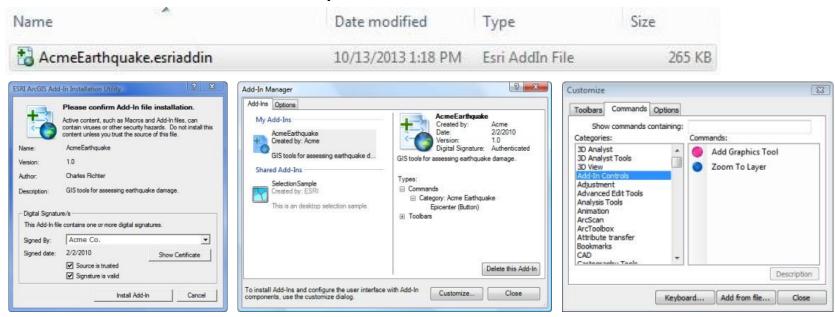
.NET Add-Ins for ArcGIS Map & Data Development

David A. Howes

October 17, 2013

What Are Add-Ins?

- Add-ins provide a means of extending ArcGIS functionality
- Available as a development option beginning with ArcGIS 10.0
- Small .esriaddin file is easily distributed and installed



Can be built using .NET (C# & VB.NET), Java or Python

Quite often, add-ins can pay for themselves many times over

Presentation Goal

 Demonstrate the value of ArcMap .NET add-ins using examples from four different projects:



Forester Mapping Tools – upgraded VB.NET custom tools to support forest management



Bookmark Tools – C# upgrade of tools originally built using VBA to allow exporting of maps en masse



Map Series Development Tools – new C# tools to support custom map creation and export



Species Protection Area Tools – new C# tools to support data development

Discuss development considerations

Acknowledgements



Luke Boggess, Charlie Riddle & Pete Hardcastle at R&M Consultants, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska, for permission to present their map series development tool



A Division of Hancock Timber Resource Group, A Manulife Asset Management Company



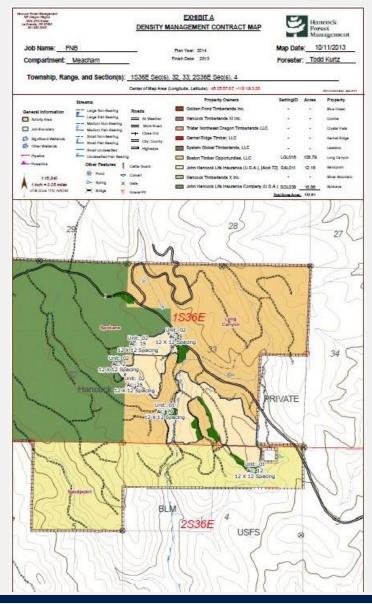
Steve Dodson at Hancock Forest Management, La Grande, Oregon for permission to present their Forester Mapping Tools

Mike McGuire at Ascent GIS, Inc., Spokane, Washington for his role in securing the Hancock project

