Helpful Hint—How to Determine Latitude/Longitude and UTM Coordinates in ArcMap

Applies to Version:	Toolkit SP-4
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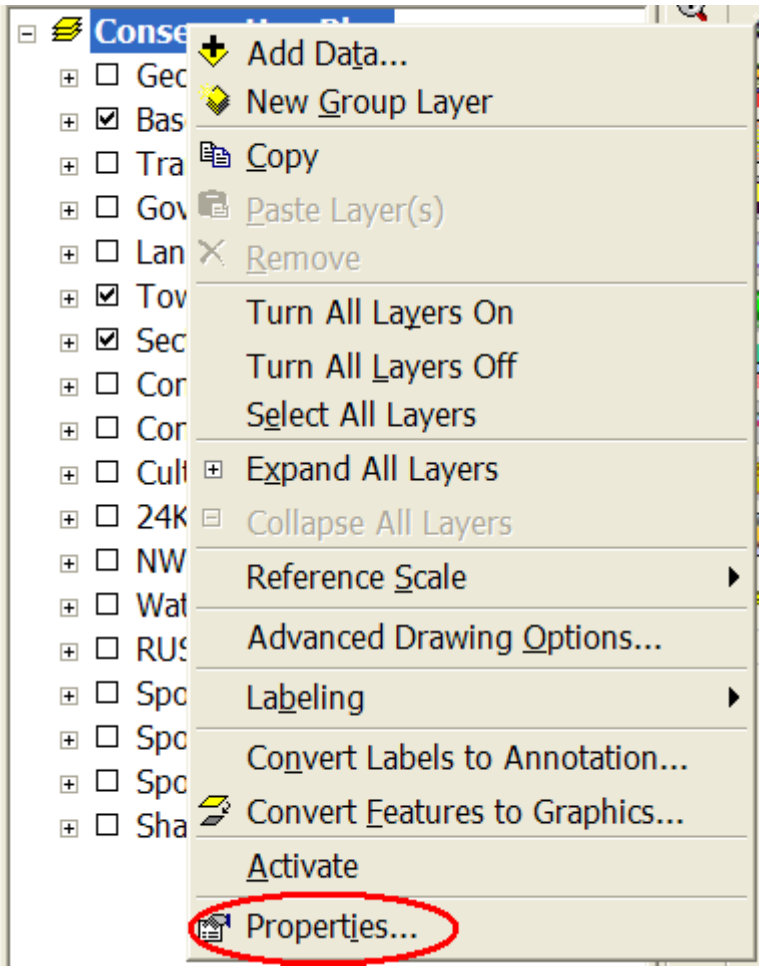
Helpful Hint Date:	6-19-2008

Background: It is sometimes useful to be able to identify a location in ArcMap using either latitude/longitude or UTM coordinates. This document explains a simple way to do so.

