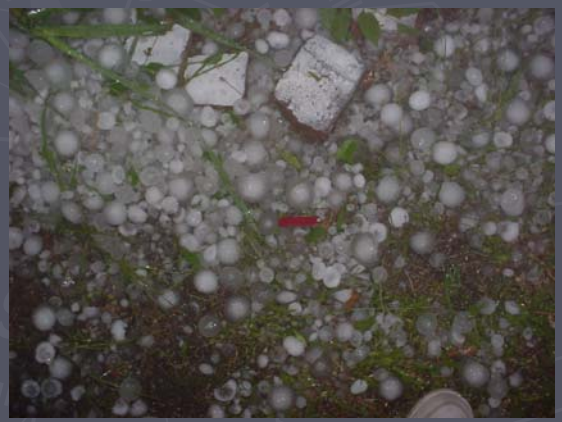
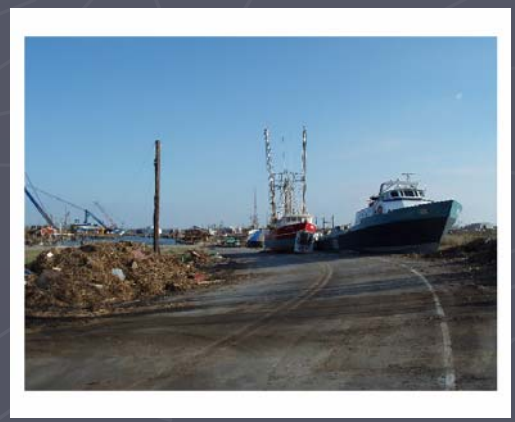
Rapid Assessment of Natural Disasters

FHM Workgroup Ia

Tuesday January 31, 2006

3:30 – 5:00 pm





Discussion Panel

- Frank Sapio – USDA Forest Service – FHTET
- Bill Burkman – USDA Forest Service – SRS-FIA
- Dave Struble – Maine Forest Service
- Dennis Jacobs – USDA Forest Service – SRS-FIA
- Jim Ellenwood – USDA Forest Service – FHTET

Background Information

- Recent focus is on hurricanes but should include ice storms, wind events, and other natural disasters.
- Recent events have identified a lack of coordination and communication between various groups.
- Often multiple agencies cover the same area, duplicate efforts, and/or result in conflicting information.
- Many evaluation procedures have been developed but have not been organized for land managers.
- The consideration of *The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (FERRA)* has focused renewed attention on this situation.

The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (FERRA)

Catastrophic Event

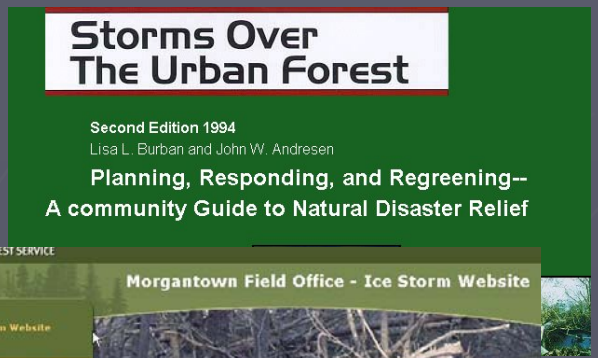
Federal Land

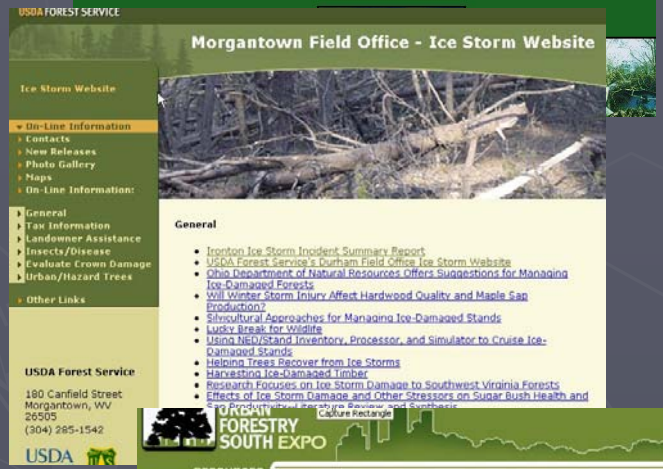
Required if greater than 1000 acres affected, then a evaluation is required within 30 days