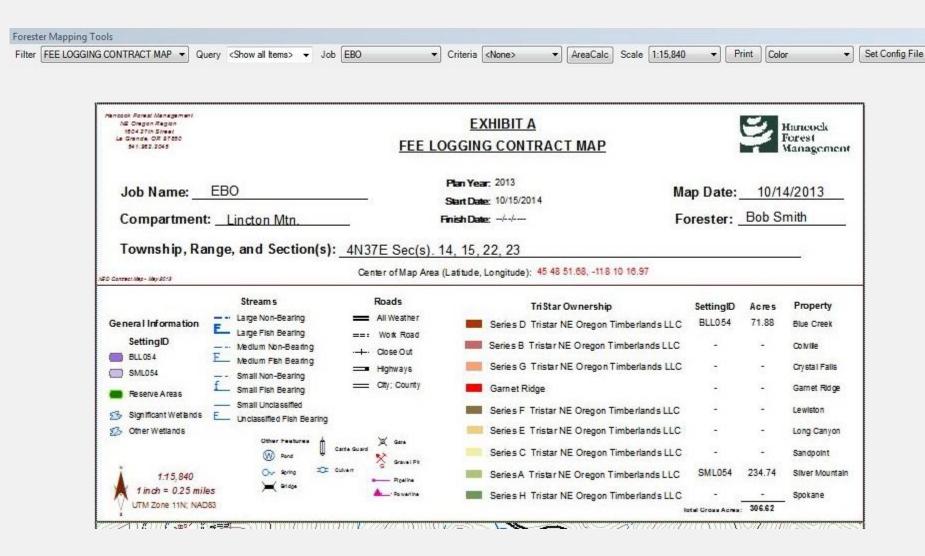
Example 1

Forester Mapping Tools

Forester Mapping Tools – Example Map Template

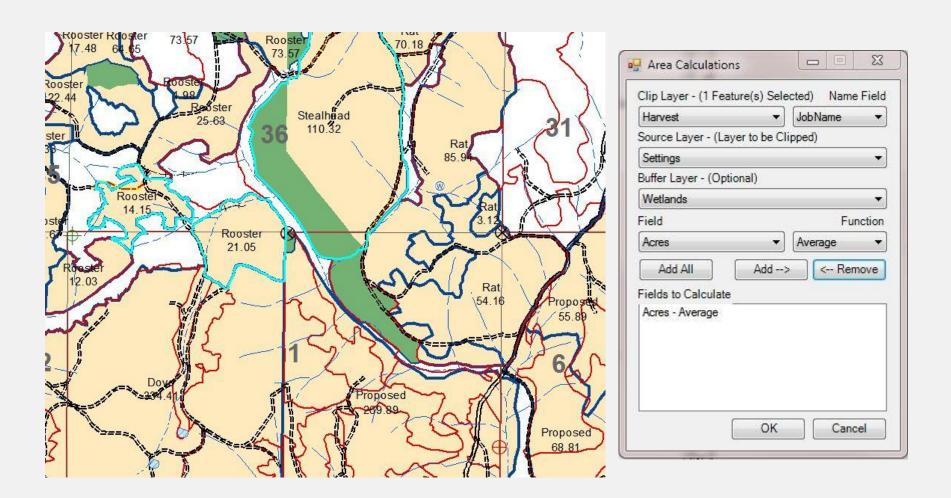


Forester Mapping Tools



A X

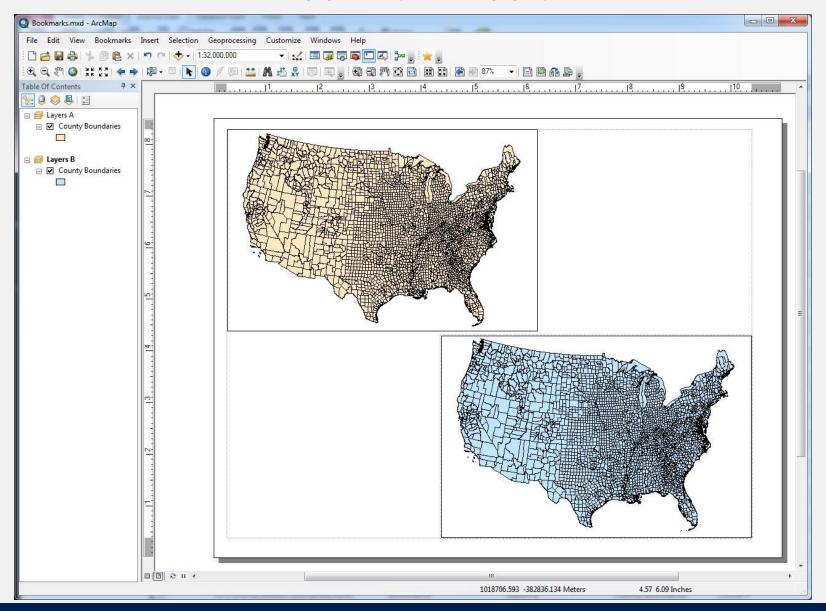
Forester Mapping Tools – Area Calculations



