DIGITAL MAPPING TECHNIQUES 2024

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Reducing PDF Size of Maps Using ArcMap/ArcPro and Adobe Illustrator

By Emily Morris (Kentucky Geological Survey)

This presentation outlines the basic workflow I use to create high-quality PDF files of our STATEMAP deliverables at the Kentucky Geological Survey using ArcMap/ArcPro, ArcGIS Maps for Adobe, and Adobe Illutrator. It includes simple tips for reducing PDF file size while preserving quality.

Reducing PDF Size of Maps Using ArcMap/ArcPro and Adobe Illustrator

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DMT 2024

Kentucky Geological Survey

Basic Workflow Comparison

ArcPro

- .aix files

- Maps for Adobe (ESRI)
- Placing images
- Fixing label errors
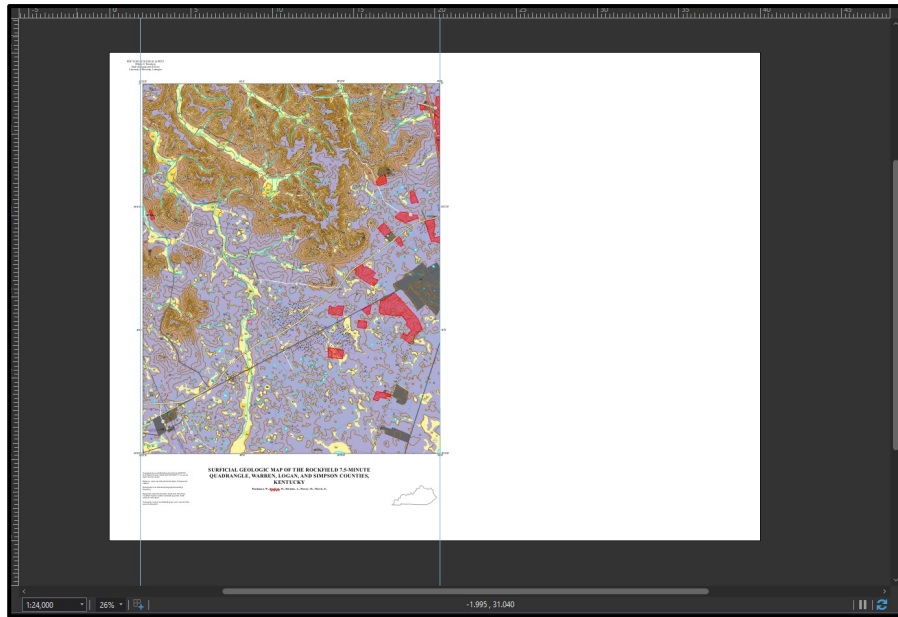- Press quality PDFs

