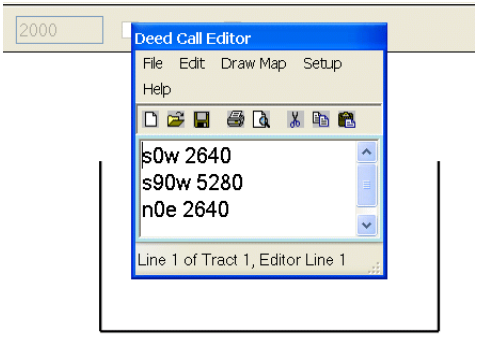
Using an All Topo Maps graphic as a Background Image

The "All Topo Maps" (ATMs) software is an application backed on digital USGS Topo(graphic) maps, grouped on a state or multiple adjacent state areas. With the ATMs, you have the ability to seam together the needed parts of adjacent single sheet USGS topo maps to make yourself a "Big Topo", custom topo map of exactly the area that you wanted.



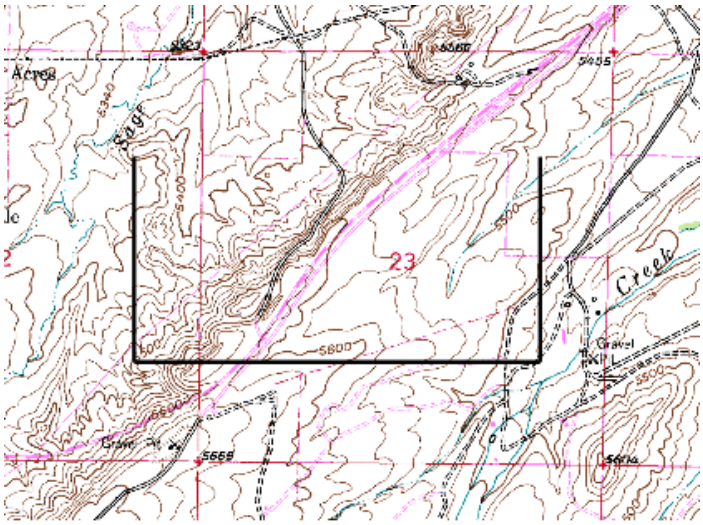
This section in this seminar book will talk about bringing in an ATMs background image to display behind the NET Deed Plotter (NDP) image. While that is a good feature, you will also find that the editing options are limited. I am of the opinion that what you really need is the ATMs software and an Add-On tool called the DXF Interchange Option. Starting in the NDP, the saving the file in a "DXF Feet" format, the with that option, you can import your NDP-DXF saved file into the ATMs, and display OVER the topo maps, where you have many more editing options.

But, to come the other way, that is bring in background images to be UNDER the NDP parcels, let's start there and create a "U" shaped parcel to fit along the bottom of a section of land as will be seen on a ATMs topo map.

Also, (it is faintly shown here), but you can see that I set the scale to be 2000 or 1"=2,000'. On topo maps, you read the scale of 1=24000, they are meaning 1'=24,000', which is the same as 1"=2,000'. (Just do the math. Change the 1' to be 12"/12", then divide both sides by 12.)

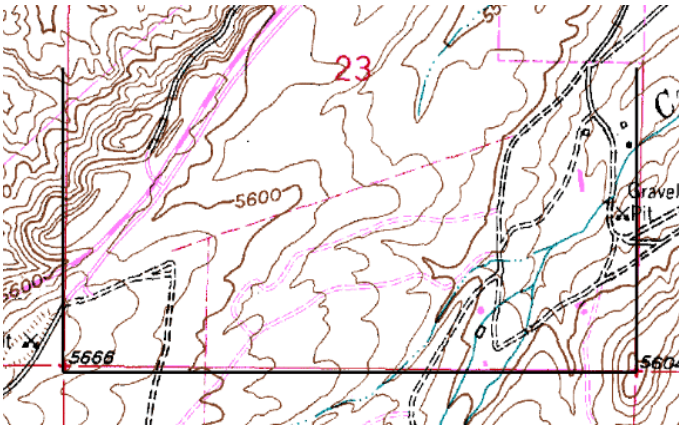
So, 1"=2,000', which would be called the "natural scale" of those USGS topo maps. Referring back to the NDP HELP files, when you are obtaining background map files, you MUST get both the Image file and the associated World File. That's a very important point,

that you know the "natural scale" of the background image. That's one reason that the ATMs are such a great source, is that this scale is set.

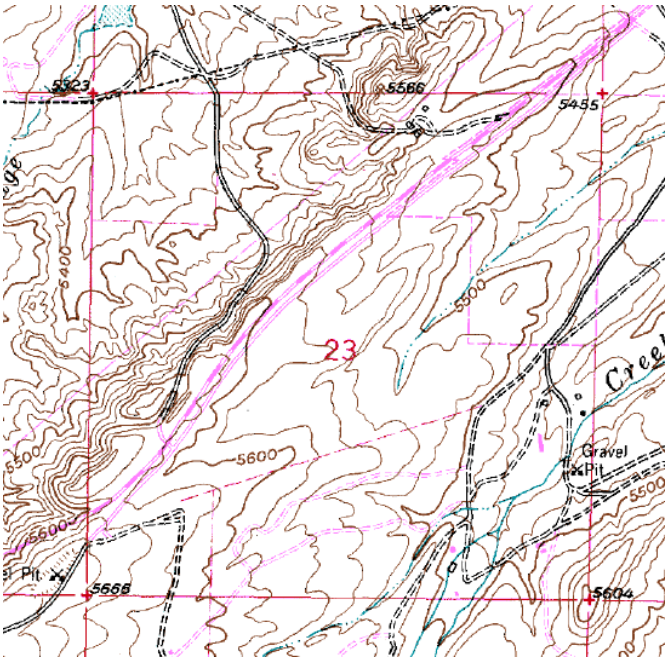


So then, here is part of a USGS topo map from the All Topo Maps software, that was saved and exported as a TIF image.

Again, by knowing the "natural" scale of the map AND it being "geo-smart" which brings along a world file when saved, then we did not have to go through the "creating" a world file process, as needed when a world file is missing.



When the All Topo Maps background is opened, then the NET Deed Plotter image is over the map, but always in the wrong place to begin.



Now when moved to match the SE corners of the Section and the angle of the "U" shaped parcel, the "U" needs to be rotated slightly, but it is at the correct scale.

Since we can make the NET Deed Plotter file to be "Geo-Smart", if we get the UTM coordinates from the ATMs, and input them as the point to tie the "U" parcel to, then when you open the ATMs background, the beginning of the "U" parcel attaches to the UTM, as inputted. And like the other image, it needs rotated since these section lines is NOT Cardinal South, West & North.

This shows some text added and the Deed Calls on the Lines.