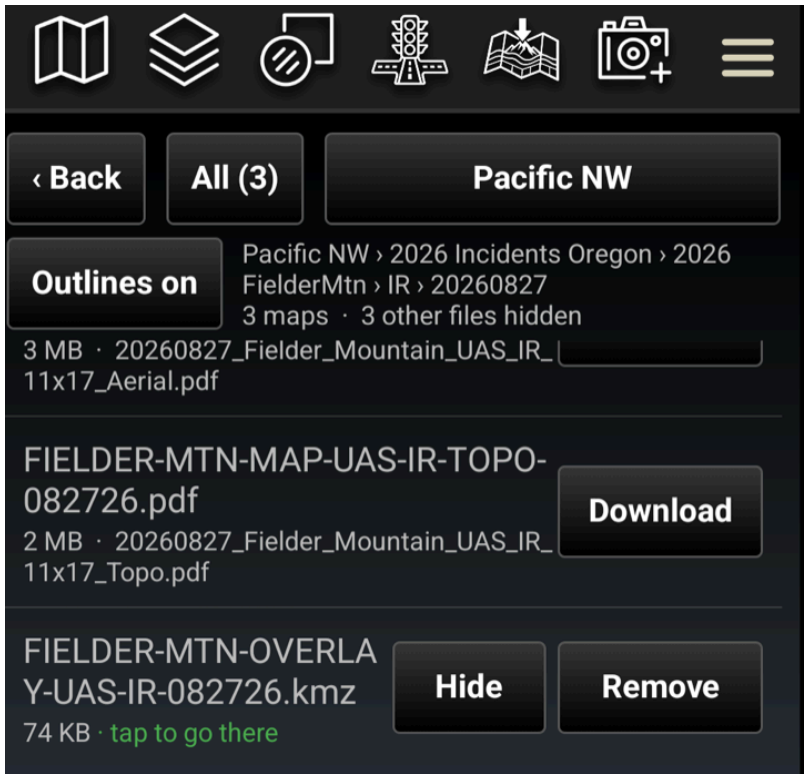
Names you can read

The archives name files for a GIS shop's file browser. Map Depot renames them for a phone:

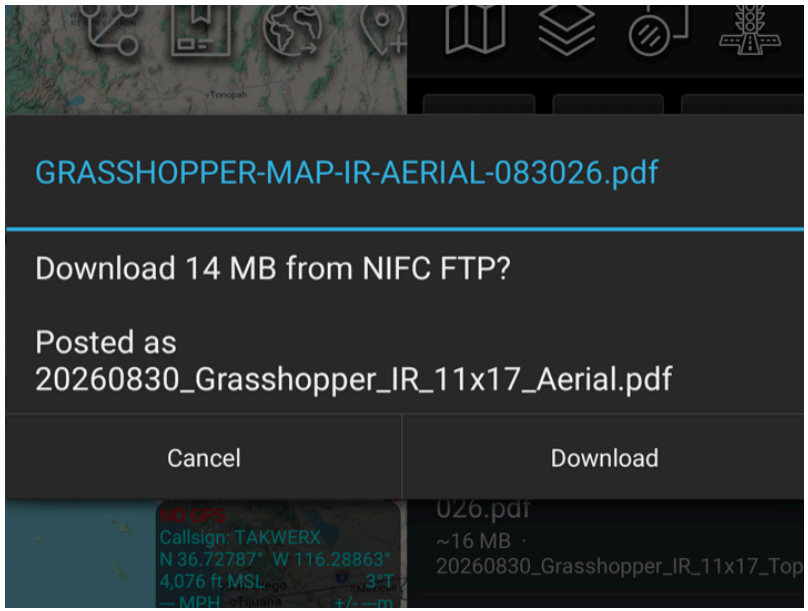
```
ops_arch_e_port_20260828_0115_RoweCreekComplex_ORPRD000491_0828day.pdf
  -> OR-PRD-ROWE-CREEK-COMPLEX-MAP-OPS-082826.pdf
```

The date is the operational period – the shift the map is for, not the moment it came off the plotter. Division letters, sortie numbers and IR areas are all kept, because two maps you can both pick have to be able to sit on the device together. The original name is shown under the new one, so a map named over the radio can still be found.

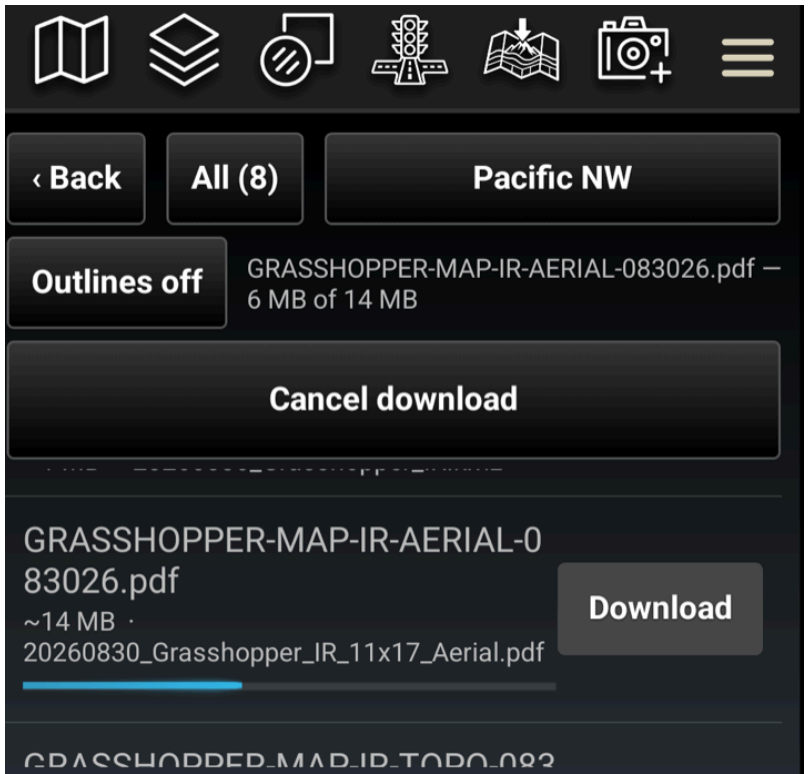
A PDF says **MAP** and installs as a georeferenced overlay you can see through. A KMZ says **OVERLAY** and installs as ATAK's own kind of overlay. The name tells you which you are about to get.



The same fire's drone products: two PDFs and a KMZ, named so you can tell at a glance which is which without reading the extension.



Tapping **Download** says what it will cost, and what the file is called on the server – so a map named over the radio can still be matched to the one you are about to fetch.

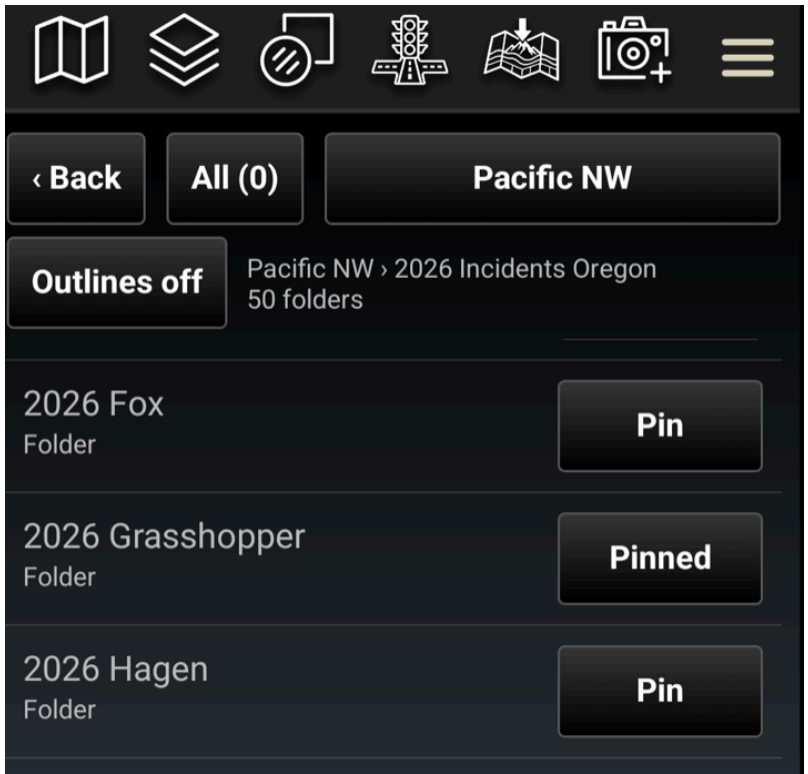


While it runs, the row carries the progress and the others stop offering themselves: these are tens of megabytes and two at once on a hotspot serves nobody. **Cancel download** stops it and keeps nothing half-finished.

