

How to Use The AFS GeoPDF Collection (Including the PDF Avenza® App)

Alaska Fire Service
Bureau of Land Management
United States Department of the Interior

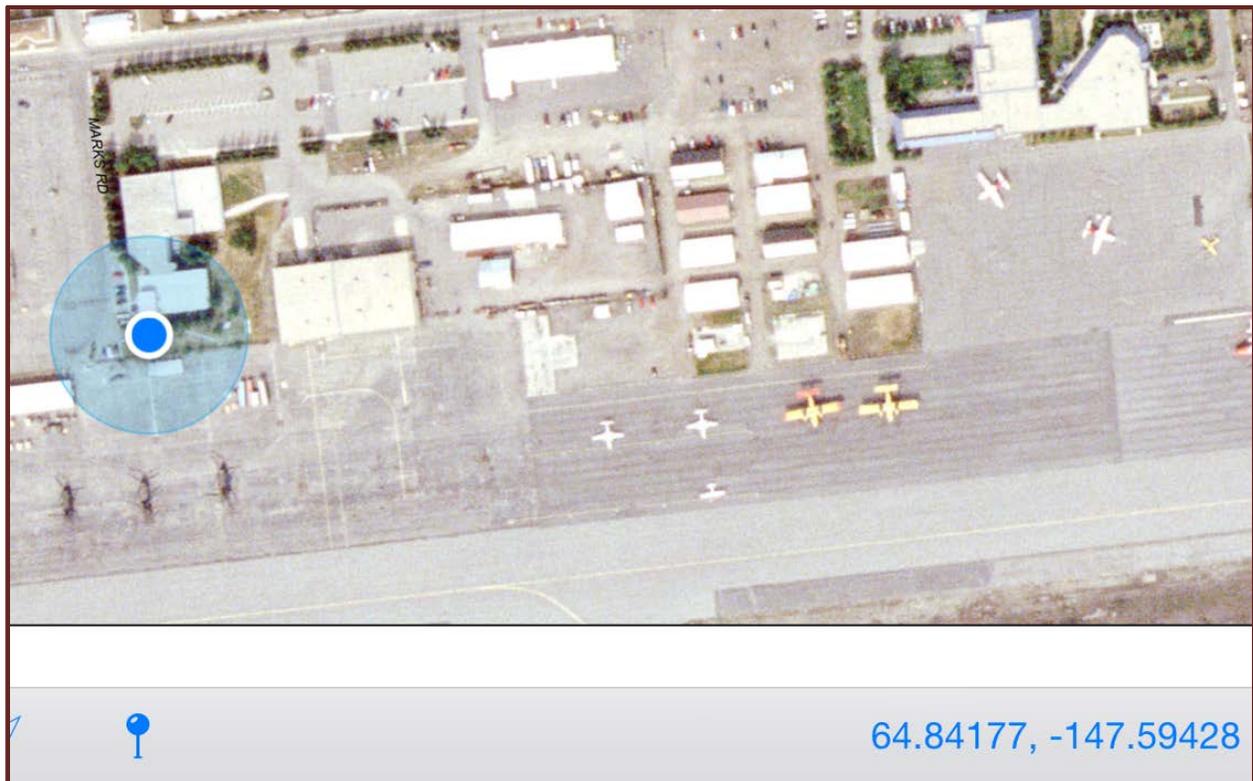


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Introduction

The [Alaska Fire Service](#) creates and maintains a number of map collections that can be stored, transported, and utilized on a mobile device. This short instructional booklet will guide you through the basics of these maps and our preferred method for using them.

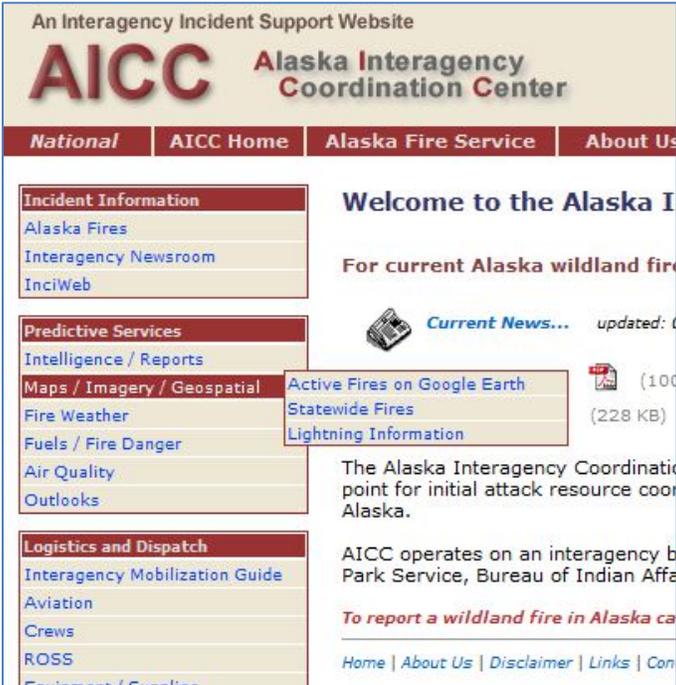
What is a GeoPDF?

A GeoPDF is literally a “georeferenced PDF” (portable document file), which means it is very similar to other PDFs one might use. PDFs tend to be small in file size and compatible with a large number of software packages, making them useful to a variety of consumers. GeoPDFs are referenced in such a way that the device’s GPS will allow a location “dot” on the screen to move across the map as the user and device moves across the geographic area. A user can view GeoPDFs with Adobe Viewer®, but in order to use the georeferencing, one will need a compatible application such as Avenza PDF Maps®.

Where can a user find AFS GeoPDF products?

AFS maps are available on the [Alaska Interagency Coordination Center](#) website under the [Predictive Services](#) tab. Look for the [GeoPDF Repository](#) in the middle of the page. Many of the map products are created specifically for fire management, but many are useful to a variety of field-going personnel. Land status, FAA airports, RAWs stations, radios, and much more is on the maps.