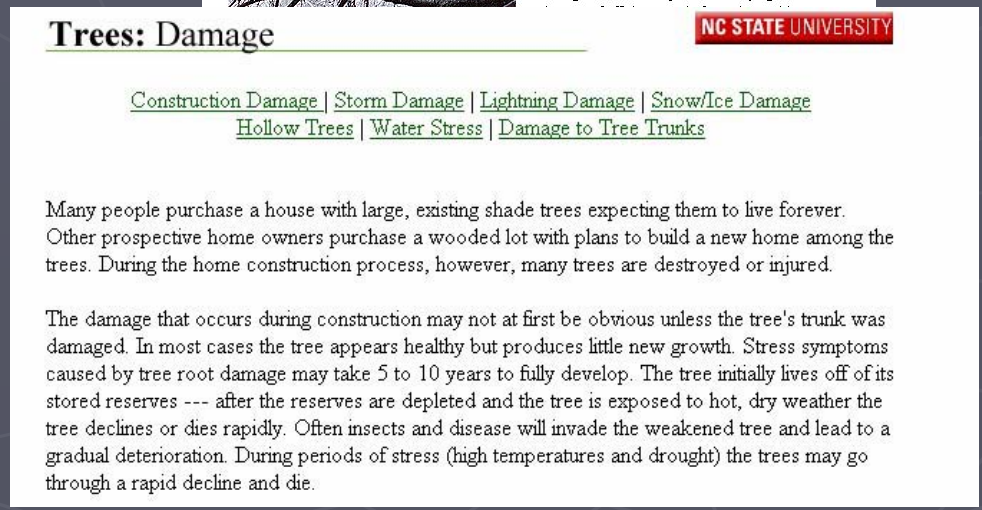
Non-Federal Land

Landscape assessment on non-Federal lands, if requested

Examples of Damage Assessment Tools







Hurricane Andrew, LA 1992

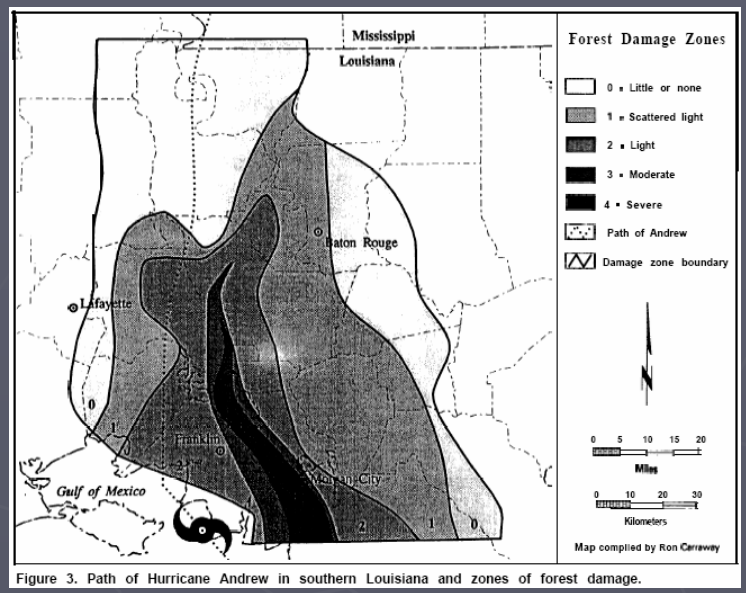


Figure 3. Path of Hurricane Andrew in southern Louisiana and zones of forest damage.