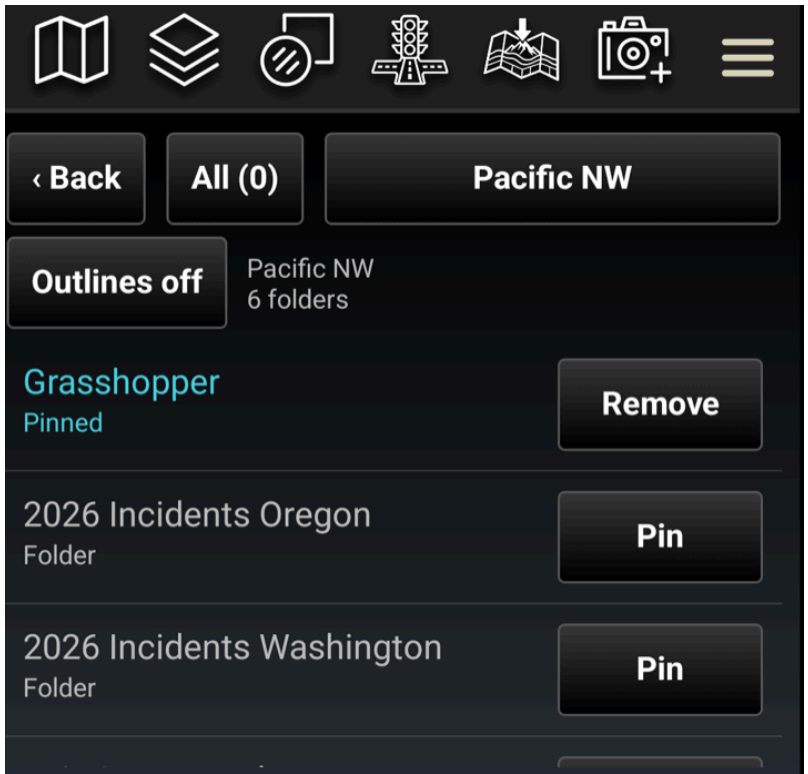
Pinning the fire you are working

A crew assigned to a fire opens the same folder twenty times a day, and reaching it means a region, a year folder, the fire and then a product folder – four taps to arrive somewhere they never leave.

Every folder has a **Pin** button. Press it on your fire and it sits at the top of the first screen from then on, in cyan, one tap away. **Remove** on a pinned row unpins it and deletes nothing.

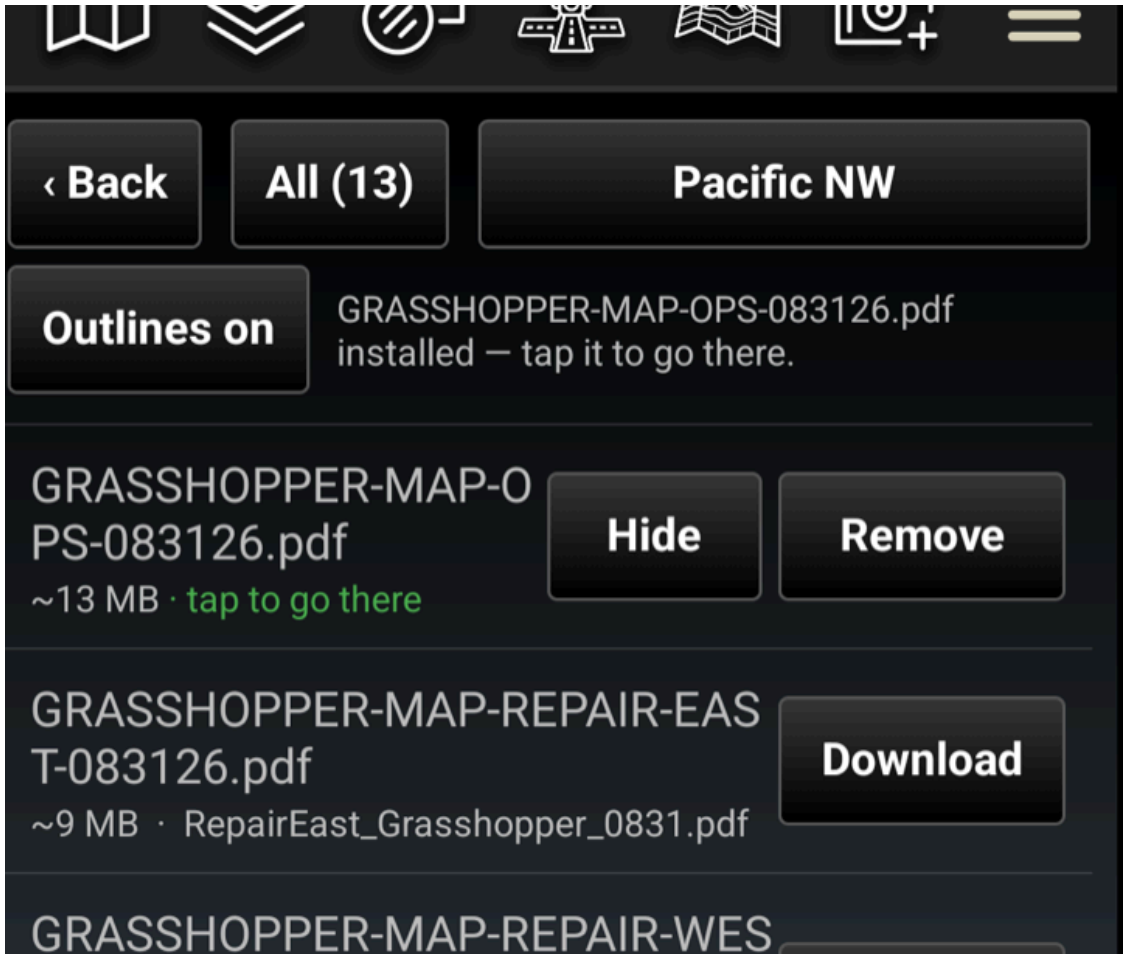


Press **Pin** on the fire you are working.



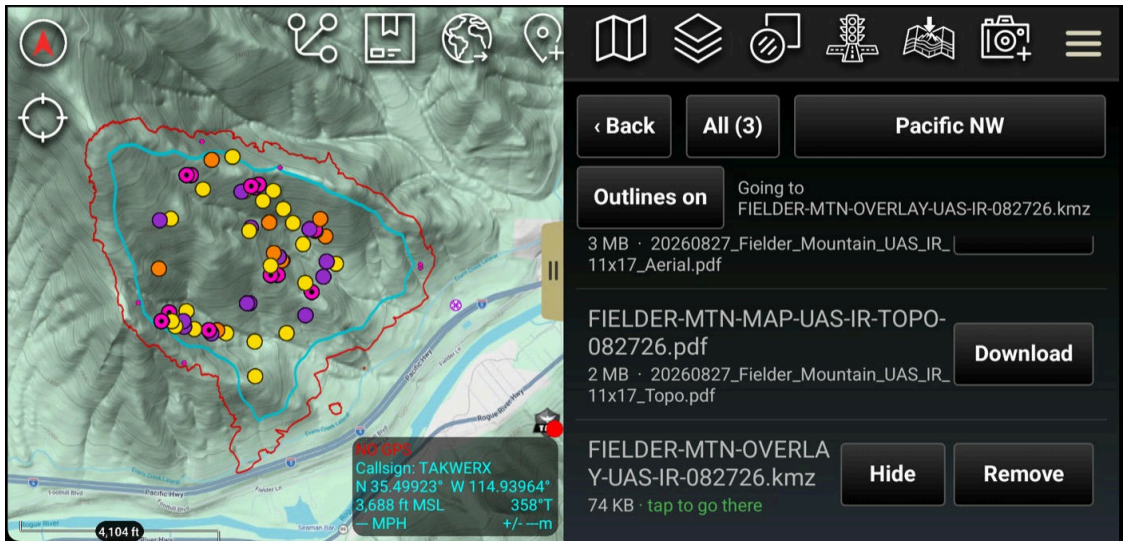
It sits at the top of the first screen from then on, in cyan so it is obvious why it is above everything else.

