

35mm Slide Imagery

The 35mm aerial photography slides which were previously used by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for compliance checks are a valuable historical resource for NRCS. Since photographic media naturally deteriorates over time, NRCS-Michigan is endeavoring to scan the 35mm slides for every county in the state.

The resulting imagery can be viewed within ArcMap as unrectified raster layers. The images are not referenced to a known coordinate system, so their use should be limited to visual reference only - not as a base for on-screen measurements or heads-up digitizing.

35mm Slide Tool Requirements

The following requirements must be met in order for the 35mm Slides Tool to be activated:

1. The 35mm 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.

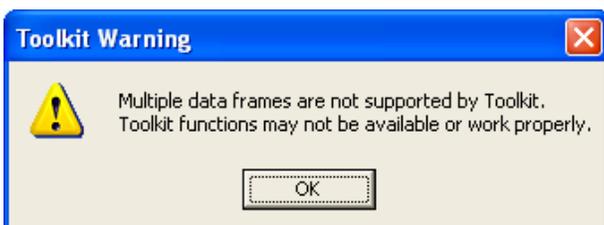
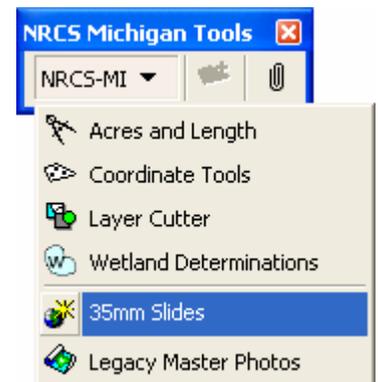
The “35mm Slides” option will be “grayed-out” unless both of these conditions are met.

Displaying 35mm Slide Images

NOTE: The 35mm Tool detects which section is currently displayed in the data frame and retrieves the appropriate 35mm images automatically. Therefore, users should generally run the tool only after zooming in to their area of interest.

1. On the NRCS Michigan toolbar, choose **35mm Slides**.

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



2. If Customer Service Toolkit is loaded, you may receive a warning message regarding multiple data frames. Click **OK** to continue.*

* Please refer to “Information for Toolkit Users” on page 4 of this document.

Displaying 35mm Slide Images (continued)

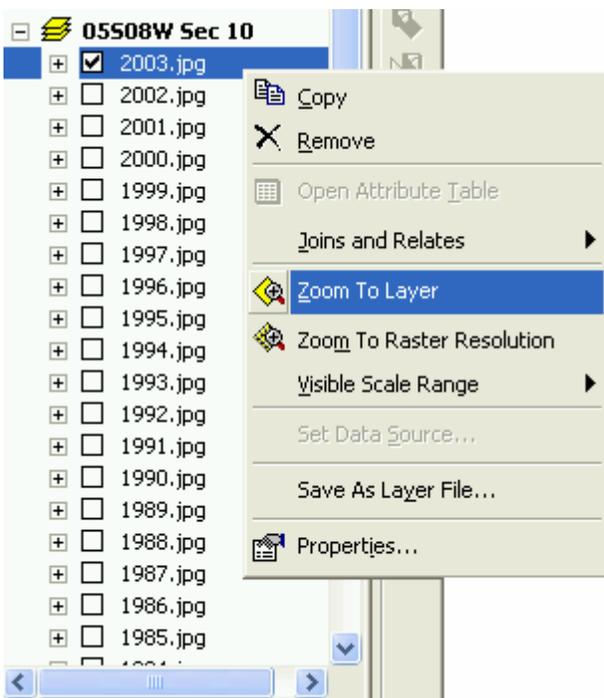
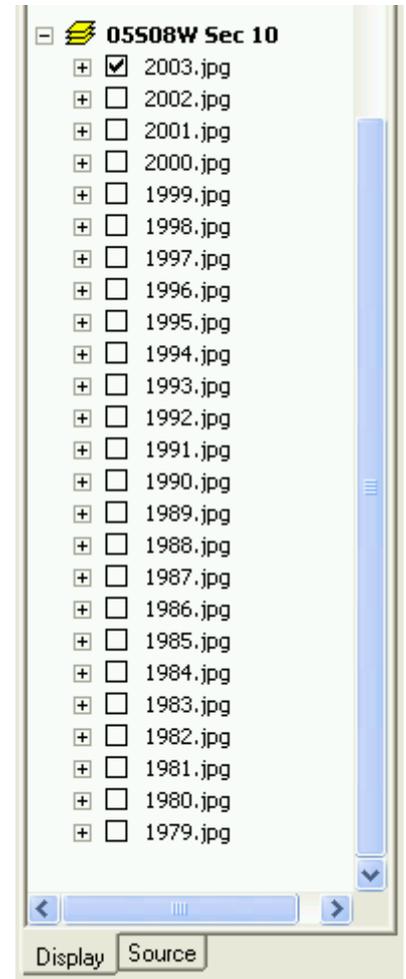
3. A new data frame is created for the current township and section. Image layers are added for every available year of 35mm photography.

4. Check the layers on or off to display imagery for the various years.

Points to remember:

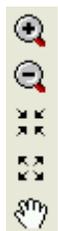
- The images are not georeferenced, therefore will not overlay each other exactly.

