

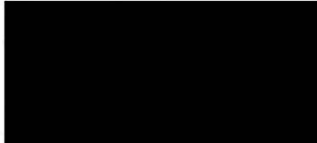


United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Reston, Virginia 20192

February 26, 2026

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 911



Dear [REDACTED]

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) received your November 16, 2025, request for correction (Request) of information submitted under the Information [Data] Quality Act (IQA) regarding a potentially inaccurate 1996 Harmony Fire perimeter. You requested the USGS investigate the accuracy of the information and submitted three embedded maps and two attachments to support your claim. Two of the embedded maps were USGS topographic maps with the fire perimeter shown in relation to the location of your community at two scales. Documentation related to this request may be viewed on the USGS web site at <https://www.usgs.gov/office-of-science-quality-and-integrity/information-quality-information-correction-request-22>.

USGS staff reviewed your request and determined that the fire perimeter data in question is not a USGS product. The USGS does not generate official fire perimeter footprint maps or records. However, USGS topographic maps are publicly available and commonly used by other organizations in wildfire response as a background image for situational awareness. Hand drawing fire perimeters on top of USGS topographic maps was common practice in 1996, as modern tools like extensive GPS and airborne data were unlikely to be available or utilized to develop fire perimeters at the time. That appears to be the case in the examples you provided – a 3rd party hand-drew a fire perimeter line on a USGS topographic map. Ultimately, the fire perimeter data in question is not USGS data, so the 1996 Harmony Fire perimeter falls outside the USGS Information Quality Guidelines and cannot be considered for a response by the USGS.

This serves as the final USGS response to close out your IQA Request. The right to appeal is available if there is any dissatisfaction with our response. The appeal should be addressed to the Director, USGS, and it must be submitted to the USGS (via email to InfoQual@usgs.gov) within 21 calendar days of the date of this final USGS response. Additional information on the procedure for submitting an appeal is found on the [USGS Information Quality Guidelines website](#) under section IV, item 4.

Thank you for your interest in both the USGS National Map and Landsat data and for bringing your concerns to our attention. Here are additional federal resources that might be of interest:

- [National Interagency Fire Center Open Data Site](#) and their [historical perimeter database](#)
- [Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity](#)

Sincerely,

Michael Tischler
Acting Associate Director
USGS Core Science Systems