

Legacy Master Photos

The FSA county master photos were scanned in 2003 as part of the Common Land Unit (CLU) digitizing process. NRCS-MI has acquired the master photo images and is currently in the process of georeferencing each image. The resulting imagery can be used as a historical reference layer in ArcMap.

NOTE: The Legacy Master Photo (LMP) images are only roughly georeferenced for a “best fit” and are not of orthophotographic quality. The LMP imagery should not be used as a basis for on-screen digitizing of geospatial features.

Starting the LMP Tool

On the NRCS Michigan toolbar, choose **Legacy Master Photos**.

(For information on activating the NRCS-Michigan Toolbar, please refer to the GIS Skill Builder “The NRCS-MI Toolbar”.)

The following requirements must be met in order for the LMP Tool to be activated:

1. The Master Photo imagery must be available for the county of interest.
2. A PLSS sections layer (as defined by NRCS-MI) must be present in the current ArcMap data frame.

The “Legacy Master Photos” option is “grayed-out” unless both of these conditions are met.

NOTE: The LMP georeferencing process is currently underway and is expected to be completed for every Michigan county by the summer of 2007.



Displaying Legacy Master Photos

Click the **Search** button on the Legacy Master Photos toolbar.



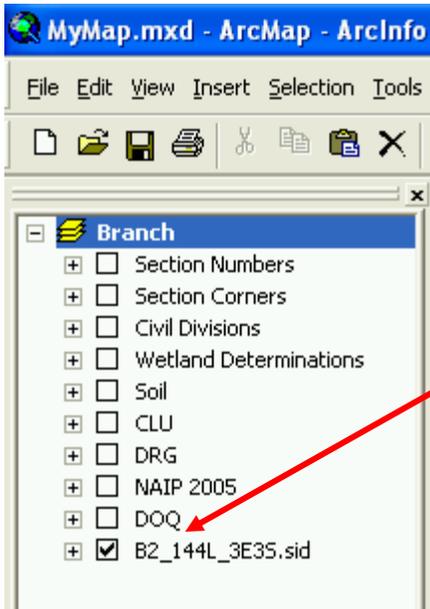
If at any time you wish to stop searching, click the **Cancel** button.

Displaying Legacy Master Photos (continued)

The LMP Tool finds the image which corresponds to the area you are currently zoomed in on...



...and loads it as an image layer in the Table of Contents.



By default, the Master Photo imagery will always be added to the bottom of the TOC.

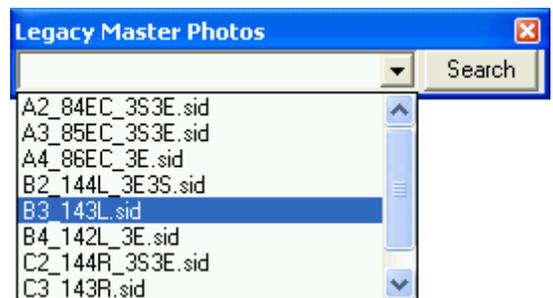
The left-most portion of the image name usually corresponds to the original FSA county photography index - "B2" in this example.

NOTE: Some areas will be covered by multiple images. When this occurs, turn each image on or off to find the desired image for the current extent.

Manually Selecting Photos

Images may also be loaded manually by choosing the desired image from the dropdown list.

Scroll through the list and click on the desired image to load it as a new image layer.



Additional Notes

- In order to conserve storage space on field office servers, only the imagery for the counties actually administered by NRCS from that office will be loaded on the server.
- Imagery corresponding to "out-of-county" locations (FSA transfers) is not being georeferenced. Such imagery may be selected manually and viewed, but will not automatically display in the correct geospatial location.
- The LMP images represent a "snap-shot" of the master photos as they appeared when scanned in the summer of 2003. Users must be aware that any information displayed in the imagery may no longer be accurate.