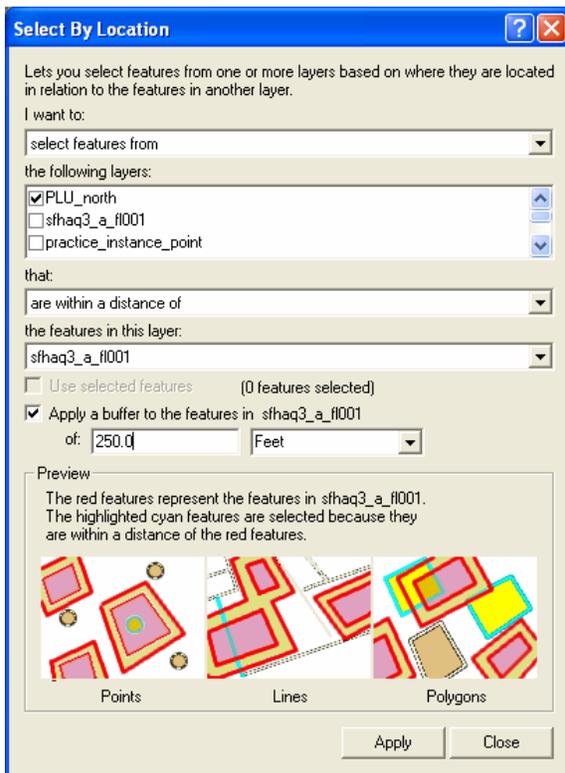


2007-002 FEMA Q3 Floodplain Buffer Evaluation



This document provides instructions for determining whether a planning land unit (PLU) is located within 250 feet of the 100-year base floodplain boundary, as shown in FEMA Q3 geospatial datasets. These instructions assume that NRCS planners have a working knowledge of the Customer Service Toolkit v5.3 and ArcGIS functions, and are familiar with the “Guidelines for Using Digital Floodplain Boundary Maps” (FOTG Section I-Maps, page 25).

1. Launch Customer Service Toolkit v5.3
2. Verify that Toolkit GIS User Level is set to *Advanced* (*Tools -> Preferences -> GIS Tools*)
3. Open a Toolkit customer folder, then click on the Customer File tab and open an ArcMap document (*.mxd) located in the ArcGIS_Projects folder.
4. Create/Load PLU and add 100-year floodplain layer (e.g. sfhaq3_a_f1001.lyr)
5. Select PLU feature(s) within 250 feet of base floodplain boundaries.
 - 5.1. From ArcGIS menu, select *Selection -> Selection by location*
 - 5.2. In the dialog box, choose to *select features from* PLU that *are within distance of* 100-year floodplain layer, with a buffer of 250 feet. Click *Apply*; click *Close*.



6. If any feature of the PLU is selected, then that PLU is considered to be within the 250 foot buffer and further consultation is needed to ascertain the flood prone status of the PLU as per instructions listed in the “Guidelines for Using Digital Floodplain Boundary Maps.” Please note that when a geographic feature is selected in ArcMap, its outline color will change to the default selection color (typically a bright turquoise). Feature selection can also be confirmed by opening attribute table of PLU and viewing the number of records selected.



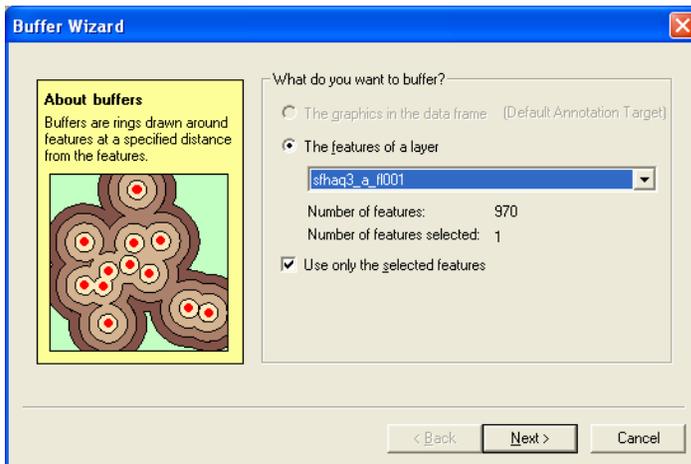
7. **Optional:** If you want to produce a map showing the extent of the 250 foot buffer from surrounding floodplain boundary, use the *Select Features* tool and click on floodplain boundary feature nearest to the PLU.



