



F.A.Q. for DNR Garmin

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1 - General

Q1.1: What projection should I use in DNR Garmin?

A1.1: The proper setting for Indiana would be *NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16 North* to match the current default setting for Toolkit, and most other ArcMap projects in Indiana. Also make sure that the *Load PRJ* setting in DNR Garmin's *Set Projection* window has that same projection selected. These settings will get your saved files to work even if your ArcMap project is in Indiana State Plane coordinates because ArcMap can project data on the fly so long as the data's projection is readable by ArcMap. This is achieved in DNR Garmin by making the above settings.

Q1.2: My points are in the wrong place.

A1.2: Make sure you have the correct projection set in DNR Garmin to match the data you imported from your GPS, or from ArcMap/Files. Make sure that your GPS unit was in either WGS84 or UTM83. If this is all correct, but the data looks wrong in ArcMap, make sure the ArcMap data frame's projection matches the projection of your GPS data. If you have questions on how to check this or other problems with getting the points in the "right" place, contact the State GIS Coordinator for assistance.

2 – Downloading from GPS Unit

Q2.1: How should I download waypoints from the various GPS models in use in Indiana?

A2.1: Refer to the task guide for the related GPS hardware download instructions for full details. Short answers:

GPSMap 76:
Use Waypoints > Download

GPSMap 78 and Oregon 550(t)
Do NOT use Waypoints > Download.
Instead use, File > Load From > File... and navigate to the unit's GPX directory to find and load the GPX file with the desired set of waypoints. If you attempt to use the Download function in DNR Garmin with the 78 or Oregon units, DNR Garmin will lock up and generate no data in its table.

3 – Uploading to GPS Unit

Q3.1: How should I upload waypoints from the various GPS models in use in Indiana?

A3.1: Refer to the task guide for the related GPS hardware upload instructions for full details. Short answers:

GPSMap 76:
Use Waypoints > Upload

GPSMap 78 and Oregon 550(t)
Do NOT use Waypoints > Upload.
Instead use, File > Save To > File... and create a temporary GPX file on your computer. After that, use BaseCamp to Import the temporary GPX file and then drag and drop it to your GPS unit.



4 – Saving Data

Q4.1: When I save data from DNR Garmin, what formats should I use?

A4.1: You should save twice, creating both .shp AND .txt files. The shapefile is immediately usable in ArcMap. The text file serves as a non-proprietary format backup if shapefiles should fall out of disuse. The text file is also editable in a text editor if there are problems with the source data.

Q4.2: Can I append data from multiple sets of waypoints to a single output file from DNR Garmin?

A4.2: Yes. You create the initial .shp or .txt file from your first set of data points. Then you load the next set of data points into DNR Garmin from your GPS unit or file and when you save this data, you select the existing file you initially saved (or use the same file location and file name). You will be prompted to Append, Overwrite, or Cancel. Choose the option that lets you append and the 2nd set of data will be added into the file after the first set of data, resulting in one file that contains both sets of data. You can do this as many times as necessary to complete your dataset. However, it is still advised to organize separate projects and unrelated datasets in separately named files rather than to create one huge master file for your data. Only append data if you actually need to associate to disparate sets of input files or points into one output file.