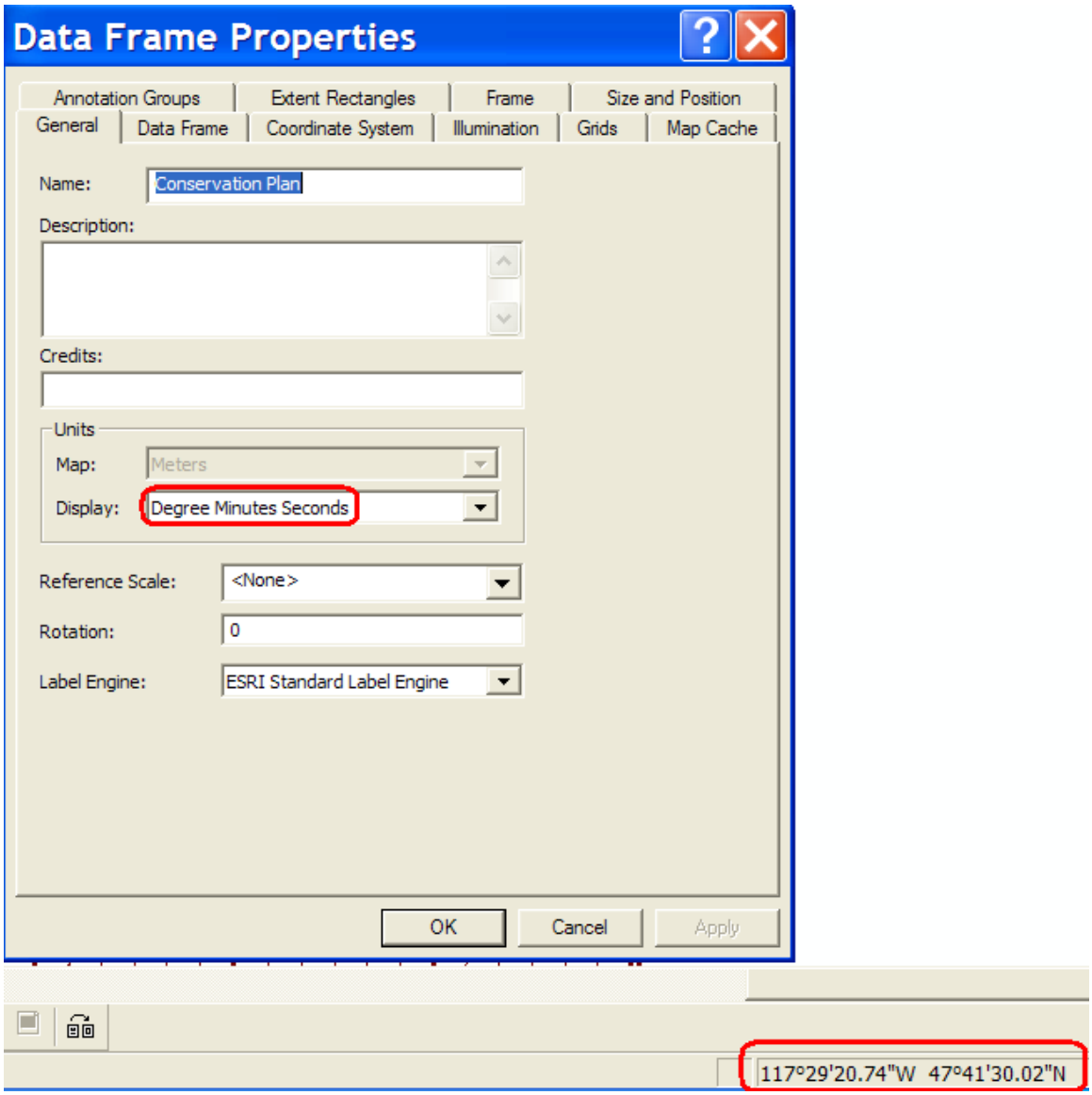
Instructions:

Method 1 – Data Frame Properties

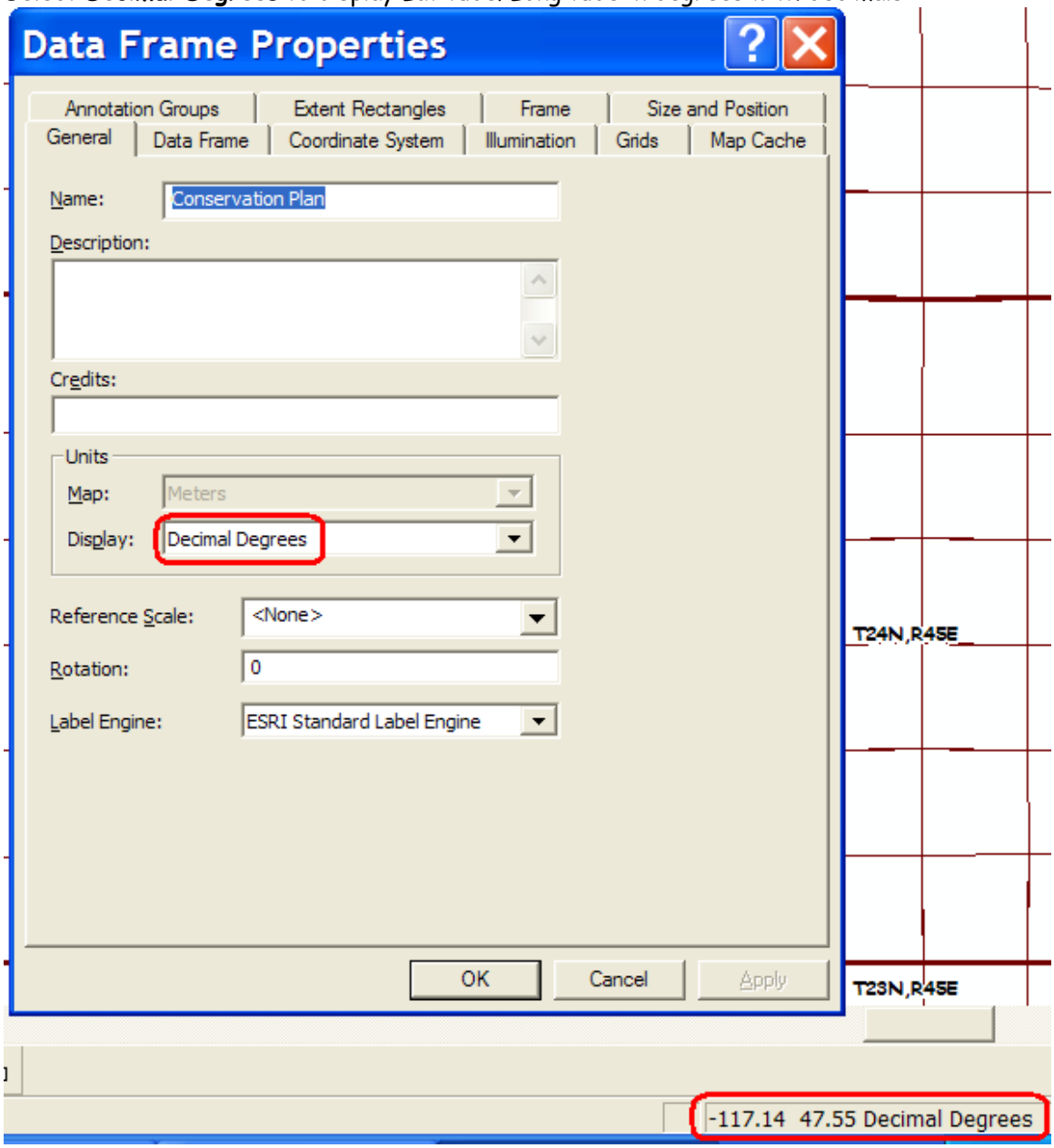
In ArcMap, right mouse click on the map, or select the data frame in the table of contents and right mouse click on it. Go to Properties.