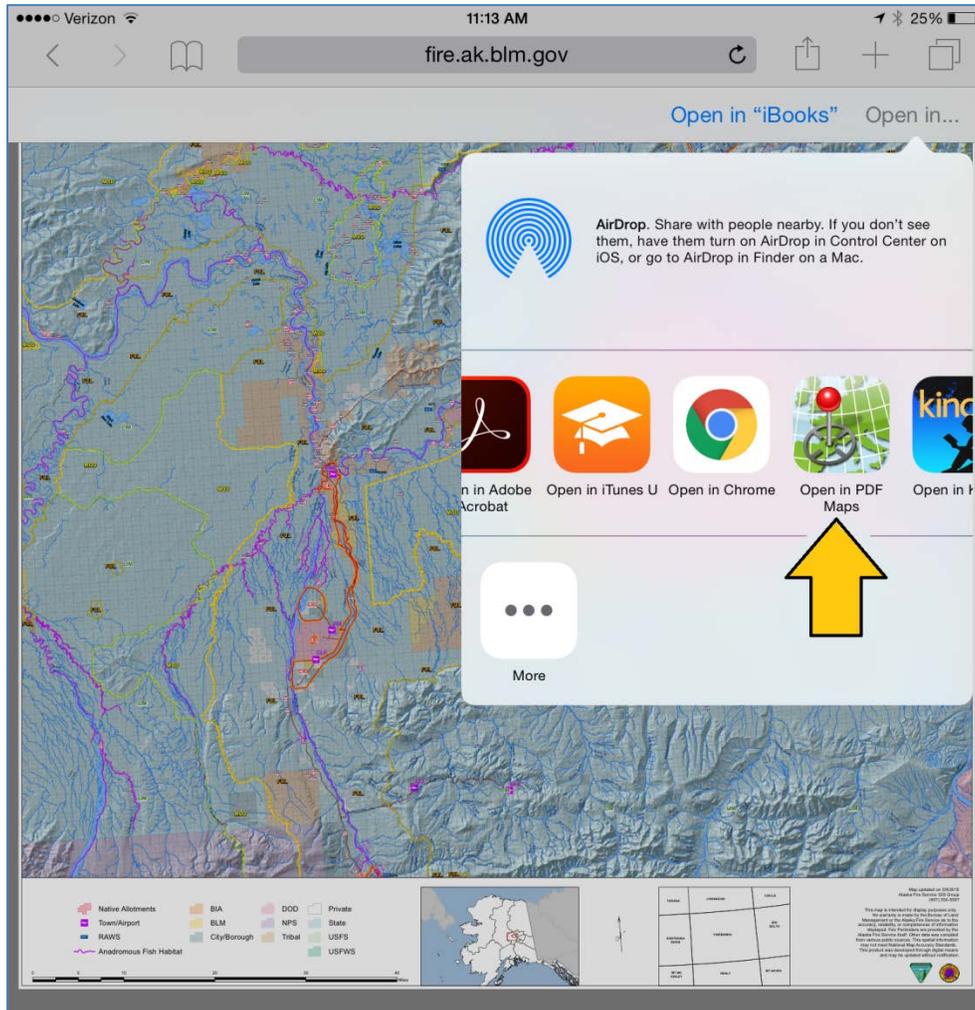
Check out the full library at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/geopdf.php>



The screenshot shows the AICC website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'National', 'AICC Home', 'Alaska Fire Service', and 'About Us'. The left sidebar contains several menu categories: 'Incident Information' (with links to Alaska Fires, Interagency Newsroom, and InciWeb), 'Predictive Services' (with links to Intelligence / Reports, Maps / Imagery / Geospatial, Fire Weather, Fuels / Fire Danger, Air Quality, and Outlooks), and 'Logistics and Dispatch' (with links to Interagency Mobilization Guide, Aviation, Crews, ROSS, and Equipment / Supplies). A red arrow points to the 'Maps / Imagery / Geospatial' link. A dropdown menu is open under this link, showing 'Active Fires on Google Earth', 'Statewide Fires', and 'Lightning Information'. The main content area on the right features a 'Welcome to the Alaska I' heading, a 'Current News...' section with a file icon and 'updated: 0', and a 'To report a wildland fire in Alaska ca' link. The footer contains links for 'Home | About Us | Disclaimer | Links | Con'.

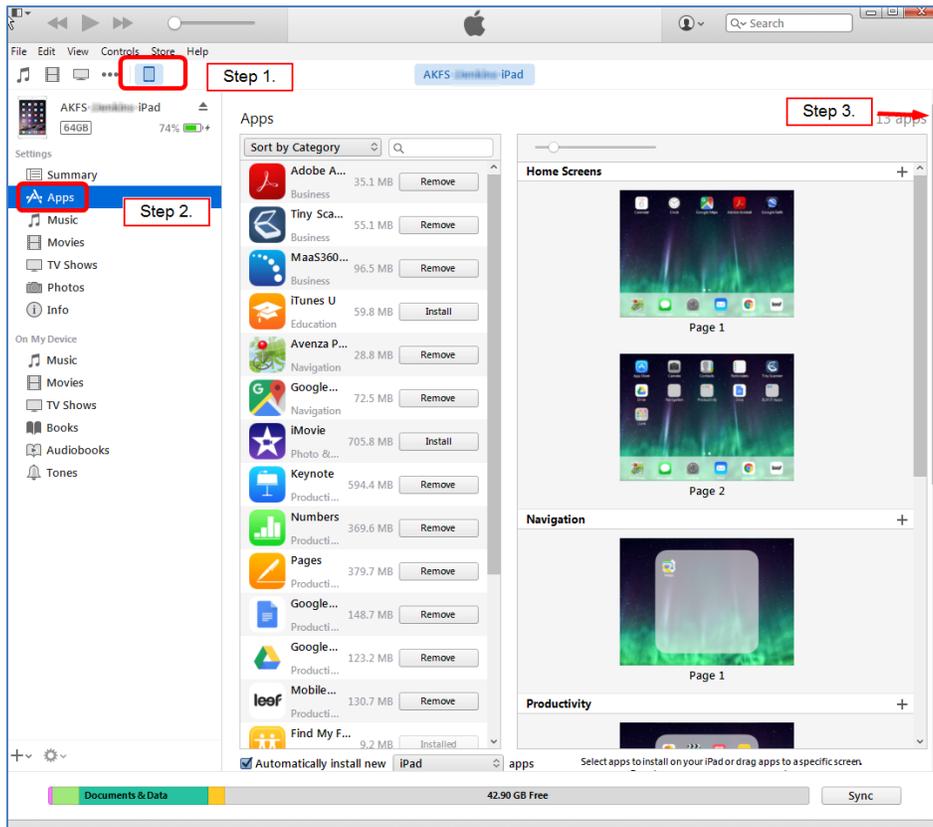
Downloading GeoPDFs from the AICC GeoPDF Repository

