

History of GIS in Summit County

GIS began in Summit County through various grants from the state and a couple of department heads with a vision. Steve Jenkins (Health Department Director) and Cathie Dallin (IT Director) had seen what larger counties and cities were able to do with GIS and wanted to get GIS started in Summit County.

After hiring a consulting firm to do some preliminary work, they began the process of hiring a GIS Specialist. Jeff Ward was hired in May of 1999.

Work Begins

Work began in the summer of 1999. With the help of state grants, the county acquired an accurate GPS receiver and began driving the roads. With the assistance of Steven Keyes in Public Works and later Kory Vernon in IT, all of the roads were driven and converted to GIS format.

This was labor-intensive work and involved splitting each line at intersections, assigning each segment a name, type, address range, functionality, and jurisdiction.

There are 5,203 road segments currently in our road layer, measuring roughly 1,600 miles.

GIS Cooperation

In the fall of 1999, Summit County GIS began meeting with Park City and Snyderville Water Reclamation District to discuss combining efforts and funds for GIS data acquisition. An MOU was drafted and signed, creating what we call the GIS Consortium. That group later expanded to include other interested groups in the Snyderville Basin and is still functioning today as a cooperative data sharing and acquisition effort.

This group's main concerns in the beginning were parcel data and aerial imagery - both very expensive items.

Parcels

The GIS Consortium began working on the parcel layer in 2000. It was first thought we could contract the work to a consulting firm, but after the firm had completed the pilot project it was determined it would be better to do the work in-house.

New County Employee Hired



Jeff Ward

Jeff Ward, of Tremonton, has been hired to work in the GIS department of the County Courthouse, and was introduced to the County Commissioners on Monday, by department head, Cathie Dallen.

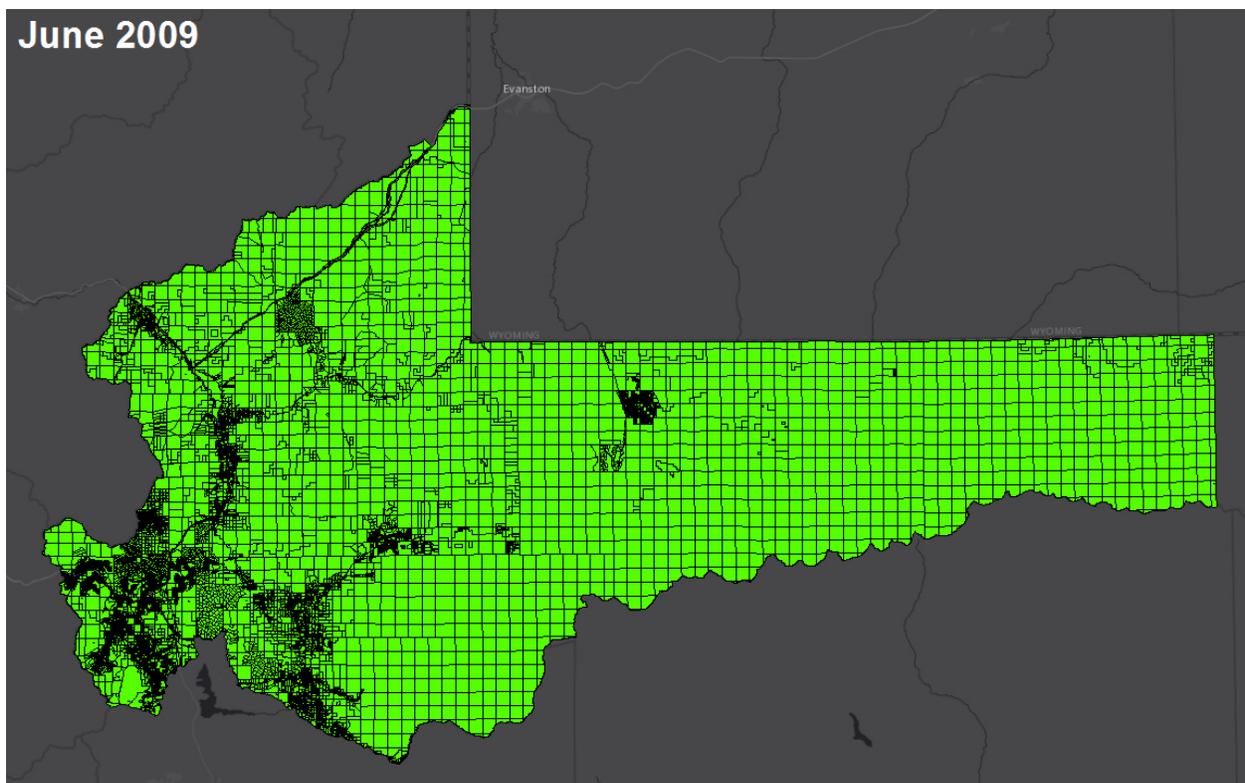
Ward recently graduated from Utah State and says he is happy to be starting his new job working for the County. His wife's name is Amy and he answers to "daddy" to two sons, Jackson and Nathan.