Southern Ice Storm, MS 1994

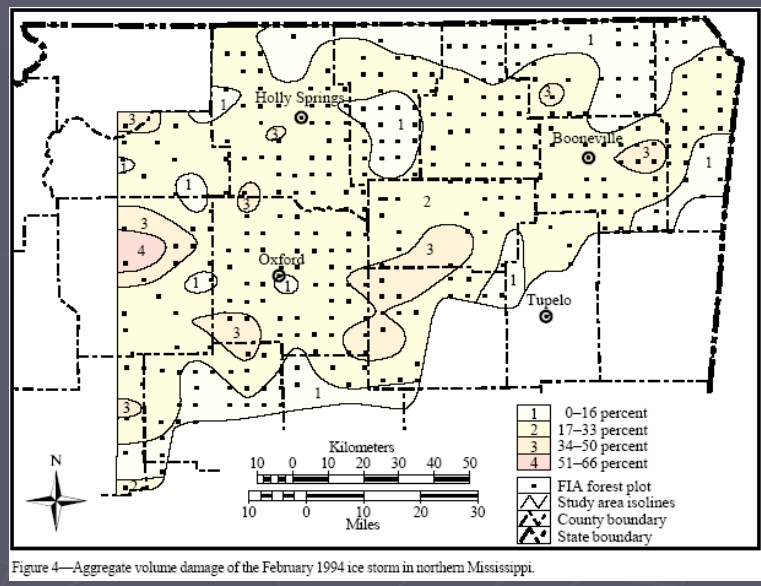
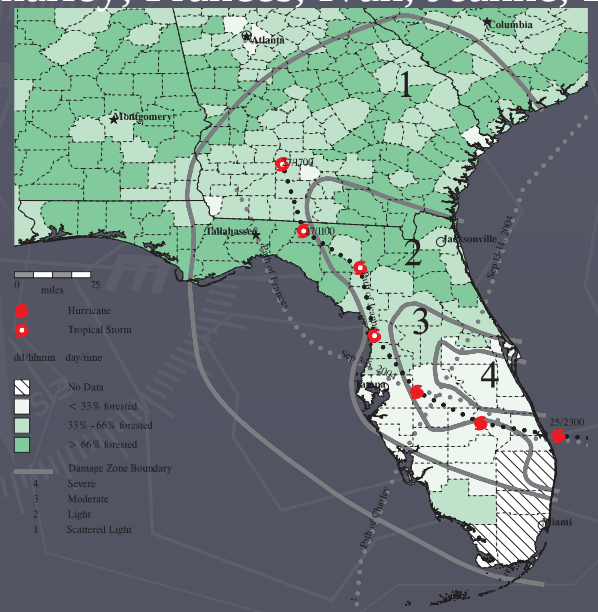
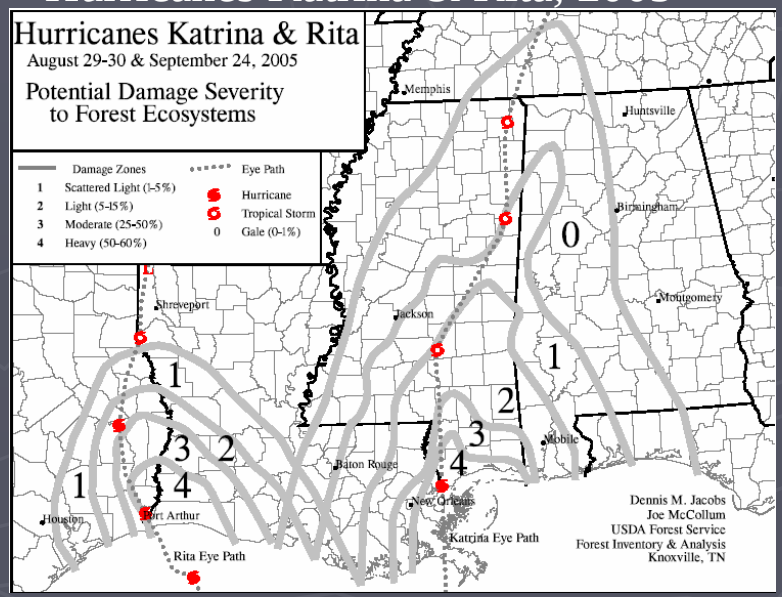


