



STORM DAMAGE REPORT

MARCH 2, 2012 TORNADOES

Friday morning, March 2, 2012, a strong cold front moved across the state, producing severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, large hail, and straight line winds, making this climatic event to occur for the second time this year. These storms were not as intense as previously predicted, but many acres of forestland were damaged, nevertheless. There were strong winds spurring from these storms that marred areas of Alabama. Most of the property damages were from down power lines and broken tree branches. Several tornadoes touched the ground inflicting devastation to forestland and urban property alike. Ranging from EF1 to EF2 on the Enhanced Fujita scale, some of these tornadoes reached a maximum speed of 125 miles per hour causing several injuries and one fatality.

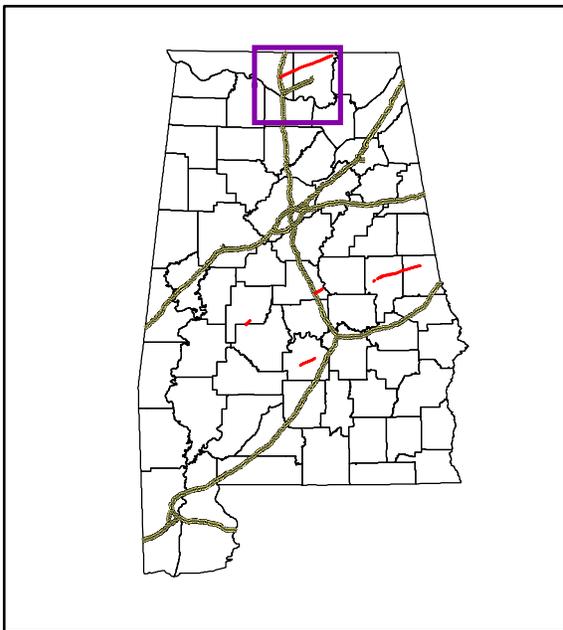
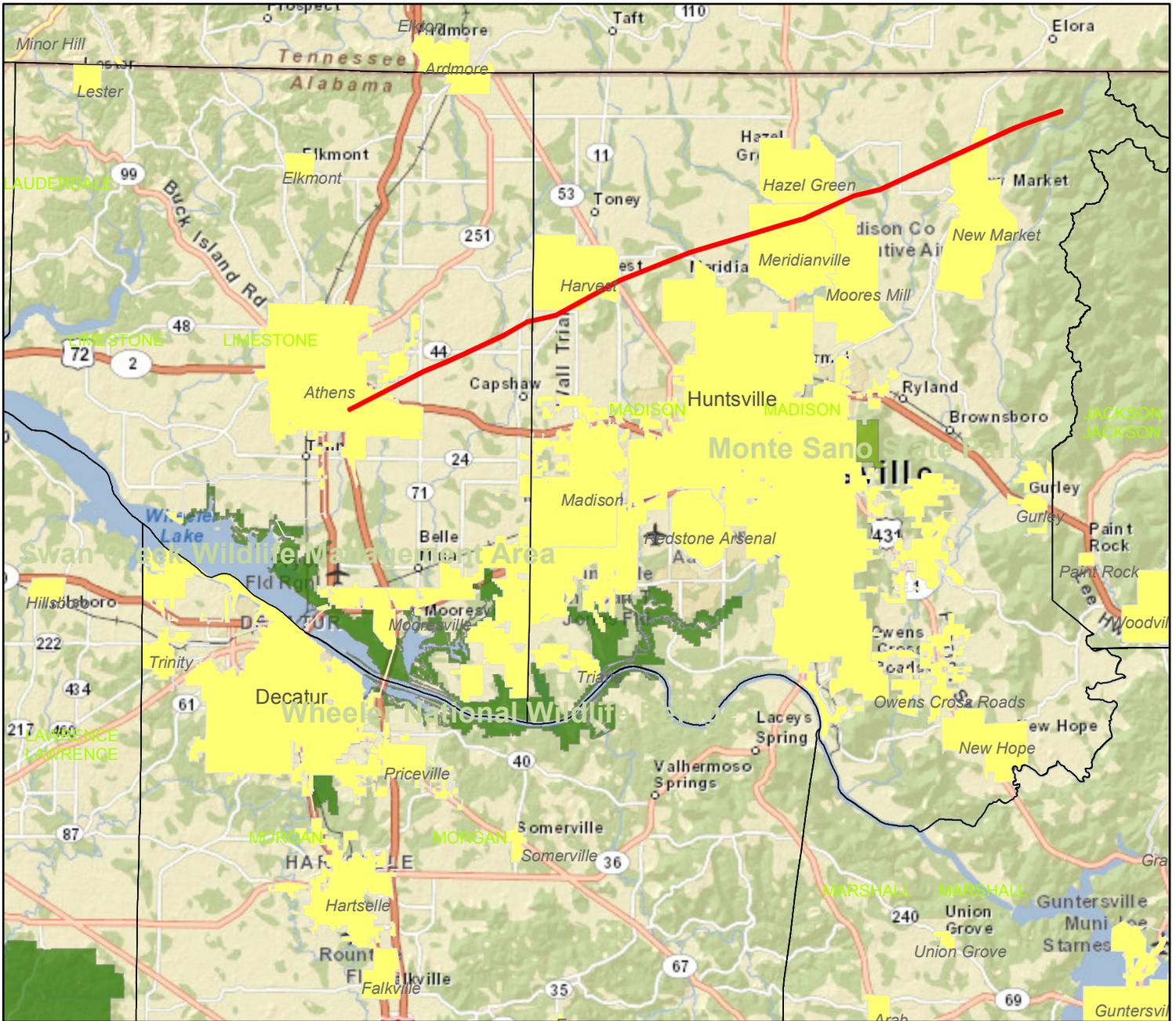
Monday, March 5, 2012, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) Headquarters released information to the Regional Foresters to initiate reconnaissance survey flights to assess the extent of forest damage. Surveying guidelines were also given, specifically stating the procedure for analyzing and recording damaged sites. An initial storm damage map was created from GPS data generated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA - <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/reports/today.html>). Specific locations of tornado landings and high winds were illustrated on this state map. By Wednesday, March 21, 2012, all reconnaissance survey flights and mapping were completed by AFC and contract pilots and by AFC field personnel observers. Results from the survey flights indicated that from the five known tornado paths that landed on the ground, only three caused significant damage for documentation.