Cathie said she is "excited to have him on board to help get the department going."

Work began in the Snyderville Basin with city staff, SBWRD staff, and county GIS staff (Jeff). Progression was slow but steady, section by section until the basin was completed in late 2002.

Once the Snyderville Basin was finished it was up to county staff to finish the rest of the county. In late 2005 the county hired David Parry as a GIS Specialist which helped speed up the work. While adding new sections to the parcel layer, the completed sections needed to be updated as changes happened.

The parcel layer was "finished" and switched to maintenance mode in mid 2009. The parcel layer is never done, it is constantly changing and requires frequent updates. There are **41,242** ownership records attached to parcel polygons.

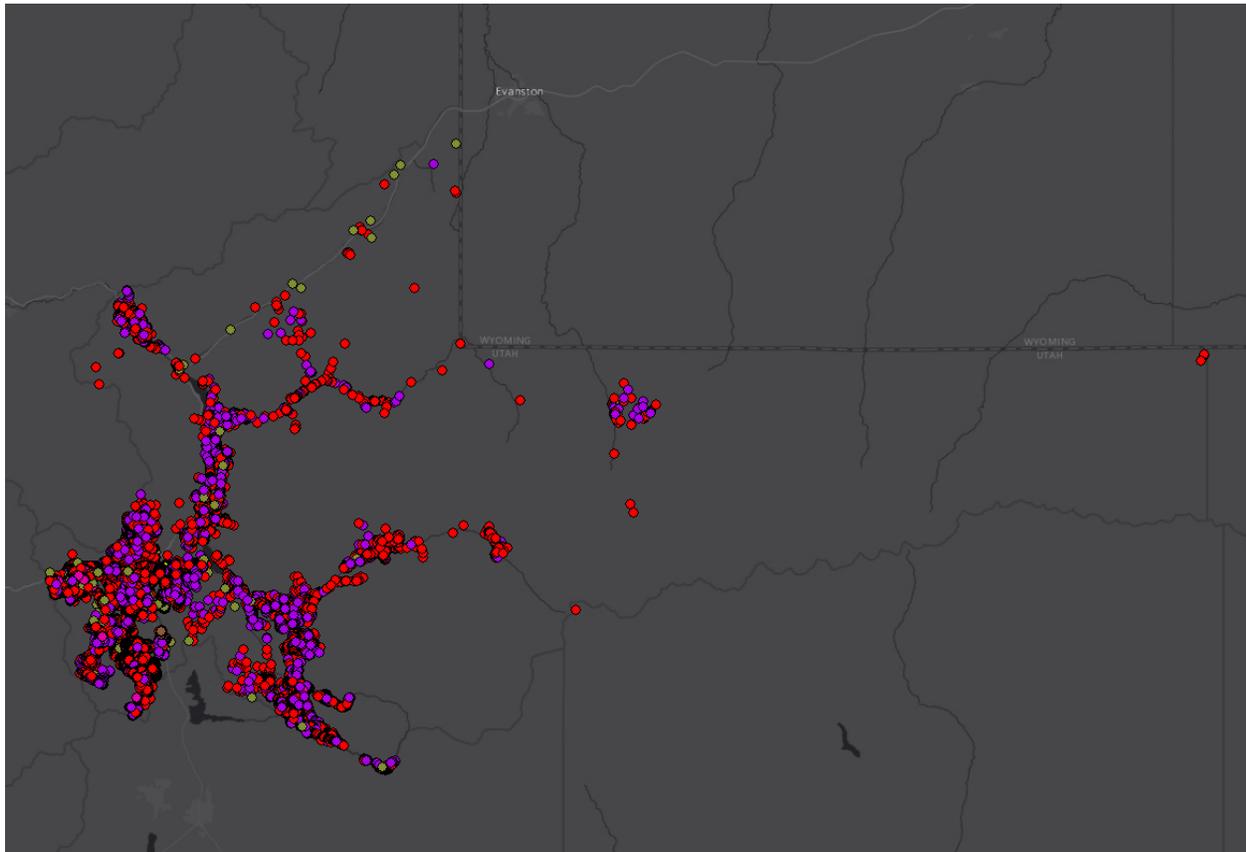


Addresses

While creating the road layer it was determined that a better home for assigning addresses would be with GIS staff. This would make address coordination easier between emergency services and the county. At this same time the county's dispatch software was becoming GIS aware, so it made sense to have address assignment and correction rooted in GIS

Addresses are handled two ways in GIS. The first being the road layer where each segment of road has two address ranges, one for the left side of the road and one for the right side. This method is easier to create and maintain, but is more general when results are displayed. The second method is with address points - a separate layer containing one point for each address. This method is more accurate, it shows the address as a point on the dwelling/building. It is also more labor intensive to create and maintain.