ArcMap

- .ai files

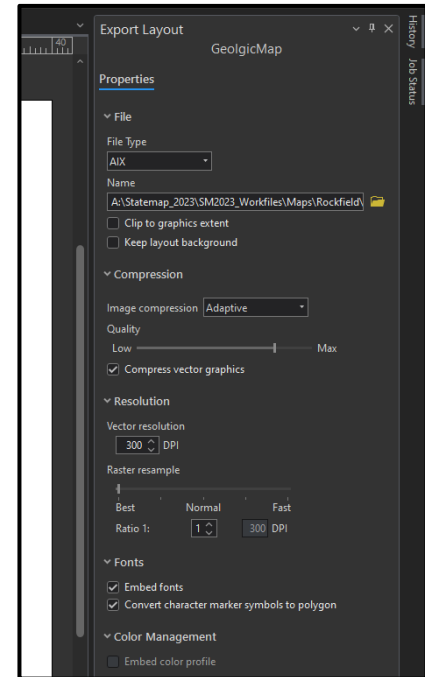- Placing images
- Press quality PDFS

Within ArcMap/ArcPro

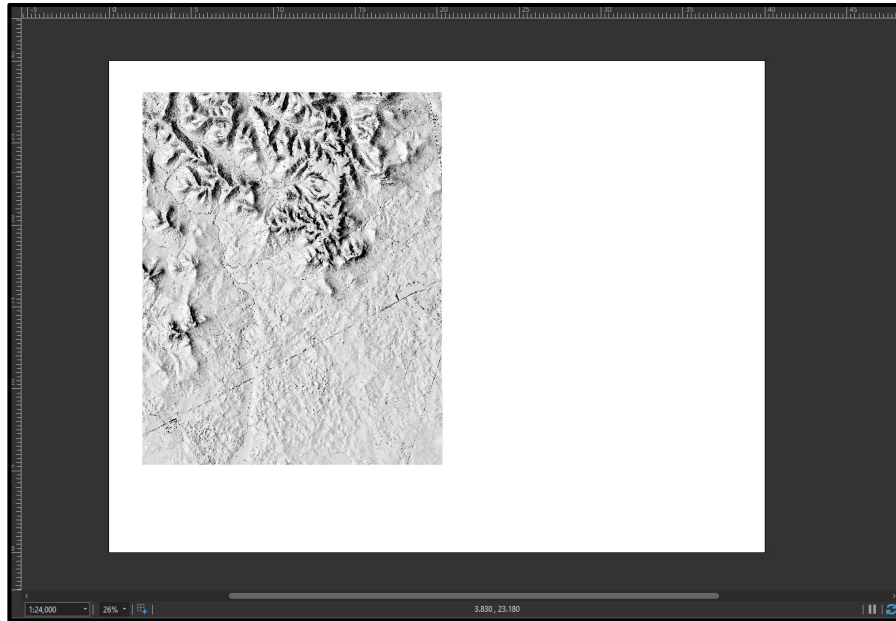1. Symbolize and label all basemap and geologic map components
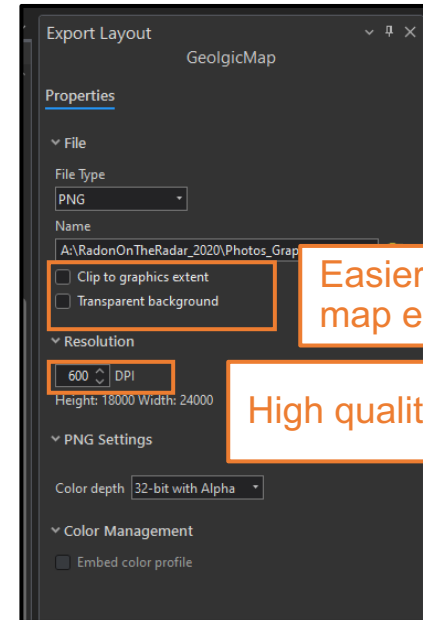

2. Export to .aix (default settings okay)

Within ArcMap/ArcPro Continued

3. Turn off all layers except hillshade

4. Export to .png

Easier to match map edges

High quality image

* Do this with MapUnitPolys too if using ArcMap*
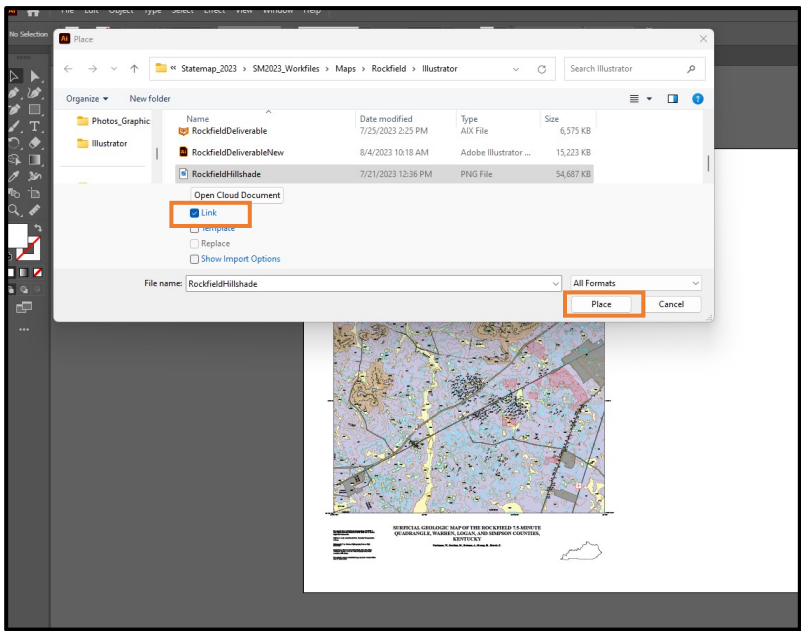
Within Adobe Illustrator

