Digitizing Polygon Type Conservation Practices

Toolkit 2004

One of the new features of Toolkit 2004 is the option of adding conservation practices to the map document and automatically adding the data to the practice schedule. There can be only one practice theme for each of the practice types (lines, points, polygons). So all polygon type practices should be digitized into one theme. Only polygon practices that do not cover the entire land unit should be digitized. Examples are wildlife food plots, small areas of pasture establishment, grassed waterways, critical area plantings, etc. Usually any practices whose units are acres would be digitized as polygons. To start digitizing the practices, click the New Toolkit Layer tool.
To digitize Polygon type practices, check the Practice Polygon checkbox.

The Practice Polygon Editor toolbar appears. Click the Add Practice tool. Notice the tool defaults to a polygon tool. Notice the editor icon appears on the Toolkit Toolbar to show a layer is being edited.
Part of the southwest field is planned for Pasture and Hayland Establishment. Click to start the polygon, click at each change in direction, then double click at the last corner when it forms a straight line to the beginning point.

The planned pasture and hayland establishment area is identified.
The field will also have a small area of early successional wildlife habitat planned. Click to start the polygon, click at each change in direction, then double click at the last corner when it forms a straight line to the beginning point. Note: it does not matter which direction you proceed around the area.

The planned early successional wildlife area is identified.
Part of the northeast field is planned for Critical Area Treatment. Click to start the polygon, click at each change in direction, then double click at the last corner when it forms a straight line to the beginning point.

The planned critical area treatment area is identified.
All of the polygon practices are identified. Click the Editor dropdown and click stop editing.

Click Yes to save your edits.
Notice the editor icon disappears from the Toolkit Toolbar to show that no layer is being edited. Close the Editor Toolbar.

Now the polygons (practices) need to be attributed to record which practice each polygon represents. Click the Attribute Tool.
Select the layer to attribute (Practices polygons).

The attribute tool window appears, click in the first polygon (Pasture and Hayland Establishment) to select it. Notice the polygon changes color to signify it is selected. Enter the information about the practice, including the tract and field if it is not already present, the practice code or practice name and the scheduled date. Note the Amount is automatically calculated. Click Apply.
Click in the second polygon (Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Development) to select it. Notice the polygon changes color to signify it is selected. Enter the information about the practice, including the tract and field if it is not already present, the practice code or practice name and the scheduled date. Note the Amount is automatically calculated. Click Apply.

Click in the last polygon (Critical Area Planting) to select it. Notice the polygon changes color to signify it is selected. Enter the information about the practice, including the tract and field if it is not already present, the practice code or practice name and the scheduled date. Note the Amount is automatically calculated. Since this is the last polygon to be attributed, Click OK.
Now give the individual practices unique symbols. Right click on the Practices (polygons) layer then click Properties.

The Layer properties window opens, click on the symbology tab. Under the show window click on Categories.
Click on Unique Values and change the Value Field to Practice Name. Click the Add All Values button. All the practices are added. Uncheck the checkbox next to <all other values> to unselect it. To change the symbol for the practices double click on the Critical Area Planting symbol.
To change the symbol from a solid fill to a cross hatched fill, click the Properties button.

In the Type dropdown box, select Line Fill Symbol.
Change the Angle to 45 and click OK.

The symbol is changed, click OK.
The new symbol for the Critical Area Planting practice now shows in the Legend. Repeat the process for the other practices, double click on the Early Successional Wildlife Habitat symbol.

To change the symbol from a solid fill to a marker pattern, click the Properties button.
In the Type dropdown box, select Marker Fill Symbol. To choose the Marker pattern click the Marker button.

Choose the marker you wish to use.
You can change the color and size of the marker, then click OK.

The new marker appears, Click OK.
The new symbol for the Early Successional Wildlife Habitat practice now shows in the Legend. The Pasture and Hayland symbol can also be changed with the same process, but leave it solid. Click OK.
The new symbols appear on the map. Even though you changed the symbols for the polygons, they will default back to a solid fill polygon when you open the map document again, if you do not save the symbology. Right click on the Practices (points) layer and click Save Symbology.

To record the practice narrative for the practices just added you need to go to the practice schedule. To do so click the Customer Service Toolkit icon on the task bar.
You are returned to Customer Service Toolkit, click the Practice Schedule tab if you are not already there. Select the plan by clicking the dropdown button in the Select a Plan window. The land units appear with the practices that were just digitized. Notice no narratives are entered for the practices just digitized, click on the Narrative line for the Critical Area Treatment practice.

The narrative window appears, choose a narrative and click OK.
Continue and add narratives for all practices. The practice schedule is now correct, click Save.

Click OK. To return to ArcGIS click the New_plan.mxd icon on the task bar.
You are returned to the map document.

Now is a good time to save the map document, click File, Save.