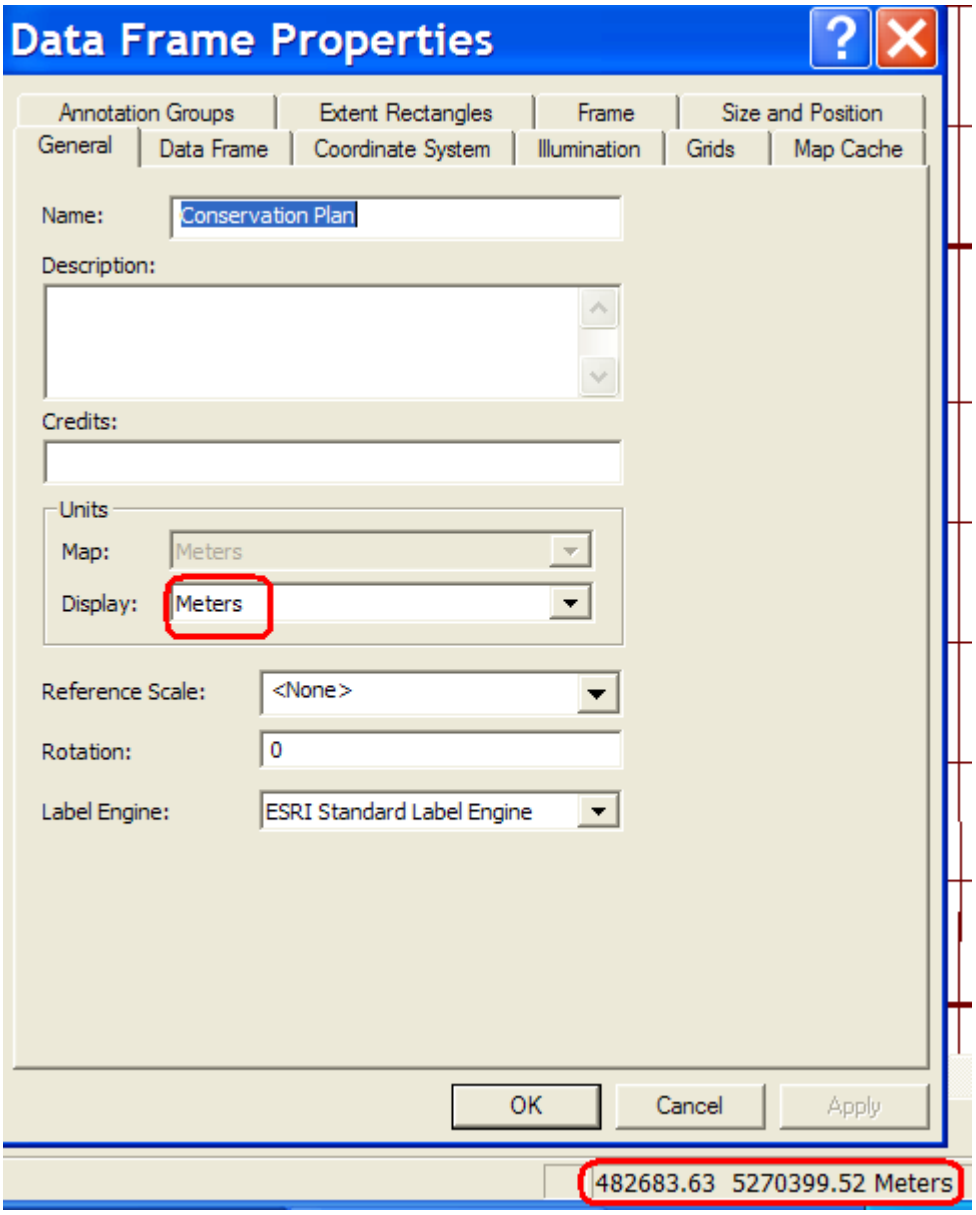
On the **General** tab of **Data Frame Properties**, select **Display** in Degree Minutes Seconds, to show the location of where the cursor is pointing as Latitude, Longitude in the display in the bottom right of ArcMap.



Select **Decimal Degrees** to display Latitude/Longitude in degrees with decimals:



For UTM coordinates to be displayed, do the same thing, but choose Meters as the unit of measure.



