

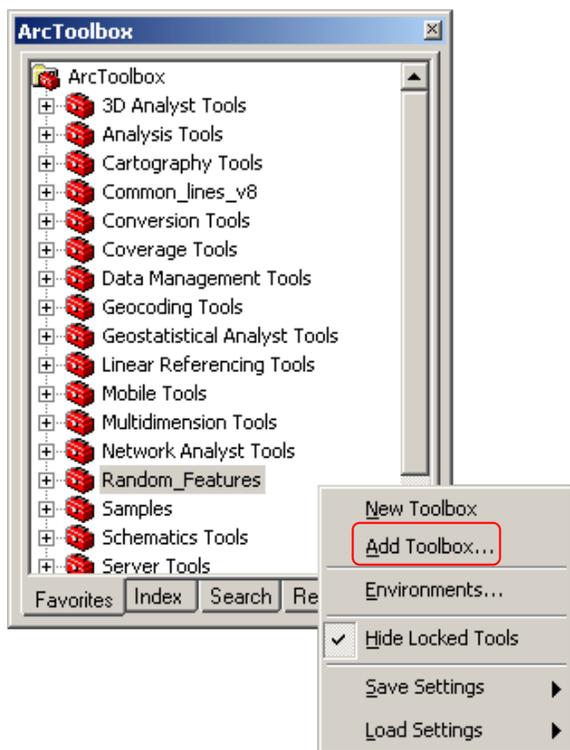
## MAKE RANDOM SELECTION OF POLYGONS FOR SOIL SURVEY UPDATES AND EVALUATIONS INSTALLATION:

Download the file:

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1258044&ext=zip](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1258044&ext=zip)

Unzip the file to a directory of your choice.

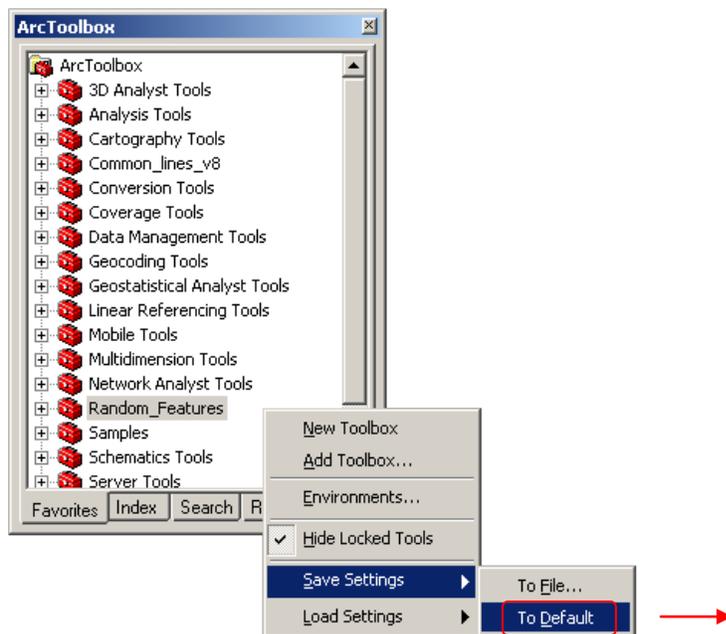
Open ArcMap and open ArcToolbox .



3. Right-click anywhere in the whitespace of ArcToolbox and select **Add Toolbox**

Navigate to where you unzipped the Random Features file and select a toolbox that corresponds with your version of ArcMap and select Open. Random\_Features is for ArcMap version 9.3 and Random\_Features\_v92 is for ArcMap version 9.2. (To determine which version of ArcMap you are running go to Help > About ArcMap.)

 random_feat_selection.py	2 KB	Python File	5/31/2011 7:52 AM
 Random_Features.tbx	7 KB	TBX File	7/8/2011 7:05 AM
 Random_Features_v92.tbx	7 KB	TBX File	7/8/2011 7:07 AM