GIS analysis and the National Land Cover Data (NLCD) were used to derive the affected forested acres from the total damaged area recorded by AFC flight observers. The percent damage of forestland was also recorded by these observers, which along with affected forested acres mapped were used to calculate volume and value estimates of timber loss. The 2011 FIA data was used for each affected county to calculate volume per ton of merchantable timber damaged by the tornado. To calculate a dollar value for timber loss, the average per unit stumpage prices from the fourth quarter 2011 Timber-Mart South were used. From the final analysis, approximately **3,613.2** forested acres of merchantable timber were damaged statewide. The monetary value loss was approximately **\$2,480,722.50** resulting from **132,432.7** tons of damaged timber.

Abiotic pests continue to devastate Alabama's forests. Several months of drought conditions during the last few years are still imposing stress on trees. Storms from unstable weather systems have yielded outright destruction of forestland, leaving affected areas unsightly and barren. Even some of the residual trees that survived the storm's unbearable wrath are damaged to the point of becoming highly susceptible to secondary pests.

Estimated Forest Damage from March 2, 2012 Tornadoes:

County	Forested Acres of Merchantable Timber Damaged	Percent Forestland Damaged	Total Timber Volume Damaged (Tons)	Total Value of Damaged Timber
Limestone	169.7	18%	2,665.0	\$54,620.65
Madison	504.8	12%	5,313.4	\$116,730.79
Lowndes	56.7	19%	609.7	\$10,895.34
Chambers	406.4	55%	13,641.4	\$274,411.16
Chilton	250.9	64%	8,684.9	\$151,468.77
Dallas	2.2	75%	88.3	\$1,641.10
Perry	80.2	75%	3,673.3	\$67,458.42
Tallapoosa	2,142.3	75%	97,756.7	\$1,803,496.26
TOTAL	3,613.2		132,432.7	\$2,480,722.50