Using your mobile device, browse to the site listed above and tap any available PDF file to download it temporarily to your browser. Once downloaded, you will have the option to open it with a number of different apps. If you have the *PDF Maps* app on your device, it will show up with the other apps that are capable of opening the file. Opening with *PDF Maps* will save the file to your device for offline use. **IMPORTANT:** Maps in the AFS Fire and Aviation Map Book Collection should be **always** be rendered in high-resolution. See “Changing Map Resolution” for more information.

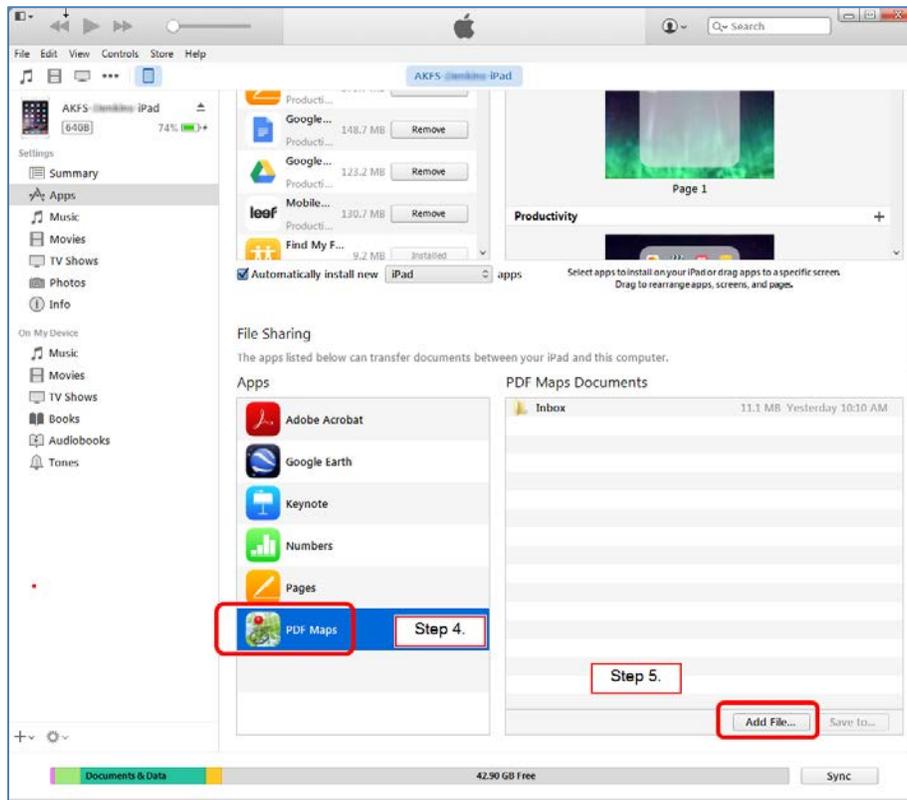


Loading GeoPDF's Using iTunes

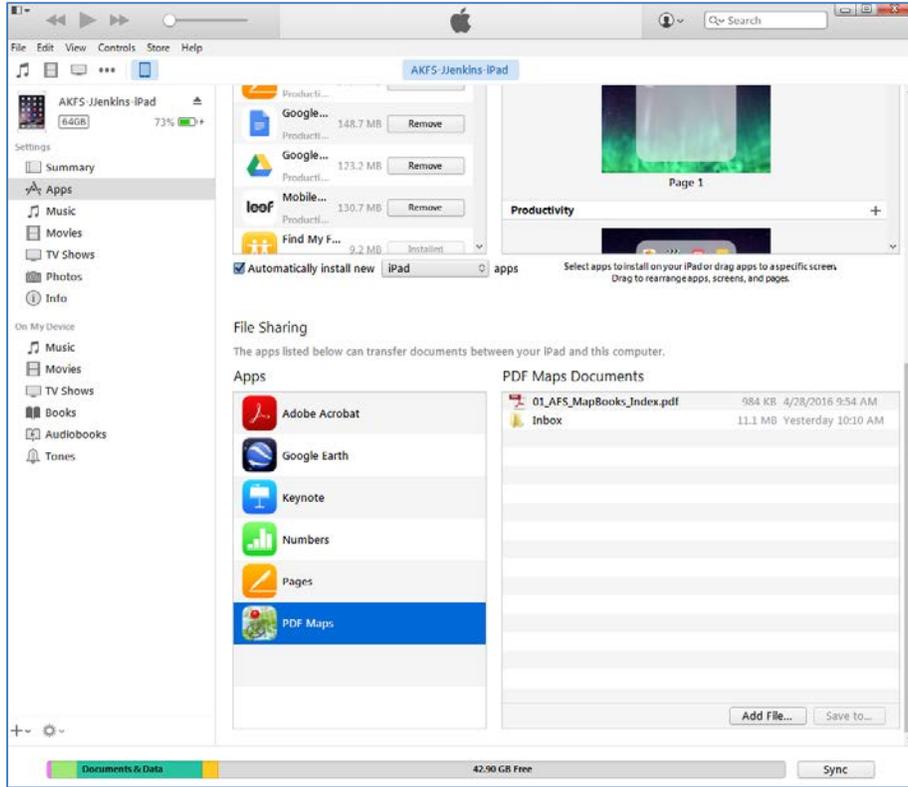
The easiest and fastest way to load multiple maps or maps of large file size is to use *iTunes*. Connect the iPad/iPhone to the computer, select device in iTunes (Step 1.), click “Apps” tab at top (Step 2.) then slide the outermost vertical bar all they way down (Step 3). “