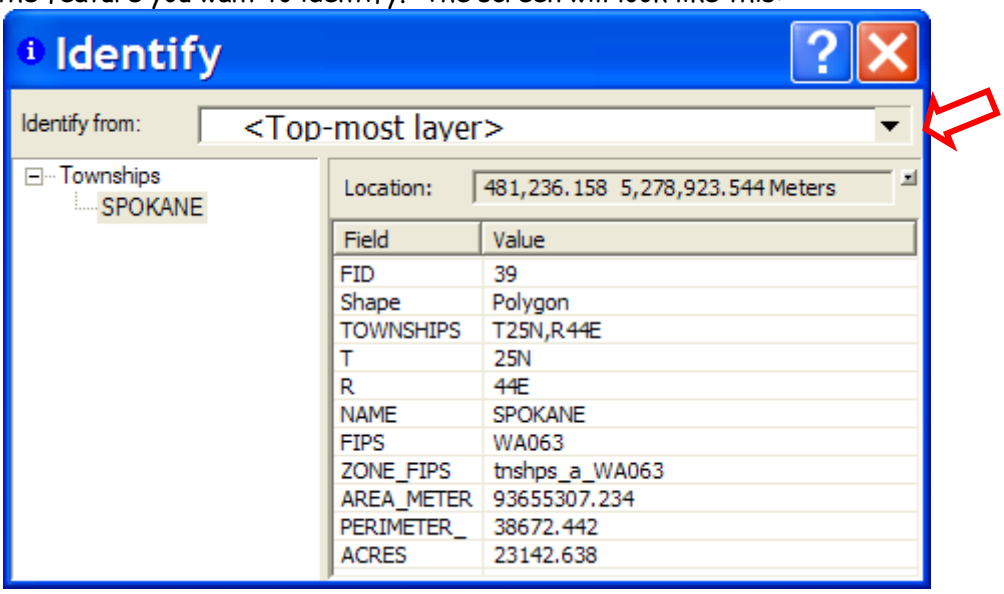
CAUTION: *Change the units back to feet before using the measuring tool to measure distance otherwise, in the example shown above, the results will be in meters.*

Method 2 – Use Identify

The Identify button will show you the location of a feature on the map. In this example, I have selected the Sections layer. The Location will be the center of the section.

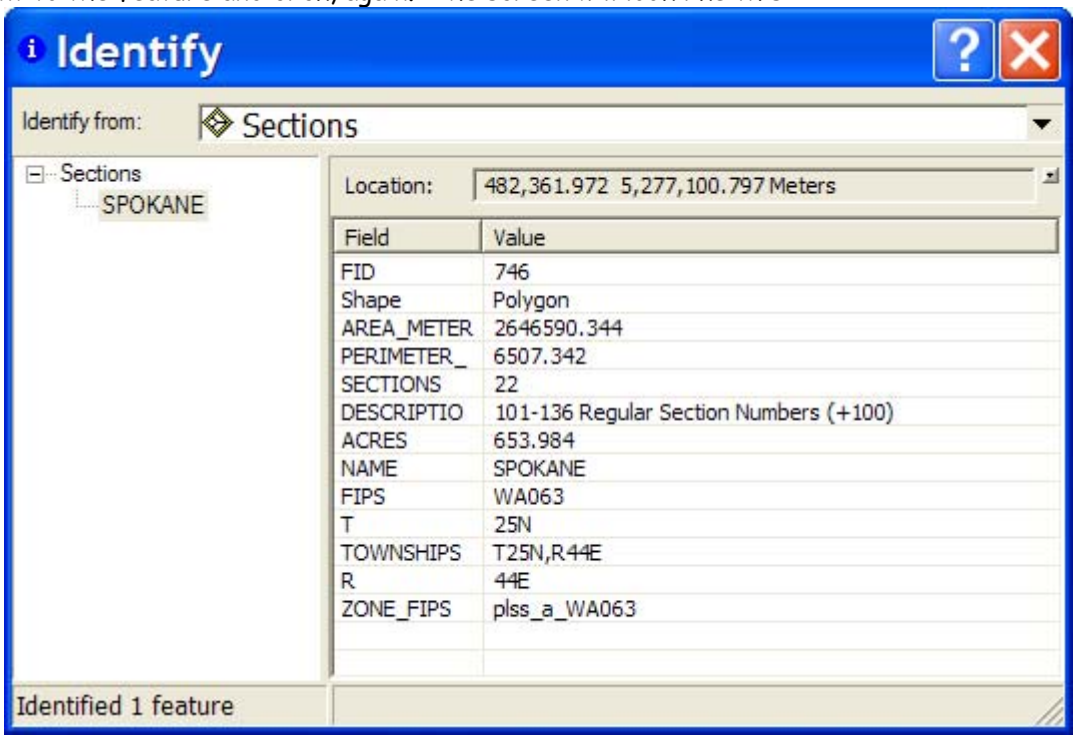
Choose the Identify tool from the ArcGIS toolbar.