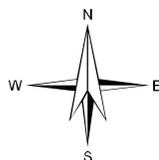


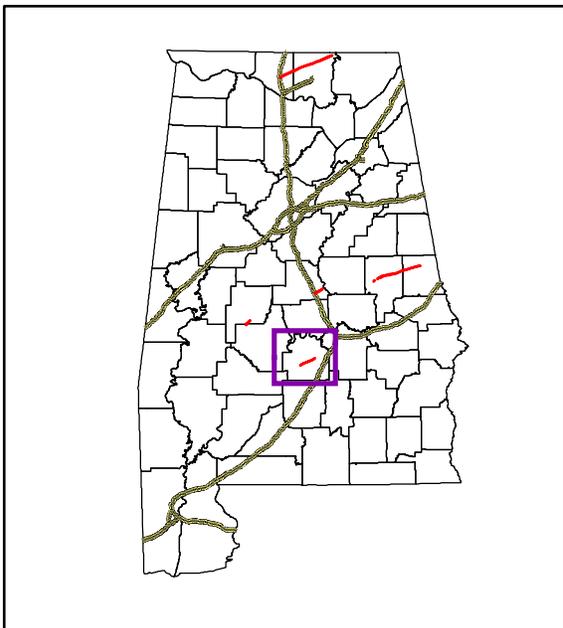
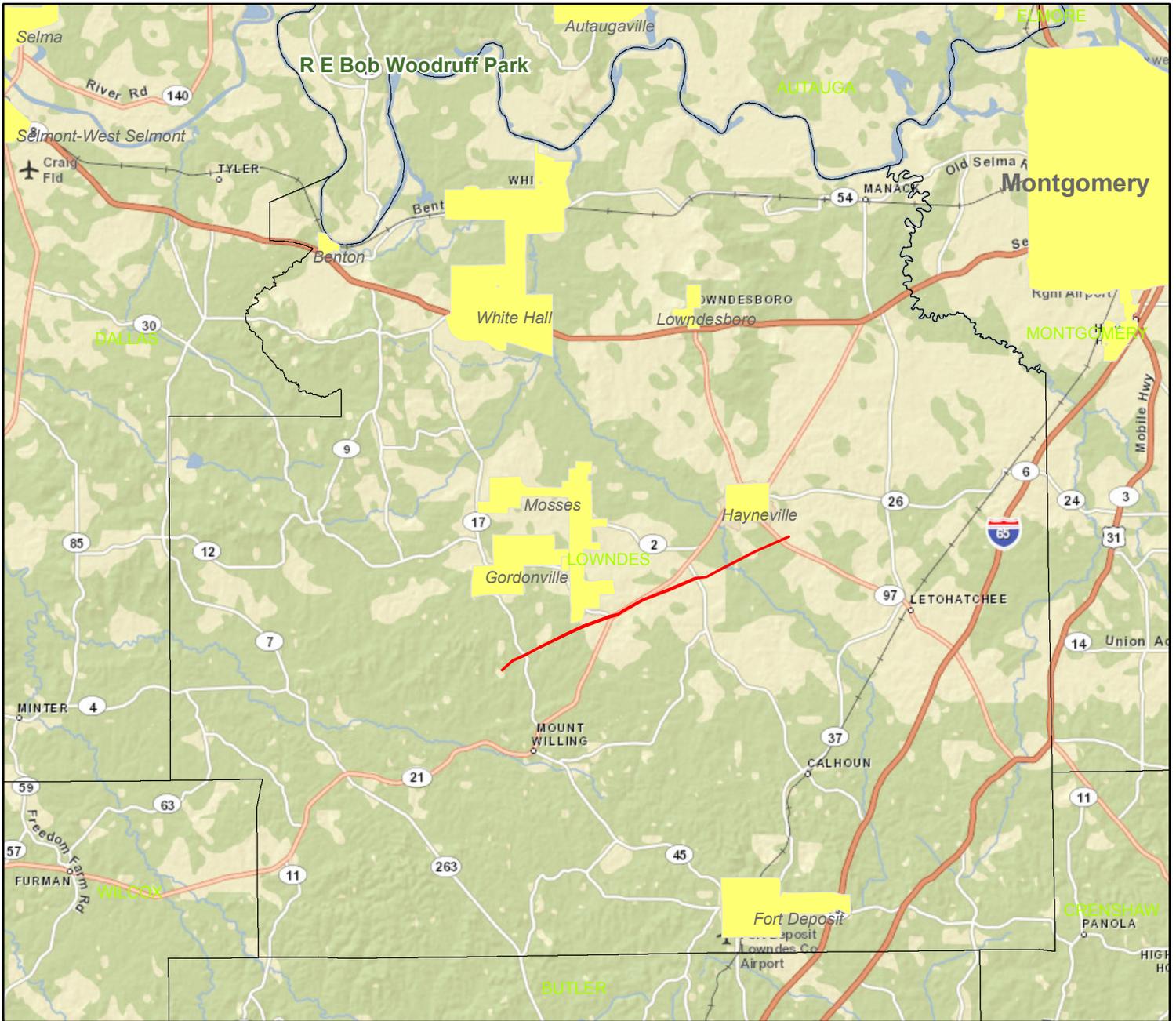
ALABAMA TORNADO MARCH 2012



