ARC - GIS Cheat Sheet - July 2010

Oracle Acct User - ID: smpollar

Password: Mykiss1234

Go to internet: dts.gov.bc.ca to access

My files are stored in www:\wlap\vic\workarea\spollard

Notes:

Watershed polygons are in: WHSE.BASEMAPPING.FW.WATERSHEDS

BECs are in: WHSE.BASEMAPPING.FORESTVEGETATION

Use data mode to work with data

Use layout mode for printing, making pdfs or jpegs

Commands:

‘Like’ is a wild card e.g. like ‘400%’ for all WCs starting with 400

Double-click on lay to get layer properties

Symbology - to colour different values

* categories
  + unique values

Attributes table - editting

* properties
  + advanced - symbol levels

use ‘edit’ tool to start editing in ARC Map, use again to stop editing

* highlight record (at far left of attribute table)
* right-click field heading
  + field calculation - make change

‘use current scale’ to adjust text to scale of map

‘insert’ for legend

If you want to keep text on map, add text in data mode, not layout mode

Intersect - waterpolygons x BEC zones for Skeena

‘disconnect’ - can come back

‘logout’ - shuts program down

Insert - legend

When in a Layer

* data frame properties
  + ‘use current scale’ - adjusts text to scale of map

Attribute table

* Options
  + Add field

Projection

* Want to project in Albers
* Layers
  + Coordinate system
    - Predefined ‘favourites’
    - Projected - Canada, NAD1983, BC Environment Alberts

Coordinate System Selection

* Geographic - long/lat; projected is UTM - want UTM, NAD83, ‘11’ (for zone) - note that if you are working with data in different UTM zones, each zone must be put in a separate file for projection

To map additional drive (e.g. w:)

* [connect to folder] w:

Creating a shapefile from excel:

* Create in ARC Catalogue
* ARC catalogue also enables manipulation of files (i.e. make folders)
* Use in ARC Map to manipulate
* Copy excel file into w:file (all points most be in same UTMzone within single file)
* Right click ‘create a feature class’ (line/point/polygon)
* Xfield=easting, yfield=northing, zfield - don’t use (for 3D projections)
* To add data to ‘layers’, drag and drop from ARC Catalogue
* Use ‘basemaps’ to check orientation of coordinate points - select 6M basemap from ‘layer library’
* Add data or drag and drop
* To label - right click on ‘layer’, label features, properties, labels

Generating a Legend

* LEGEND CREATION
* Highlight layer - properties - symbology - single symbol vs categories - select categories, unique values, many fields for 2 or more fields
* Select 1st field you want to view in legend, then 2nd field
* ADD VALUES
* Select all values (highlight)
* OK
* Select all, right click - properties for selected symbols: fill colour - NO colour, outline colour - NO colour
* OK
* Rename layer for legend (after copying layer initially)
* Layer properties - features, single symbol (for outline) no fill, outline yes
* To redirect a layer to new data source - double-click layer, source - set data source, select
* SAVE CONSTANTLY
* .mxd file is a composite ARCmap session
* To place legend:
* In Layout view:
* Working in legend\_only layer (renamed one mentioned above)
* Draw a box with rectangle function, gives you a work area
* INSERT tab - legend (remove layers you don’t want), next...next...next...then edit
* ‘tweaking legend’ - highlight legend - right click, properties - uncheck map connect
* STYLE - symbol, can pick properties, centre, etc.
* Print preview - confirm page configuration
* Click anywhere, right-click on screen in layer mode
* Page and print set up:
* Select printer
* Select paper size
* Check - use printer page settings
* Check - show printer margins in layout
* Print preview before printing