Anything can be pinned, not only a fire: if you live in one product folder, pin that and you land straight in it. Pins survive a restart and a plugin update, and the two archives keep their own.

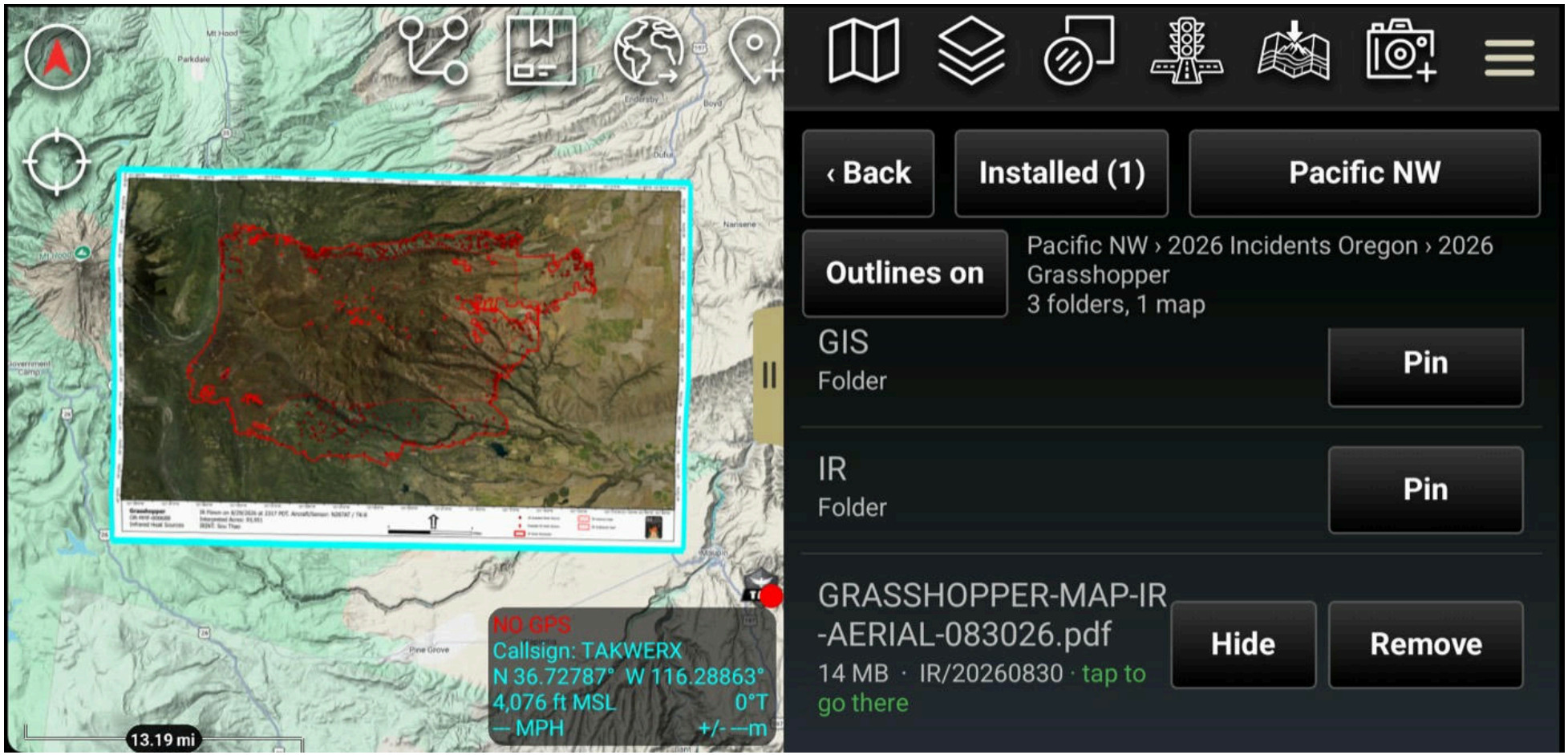


Working with what you have downloaded

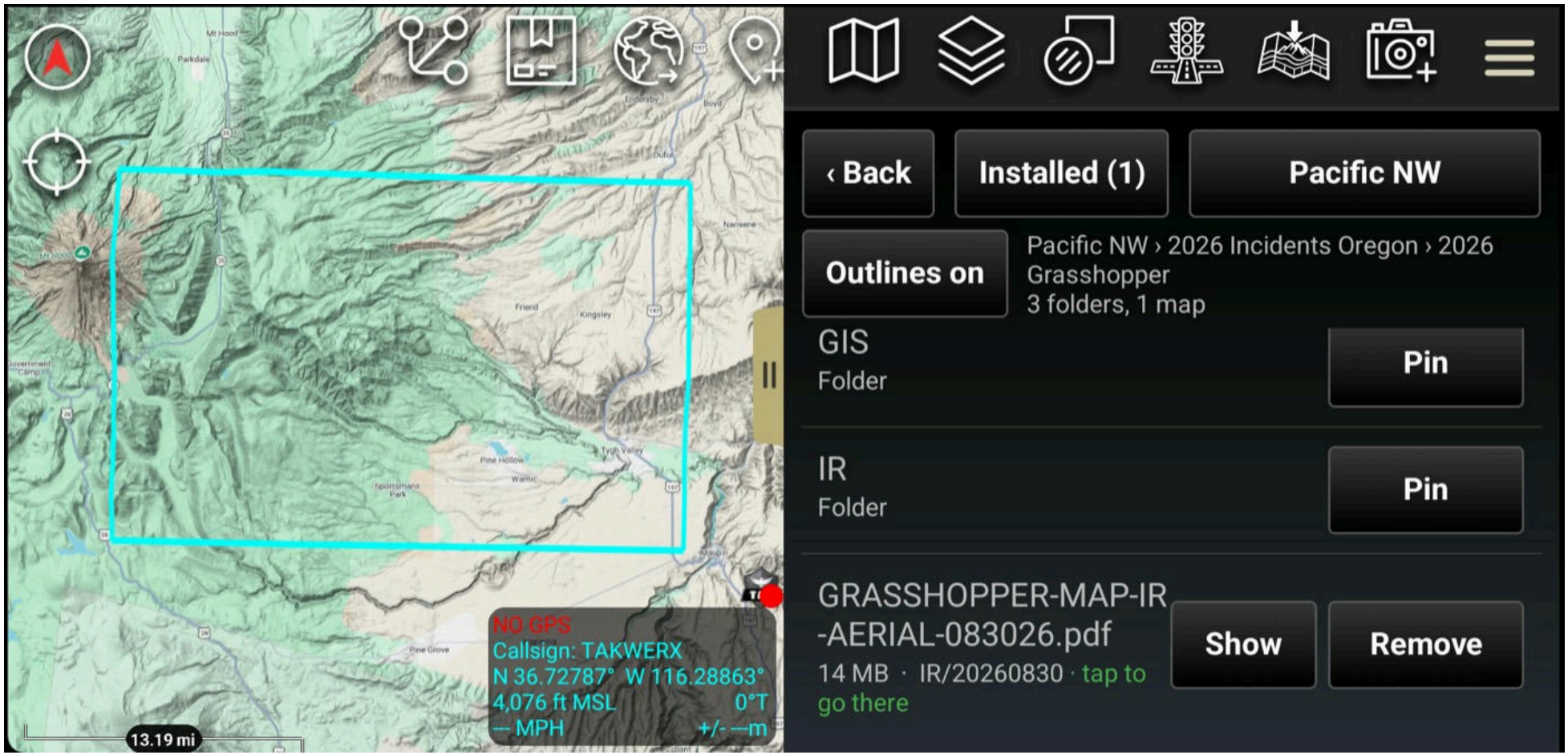
- **Show** / **Hide** turns one map on or off without leaving the page.
- **Outlines** turns the footprints of every GRG on or off, which is how you see what covers the ground in front of you.
- Tapping an installed row goes to that map.
- **Remove** deletes it, telling ATAK first so no layer is left pointing at a file that is gone.