Legend

- MarchTornado2012
- Places
- National Park or Forest
- State Park or Forest
- County



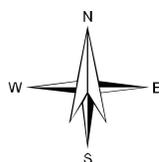


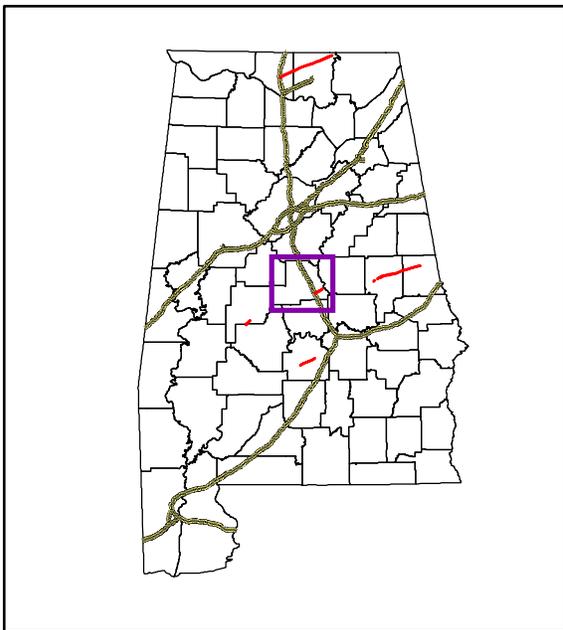
