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The Southwest Is On Fire

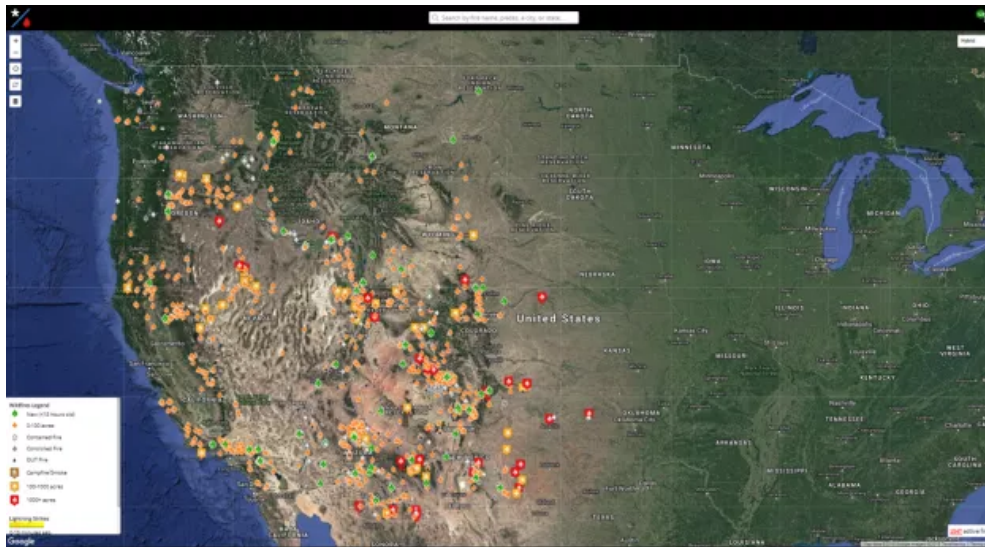
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Posted June 20, 2018 by Dave Hoshour in General



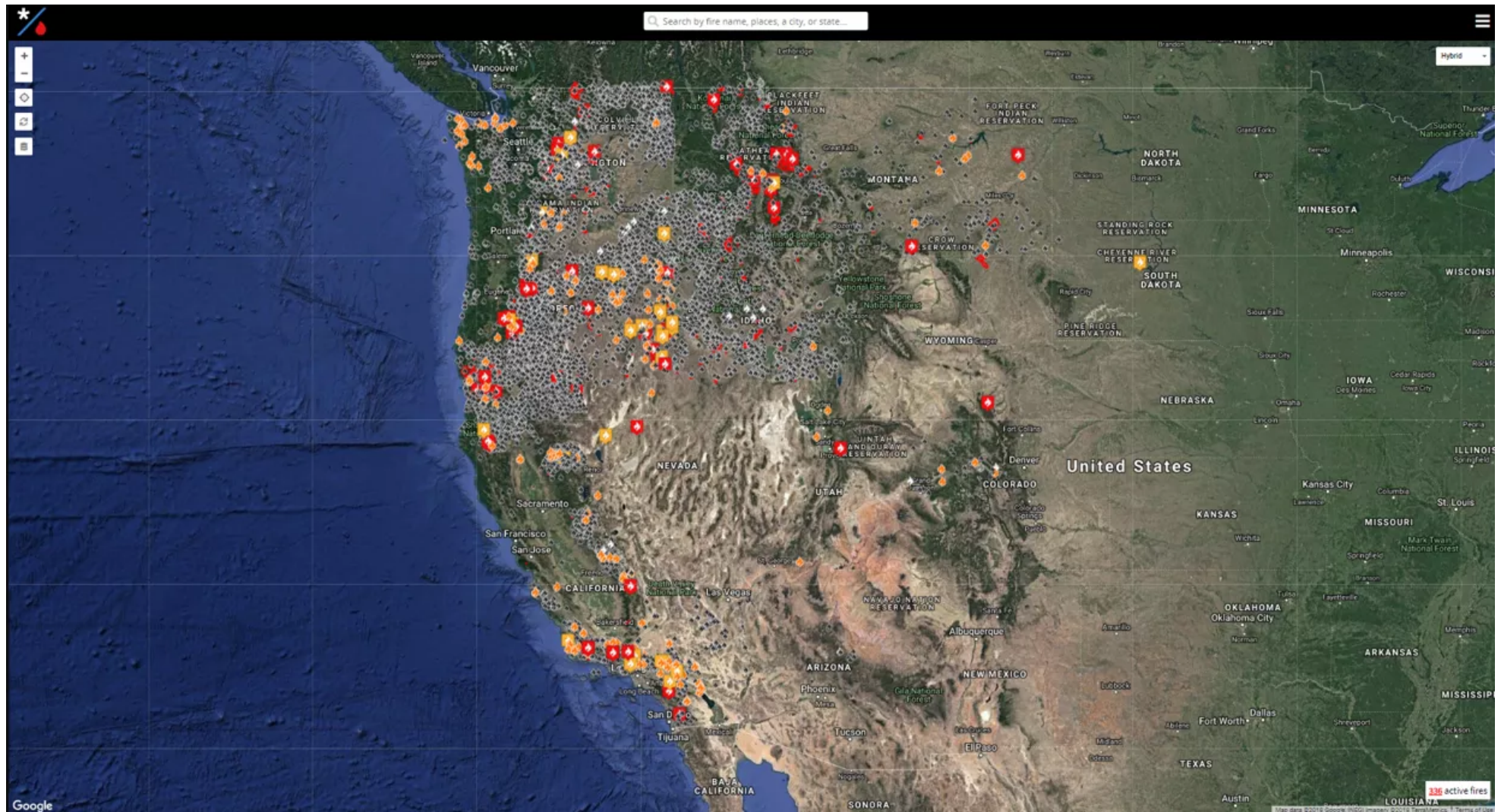
Recent new wildfires in southern Colorado like the 50-square-mile “416” fire northeast of Durango that is only 15% contained highlight what is shaping up to be a bad year for fires and drought in the West. Just recently, the San Juan National Forest closed Tuesday for the first time in its history. Mancos State Park and seven wildlife areas in southern Colorado have closed. In southern Wyoming a fire has burned 17 square miles as hot and windy conditions continue. Those states are not alone. Look at the most recent fire map below. The West is ablaze.

2018 Wildfire Map as of June – <https://www.fireweatheravalanche.org/fire/?archive=2018>



You can see wildfires in every western state so far this year, but so far it is more prevalent in the southern states. Compare that to last year when nearly all the fires were in the Northwest (gray symbols are for fires no longer burning, red is for large active fires at the time of the map and yellow are other active fires).

2017 Wildfire Map – <https://www.fireweatheravalanche.org/fire/?archive=2017>



It's no wonder the southern states are being hit harder. Here's the June 5 US Drought Monitor map for the West.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?West>