A GIS database for avalanche forecasting in Colorado

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The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) is a statewide avalanche forecasting and education group. The CAIC produces avalanche safety products for both transportation and recreation applications. The Center’s operational responsibility covers a large geographic area including 30 road sections and over 120,000 km² of backcountry. Forecasters require access to vast amounts of data while composing avalanche safety products and have limited time to find and retrieve it. Over the past 5 years the staff of the CAIC worked with Avalanche Mapping to create a GIS database of information applicable to their forecasting operation. This is an ongoing project as data and data categories are added each day and each year.