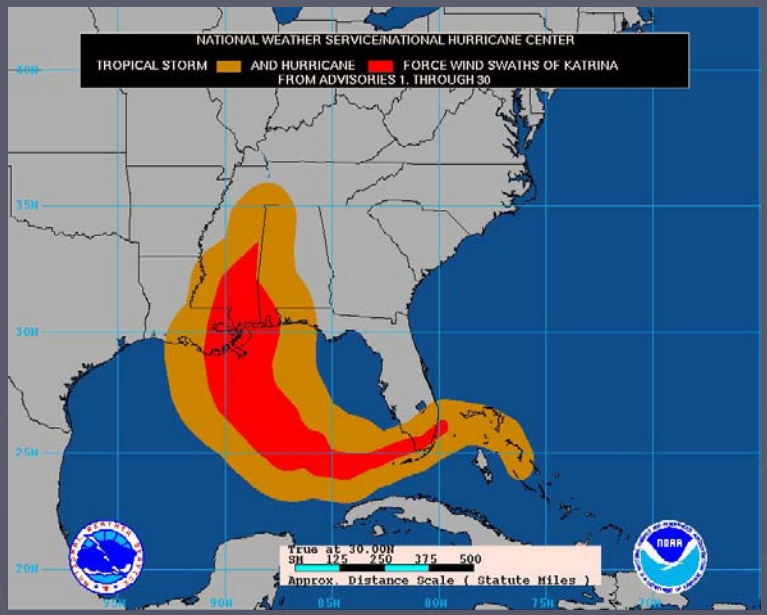
Figure 4—Aggregate volume damage of the February 1994 ice storm in northern Mississippi.

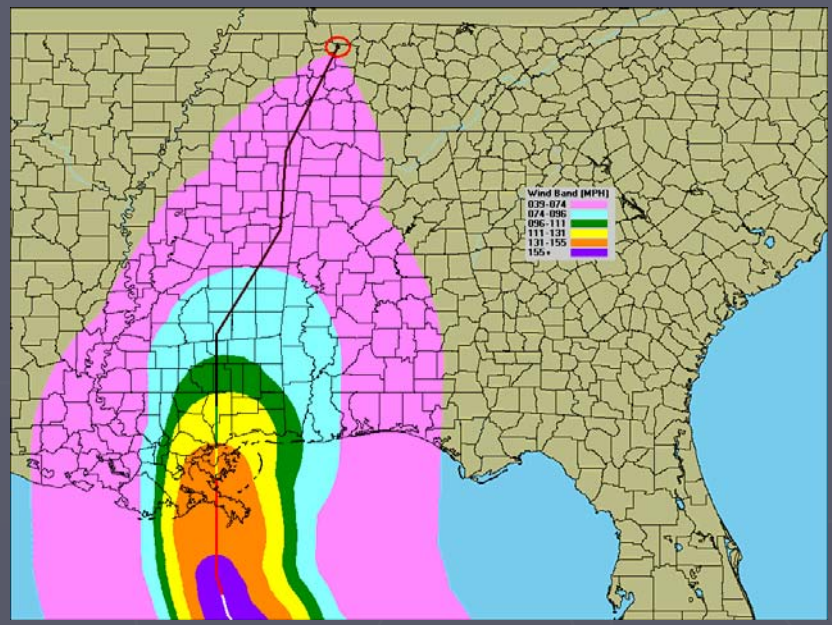
Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, 2004

