**Label Manager, ArcMap BFF**

Are you one of those people to whom using ArcMap comes easily? Like it’s smooth sailing to navigate through the software? Yeah, me neither. ArcMap is hard but sometimes you find tools that make your mapping life a lot easier. Label Manager is one those things. I have often called in my ArcMap BFF. It gets me, I can communicate with it, and in the end, it helps me (well, my map) look good. So, if you want to explore label classes, expression queries, placements, abbreviation dictionaries, and more, join us for this Label Manager / Maplex Label Engine session.

Presentation time: 12:40 – 1:10 pm

**12:40 Introduction**

For this presentation, we are going to start with a base map and then employ Label Manager to make it look good.

When I discovered the Labeling Toolbar and Label Manager, it changed my ArcMap life. Then I discovered Maplex Label Engine which you had to purchase as an extension ($2500!). With the advent of 10.x, Maplex because part of the standard package.

First, we are going to set a definition query for the county layer to focus our attention on Oklahoma County. Next, we apply a data frame clip. Data Frame Properties (Layers) / Data Frame tab / Clip Options.

Let’s activate the Labeling Toolbar and get started.

**12:45 Label Manager**

Roads – Zoom to Layer / Double-click to enter symbology / Group everything except I, U, S / Symbolize

Open Label Manager / Roads / Add label classes / Adjust each individually

* I (Interstate) – work through labels characteristics: String, Symbol, Placement Properties
* Others as time allows

Places – Label the same color as symbology (Cherry Cola), explore properties

PLSS Section – Load Label expression, close out of Label Manager, zoom into area on map.

**12:55 Abbreviation Dictionaries (& Key Numbering)**

Labeling drop-down / Abbreviation Dictionaries / New – Schools

MS "Middle School" Translation

HS "High School" Translation

JHS "Junior High School" Translation

ES "Elementary School" Translation

Open Label Manager – okpublicschools / Label Field (name) / Properties – Fitting Strategy / check Abbreviate label - Options

**Key Numberings**

Labeling drop-down / Key Numbering / New – Places

Open Label Manager – places / Label Field (NAME) / Properties – Fitting Strategy / check Key numbering / Click Options – Group Name: Places

**1:05 The End**