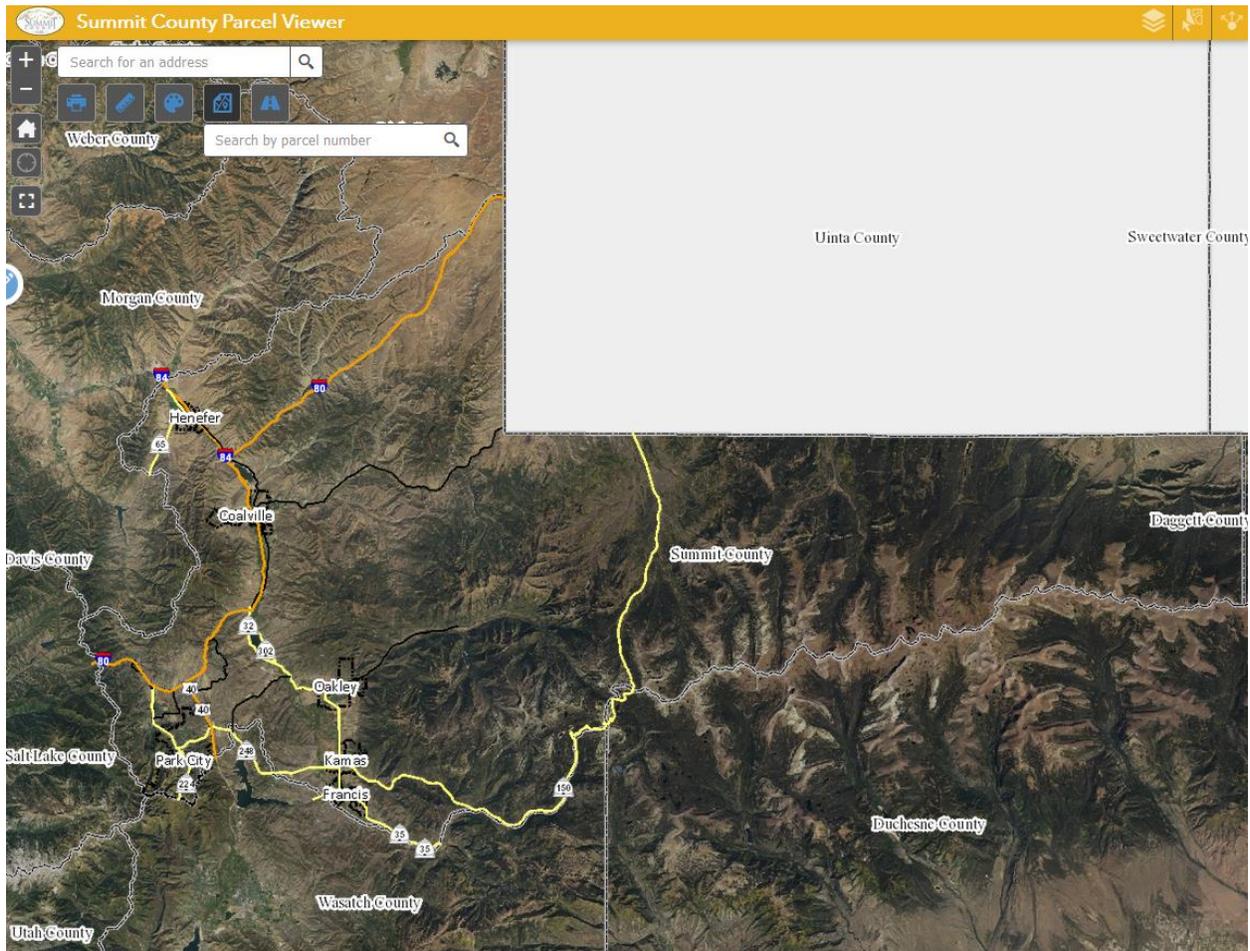
The address point layer is not yet "finished". We currently have **24,758** active points. Each point needs to be added manually at the proper location, but some of the data entry is made easier by getting things like the house number and street name from nearby layers.



Maps on the Web

In 2010 the county purchased server hardware and software that made it possible to begin serving interactive maps over the internet. After training and experimenting, the first county web map was launched in 2012. It has recently been updated to better match current technology and requests from the public.

The zoning map was also published online. This reduced the number of zoning related calls to the building/planning office considerably.



Projects

Summit County GIS has done countless projects over the years ranging from maps for the public to an online form and map for restaurant inspections or weed patches.

GIS Makes Life Better

GIS is a tremendous tool that can make jobs easier and employees more efficient. It makes government more transparent and run more smoothly.

You use GIS all the time without realizing it. Whether you are using Google Maps, Apple Maps, having a package delivered or trying to find a restaurant on Yelp. Our work here in Summit GIS makes all of those services better.