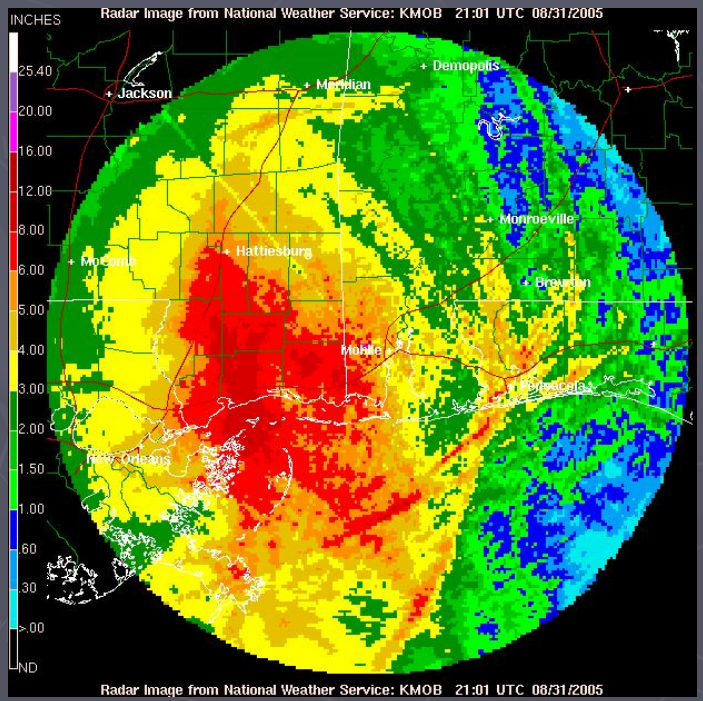


Hurricanes Katrina & Rita, 2005









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