1. Download ArcGIS Maps for Adobe
   - log in using ArcGIS online account

2. Open .aix file and save as .ai file

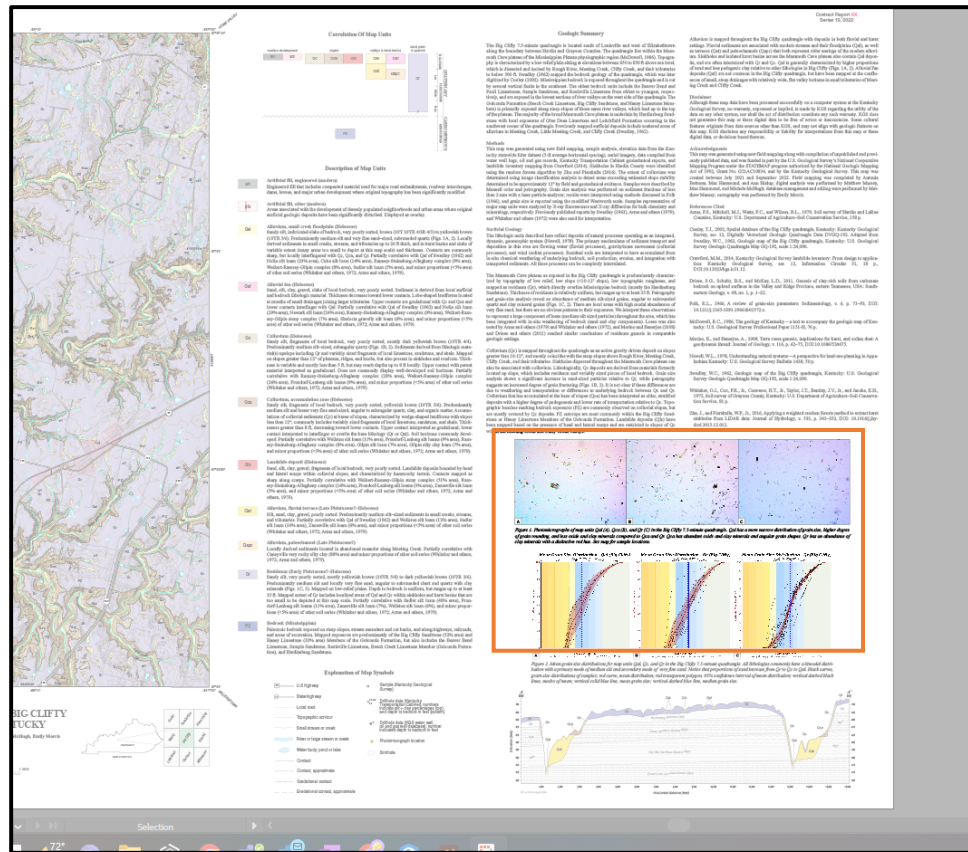3. Place the hillshade in the document
   - File > Place
     - Select "Link"
     - Click "Place" and click top left corner of map layout to place image
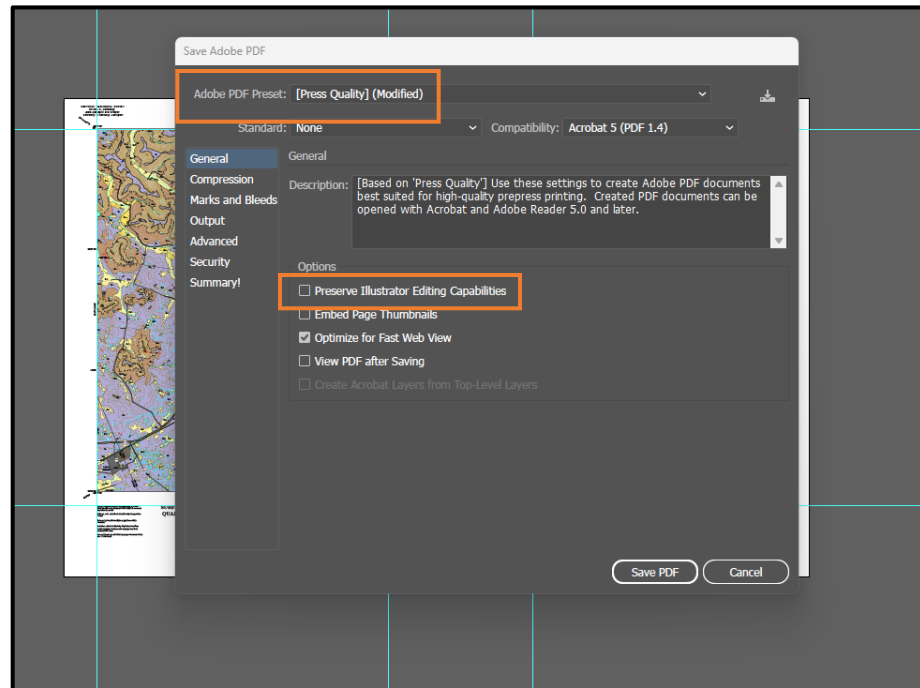
Within Illustrator Continued

- Place and link any other images or figures that aren't vector files
  - Pasting them in the document creates large file sizes

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Saving to PDF in Illustrator

- File > Save As > Save as PDF
  - Choose the [Press Quality] Adobe PDF
    - Uncheck "Preserve Illustrator Editing Capabilities"
      - high quality PDF without preserving certain layers and features for editing (reduces file size)

- Ignore the warnings it gives you after you click "Save PDF"

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Questions?