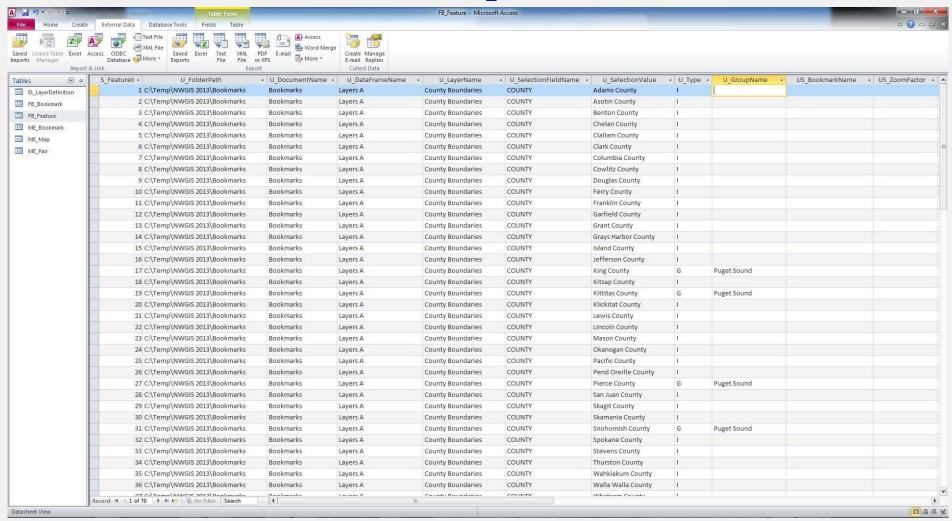
Example 2

Bookmark Tools

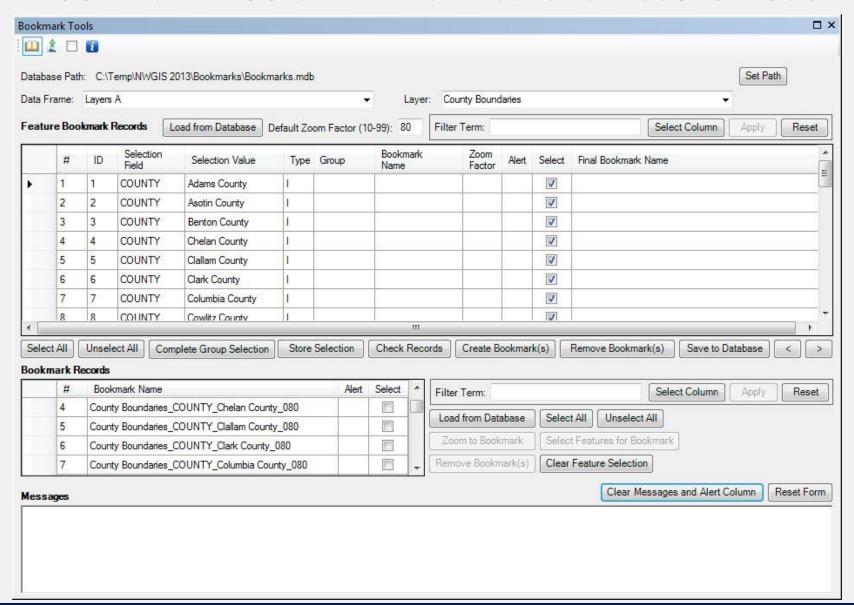
Bookmark Tools



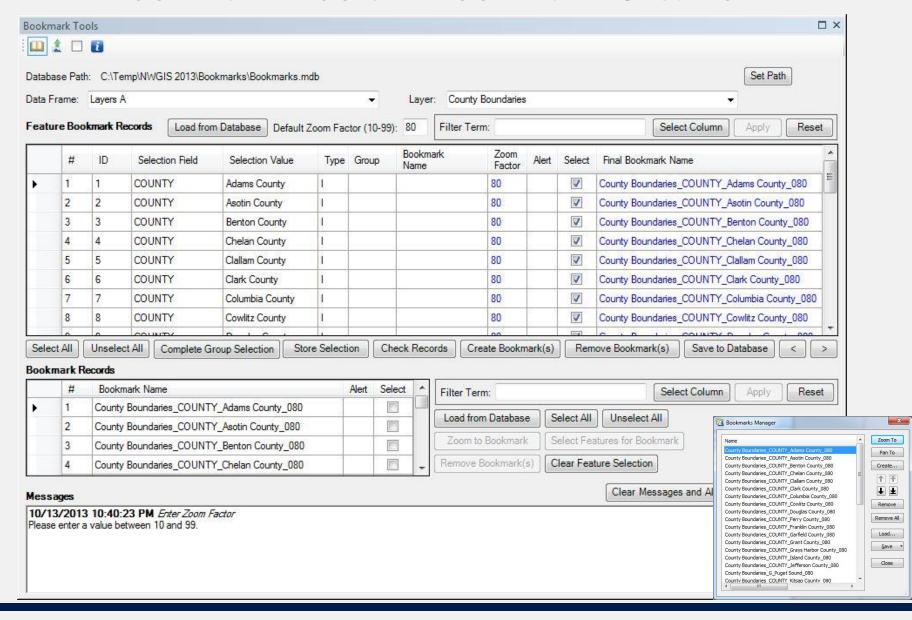
Bookmark Tools – Input Feature Records



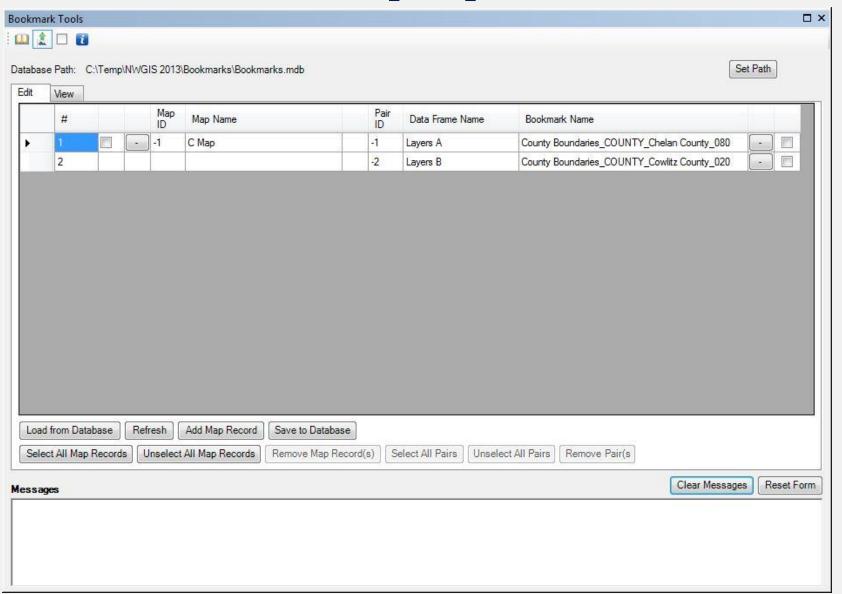
Bookmark Tools - Initial Feature Record Load



