Adding Soil Survey Special Features to ArcMap

Abstract
This document outlines the process to add the Special Features data for a soil survey to any ArcMap Project. This process adds symbolized lines and points to the map. This guide requires that the user has previously run the Download_Geodata.bat script in order to setup geodata files on their local hard drive.

Steps
*Click Add Data – Navigate to C:\layer_files\<county>\Other_Layers – Select <County Name> Soil Survey Special Features.lyr – Click Add

Details
1. In your ArcMap project, **click** the Add Data button.
2. In the Add Data window, **navigate** to C:\layer_files\<county>\Other_Layers.
   (Note that you may need to use the Connect to Folder button if you’ve never previously mapped the C: drive to your ArcMap Folder Connections.)
3. **Select** the <County Name> Soil Survey Special Features.lyr file.

4. **Click Add**.

5. The layers for lines and special features will be added to your map in a single group layer.  
   (Note: If symbols appear to be incorrect, you may need the NRCS Fonts added to your system. Contact the State GIS Coordinator for assistance.)
Using Soils Special Feature Points and Lines

Those of you familiar with paper copies of soil survey reports will recognize the Soils Special Feature Points and Lines. Soil scientists used these features when the scale of the soil map would not permit small map unit delineations to be made. In order to convey the form of the landscape, these symbols can be quite helpful. In addition, some of the water features like, Marsh or Swamp, Wet Spot, Muck Spot or Un-drained spot, can be useful in doing wetland determinations. The kind and number of symbols included may vary from county to county, although there are a number of standard symbols. Here are some examples of old maps from White County, Indiana.