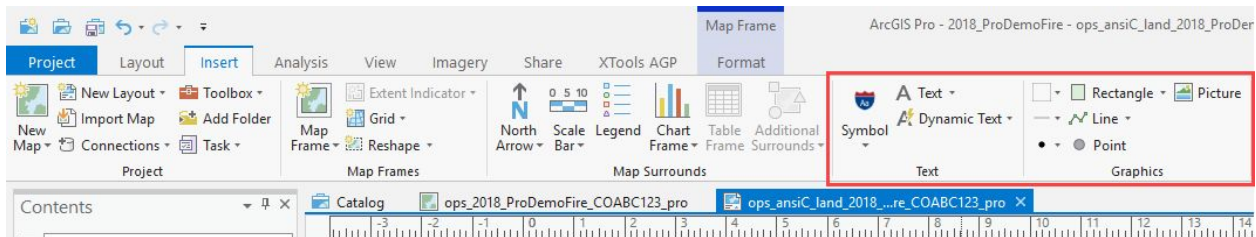08/07/2018

Working with Text in ArcGIS Pro

2019 Update: *All the layouts included in the Pro Project Template (found in the* [2019 GSTOP Folder Structure](#)*) include dynamic text for all text elements by default. Instructions and static text alternatives can be found on each layout.*

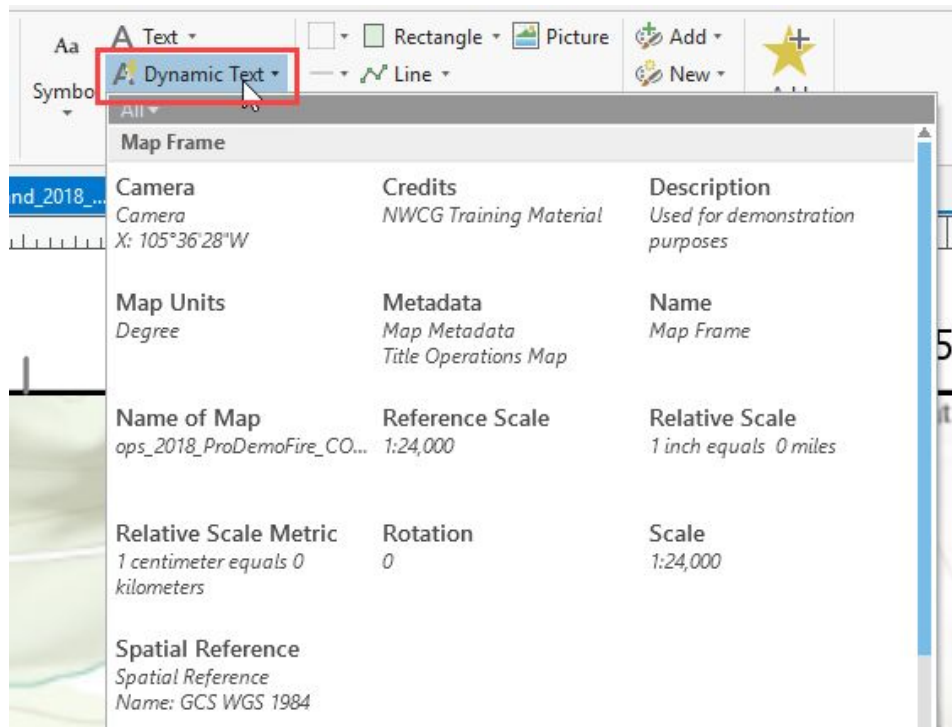Graphic text can currently only be added to Layouts in ArcGIS Pro.
With a Layout open, text and graphics can be added from the Insert tab on the ribbon.
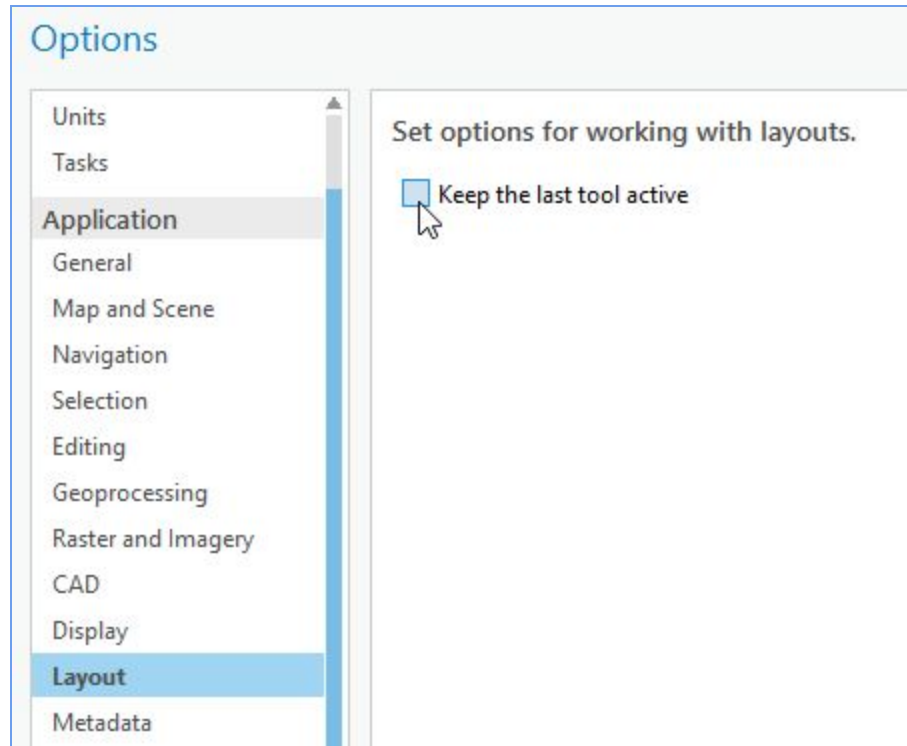

