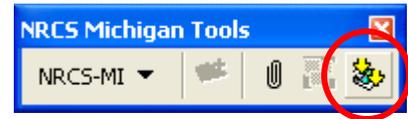


Soil Symbols

The SSURGO soil data includes soil survey special feature points and lines as well as soil map unit polygons. The NRCS-MI Soil Symbols tool makes it easy to add and symbolize these special features in an ArcMap layer.

Loading Special Feature Layers

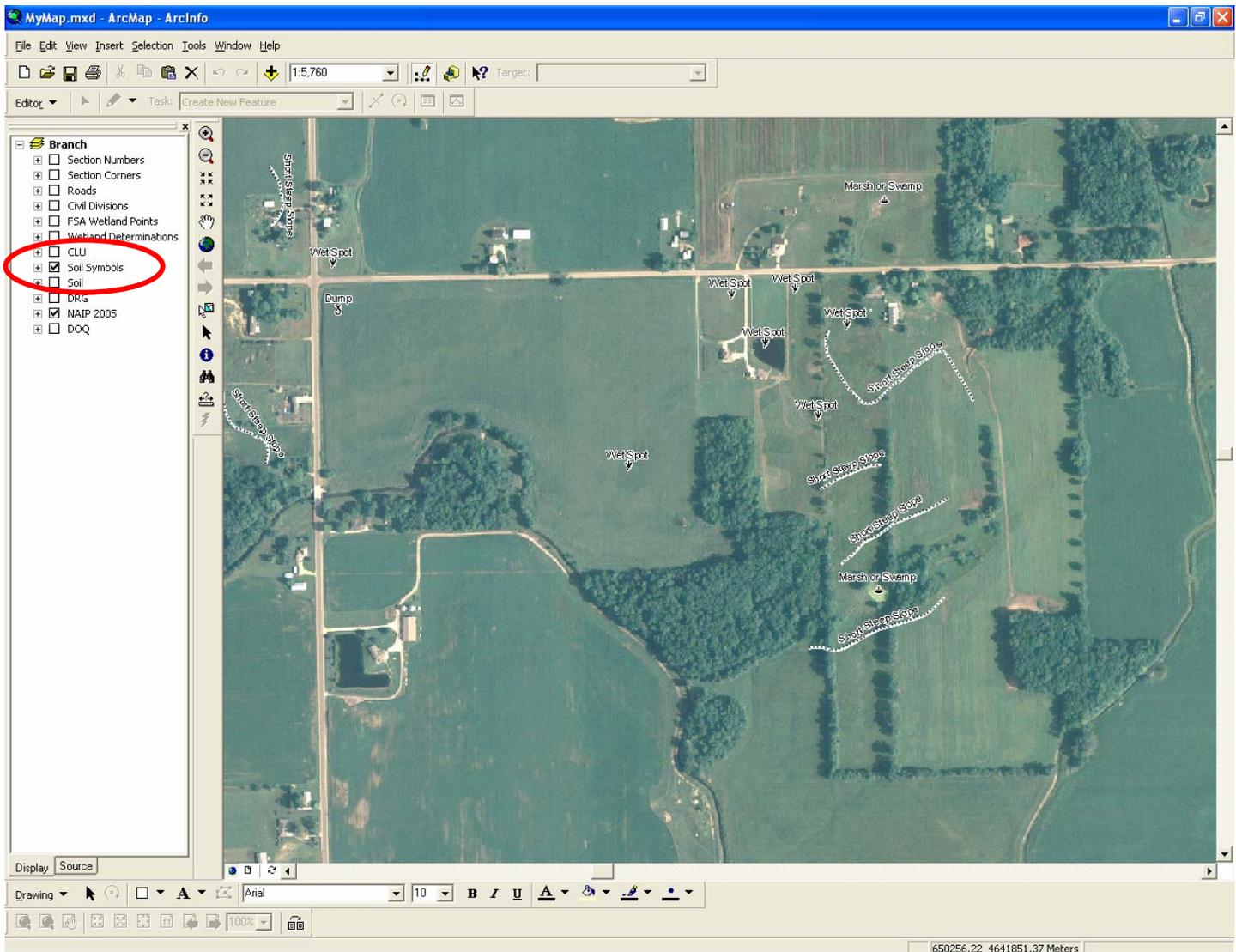


1. Click the **Soil Symbols** tool on the NRCS-MI toolbar.

Note: The button will be “grayed-out” if a SSURGO soil map unit layer is not present in the current project.

