



# Wildfire WebMap

## The Project

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF FORESTS is responsible for fighting forest fires on British Columbia Crown land. These fires spread rapidly and become extremely large, and present a real threat to natural resources, life and property. As a result, the Ministry

needs to distribute accurate and timely fire information for use by fire managers, fire fighting personnel on the ground and the general public. The Ministry chose to work with Pacific GeoTech Systems to implement a web-based application to make the information readily accessible.

## The Solution

Pacific GeoTech developed a WebMap application to display up-to-the-minute and historical wildfire information. Using a standard web browser, fire personnel can download this information to pinpoint the affected areas. The application is also available to the public. The application creates smart, vector-based maps directly from live GIS map data using GeoMedia Data Servers, Microsoft Access, Oracle, Arc/INFO, ArcView and Microstation.

(green), range burning (orange), arson (purple), and other person-caused (black).

The historical information available on the **Wildfire WebMap** covers the period from 1940 to 1988 and is at 1:126,720 scale. It consists of 76 National Topographic Series map-sheets, each of which is split into four quadrants (NE, SE, SW, NW).

The fire maps also have relational databases in which the Ministry users can display the status of individual fires, such as name of the fire, current acreage and other information. The application provides thematic maps based on the six general fire causes: lightning (red), logging (blue), railways

The data are presented here as one of several sources of information related to fire history. Determination of the exact location and perimeters of, and remnant unburned areas within, individual historic fires was carried out using forest cover maps, airphotos and/or ground sampling of historic sites and/or stand attributes.



## The Results

Implementation of the **Wildfire WebMap** system has allowed real-time access for viewing and querying fire data. It has become an indispensable management tool for the Ministry of Forests in its ongoing effort to reduce the damage done by forest fires in the province.

**For more information on Forest Health, Wildfire WebMap or any other Pacific GeoTech services, please phone or email us.**