Dynamic Text

[Dynamic text in Pro](#) works the same as in ArcMap. It automatically displays the current value of its respective property.
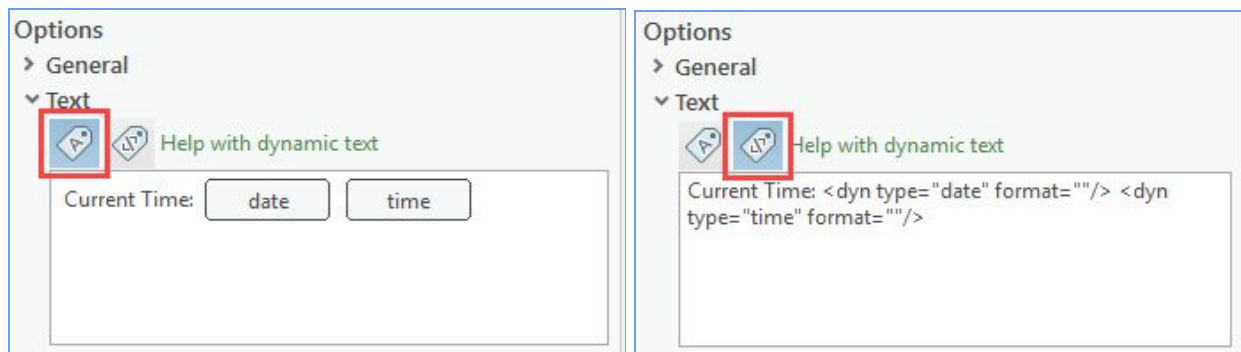Clicking on the Dynamic Text dropdown presents the options and shows a preview of the text that will display.

Once added to the layout, the application switches to selection mode to allow for resizing and replacement. If adding multiple graphic shapes, pictures, or text to a layout, the option to keep the last tool active instead of switching to selection mode can be enabled on the Project tab, under Options, then Layout in the dialog box.

Options

Units	Set options for working with layouts.
Tasks	
Application	☐ Keep the last tool active
General	
Map and Scene	
Navigation	
Selection	
Editing	
Geoprocessing	
Raster and Imagery	
CAD	
Display	
Layout	
Metadata	

Editing the text element is done from the Format Text pane. It can be viewed in either Tag View or Text View. Tag View presents each piece of dynamic text as a button that can clicked to modify and Text view presents the raw text string.

Options
> General
∨ Text
  🔲 🖉 Help with dynamic text
  Current Time: [date] [time]

Options
> General
∨ Text
  🖉 🔲 Help with dynamic text
  Current Time: <dyn type="date" format=""/> <dyn type="time" format=""/>