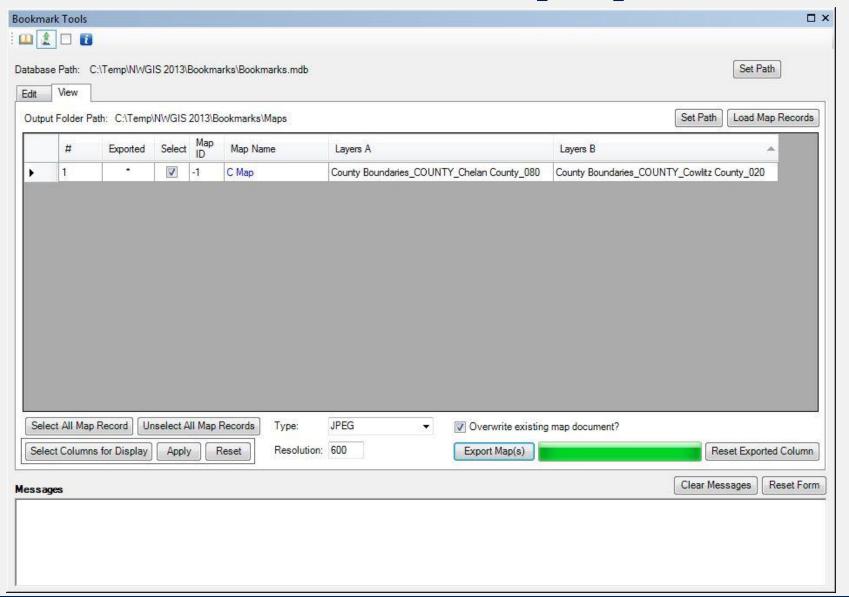
Bookmark Tools - Bookmark Creation



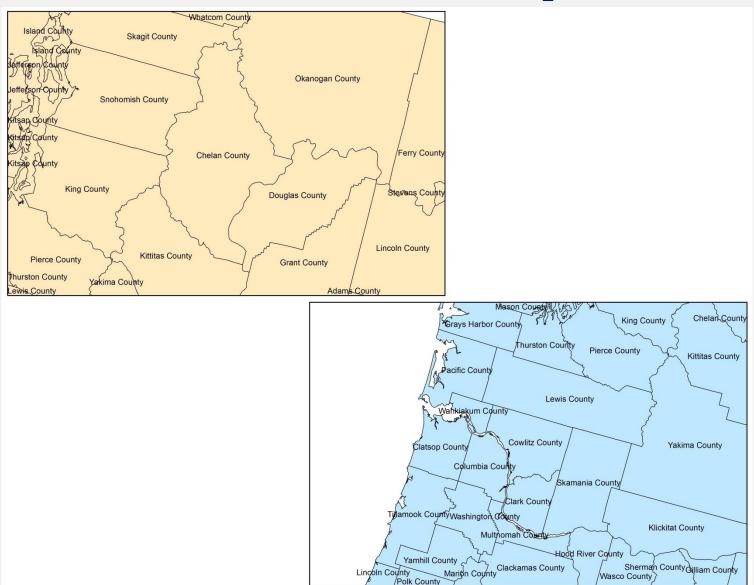
Bookmark Tools – Map Export Record Creation



