

Using the MyMaps map on Google Maps App - update on 01-2022

You can access the survey map from your smartphone in the field using the Google Maps App. This is the App that is commonly used for navigation and is free for both Android and Apple.



It is important that the app be logged into the same Google account as the one you used to open the MyMaps online map - it may need to be shared with you directly and the survey coordinator can do that.

How to access the map from within the Google Maps App

- 1) Click the “Saved” icon at the bottom of the app screen. It is in the bottom center and looks like a bookmark - this opens a page
- 2) Scroll to the bottom of the page and there is a row of icons called “timeline” “reservations” “Following” and “Maps” - click the one called “Maps” with an icon like a folded map
- 3) A list of MyMaps that you have access to should show. Look for the one titled the name of your survey (for example “Las Cienegas Grassland”) - select the appropriate map.
- 4) The map should now be showing on your phones along with your current location

For Offline use!

If we will be out in the field it is a good idea to do the steps above before you go into an area of questionable phone service. You also need to download a basemap in case the signal gets weak

Download basemap for offline use

- 1) In the search window at the top of Google Maps look for a location that is close to your survey area. In the case of winter grassland surveys “Las Cienegas National Conservation Area” or “Lochiel, AZ” (which is in San Rafael Grasslands) work well. It just needs to be a location that will pull up a location window at the bottom of your map where the blue “Directions” button appears.
- 2) From this location popup window, tap the top of the window so it fills the whole screen.
- 3) At the top right should be a magnifying glass icon and a three dot icon. Tap the three dot icon
- 4) One of the options is “Download Offline Map” - select it

- 5) You will now see a map with a blue square. You can zoom in and out to your desired map size and scope and select the blue “Download” button at the bottom. This gives you access to a detailed base map even if there is no signal. Your location should show with relative accuracy as most phones use satellite info for your location.

Alternate Method if don't have Google Account or don't want to use Google Profile - still uses Google tech though

- Download the Google Earth app - this can be used without having a Google account.
- Let coordinator know that you need the KML file emailed to you
- Open your email on your phone and download the KML files of the survey map onto your phone
- Open the Google Earth app on your phone
- On the top left of the main page - look for the icon on the top left of three horizontal lines stacked - select it
- Select the “Projects” icon
- Any recently downloaded map files should show - select the one you previously downloaded.
- It should now show on your map on the main page.

Info on Avenza App and PDF maps is [here](#)

Apps for Smartphones for GPS

For documenting your exact locations where point counts are done smart phone apps are a good way to do this.

For iPhone it has been recommended to me that the free TomsTrails GPS is quite good.

For Android it seems GPS Status and Toolbox is popular and recommended.

For Both: Gaia GPS has been recommended and my first test went well. Avenza Maps is also quite good but takes some set up. You can download topo quadrangle maps ahead of time (there are both free and paid download options) and then see your location on the map and place pins on locations.

Google Maps: Works quite well to get coordinates also. Long hold on your current location and it drops a little red pin with a menu appearing at the bottom of your screen asking if you want to navigate to that point etc. If you pull this window up so you can see the whole thing, the coordinates are one of the details displayed and you can then write them down.

Whichever of the many free apps you choose, make sure the settings are to give you coordinates in either Decimal Degrees (the default for Google Maps) or UTM's in NAD 83.

Update: The MyMaps App has been discontinued as of October 2021. You can still access the maps on your phone but it uses a browser and doesn't work as well as it did before.

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Google MyMaps

Google My Maps has proven more and more useful to the Arizona IBA program. We can create maps and then share them with you all in a very effective and efficient way. It's great and free! But like all technology, it has its difficulties and changes quite frequently. This is where we will keep our most current info on how to use this technology as it can be very helpful in the field.

- 1) **On a computer** - the most straightforward way to view a map is to open the link in a browser on a computer. You can zoom in and out, see the lines and dots that were added and switch back and forth between imagery and topo map etc. Anyone should be able to do this and even this along is very valuable and better than a small jpeg map like we used to use.

On a Smart Phone

This is great in the field as you can see your location on the map along with the other features. This can be tricky and is different for Android phones vrs iPhones. I have info on both below. If your experience is different let Jennie know and we can make updates.

- 1) **Android users:** There is a free app called Google MyMaps that works quite well when you are in service. I am sharing the map with you all so that should help in terms of opening the map. For offline use though the MyMaps app is not the way to go (this may change in future years). For offline use you need to use the Google Maps app - the normal one you would use to navigate somewhere. Access the main menu from the upper left little three parallel bars, and select "Your Places". On the top menu that

appears swipe left until you see "Maps" - select that. If you have opened the link in this email on your phone the map called "San Rafael Grasslands IBA survey" should be there as an option. Select that map and it will open. Once the map is open you need to open the main menu again using the three parallel bars in the upper left and select "Offline Maps" and then "Select Your Own Map". You can zoom in as much and you want until the area of San Rafael Grasslands is chosen and then tap "Download" - I recommend you do this over Wi-Fi. Then you should be able to view the map out in the field with the background imagery saved. Before we leave Patagonia though make sure you have the San Rafael Grasslands IBA survey map in Myplaces open as I am not positive that saves as part of the download. Having it open before heading out should take care of this though.

- 2) **For Apple and iPhone:** It is pretty similar to the Android instructions above and there is a video you can view here:

<https://theunconventionalroute.com/using-google-maps-offline/>

- If they got the map from you in Google Maps, they should be able to open the Google Maps app on their iPhone.
- Tap the menu icon in the upper left, looks like three parallel bars.
- Then tap "Your places".
- All the way at the right top, you will see a tab for "Maps", tap that and it will show you all of the other maps that anyone ever shared with you.
- Look down for the one you want, in this case, the San Rafael Grasslands item. Tap and open that.
- Now tap the menu in the upper left again and you will see the same listing as before but now down at the bottom of the list, you will see a tab for "Offline maps".
- If you tap that, it will show you all of your maps that you have saved as Offline maps and can use when you're out of cell phone service.
- At the bottom, you will see one option to "Download an offline map" and just below it, "Custom map". Tap that and it will take you back to the map you have open and allow you to "Download this map?". Tap "Download" and voila, you now have that map as one of your offline options.
- Make sure you the general area map from the "Your Places" then "Maps" option open in your phone before we leave Patagonia. I am not sure it will open from scratch outside of service.

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