The Format property can be edited to change how the dynamic text displays.
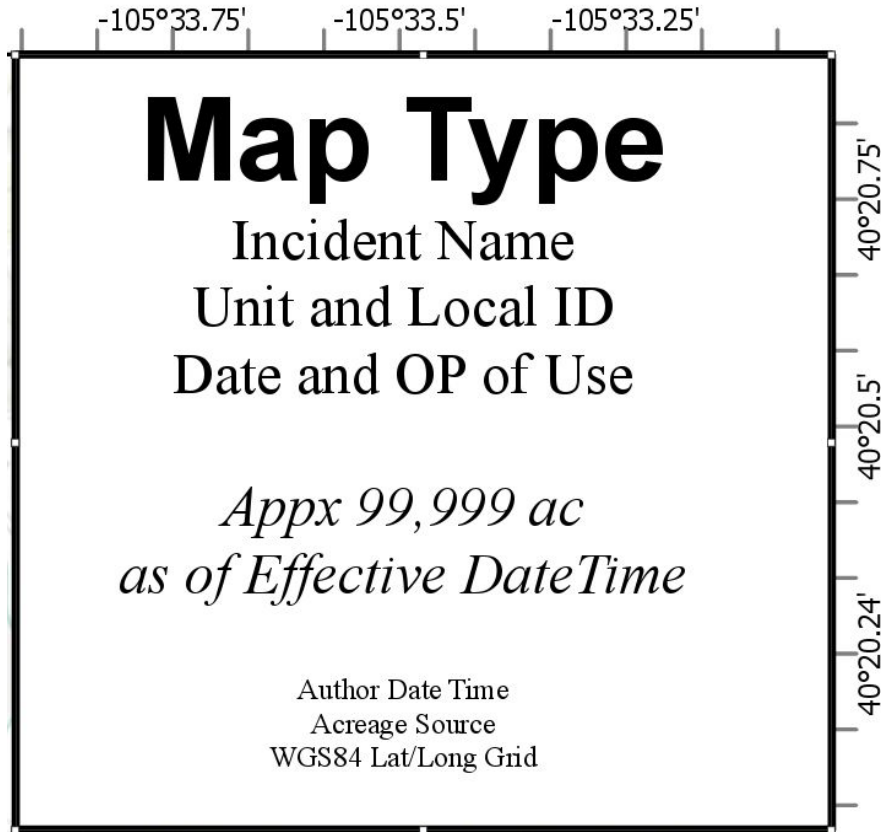*<dyn type="date" format="short"/>* will display the current date as digits.
<dyn type="time" format="HHmm"/> will display the current time in 24 hour format.
The full list of properties for Date and Time can be found in the Esri documentation.

Formatting Tags

[Text formatting tags](#) allow for the creation of mixed-format text within a single element.

The text shown above contains 2 different fonts, 3 sizes, and bold and italic characters. Instead of using 4 different text elements, it can be written with tags as shown below.

\<BOL\>\<FNT name = "Arial" scale="200"\>Map Type\</FNT\>\</BOL\>
Incident Name
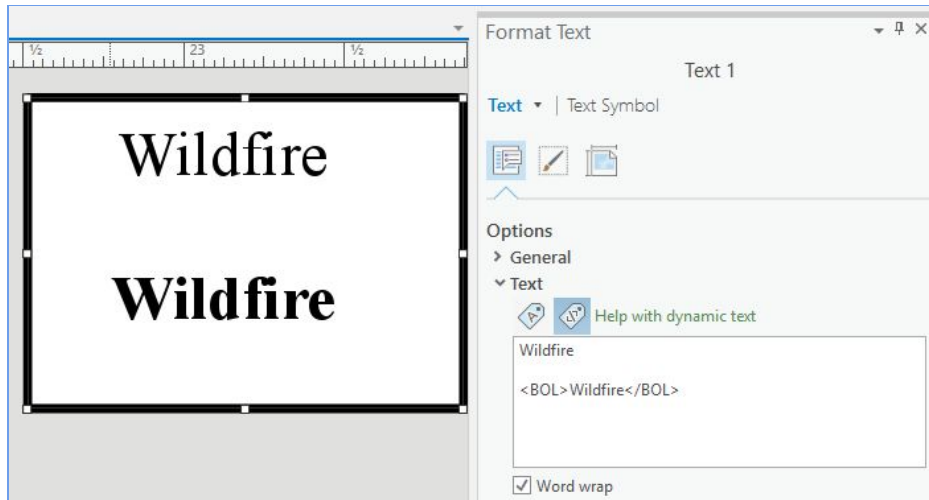Unit and Local ID
Date and OP of Use

\<ITA\>Appx 99,999 ac
as of Effective DateTime\</ITA\>

\<FNT scale="50"\>Author Date Time
Acreage Source
WGS84 Lat/Long Grid\</FNT\>

There is a start tag and an end tag. The text between the two is what is modified. For example, <BOL>Wildfire</BOL> would bold the word Wildfire (note the slash at the start of the end tag).

Some tags have properties that can be changed within the start tag. For example, the <FNT> tag has the properties Name, Size, and Scale (any or all can be used at once). So <FNT name = "Arial" scale = "200">Wildfire</FNT> would change the word Wildfire to the font Arial and make it twice as big as the default size.

Formatting tags can be used in label expressions as well. However, the syntax rules ares slightly different. See the Esri documentation for more information and examples.

Polygon Text

Unlike dynamic text or the simple, first text option in the New Text dropdown, the Polygon Text options insert a multi-part element that already contains a Background, Border, and Shadow.

The extra elements are set to No Color by default so they are not initially visible, but can easily be modified in the Format Text pane.