Bookmark Tools – Map Export



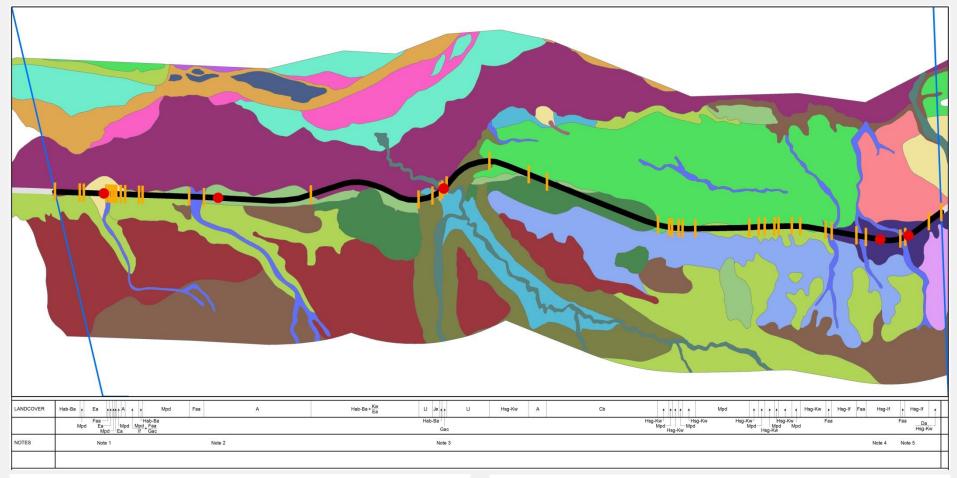
Bookmark Tools – Output



Example 3

Map Series Development Tools

Map Series Development Tools – Goal

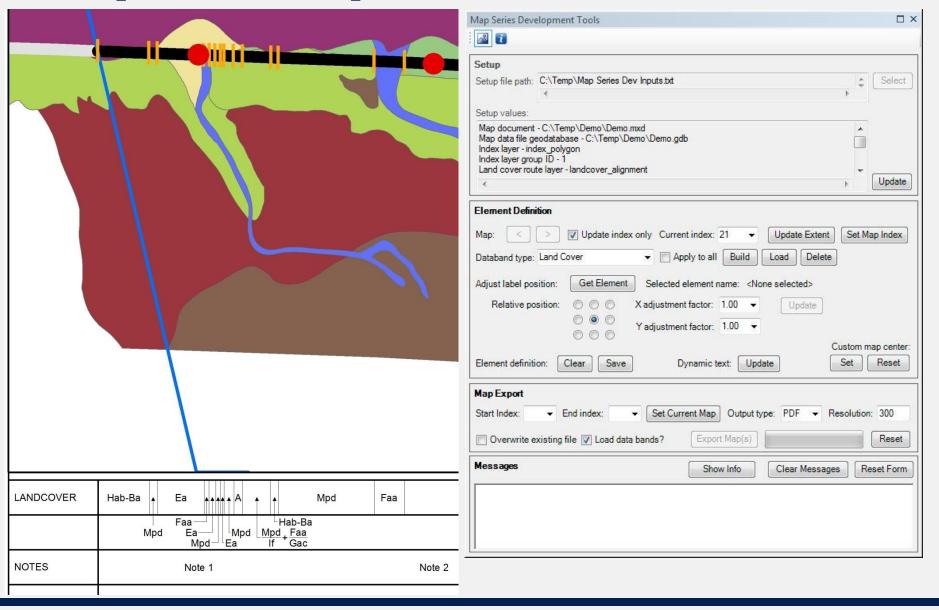


Generate a series of maps for the full length of a route

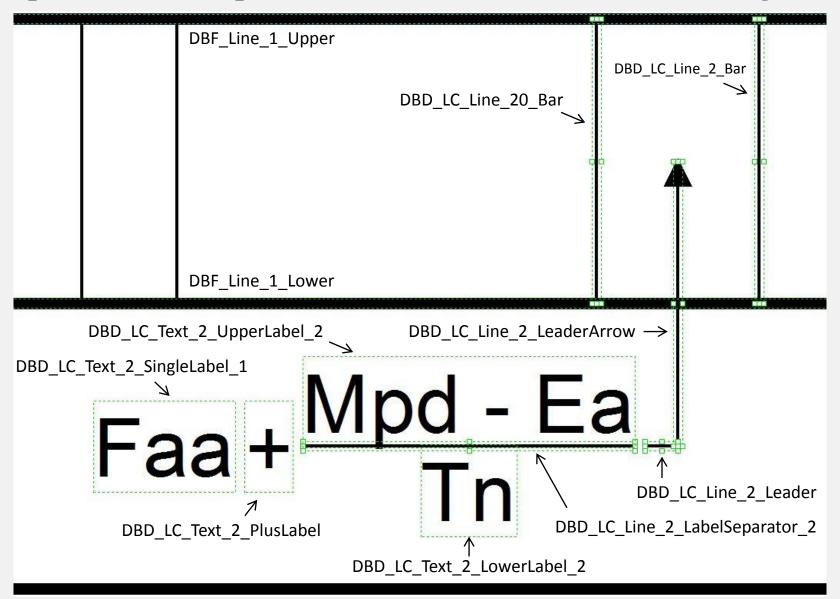
For each map

- · Build the required data bands
- Adjust the label positions