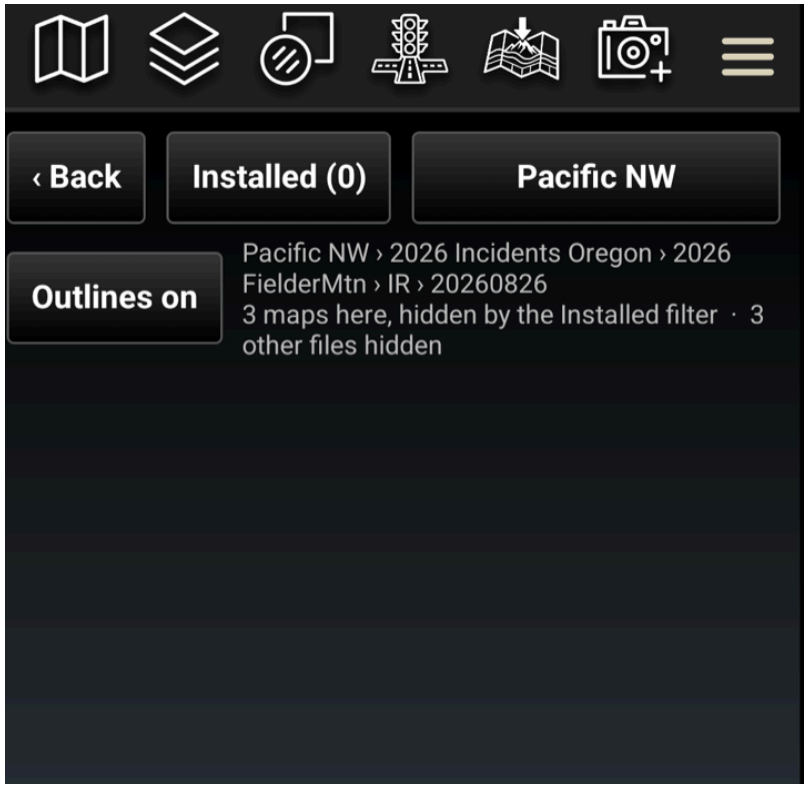
A drone IR product, on the ground: the perimeter and every heat source the aircraft found, drawn over whatever base map you are using.


‹ Back
Installed (1)
Pacific NW
Outlines on
Pacific NW › 2026 Incidents Oregon › 2026 Grasshopper
3 folders, 1 map
GIS
Folder
Pin
IR
Folder
Pin
GRASSHOPPER-MAP-IR-AERIAL-083026.pdf
14 MB · IR/20260830 · tap to go there
Hide
Remove
NO GPS
Callsign: TAKWERX
N 36.72787° W 116.28863°
4,076 ft MSL 0°T
— MPH +/- —m
13.19 mi

An IR map shown, with **Outlines** on.

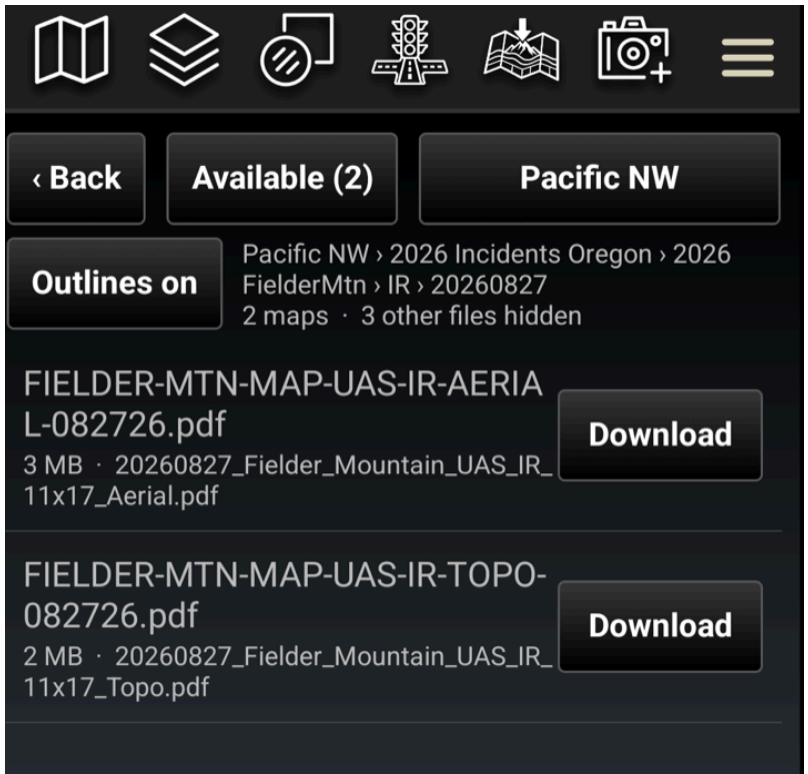

‹ Back
Installed (1)
Pacific NW
Outlines on
Pacific NW › 2026 Incidents Oregon › 2026 Grasshopper
3 folders, 1 map
GIS
Folder
Pin
IR
Folder
Pin
GRASSHOPPER-MAP-IR-AERIAL-083026.pdf
14 MB · IR/20260830 · tap to go there
Show
Remove
NO GPS
Callsign: TAKWERX
N 36.72787° W 116.28863°
4,076 ft MSL 0°T
— MPH +/- —m
13.19 mi

The same map hidden. The footprint stays either way, so you can see what a map covers before deciding to turn it on.

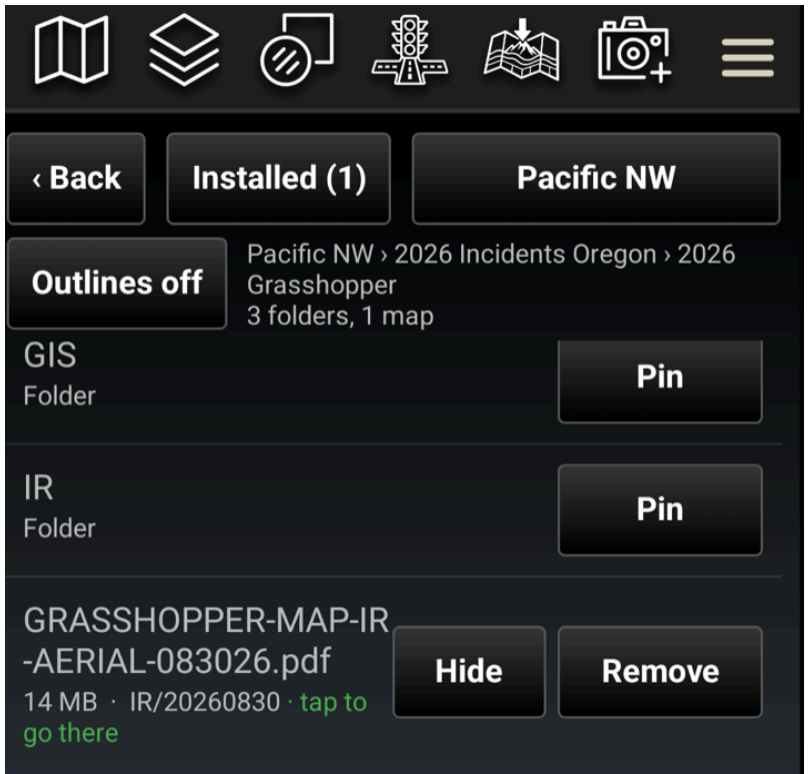


The filter widens with where you are standing: at the top of an archive **Installed** is everything you hold, and it narrows to the folder as you walk down into it. **Available** is the other way round.