- A majority of the slide images are section-centered, with the center of the section being at the center of the slide. However the photography for certain years may be section-corner-centered, with the slides centered on the corners of sections.



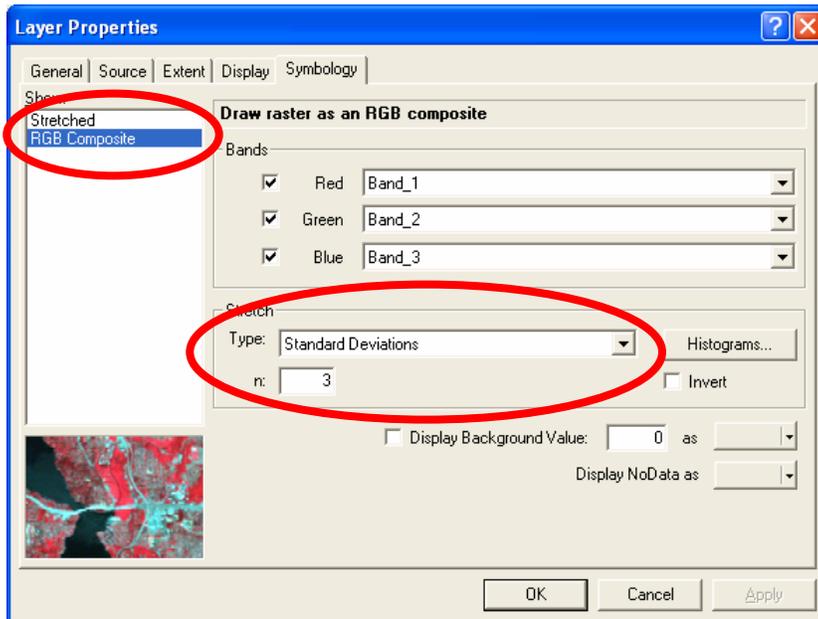
5. To zoom to a particular image, right-click the image in the table of contents and choose **Zoom To Layer**.

You may also use the ArcMap zoom and pan tools to adjust your extent as necessary.



Adjusting Image Appearance

The 35mm slide images often appear “too dark” in ArcMap. While ArcMap offers several options for improving the visual quality of imagery, users may find that the quickest and most effective method is simply to alter the symbology of the image layer.



1. Right-click on the image layer and choose **Properties**.
2. On the **Symbology** tab, choose the following settings...

Show: RGB Composite
Type: Standard Deviations
n: 3

(A stretch of 2 or 3 standard deviations usually produces the best results for any given 35mm image.)

3. Click **OK** to apply changes.

For example, here is a “before and after” of a three standard deviation stretch on a fairly average 35mm slide image...

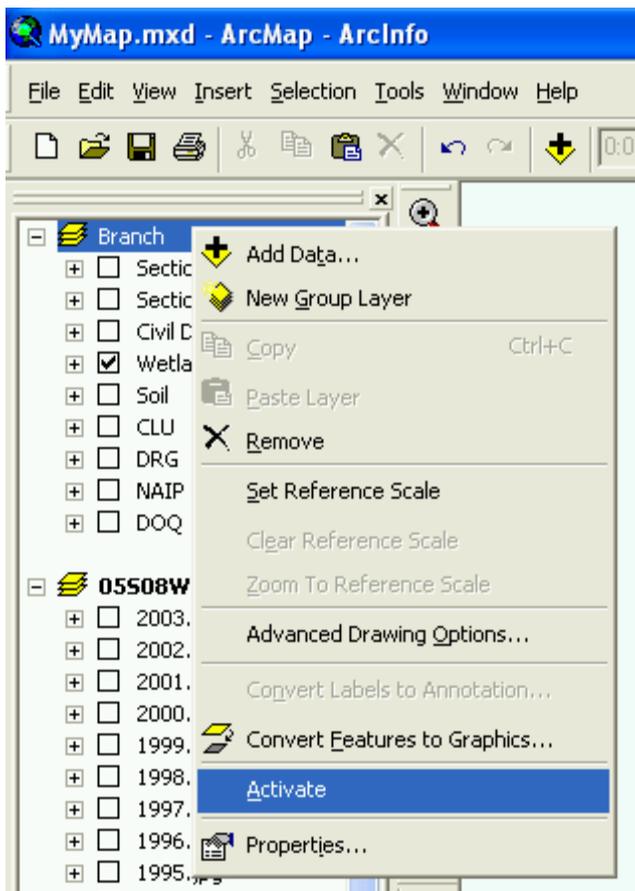
BEFORE



AFTER



Working With Data Frames



1. You may switch between data frames by right-clicking on the desired data frame in the TOC and choosing **Activate**.

Using multiple data frames is like having more than one map within the same ArcMap document. Each data frame is independent, which means that that layers and graphics contained in one data frame will not display when another data frame is active.

This should not be confused with the graphics in a layout. Graphical layout items such as map titles, northarrows, neatlines, etc. will display in the layout view regardless of which data frame is active.

2. When you have finished viewing the imagery for that section, you may remove the data frame by right-clicking on it in the TOC and choosing **Remove**.

* Information for Toolkit Users

Some Toolkit functions may not work properly if multiple data frames are present. If using the 35mm Tool within the Toolkit environment, **you must remove the 35mm data frame(s) before continuing to work in Toolkit.**