- Save the map configuration (analogous to having multiple layouts)

Map Series Development Tools – Data Band Creation



Map Series Development Tools – Element Name as Storage Unit



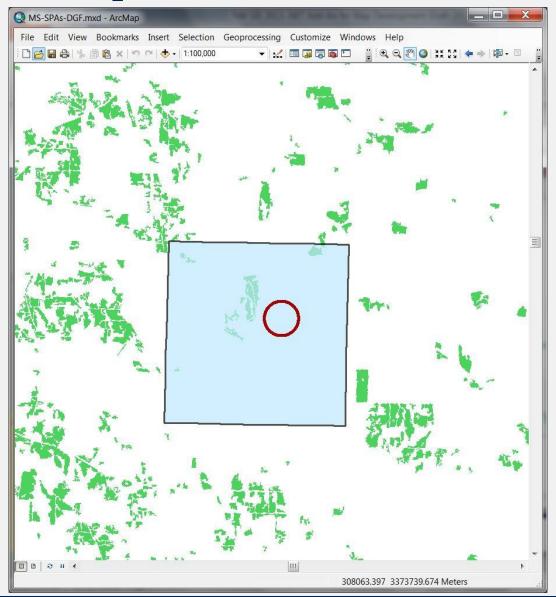
Map Series Development Tools – Element Definition Storage

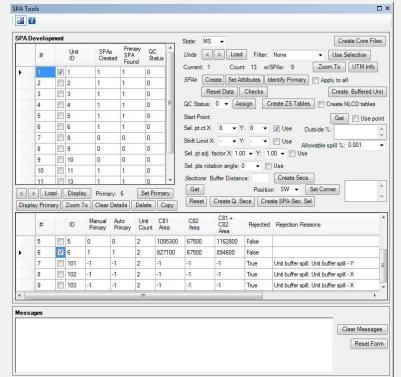
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Example 4

Species Protection Area Tools

Species Protection Area Tools – Primary Area

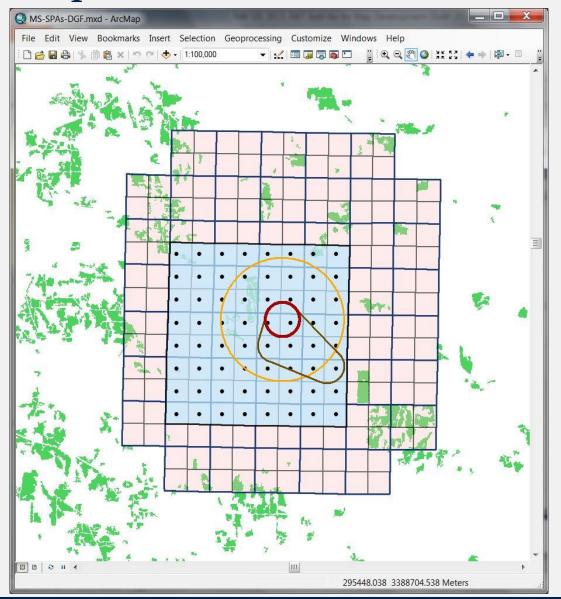


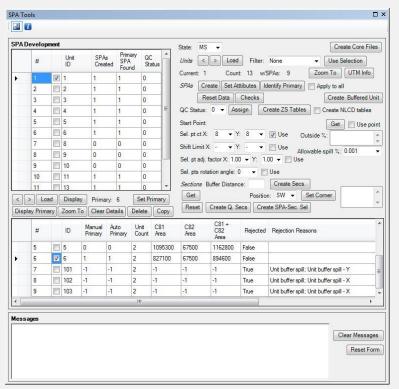


Goal: define protection areas for species habitat locations according to rules that vary from state to state. Example:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat (CH) locations for Dusky Gopher Frog in Mississippi
- Polygon of defined maximum size positioned such that
 - number of overlapping CH locations is maximized
 - area of agricultural land cover is minimized
- Polygons based on aggregation of selected quarter sections

Species Protection Area Tools – Area Construction

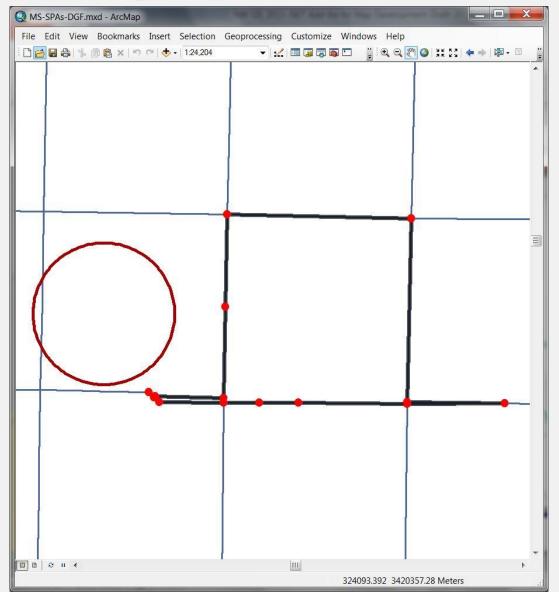


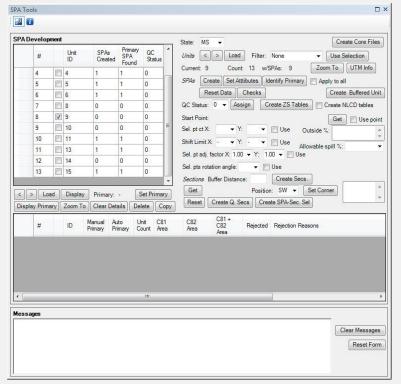


Key datasets:

- Public Land Survey Sections
- Derived quarter sections
- Critical Habitat locations
- Buffered Critical Habitat locations
- Selection points
- 2006 National Land Cover Data (NLCD)

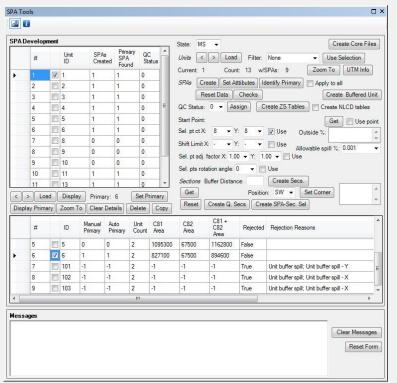
Species Protection Area Tools – Challenges

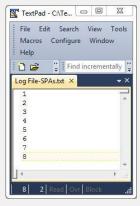




- Quarter section creation problem due to inability to automatically find corners
- Manually define corners and pass to procedure

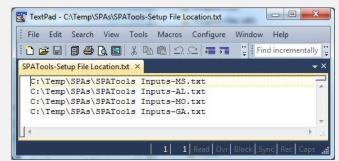
Species Protection Area Tools – Operation





Log file

Setup file location file



Setup file

Size

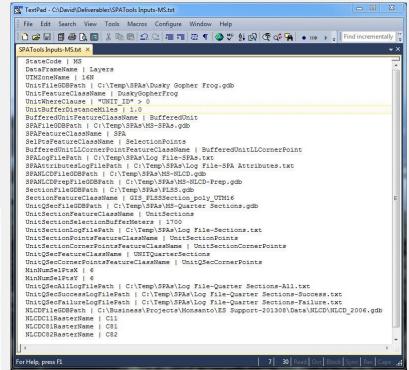
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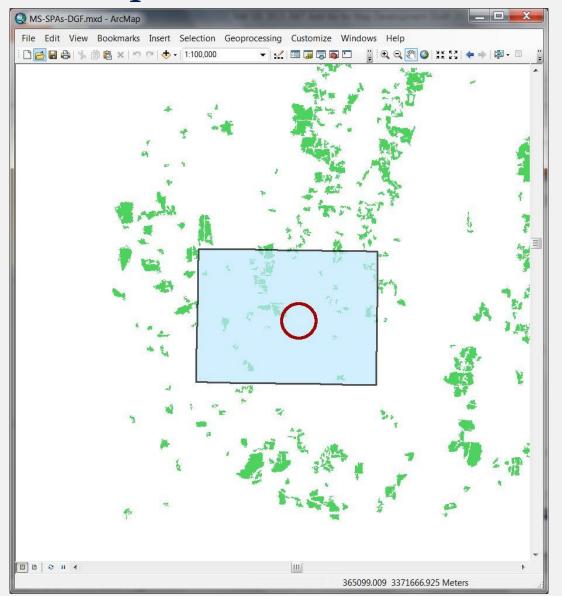
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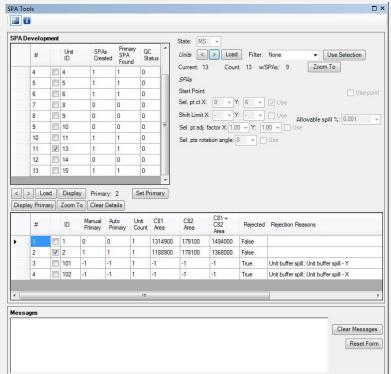
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SPATools-20131013-1415.esriaddin

Species Protection Area Tools – Deliverable





- Read-only version of tools (functionality hidden as required)
- Tools appearance is a low priority
- Main priority is output data

Development Considerations

- Core Construction
 - Allow for continual expansion
 - Strike a balance between generalizing for wider use and getting something working
 - Once you figure out how the process works, you can soon go back and refine it
 - Create re-usable code and share between add-in and standalone processes
 - Code neatly and descriptively and comment well
- Development considerations are generally applicable to a wider variety of automation procedures
 - Storing/accessing setup parameters
 - Log file usage
 - Process control

It's always in your interests to generate high quality products that are simple to maintain

Closing Remarks

- Developing customized procedures yourself or with assistance from someone else can allow you to reap tremendous returns on what can be a sizeable investment in a product such as ArcGIS for Desktop
- Despite the current heavy emphasis on cloud functionality, the benefits of desktop functionality are likely to remain strong for many years to come

Streamlined approaches such as those described here can often pay for themselves many times over