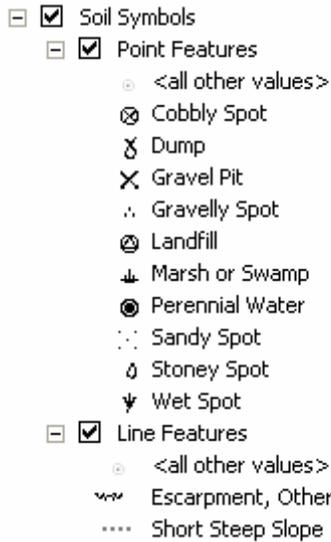
2. A new layer named “Soil Symbols” is added above the “Soil” layer. Special features within the current extent will be displayed using standard SSURGO feature symbology.

Example: SSURGO special feature symbols (with labels) on NAIP photography



The Soil Symbols Layer

The “Soil Symbols” layer created by the Soil Symbols tool is a special type of ArcMap layer called a “group layer”. ArcMap group layers allow you to manage multiple layers as one.

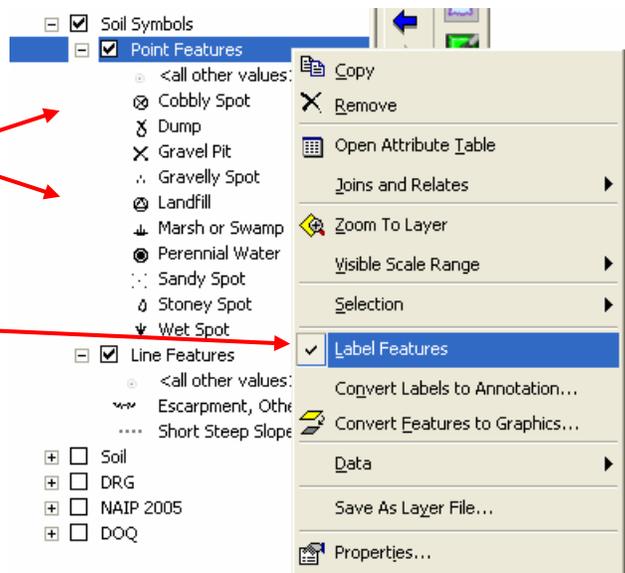


For example, if we expand the “Soil Symbols” layer by clicking the “+” sign, we see that it actually contains two layers: “**Point Features**” and “**Line Features**”. Each of these layers can be managed individually as with any other ArcMap layer.

The “Soil Symbols” group layer acts as a kind of “master switch”, controlling both “sub-layers” at the same time. If we turn on the “Soil Symbols” layer, both the “Point Features” and the “Line Features” layers display. Turning off the “Soil Symbols” layer shuts both layers off.

Layer and symbol properties may be altered to suit individual users’ preferences.

To display labels, right-click on an individual feature layer and choose **Label Features**.



Additional Information

- A separate “Soil Symbols” group layer is created for each soil map unit polygon layer currently present in the ArcMap table of contents (TOC).
- The tool creates a table in the current project named “soilsf_symdesc_t_mi.txt”. This table is used as a cross-referencing index to link the SSURGO special feature attributes with the correct symbology.
- If not already present on the PC, the tool copies in a custom ArcMap style (“NRCSMI SSURGO Special Features.style”) from the detected soil geodata location.