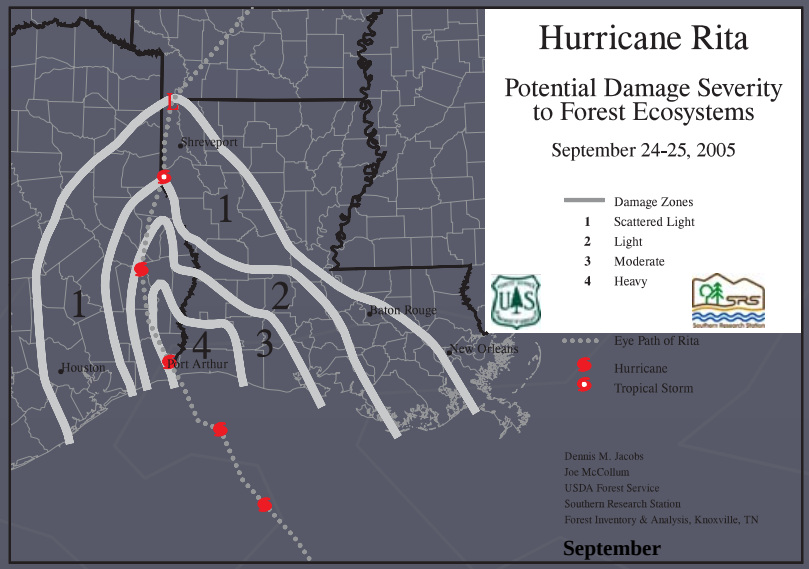
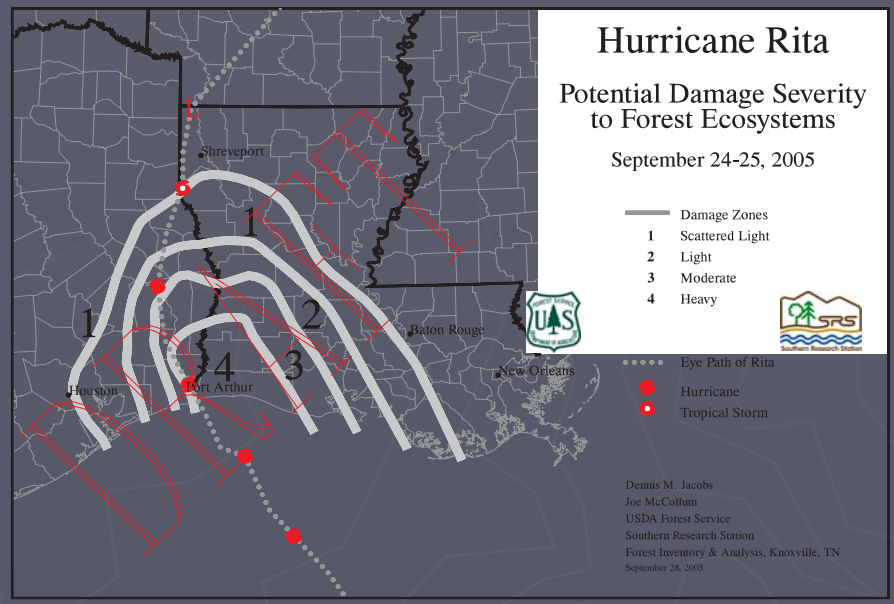
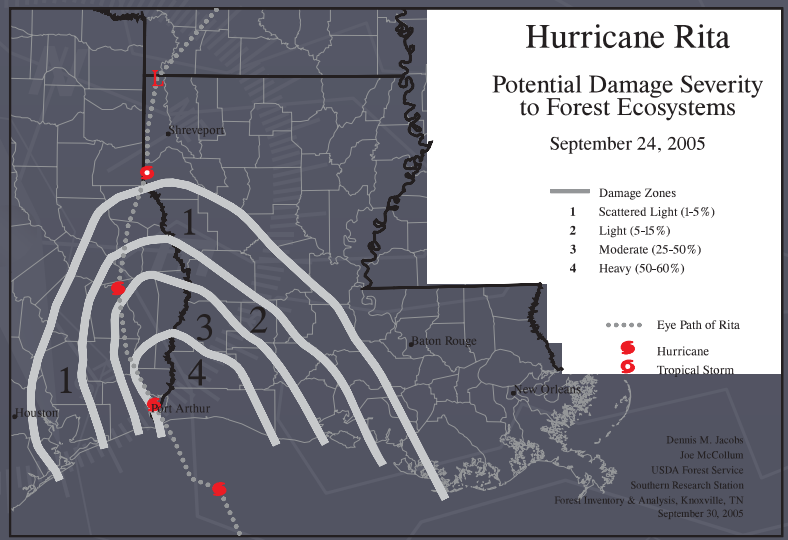
First Draft – presented Sept. 25