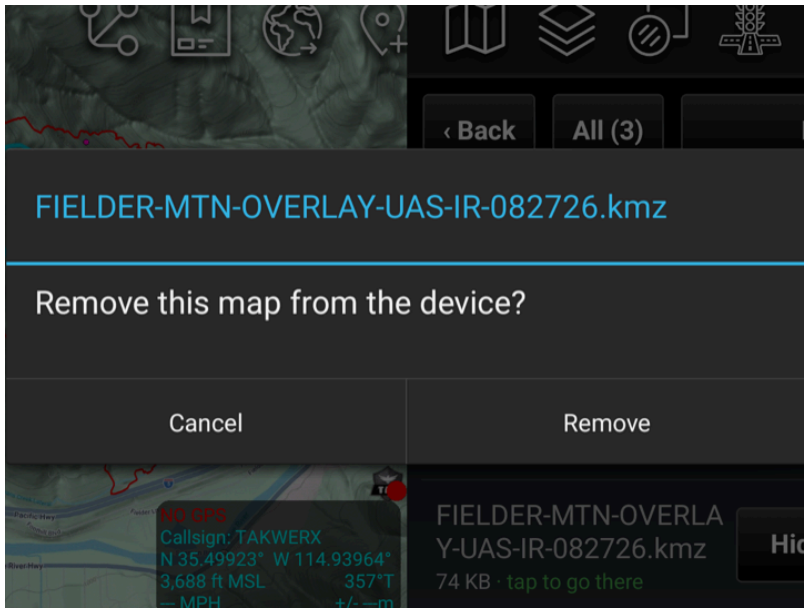
A filter that hides everything says so, and names itself, rather than leaving a folder looking empty when it is not.



Available is what you have not got yet.

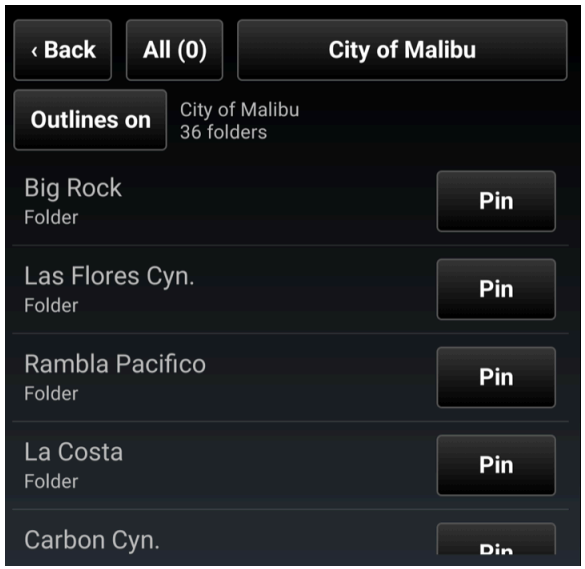


Installed stays useful high up the tree: standing at the fire, a map downloaded from a folder two levels below is still listed, with the folder it came from rather than a size.



Remove asks first, and deletes through ATAK rather than behind its back – the layer is unloaded before the file goes, so nothing is left pointing at something that is no longer there.

Beacon Box maps

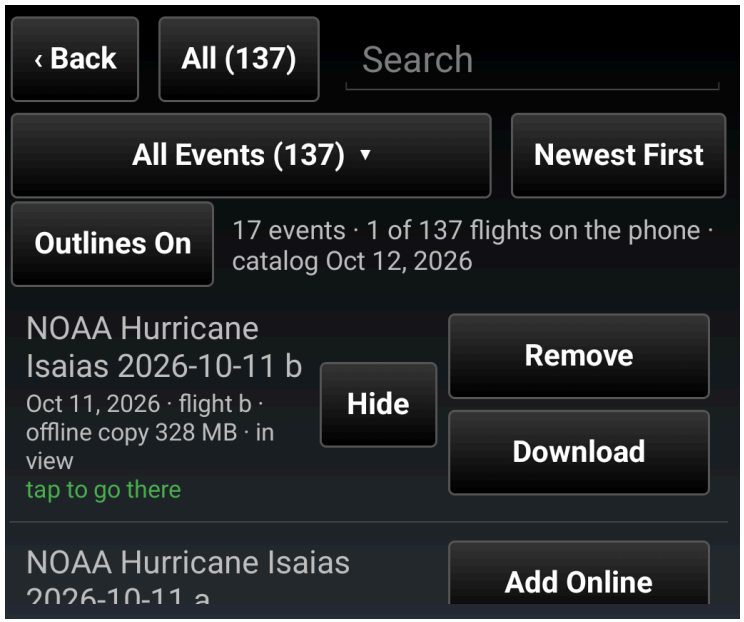


FlameMapper's neighborhood pre-plans for the Santa Monica Mountains communities and a few others: a base map, an aerial, and where they exist a fire-science and a structure-vulnerability sheet per neighborhood, as GeoPDFs. Pick your area, open a neighborhood – Malibu's run east to west, as the author lists them – tick what you want, Download.



Each row says which of the four it is and how big, with the file's own name under it. Installed, a sheet lands as an overlay over whatever base map is showing, like an incident map.

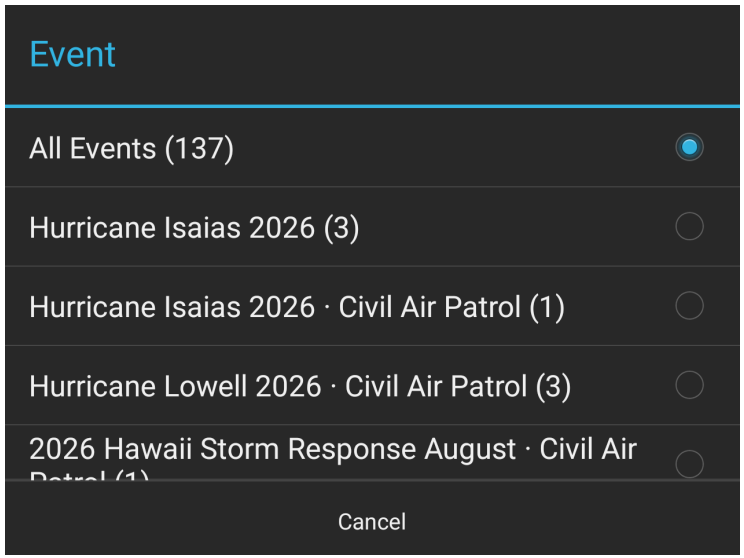
Disaster Aerials



After a hurricane makes landfall, and after some floods, fires and tornadoes, the damaged area gets flown and the imagery is public within a day or two. Map Depot lists three sources in one list, this year and last, newest first: NOAA's aerial flights, the Civil Air Patrol's flights for FEMA, and Maxar's satellite releases with the cloud cover on the row. What an agency publishes is listed, not graded; the crew judges. The event button starts on All Events and says which agency each event is from.

Each flight is an overlay: it covers the area that was flown, at 15 to 30 cm a pixel, and draws over whatever map you have. Flights are listed newest first; the button on the right switches to nearest the map or nearest you. Tap a row before adding it and the map goes to where the flight is.

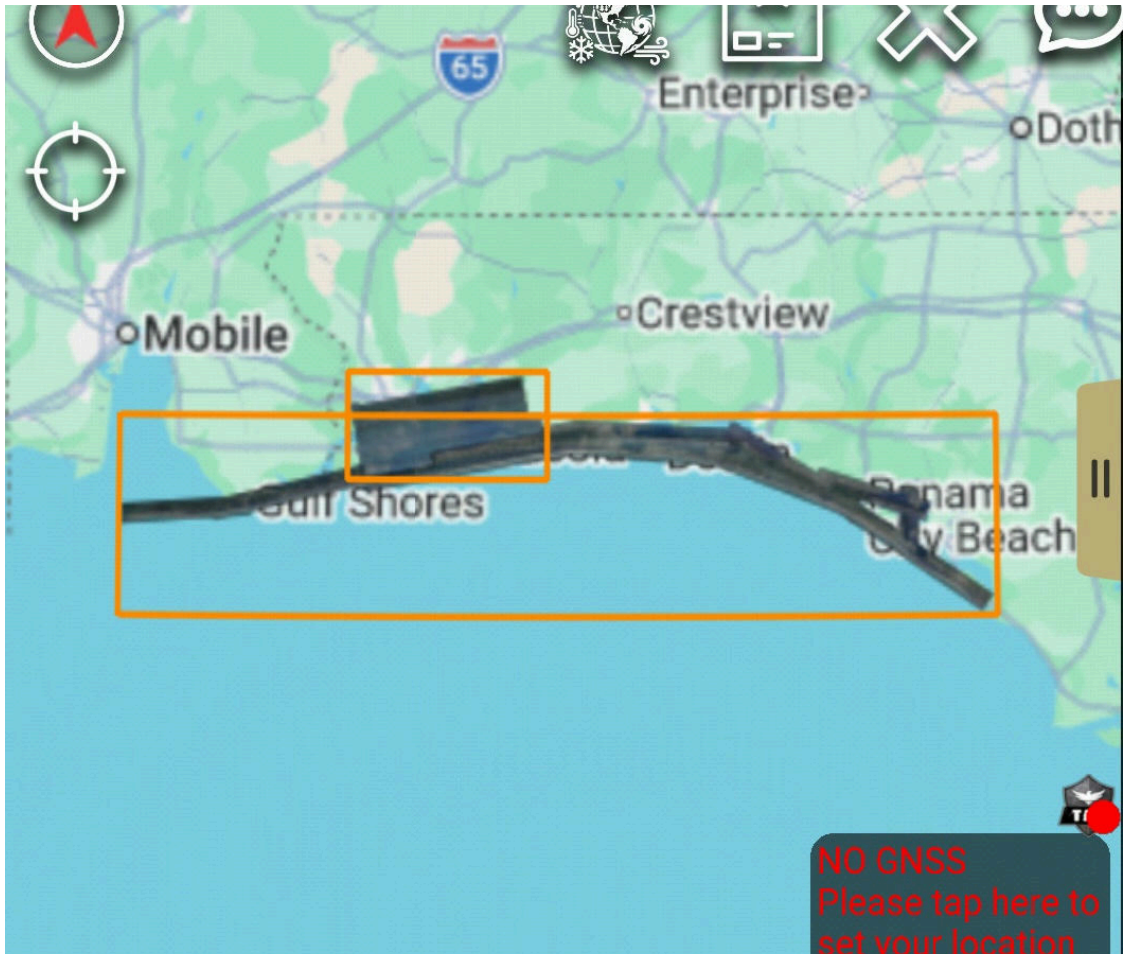
Two buttons on every flight: **Add Online** streams the imagery as you pan, nothing lands on the phone; **Download**, with the copy's size in the row, keeps a copy of the flight on the phone for when there is no signal, built on the server at the flight's own detail and kept under about 500 MB. Either way the button reads **Remove** once it is on the phone.



Pick the event with the button under the search box; the count is how many flights it has.

Added or downloaded, a row says **tap to go there**, and tapping it takes the map to the flight. **Hide** turns it off without removing it. **Outlines** draws an orange box with the flight's name around every flight on the phone, so the imagery can be found before zooming in.

During a storm NOAA adds flights every day. The list says when the catalog was last built; a flight flown after that appears the next day, its offline copy the morning after.

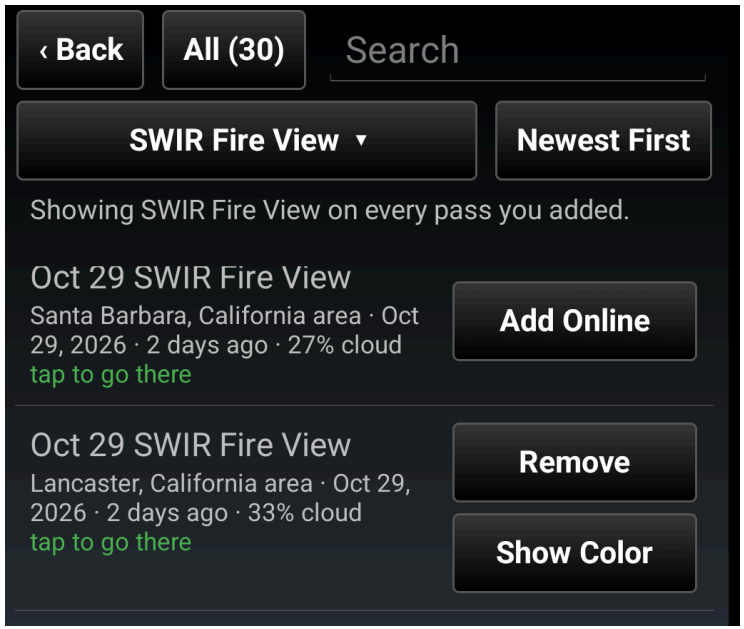


Outlines On: every flight on the phone gets an orange box, so the imagery can be found on the map before zooming in. Two NOAA flights along the Florida panhandle here.



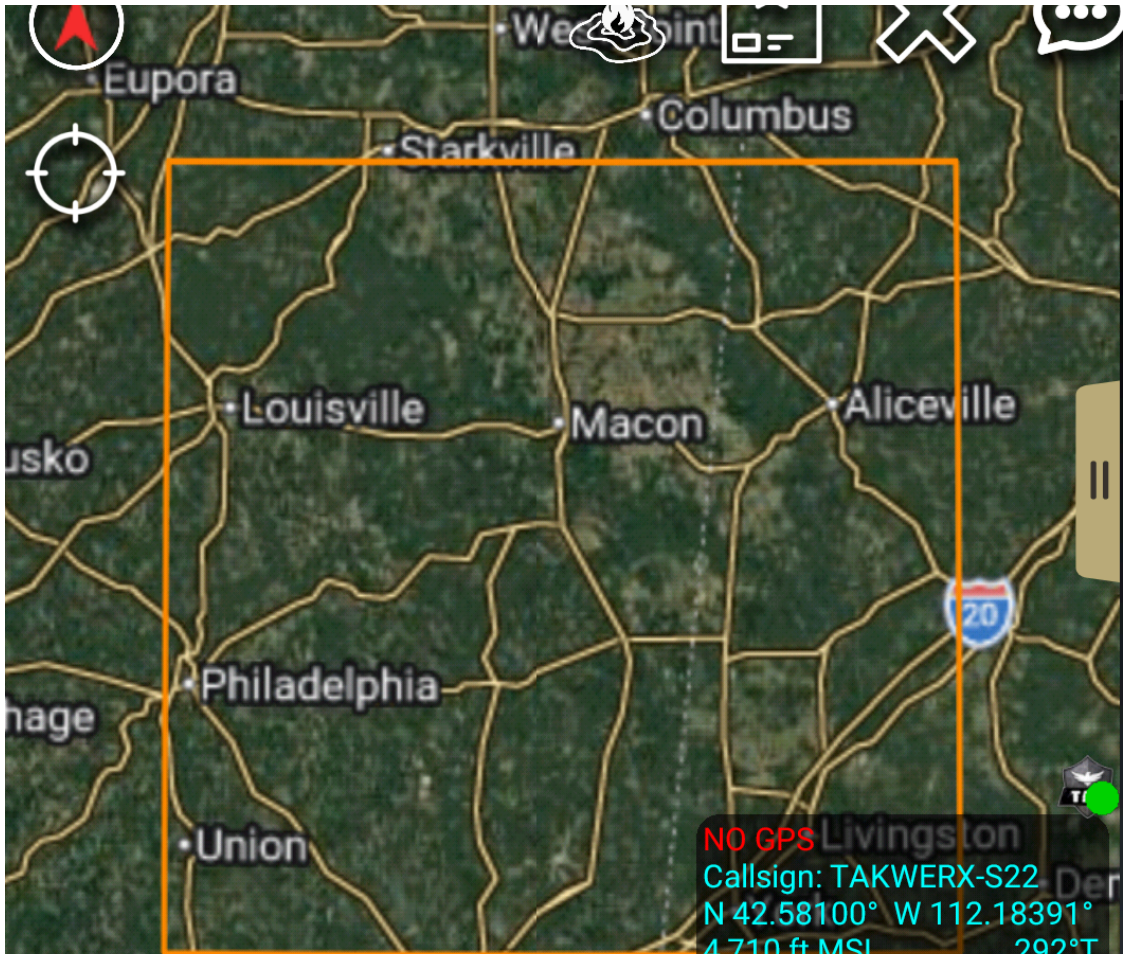
A flight has no street names on it. With the Google roads overlay added from Streaming Base Maps, names and house numbers draw over the imagery, which is how a crew finds an address in it.