Point to the feature you want to identify. The screen will look like this:

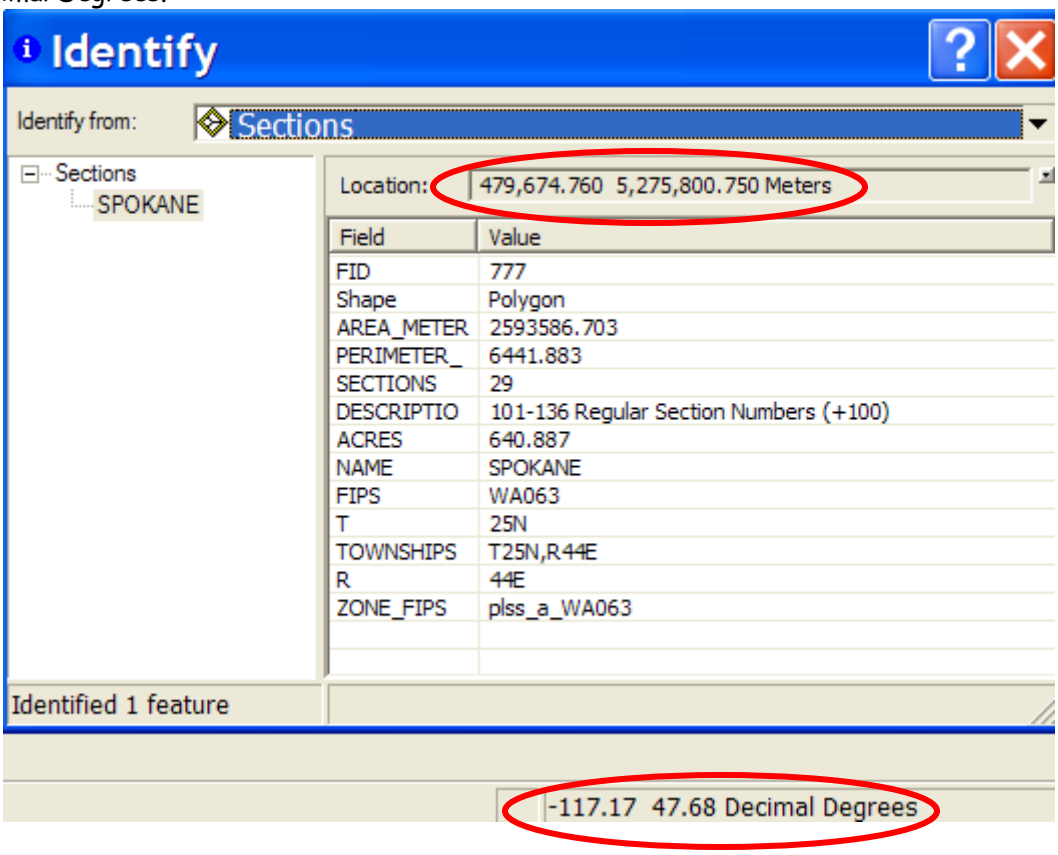


Click on the pull-down arrow next to **Identify from:** and select the layer you want to identify, e.g. Sections.