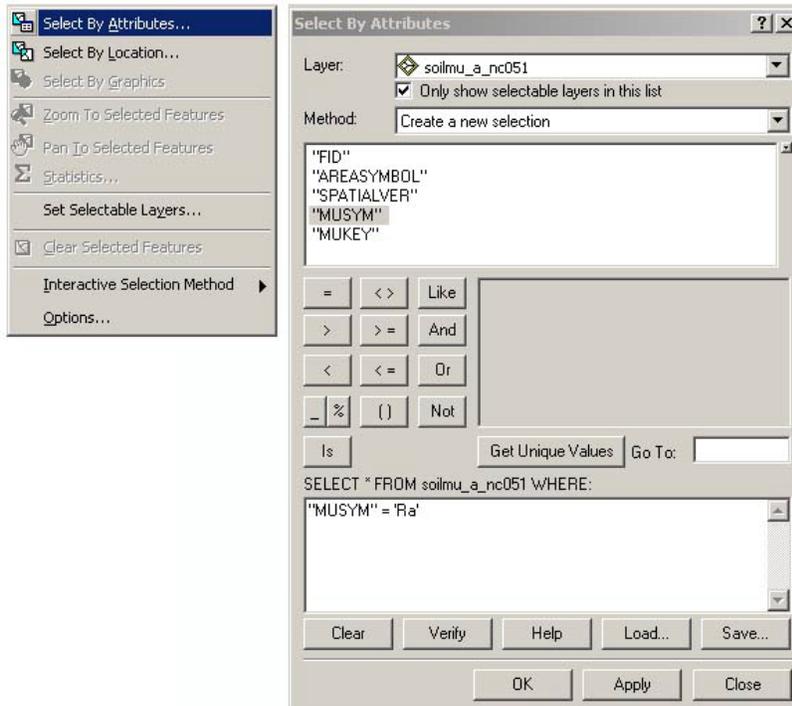


5. In order to save the Random\_Features Toolbox permanently into ArcMap, right-click anywhere in the whitespace of ArcToolbox and select **Save Settings > To Default**. The tool should now load every time you open ArcMap. (If ArcCatalog is also open, it is good practice to repeat this process in ArcToolbox there as well.)

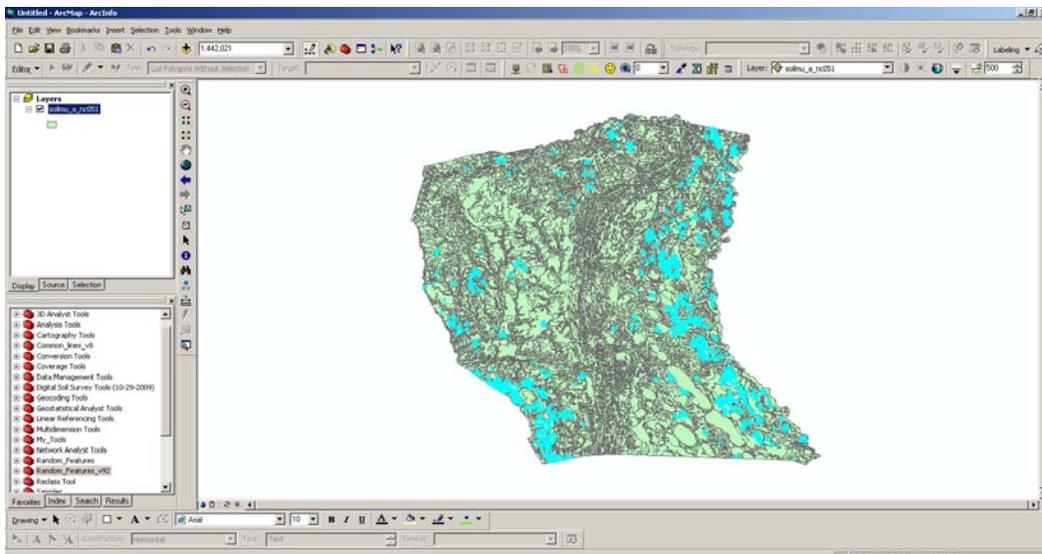
## USING THE TOOL:

The Random Features tool will run on a Feature Layer (Geodatabase or Shapefile) that may or may not currently have selected features. Normally, a soil scientist would want to target an individual mapunit and randomly select features for evaluation or documentation purposes. As in the following example.