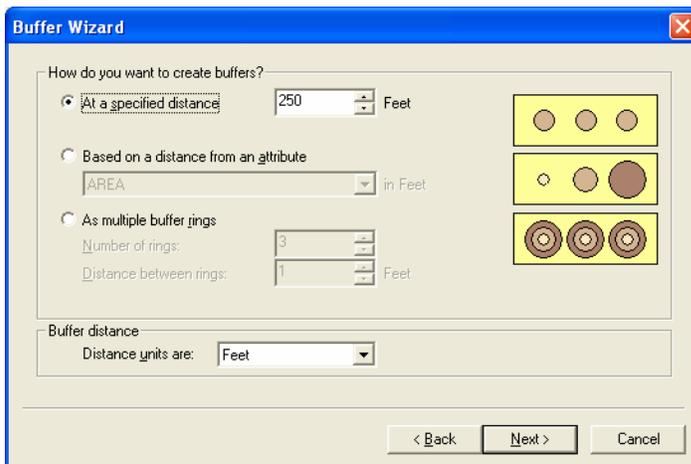
Then create buffer using buffer tool in ArcGIS:

7.1. From ArcGIS menu, select *Tools* -> *Buffer Wizard*

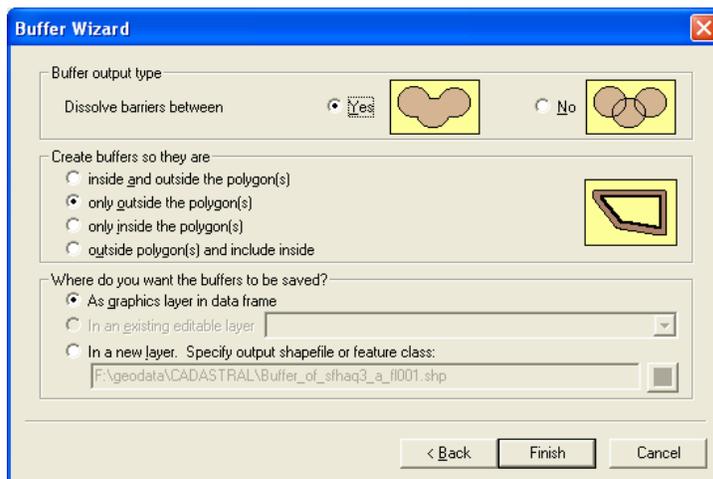
7.1.1. Select 100-year floodplain as layer with feature(s) to be buffered. Click *Next*



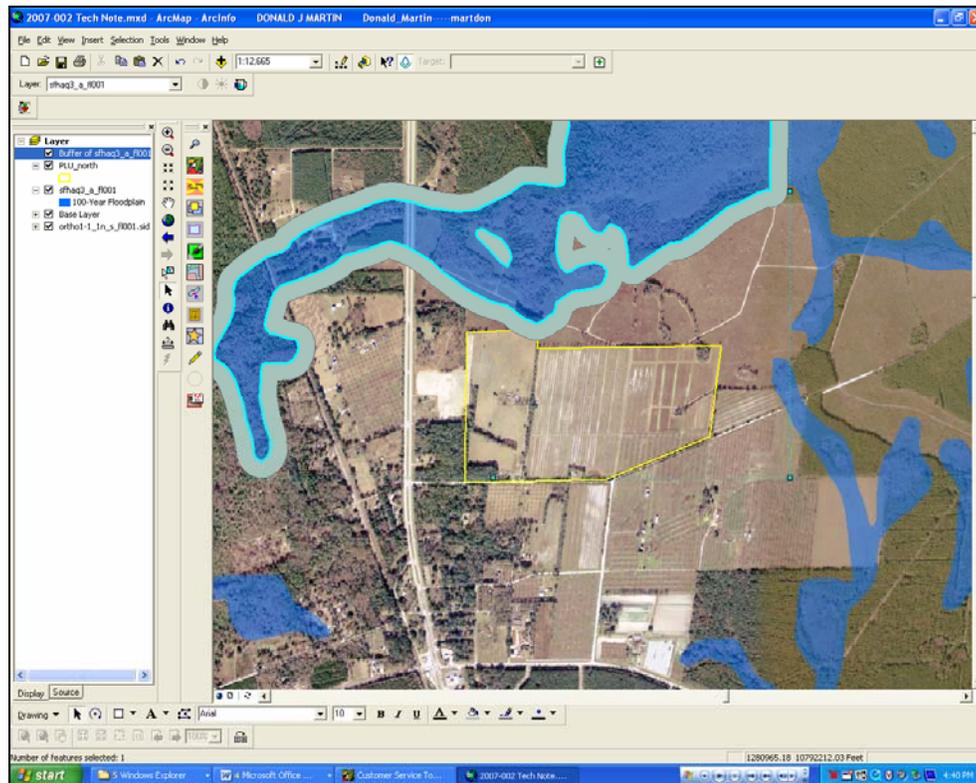
7.1.2. Specify distance and distance unit. Click *Next*



7.1.3. Select buffer type. Click *Finish*.



7.2. A buffer will be drawn in the graphics window and its display properties (fill color, outline size and color) can be edited.



For additional information and support, please contact:

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