Satellite (Sentinel-2)

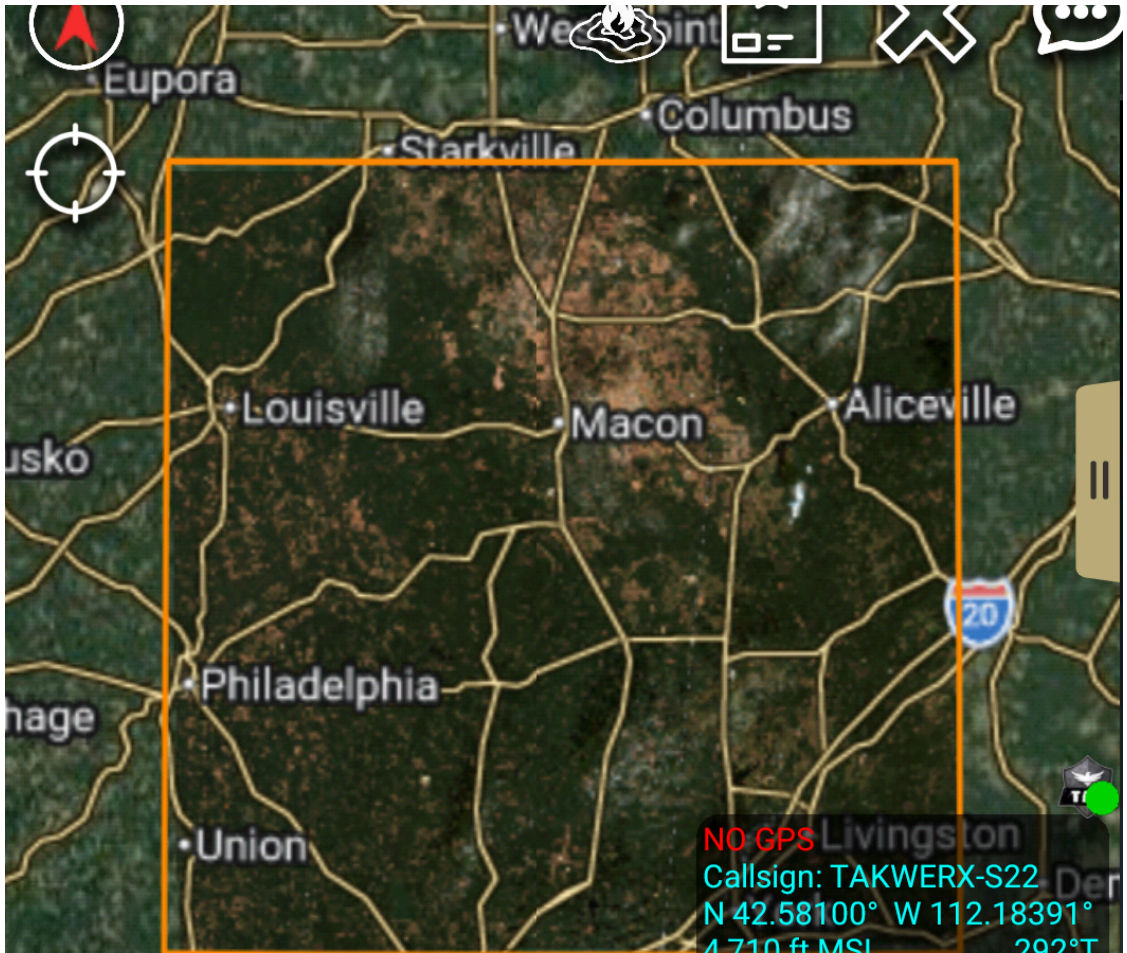


Recent satellite pictures of the ground, from the European Sentinel-2 satellites, for the last 14 days. Each row is one pass over one area, named for the nearest town, with its date and how much of it is cloud.

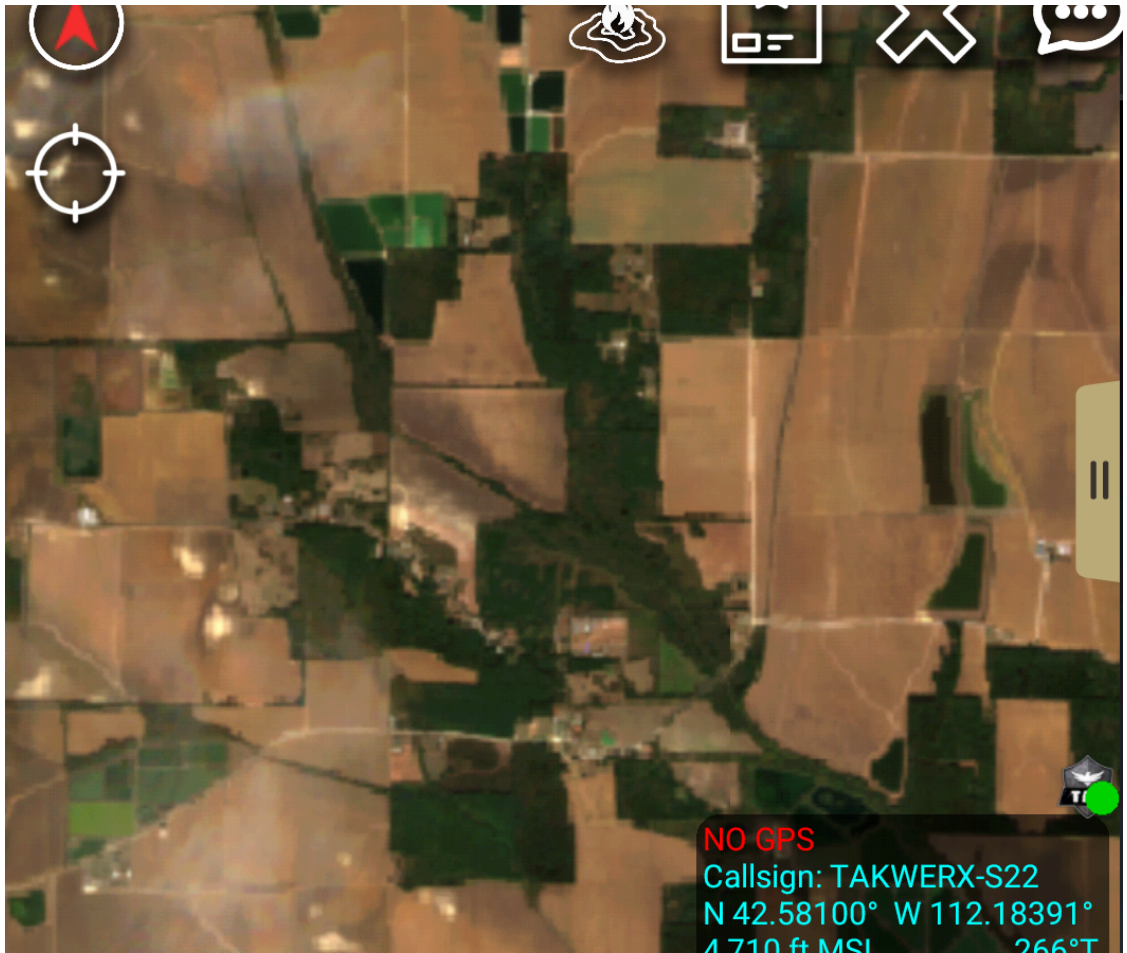
The right-hand button sets where to look: **Newest First** around the map center, **Near: Map Center**, or **Near: Me** around your own position. Tapping it searches again from there. The left-hand button picks the view.



Tap a row to go there. An orange box shows exactly the area the pass covers, before you add anything. **Add Online** then streams the picture over whatever map you have. It needs a signal; there is no offline copy.



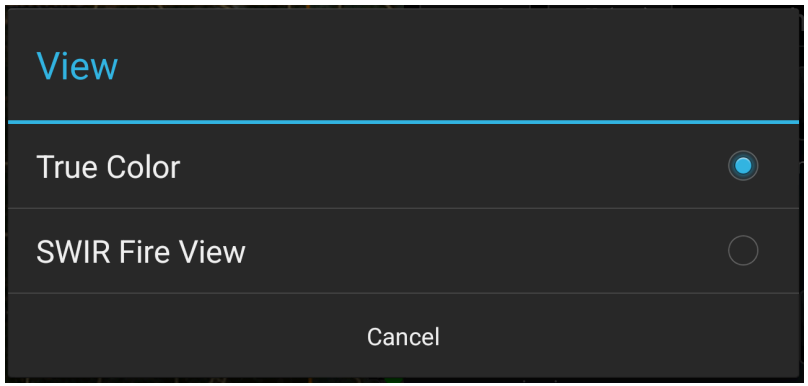
Added, the pass draws over the map and the row offers **Remove**. Every pass you add is held in both views, so nothing more is downloaded to switch.



True Color is the picture as the eye sees it. Farm fields, roads and water are easy to read, about 10 meters to a pixel.