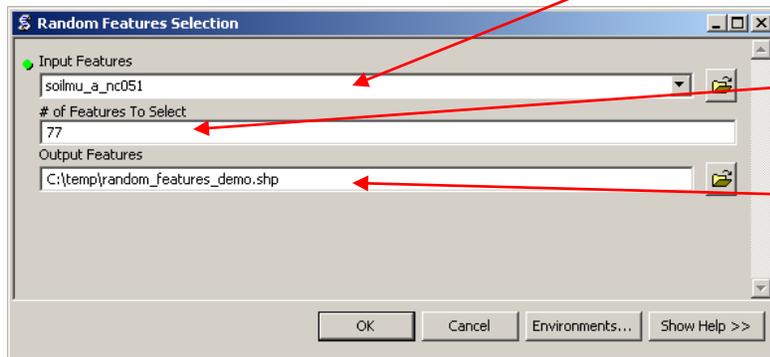
Select the mapunit of interest using Selection > Select by Attributes.



Resulting in 381 selected features.



When the tool is run, there are 3 required inputs.

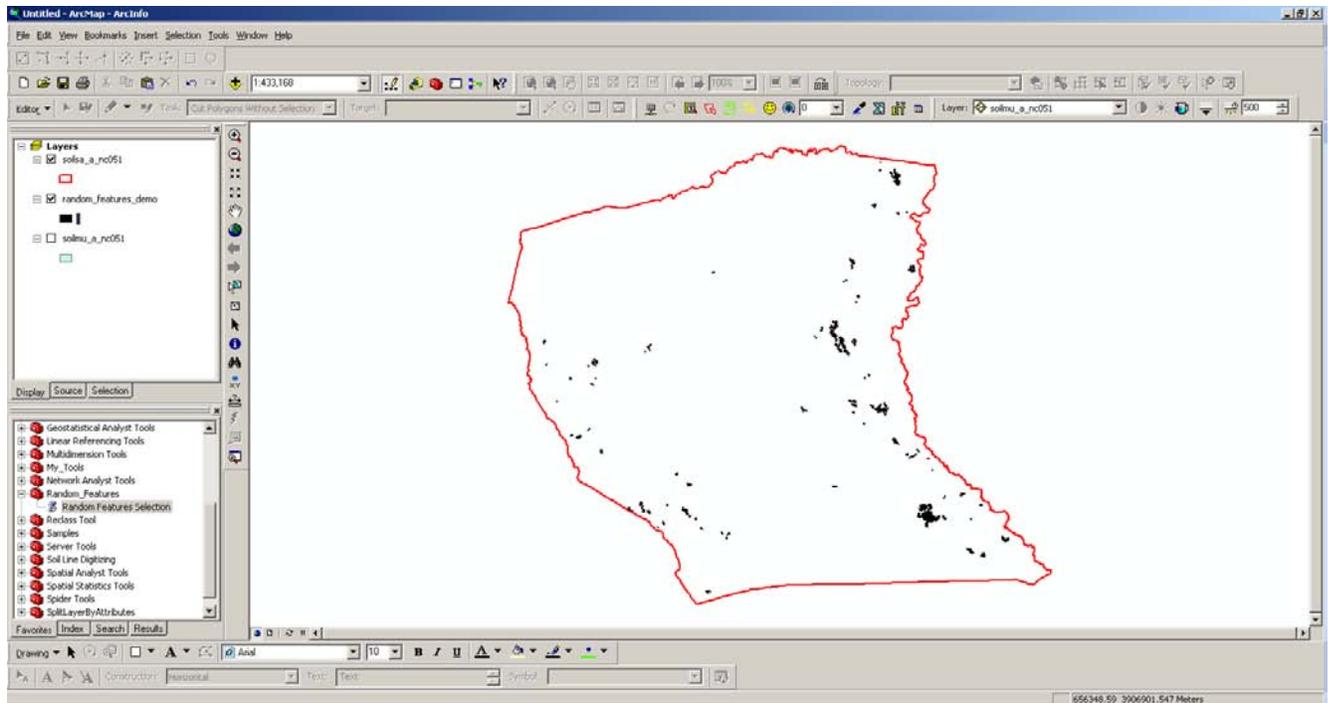


1. The feature layer (soils) that you would like to make a random selection on.

2. The number of features you would like to randomly select.

3. The output layer of random features.

If the layer does not automatically load, you will need to add it using the Add Data  button or grab it from ArcCatalog.



## CONSIDERTIONS:

You will likely want to randomly select a greater number of features than you are actually targeting as some of the selected features will be impractical to get to (distance from road, a shopping center now covers one of the features, etc.)

You are not required to have features selected to use the tool.

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