Interim Draft – revised Sept. 28



Final Draft – delivered September 30



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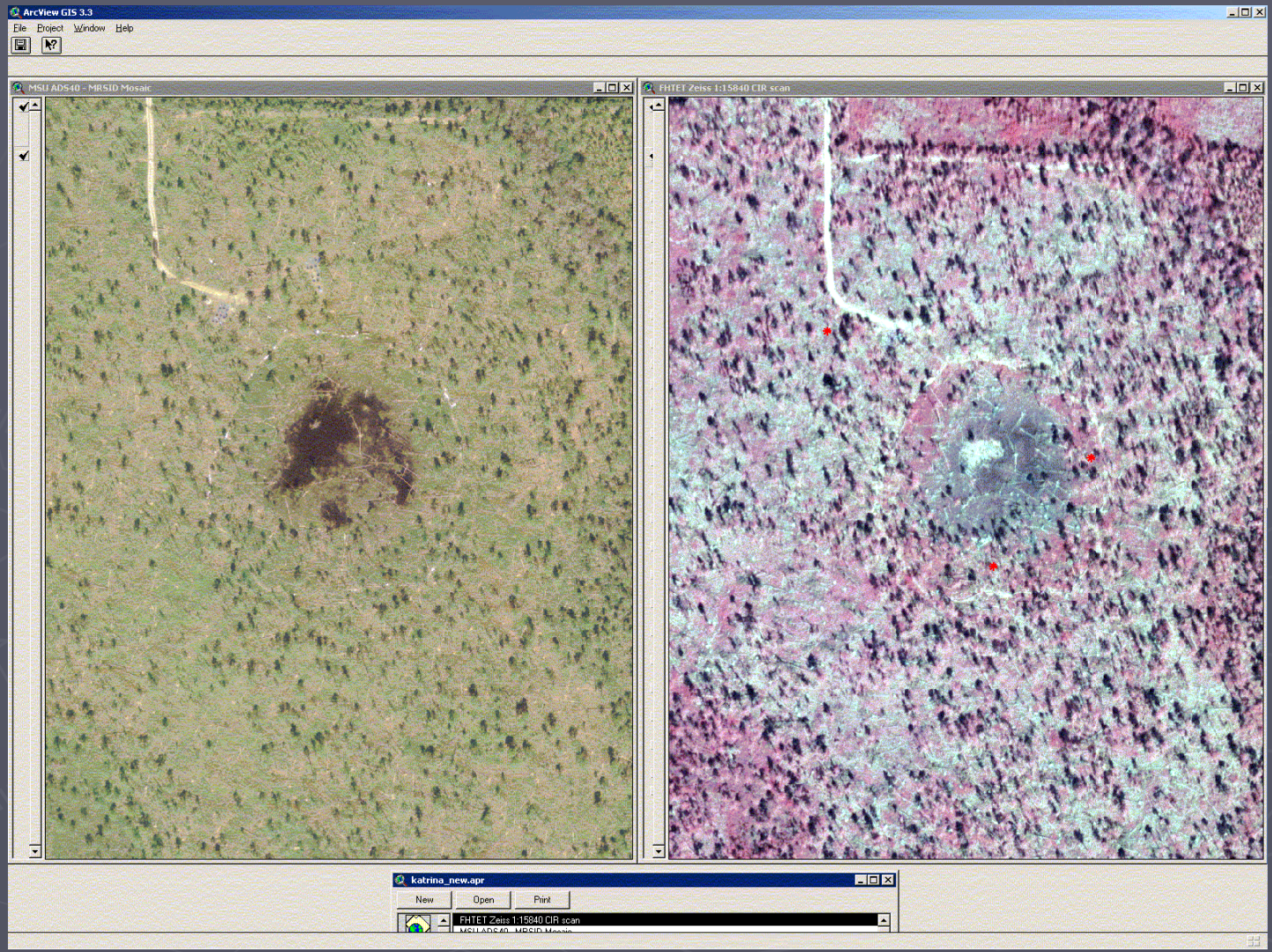
Natural color MSU digital image vs. scanned aerial photography w/FHP storm damage assessment plot superimposed (DeSoto NF - heavy damage)



Scanned aerial photo CIR 1:15840 - heavy storm damaged area on the DeSoto NF

Issues to Consider

- Need to develop an Incident Command System to coordinate:
  - Evaluation and monitoring of impacts – including which tools to use,
  - Deployment of resources,
  - Communication and reporting structures, and
  - Development of a response plan.

Issues to Consider (cont.)

- Need to organize the various evaluation and monitoring tools available into a *toolkit*. This *toolkit* should:
  - Scope/context of each tool,
  - Time frame to develop estimates,
  - Amount and type of resources needed, and
  - Limitations of each tool.

Issues to Consider (cont.)

- Need to develop a long-term evaluation of data collection efforts to refine and improve the utility and effectiveness of each tool.

Resolution – Workgroup 1a

- Be it resolved that the FHM Program Manager appoint a working group of state, federal, and university partners to:

Develop a matrix of methodologies (toolkits) to respond to catastrophic events impacting forest resources within an appropriate timeframe and in a standardized manner to provide the suitabled audience with the necessary information.

Results to be presented at the 2007 FHM Working Group Meeting.