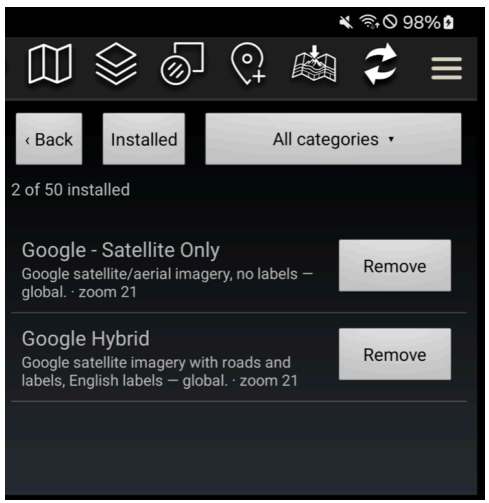
SWIR Fire View is the same place in shortwave infrared. Healthy plants show bright green and bare or burned ground shows brown. Active fire and a fresh burn glow orange and red. Thin smoke mostly clears.



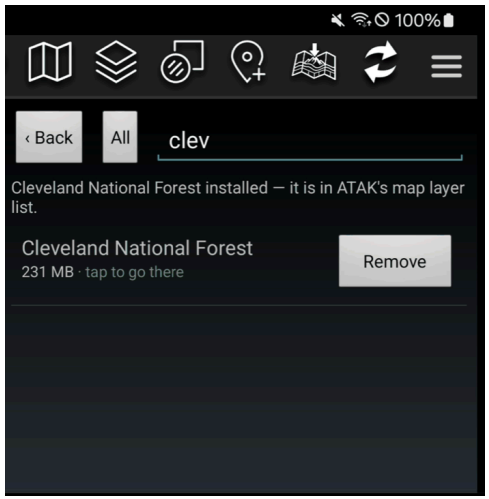
The **View** button chooses which of the two to show. Under **Remove** each added pass also has a button that flips every pass you added to the other view at once. Clouds hide the ground in both views, so check the cloud figure on the row. The satellites pass each place every few days.

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data.

Finding what you have installed



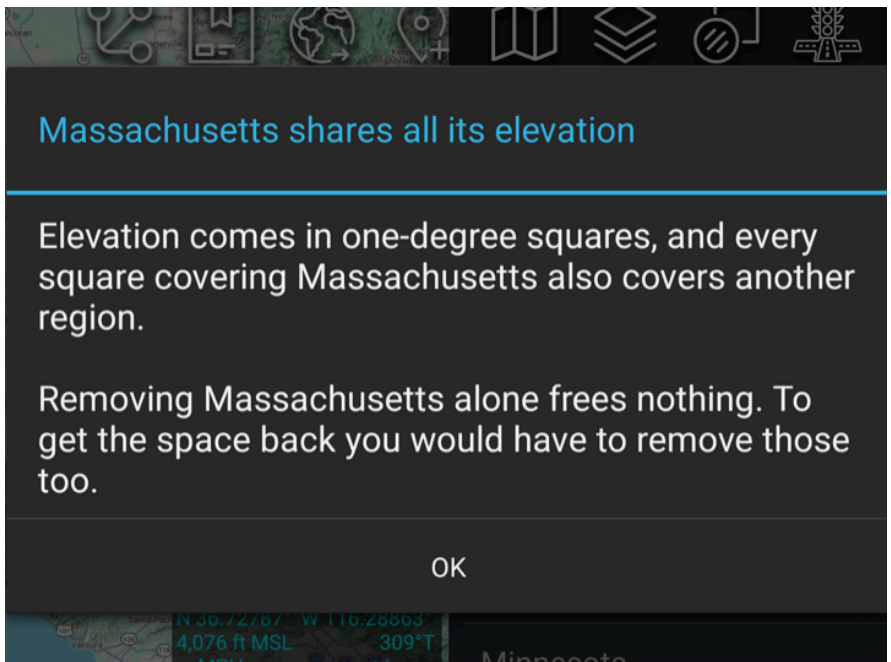
Every page has a filter button, next to **Back**, that cycles **All** – **Installed** – **Available**. Set to **Installed**, the page becomes a list of what is on this device.



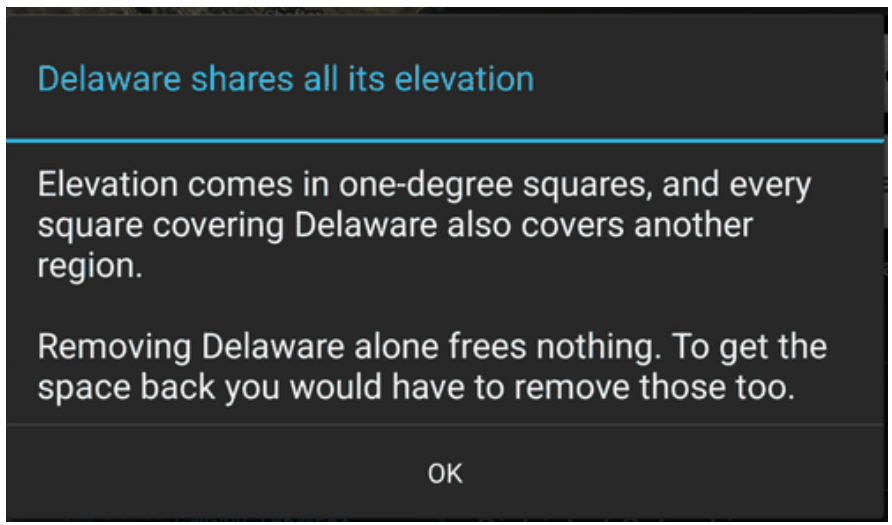
An installed offline map says **tap to go there**, in green. Tapping the row turns that map on and takes you to it.

Straight after a download it may say it is still being added to the map list – ATAK is indexing the file, which takes a while for a large one. It goes there on its own when that finishes. Nothing needs tapping again.

Removing



Remove appears on anything installed, and says what removing actually frees before it does it.

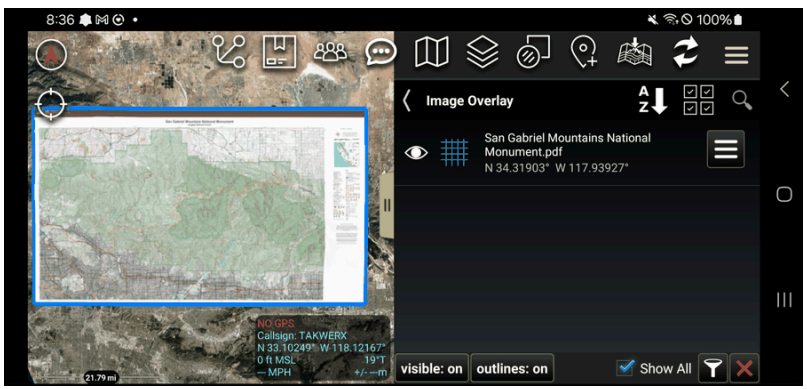


Elevation squares shared with a neighboring region you also hold are kept. A small state may share all of them, and the plugin says so rather than running a removal that frees nothing.

Where files go

Map Depot writes into ATAK's own folders, so what it installs is indistinguishable from data put there by hand.

- Elevation – `atak/DTED/`, one file per one-degree square.
- Streaming base maps – `atak/imagery/`, as map source files.
- Streaming overlays and disaster aerials – `atak/grg/`, as map source files, so ATAK lists them under Image Overlay; offline copies of flights as MBTiles in the same folder.
- Offline public land vector tiles – `atak/imagery/`, as vector tile packages.
- Forest Service map sheets – `atak/grg/`, as georeferenced PDFs.
- Incident and drone maps – `atak/grg/` for a PDF, `atak/overlays/` for a KMZ.



Removing something through Map Depot tells ATAK first and deletes the file after, so no layer is left pointing at something that is gone.

What it needs

- **Network** – outbound HTTPS on port 443 only: to the map depot, to the public map server a chosen source belongs to, and – for incident maps – to `ftp.wildfire.gov` and `uaswfc.org`. Both are public and need no account. No inbound ports, and no TAK server involvement.
- **Storage** – enough free space for what you download. Map Depot checks before it starts and refuses rather than filling the device.
- **Nothing else** – no account, no key, no configuration. It does not read or transmit position, callsign, or any other ATAK data.