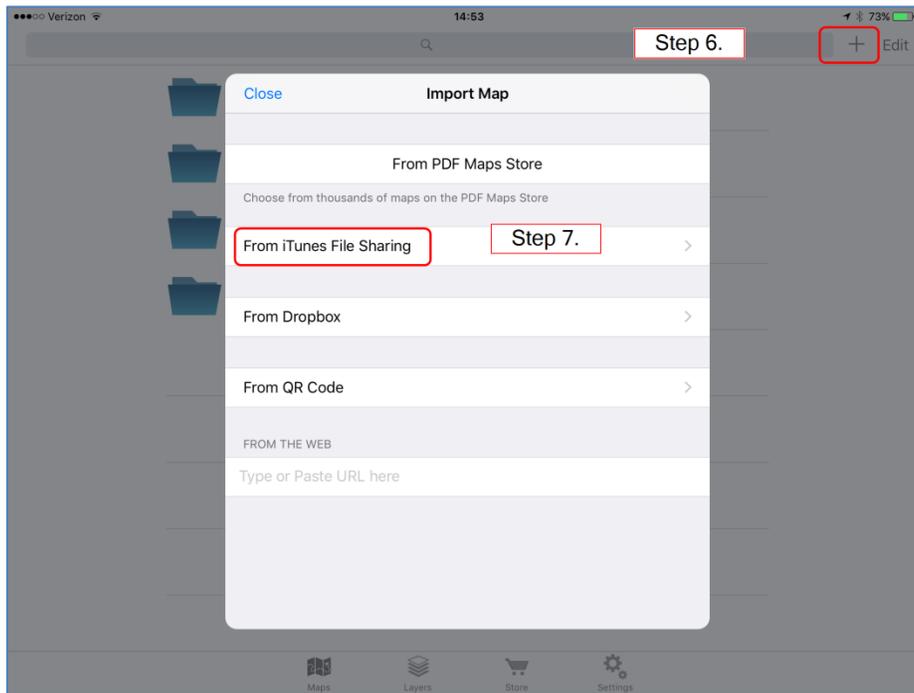
Click on “Pdf Maps”(Step 4) under File Sharing, then “Add File...” (Step 5).



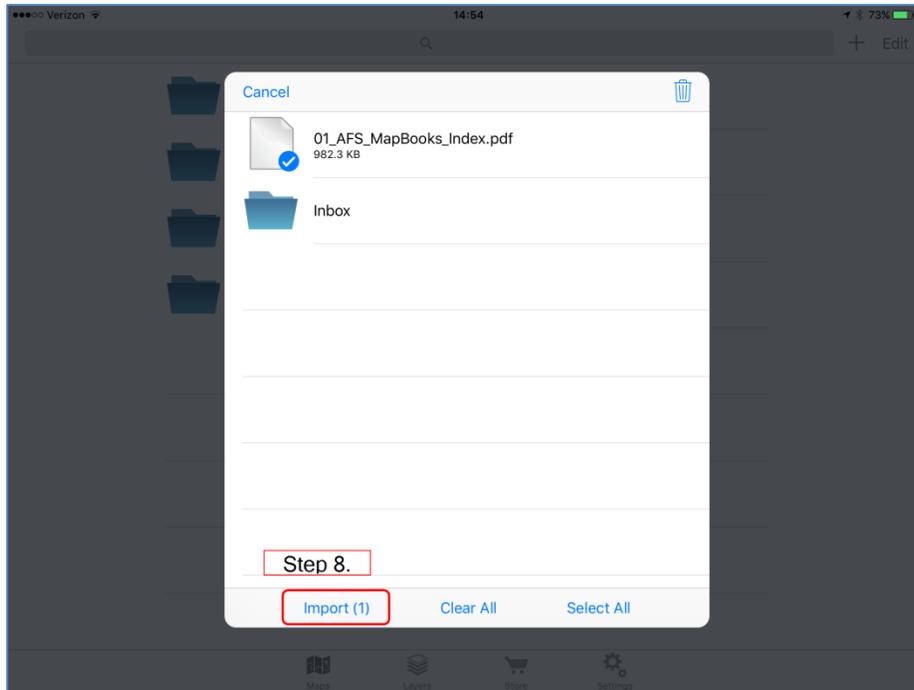
Navigate to the folder containing the maps you want to add and click “Open”. The maps will be loaded onto your device.



Open *PDF Maps*. Go to the “Maps” tab and click the “+” at the top right of Maps list (Step 6.) then “From iTunes File Sharing” (Step 7.)



Select the map(s) you would like to use out of the Maps List and then push “Import (#)” at bottom (Step 8.). The map will now be loaded into *PDF Maps*.



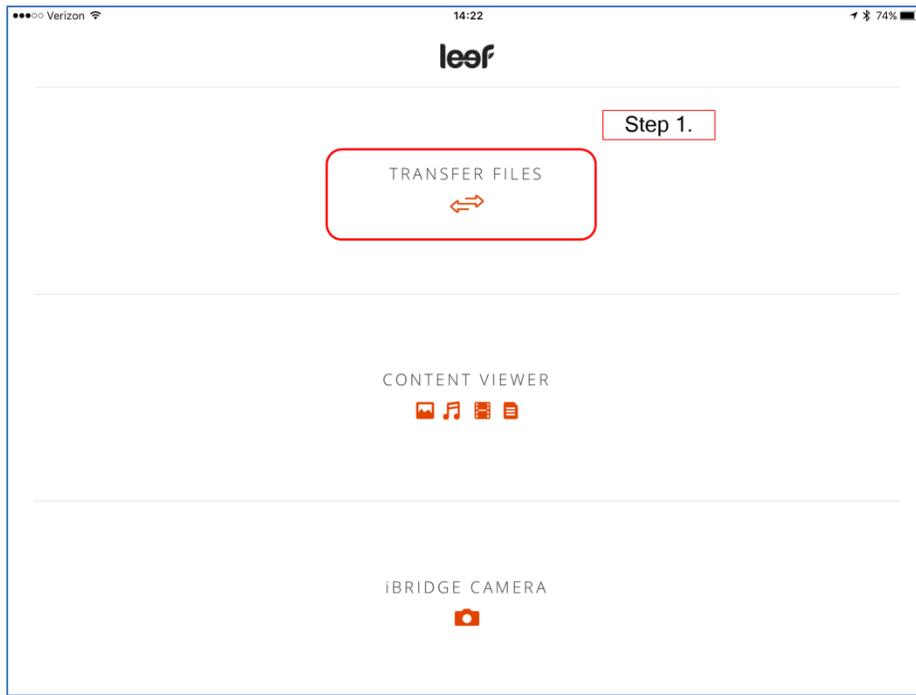
Removing GeoPDFs from iTunes File Sharing

The process for removing GeoPDFs from iTunes File Sharing is similar to loading the maps onto your iDevice.

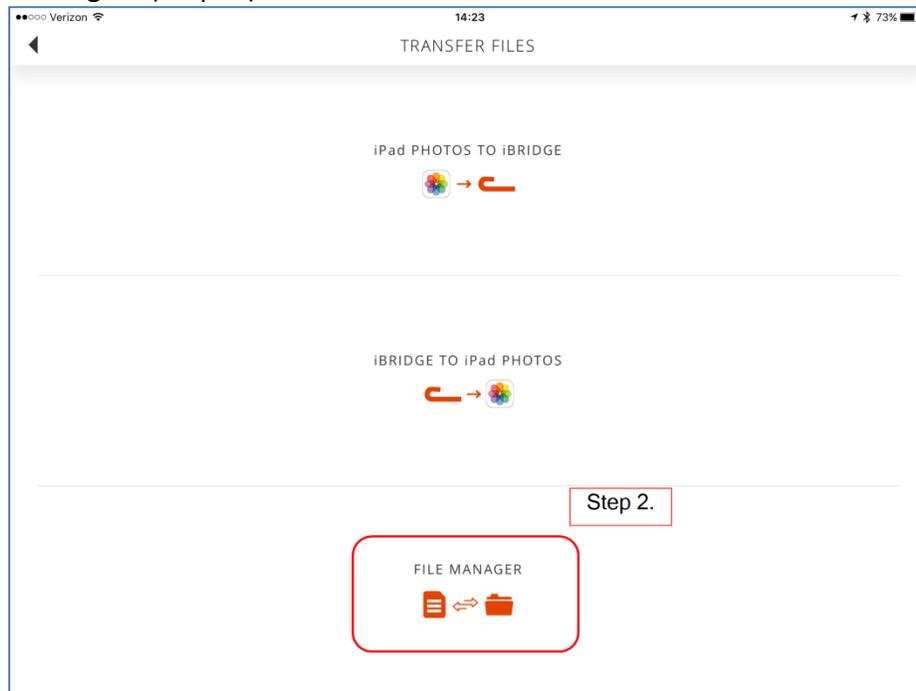
- Open *PDF Maps*. Go to the “Maps” tab and click the “+” at the top right of Maps list then “From iTunes File Sharing”
- Select the map(s) you would like remove from iTunes File Sharing and tap the trash can icon at top of the window. **IMPORTANT:** The maps will not be removed from the device; they will only be removed from iTunes File Sharing.
- Failure to remove maps from the iTunes File Sharing may result in multiple copies of the map being loaded onto your device.

Loading GeoPDFs Using “Leef” Memory Storage

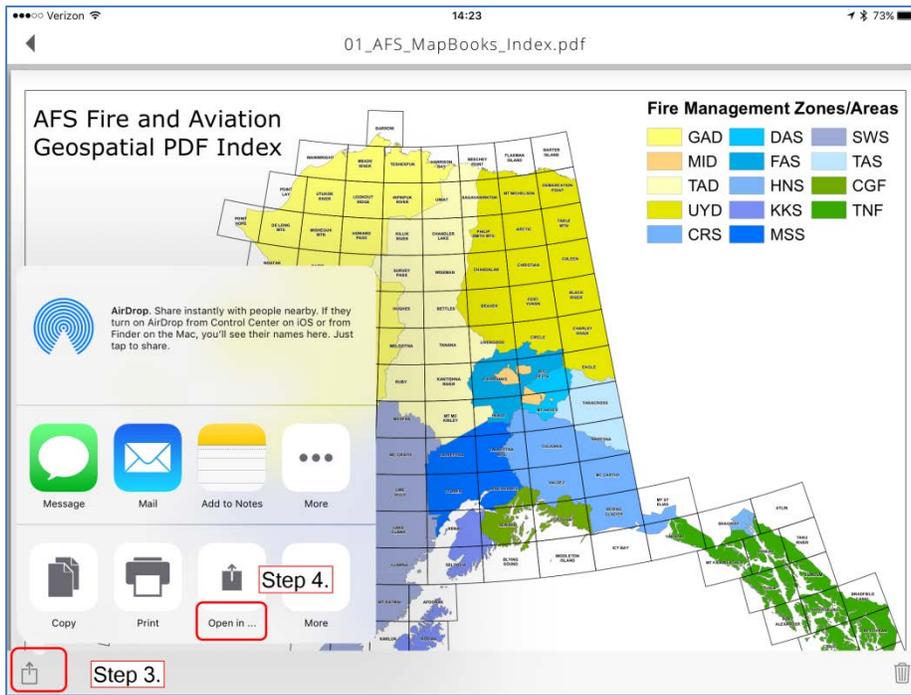
Open the “Leef” app on your iDevice and tap on “Transfer Files” (Step 1.).



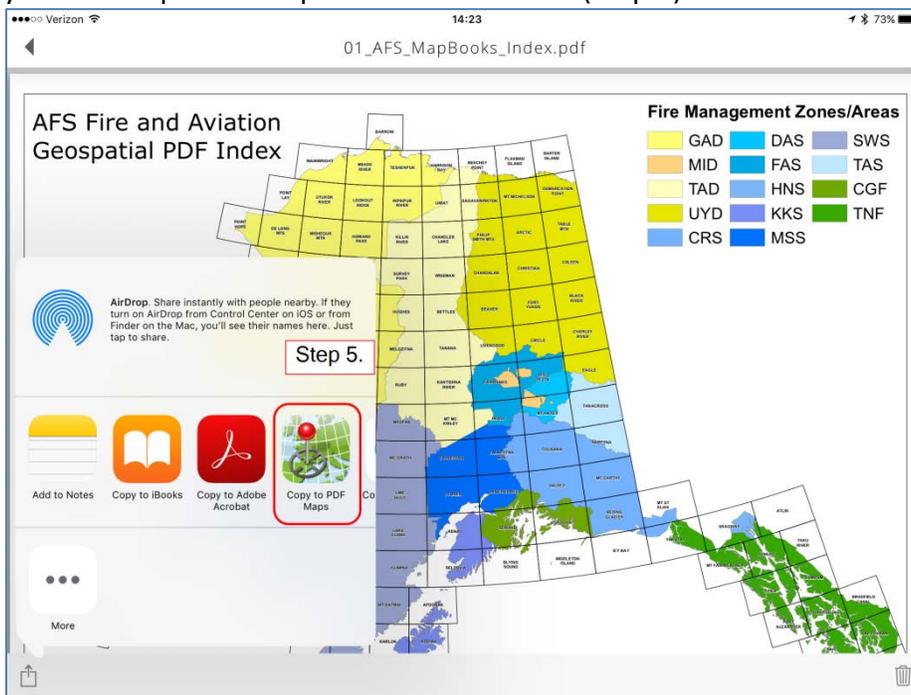
Tap on “Fire Manager” (Step 2.)



Select the map you want to transfer to *PDF Maps*. The map will open. Tap on the rectangle at the bottom (Step 3.) and then “Open in...” (Step 4).

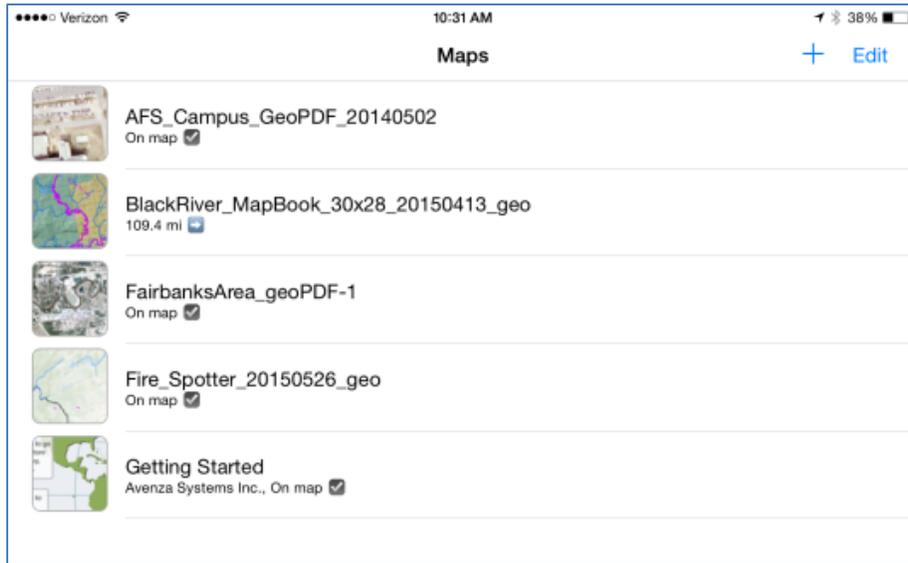


Tap on “Copy to PDF Maps” to complete the file transfer (Step 5).



Using GeoPDFs

The *PDF Maps* app will display all the PDFs the user has downloaded and how far from any map the device is geographically. The app will list PDFs alphabetically with a notation for the distance and bearing to each map area. If the user is geographically on the map, the app will display this as well.



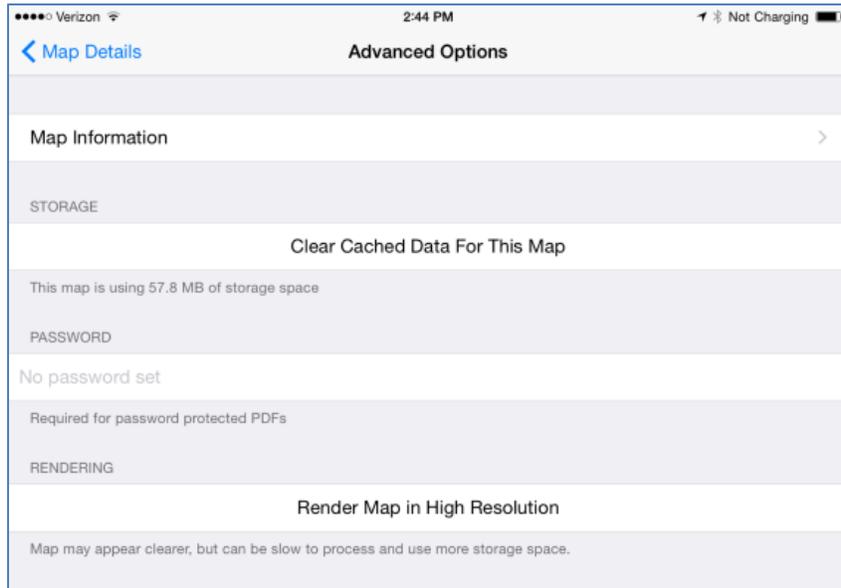
Tap a map to open it. If the user is “on the map,” the blue dot will display his or her location.



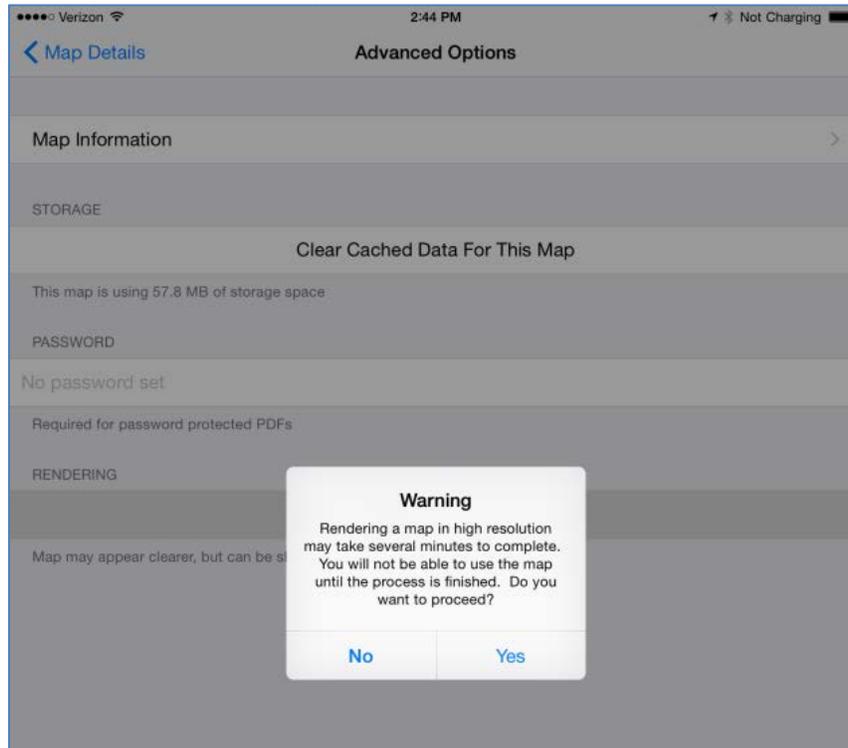
Changing Map Resolution

Depending on the map’s resolution, it may be necessary to render the PDF in high-resolution to make it more clear. Tap the Map Details icon (i) in the top right of the screen, choose “Advanced Options” and then “Render in High Resolution.”

IMPORTANT: Maps in the AFS Fire and Aviation Map Book Collection should be **always** be rendered in high-resolution. See the “Changing PDF Maps Settings to Always Render in High Resolution” section.

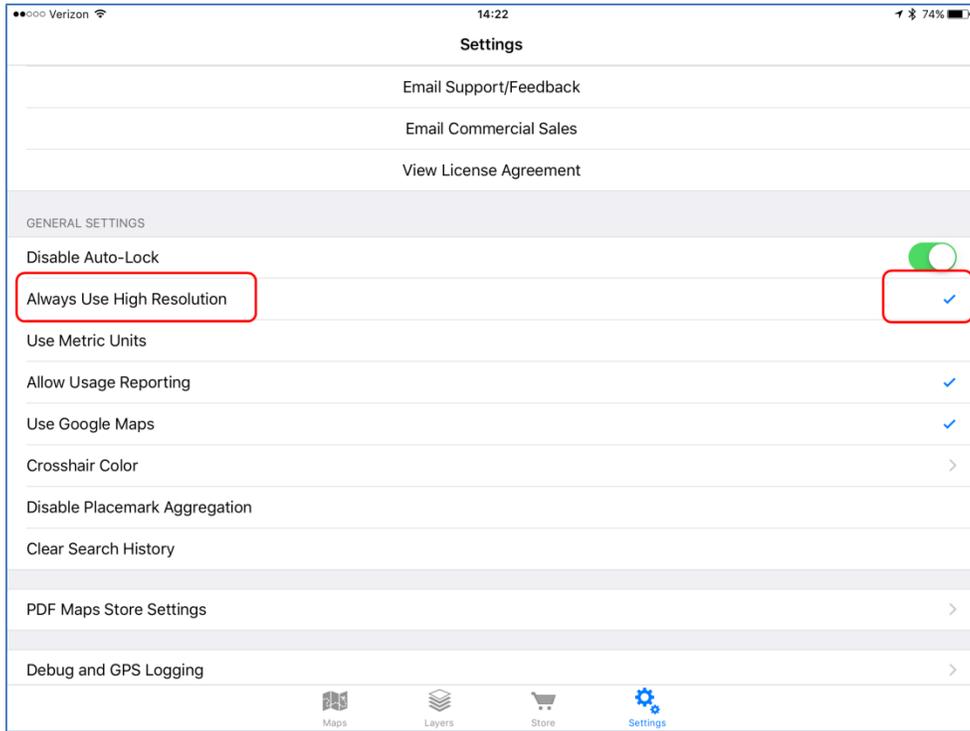


You will see a warning (see below). Tap “Yes” to proceed.



Changing PDF Maps Settings to Always Render in High Resolution

Open *PDF Maps* and click on the settings menu. Scroll all the way down to the bottom of the menu and click “Always Use High Resolution”.

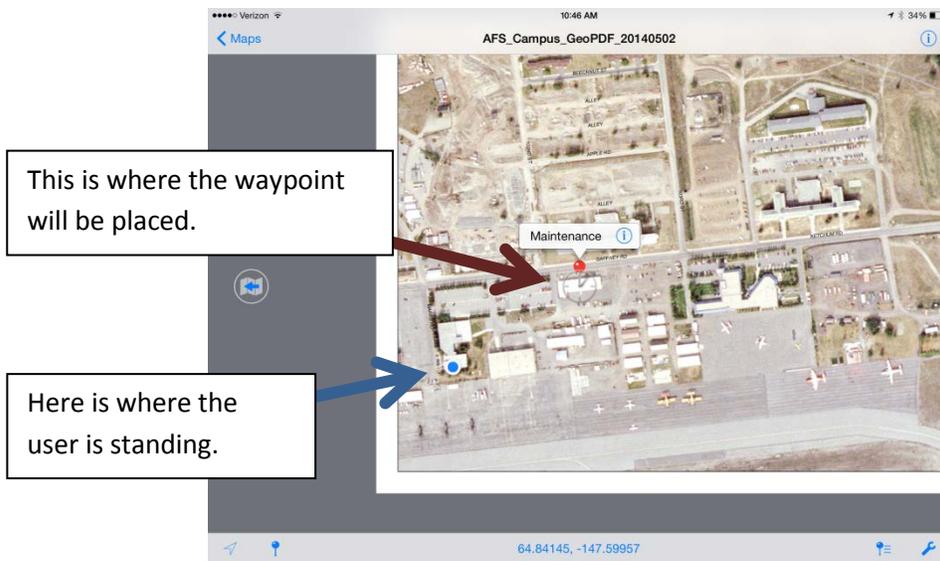


PDF Maps Functionality

The PDF Maps app has a few useful functions including the ability to record tracks and waypoints as a regular GPS would do. These can be exported in .kml or .gpx format. Tap the wrench icon to access the tools menu.

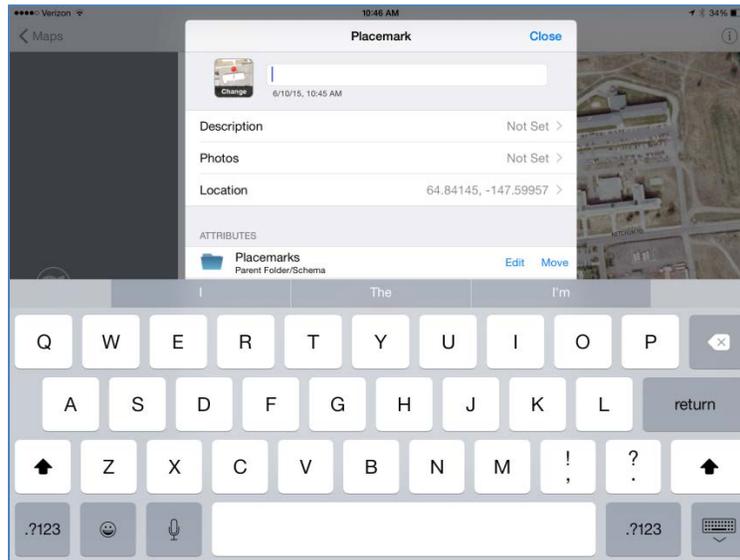


IMPORTANT: When collecting points and tracks with the *PDF Maps* app, keep in mind that the app will drop a waypoint wherever the **crosshair icon** in the middle of the screen is pointing, **not** at the user's geographic location as defined by the blue dot on the screen.



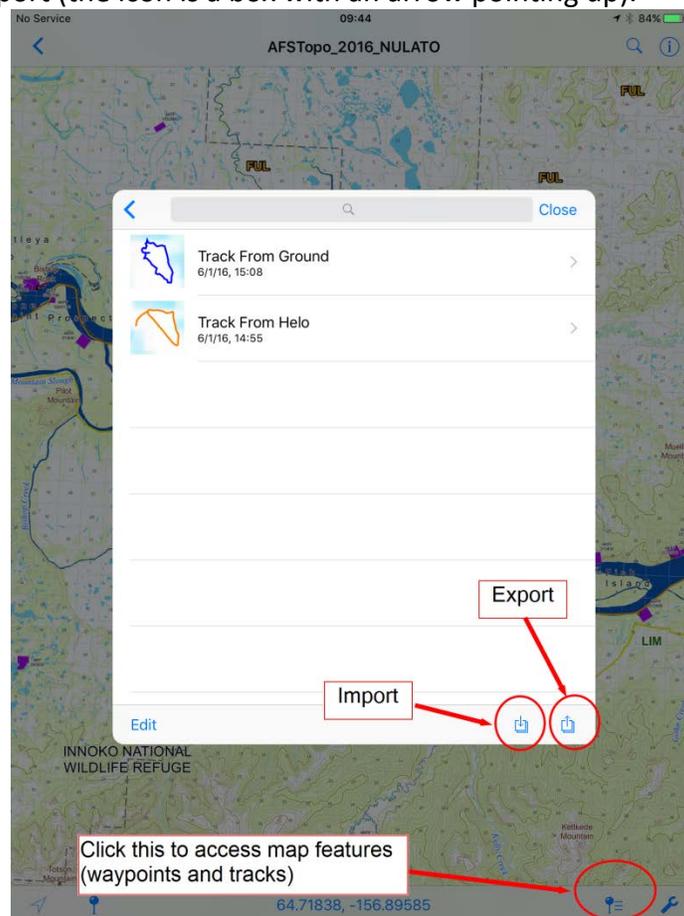
Editing Placemarks

Placemarks can be edited by choosing the details icon (i) at the top of the screen.

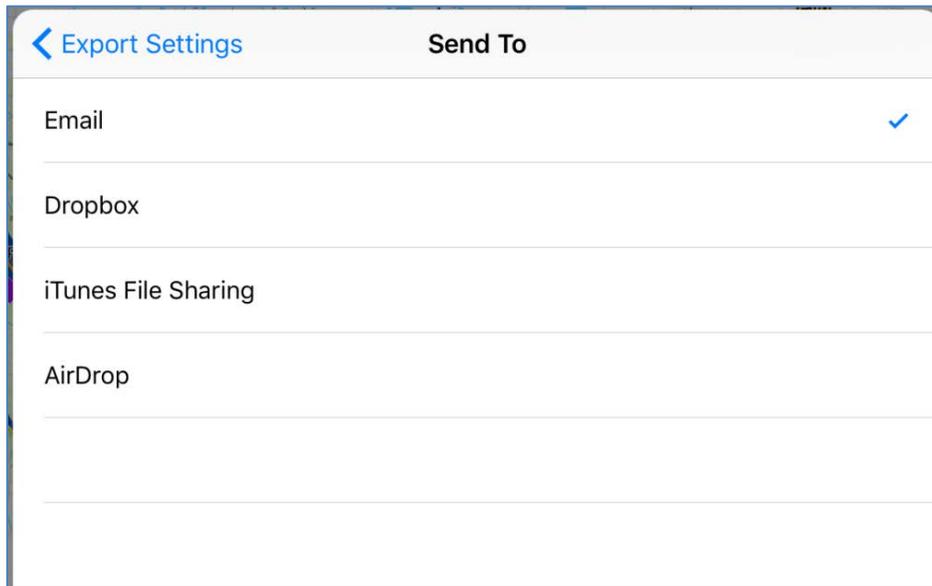


Example- Exporting a track line and emailing it

If you have collected a track line you want to export, press the “pin” icon on the bottom of the screen and select export (the icon is a box with an arrow pointing up).



Select a destination for your file. In this example it is Email. **IMPORTANT:** Do not export items to Dropbox when using a BLM-furnished device.



Choose the format for export. In this example, it is KML.