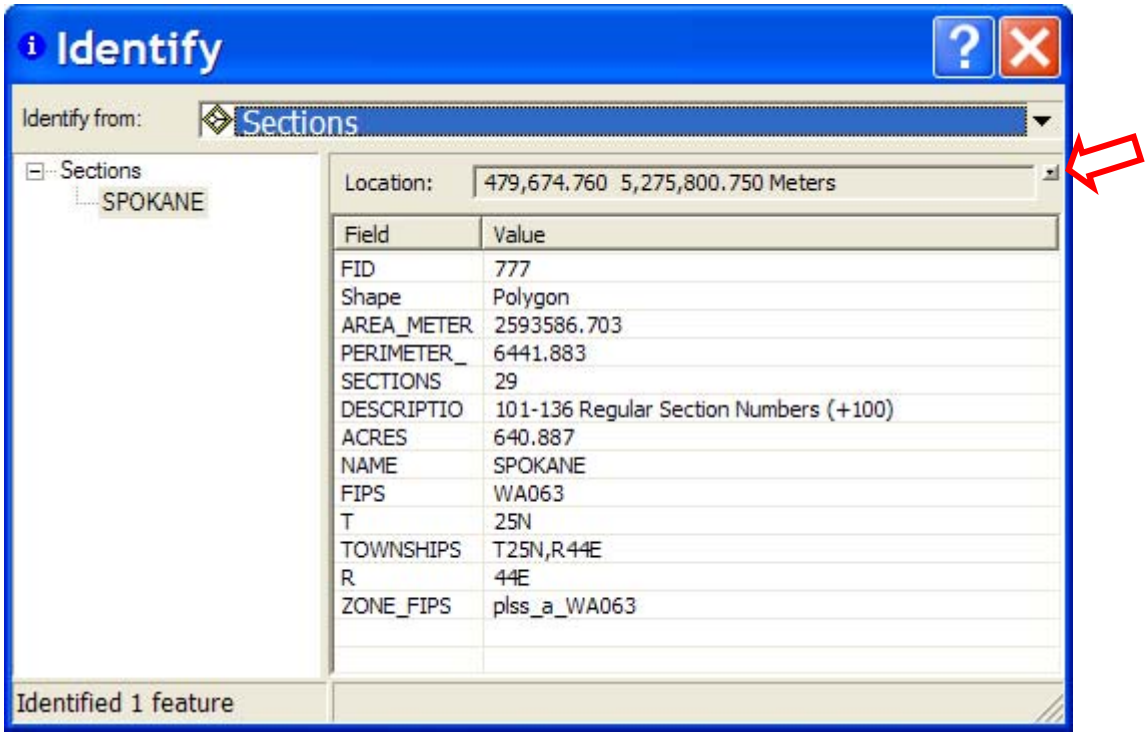
Point to the feature and click, again. The screen will look like this:



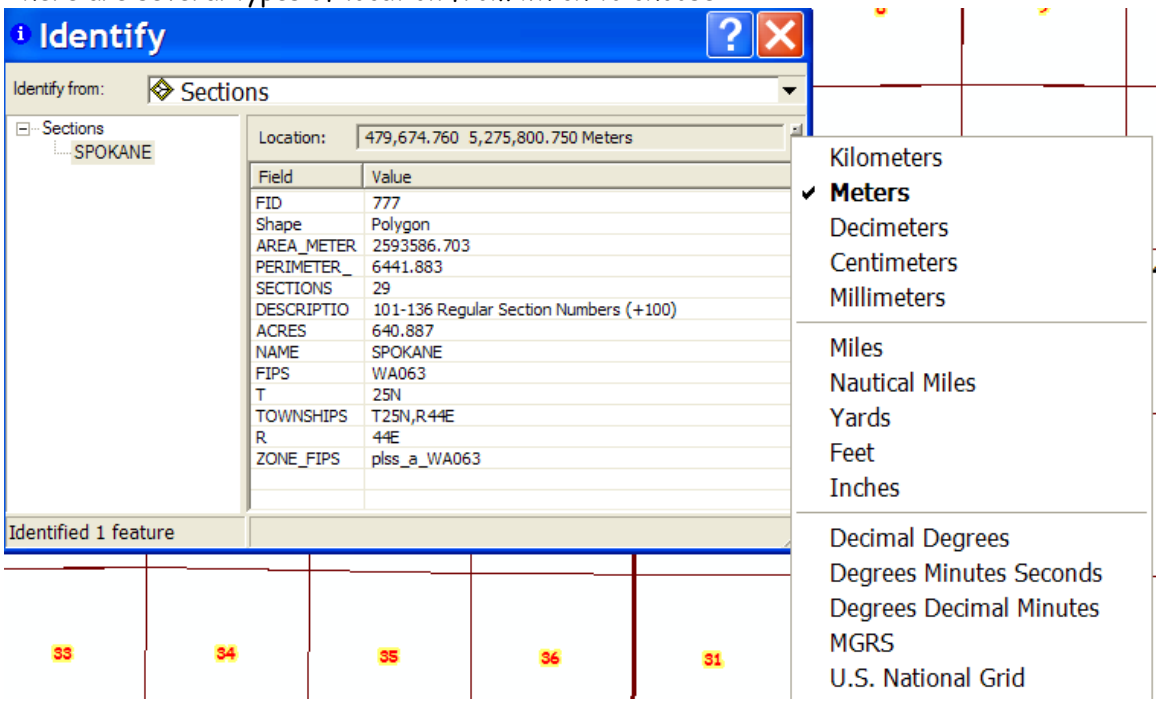
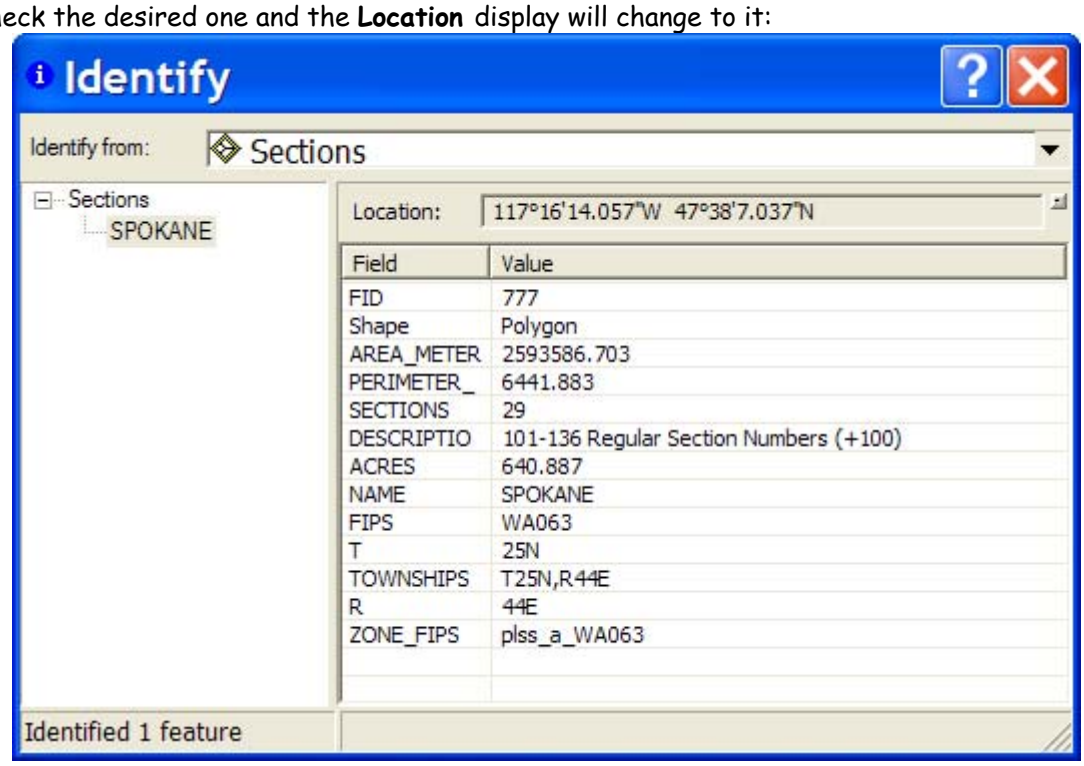
The location is listed in meters (UTM coordinates) even though the Data Frame units are Decimal Degrees.



Change the units for the **Location**: by clicking on the small drop down arrow on the Identify screen.



There are several types of location from which to choose:



Check the desired one and the **Location** display will change to it: