

DIGITAL MAPPING TECHNIQUES 2016

The following was presented at DMT'16 (May 22-25, 2016 - Florida Geological Survey, Tallahassee, FL)

The contents of this document are provisional

See Presentations and Proceedings from the DMT Meetings (1997-2016)

http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/info/dmt/

2016 Digital Mapping Techniques Workshop – Tallahassee, FLA, May 23-25, 2016

Geotagged Field Photos in a Geologic Map Database?

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For decades, geologists have been capturing volumes of photographs of important geologic features while mapping in their field areas. Some of these photos, whether captured on film or born digital, are used in geologic map publications, but most are relegated to file cabinets or digital storage media, never to be seen again.

In an effort to preserve a geologist's field photos—in context with a geologic map—I geotagged a sample of these digital photos and then investigated the current options for incorporating them into an ESRI ArcGIS v10.3.1 file geodatabase.

There are three primary methods of including geotagged images in a file geodatabase points feature class:

- 1. Hyperlinks to images stored in a separate folder, or URLs to images on a web server.
- 2. Images embedded as attributes in a raster type field in a points feature class.
- 3. Images embedded in a points feature class as attachments stored in a binary large object (BLOB) field.

I conducted a simple trial of each method and evaluated the ArcMap user experience when accessing the photos and their attributes from the geodatabase; I then listed my perceived pros and cons of using each method. The most powerful and flexible method of the three is the third option. It allows the attachment of any number of digital images to a feature class point. In addition, these attachments can be any file type; e.g., image formats such as .jpg, .tif, .png; other file types such as PDFs, text documents, spreadsheets, or voice recordings; or even common video formats. Users access the attachments via the ArcMap HTML Popup tool. The photo attachments are opened directly in a formatted popup window within ArcMap; other types of attachments are opened in software compatible with the various file formats.

This system can easily accommodate sample location notes, well logs, scans of field notebook pages, related documents that may include URLs to web pages, or even audio or video descriptions of field observations of surrounding geology; use your imagination!

My 2016 Digital Mapping Techniques presentation is a summary of this trial. Speaker notes are included for each slide of the presentation.







Geotagged Field Photos In A Geologic Map Database?

Kent D. Brown Utah Geological Survey



May 22-25, 2016 Tallahassee, Florida





What Should I Do With All These Field Photos?







NUMBER OF









Let's Try To Preserve Photos In Context With Geologic Mapping



Geotagged Photos Can Be Included In A GIS database!



First, Geotag Your Photos



First, Geotag Your Photos

This can be done many different ways; I'm not covering them here.



Next, Create Points From Geotagged Photos



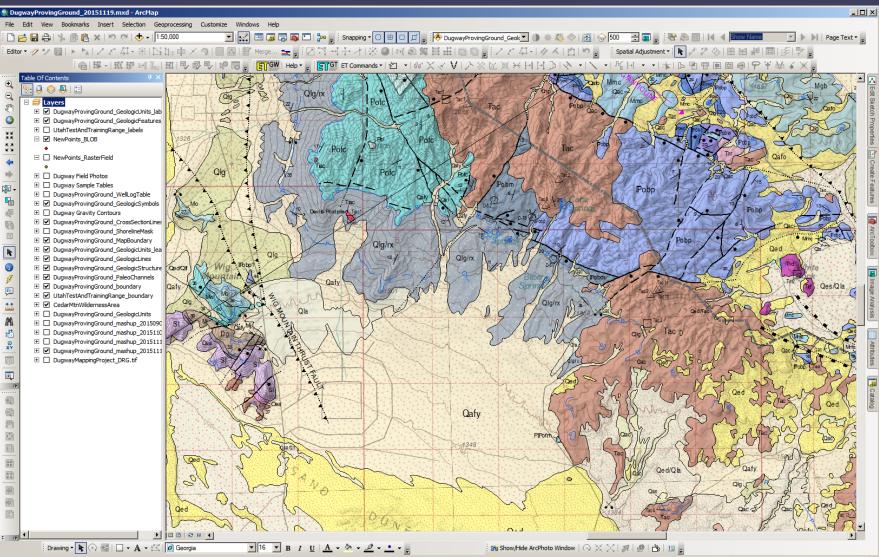
Next, Create Points From Geotagged Photos

This is simple using Global Mapper, not so much with ArcGIS.

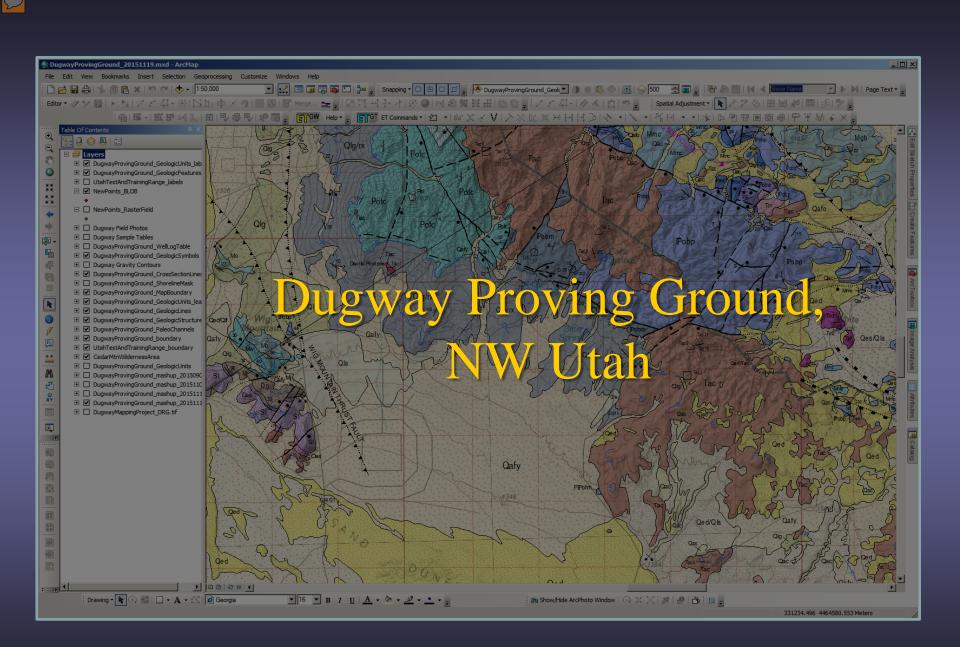


Import Photo Points Into File Geodatabase

Open ArcMap Project



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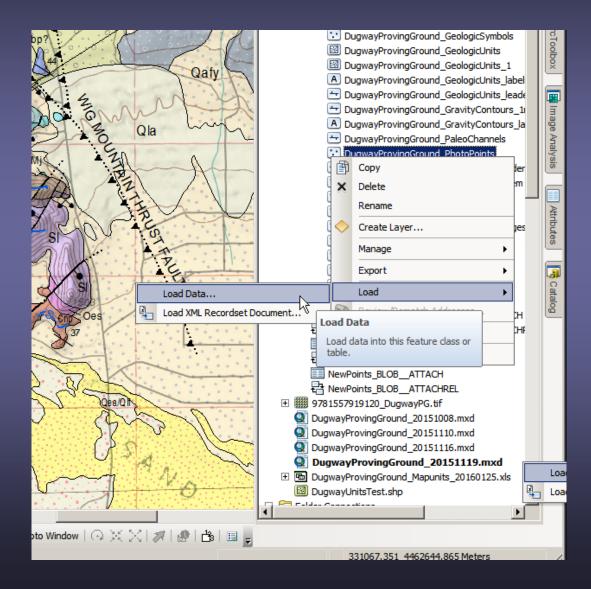


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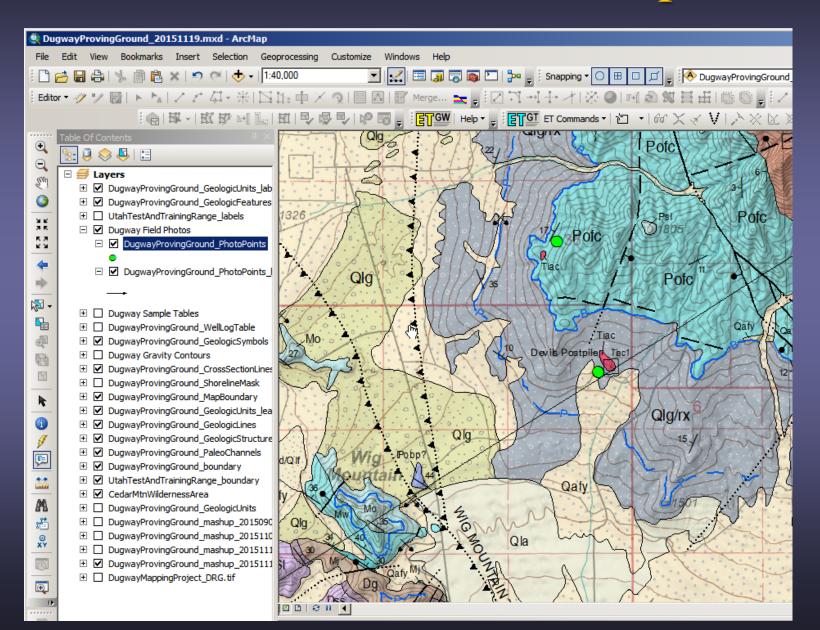
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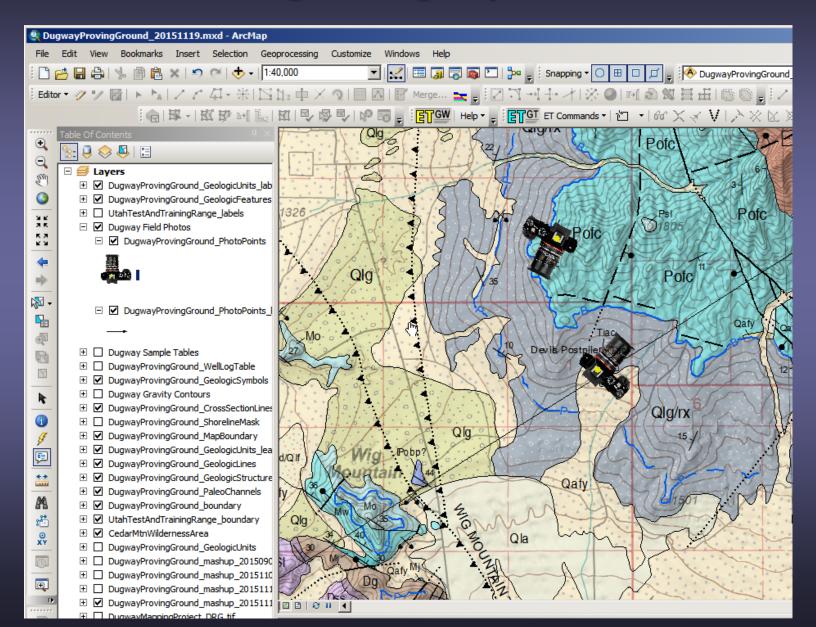
Load Photo Points Into Feature Class



Add Photo Points To Map



Change Map Symbols







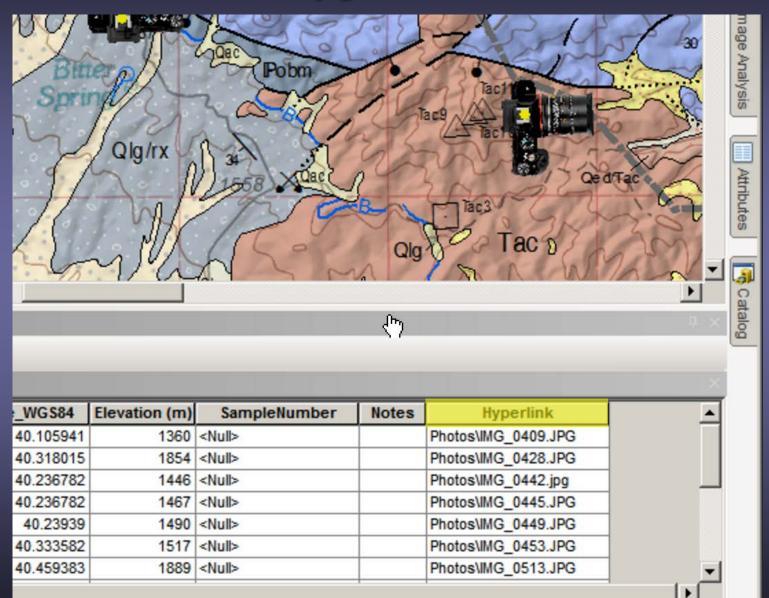
• Hyperlinks to image files or URL



- Hyperlinks to image files or URL
- Images embedded in raster data field

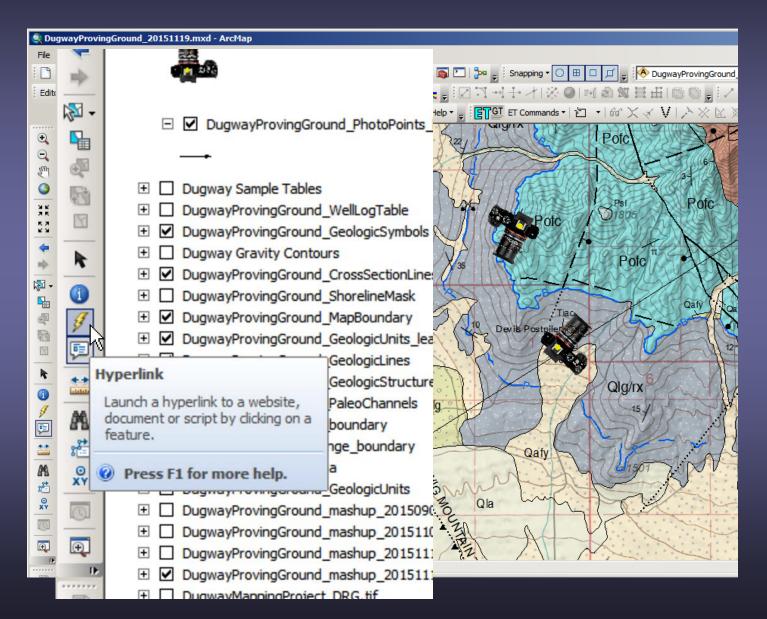


- Hyperlinks to image files or URL
- Images embedded in raster data field
- Images embedded as feature class attachments (BLOB)

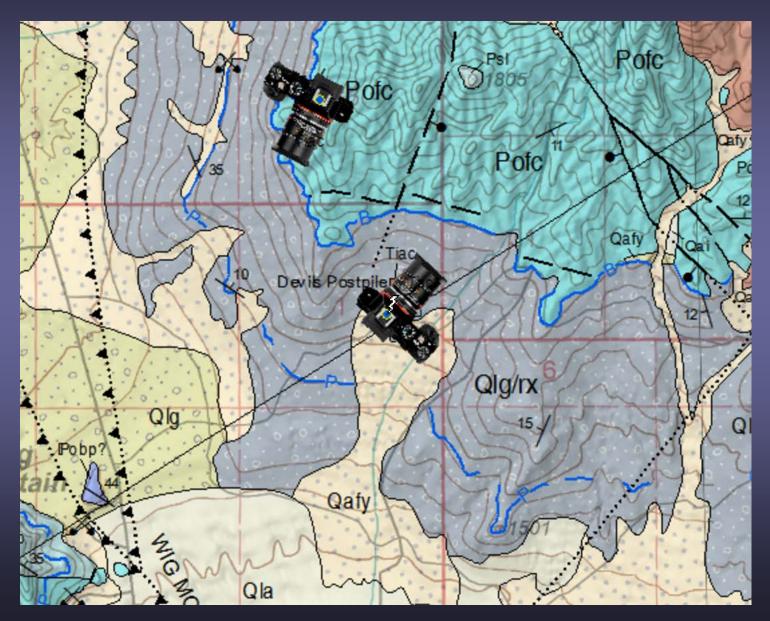


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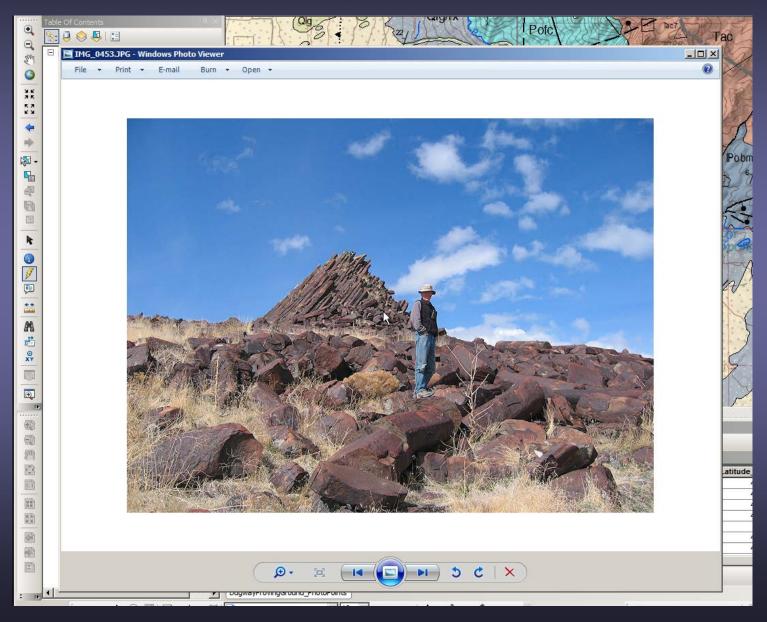
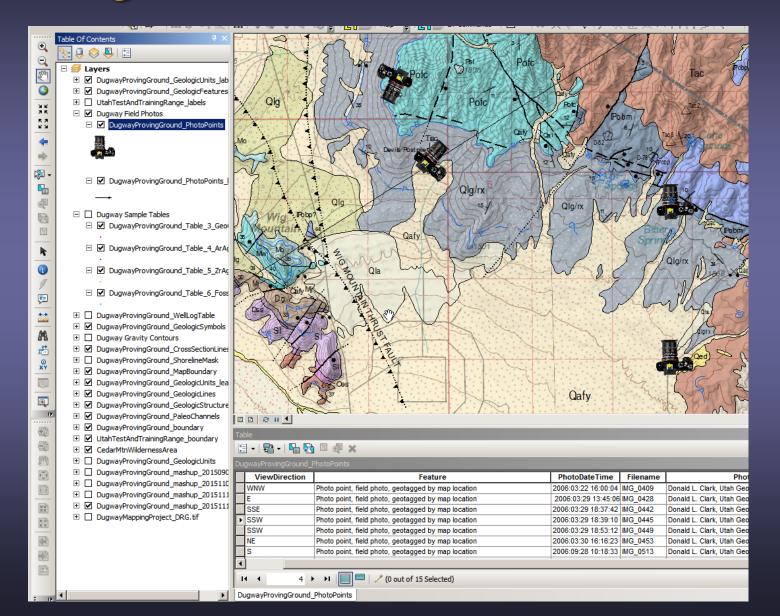


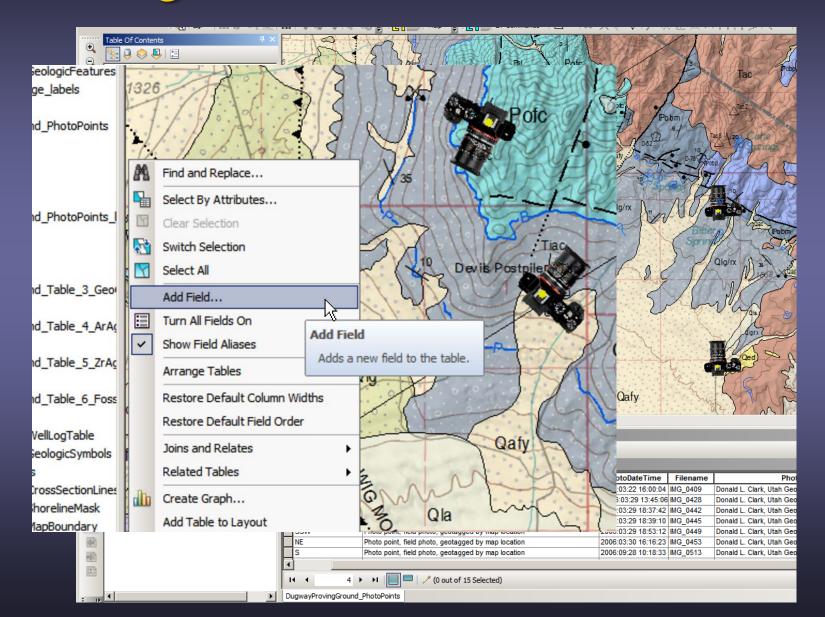
Image Hyperlinks

Pros	Cons
 Accessing the images using the ArcMap Hyperlink Tool is intuitive Image opens in default external image viewer that includes zoom and pan tools 	 Hyperlinks only work in ArcMap Data View Images open in default external image viewer instead of an ArcMap window, and don't display photo caption or other attributes; not the best user experience Images are not embedded. A folder of image files must accompany the geodatabase

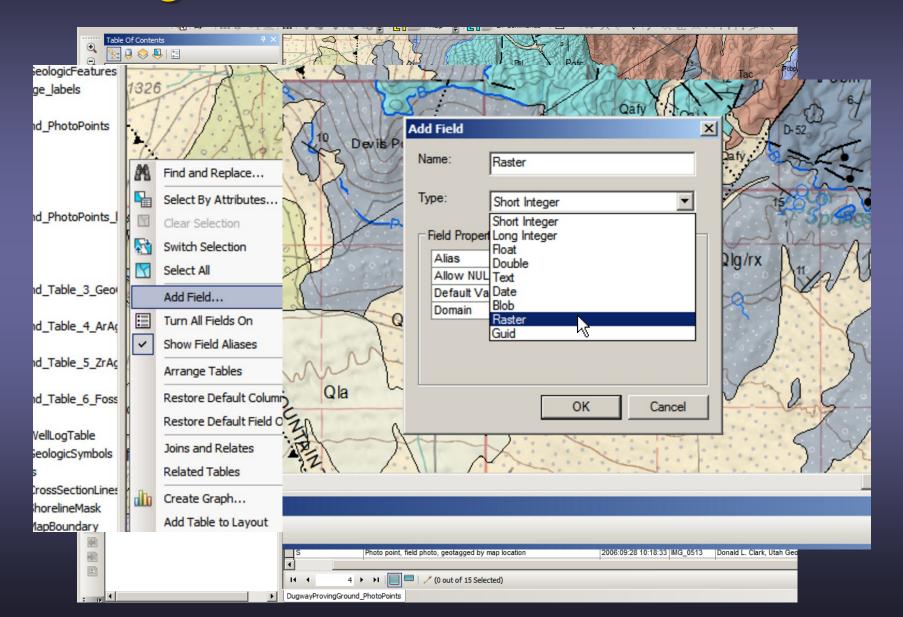
Images Embedded In Raster Field



Images Embedded In Raster Field



Images Embedded In Raster Field



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	3	IMG_0442	171		Donald L. Clark, Utah Geological Survey	-112.855989	4	
	4	IMG_0445	210		Donald L. Clark, Utah Geological Survey	-112.855989	4	
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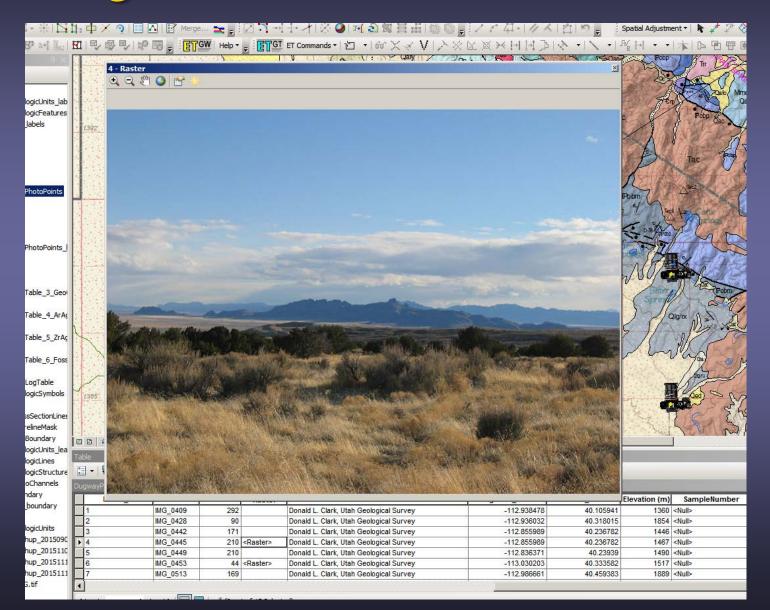
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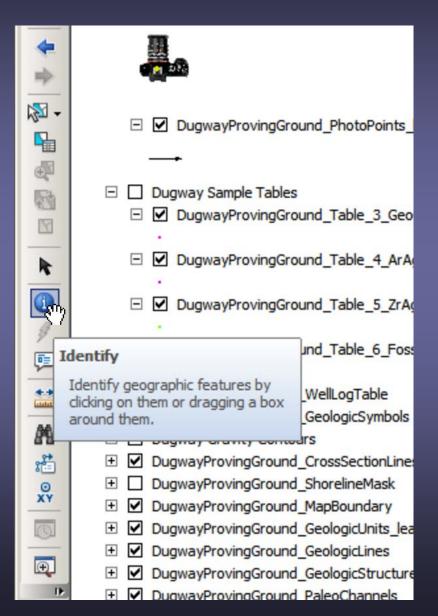
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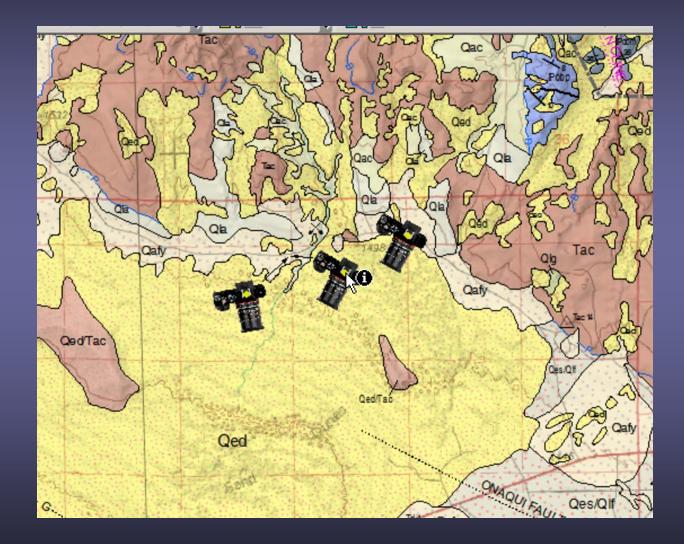


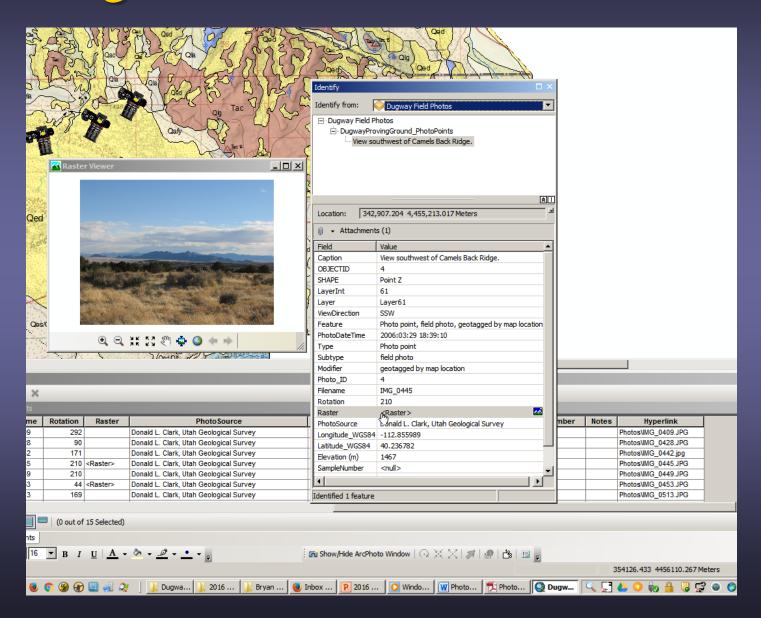
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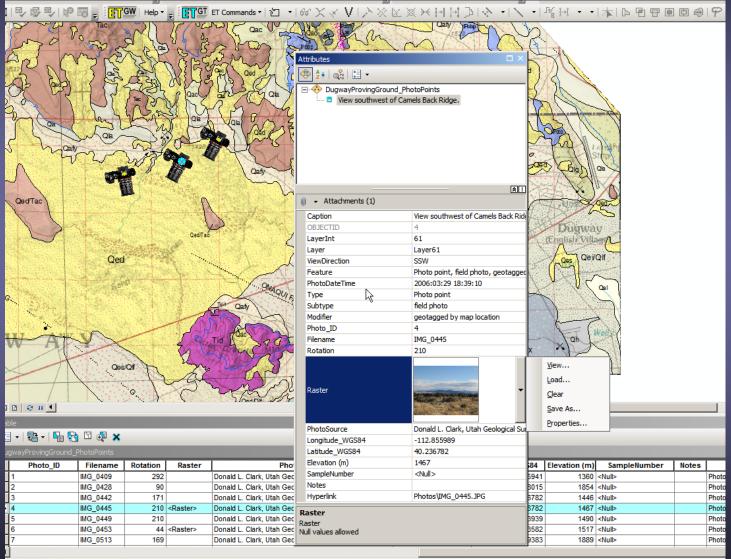


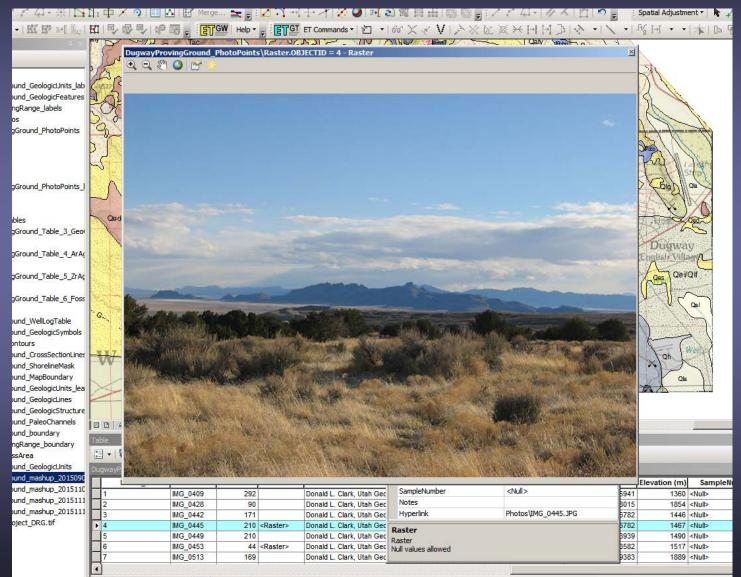


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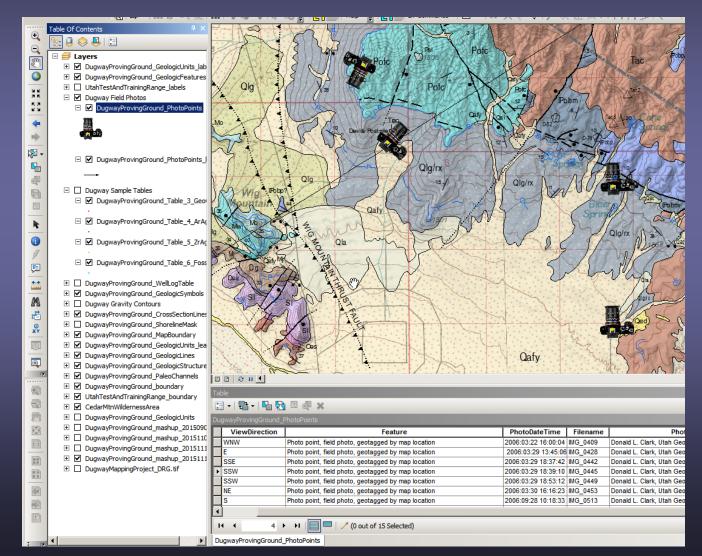


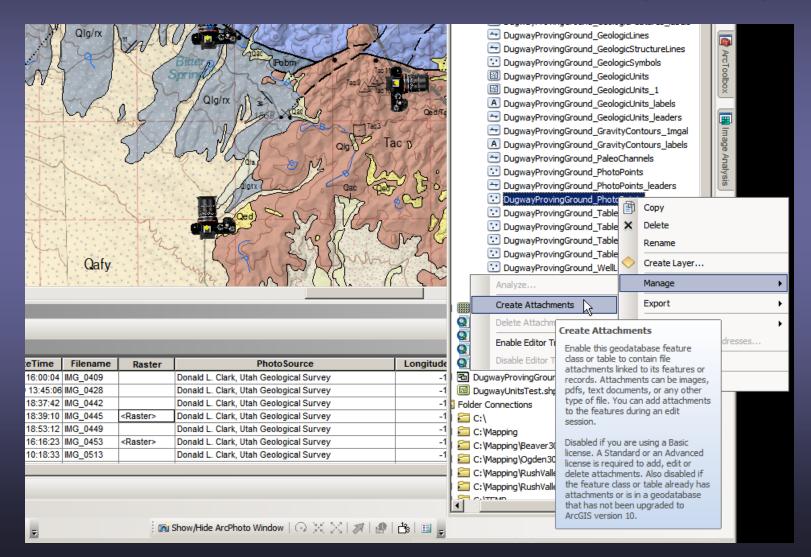


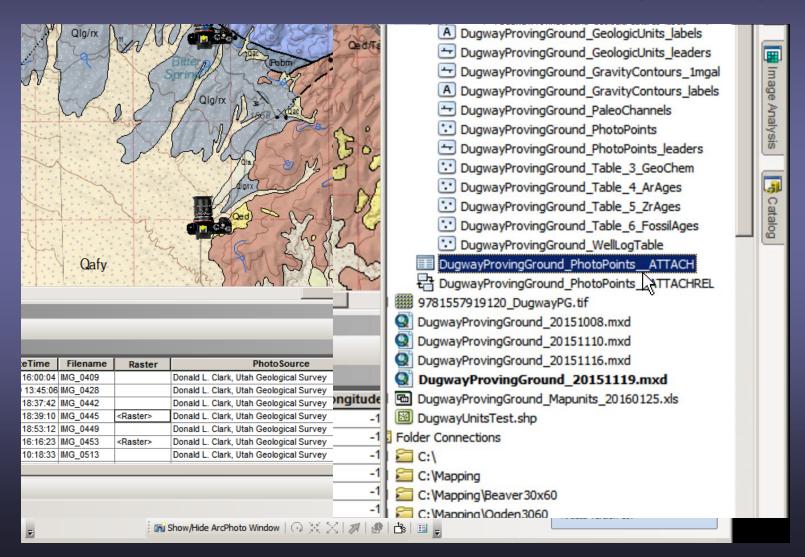


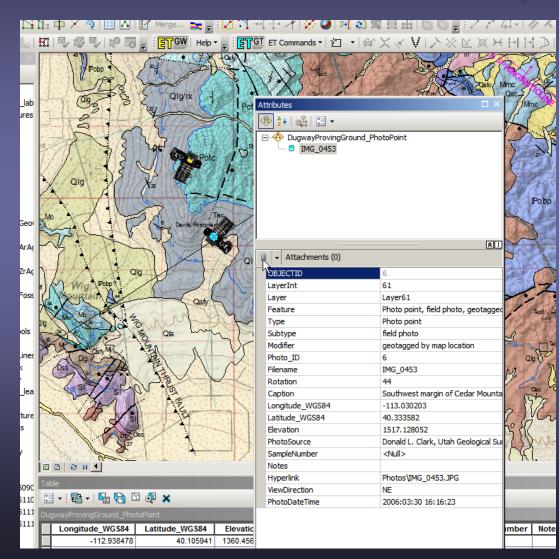
Images Embedded in Raster Field

Pros	Cons
 Access images using the ArcMap identify tool, or from raster field in attributes table, or from selected feature attributes window in edit mode; this method is the most flexible option Images are embedded in geodatabase Images open in ArcMap viewing window— not in external viewer— and includes zoom and pan tools 	 Accessing images with the ArcMap identify tool is intuitive, but not the best user experience Accessing images from attribute table or from selected feature attributes window in edit mode is less intuitive and still not the best user experience.



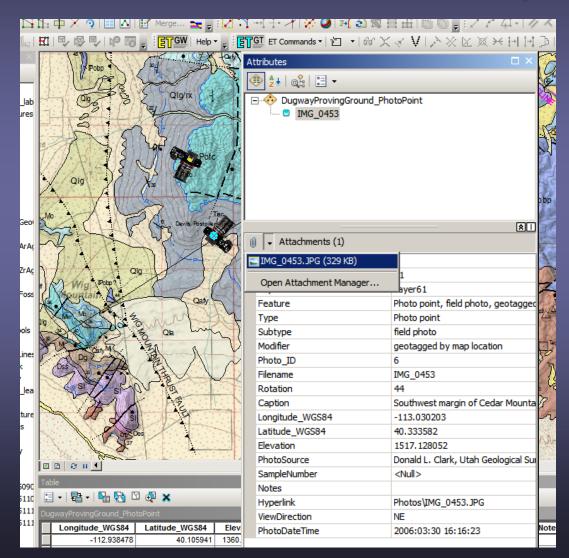






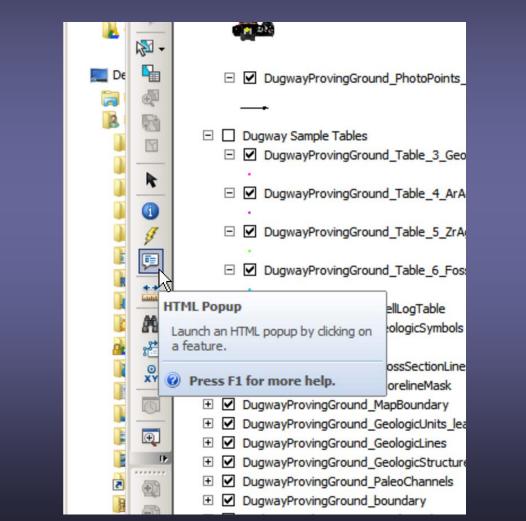
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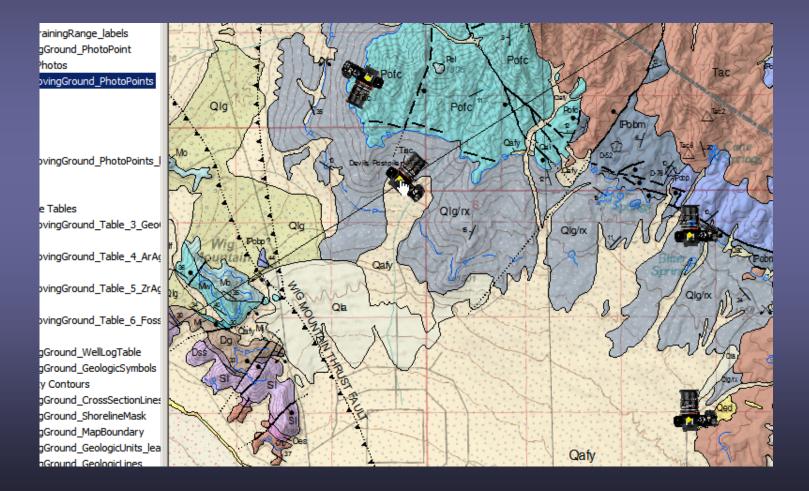
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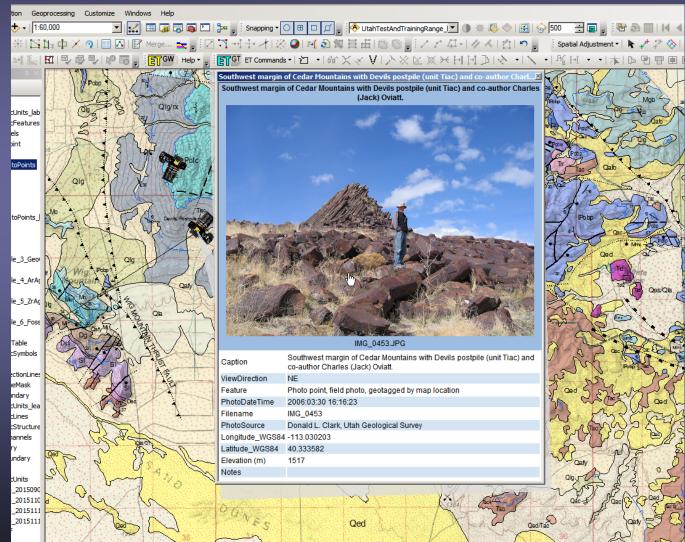


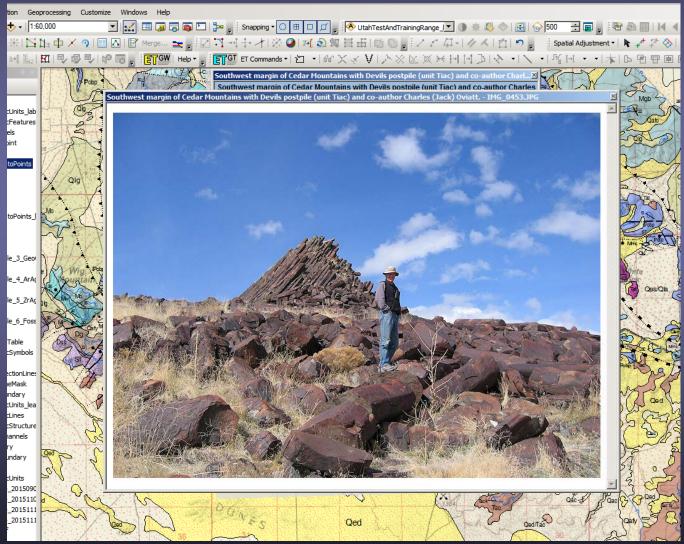
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Pros		Cons
•	Accessing the images using the ArcMap HTML Popup Tool is intuitive, and gives the best user experience Images are embedded in geodatabase Images open in custom ArcMap viewing window (XSL template) that includes select feature attributes and photo captions	 The HTML tool only works in the ArcMap Data View



Three Methods

Image Hyperlinks

Pros		Cons
•	Accessing the images using the ArcMap Hyperlink Tool is intuitive Image opens in default external image viewer that includes zoom and pan tools	 Hyperlinks only work in ArcMap Data View Images open in default external image viewer instead of an ArcMap window, and don't display photo caption or other attributes; not the best user experience Images are not embedded. A folder of image files must accompany the geodatabase

Images Embedded in Raster Field

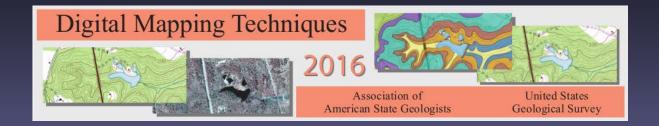
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Images Embedded as Feature Class Attachments (BLOB)

Pros		Cons
•	Accessing the images using the ArcMap HTML Popup Tool is intuitive, and gives the best user experience Images are embedded in geodatabase Images open in custom ArcMap viewing window (XSL template) that includes select feature attributes and photo captions	 The HTML tool only works in the ArcMap Data View

Pros and Cons







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