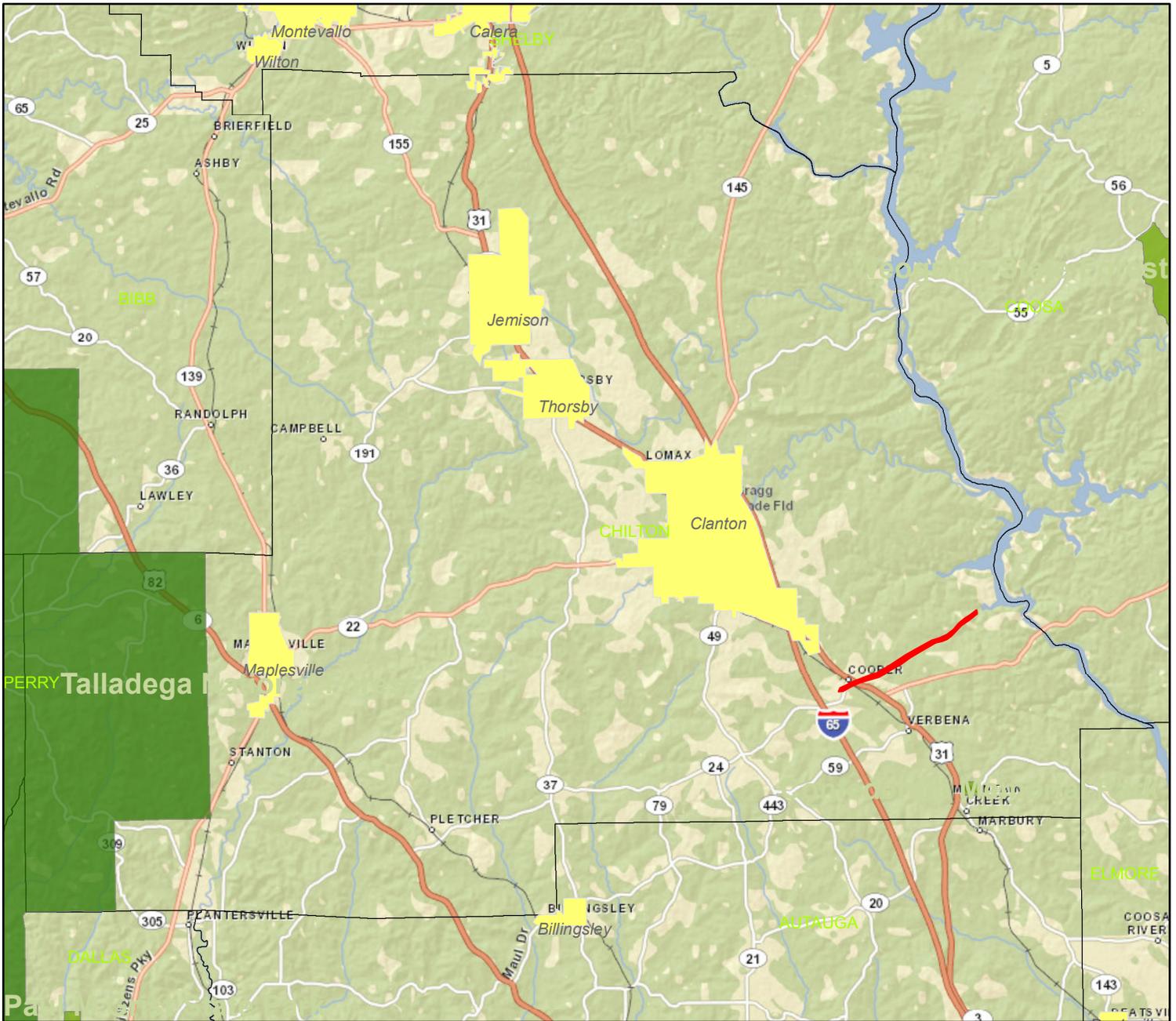
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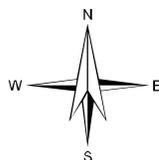


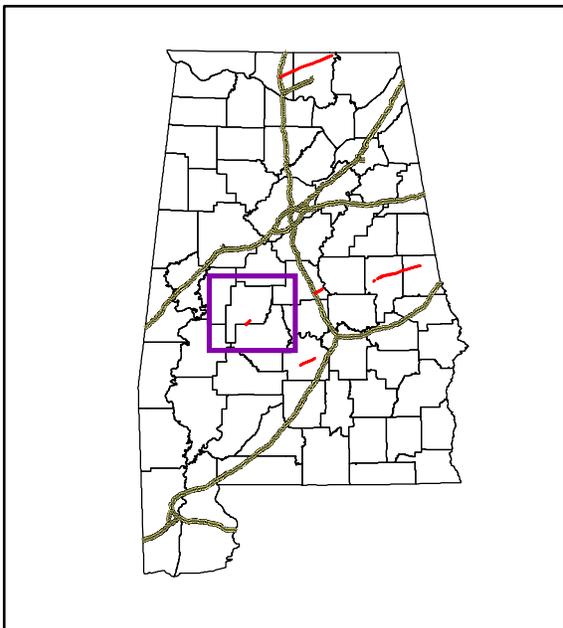
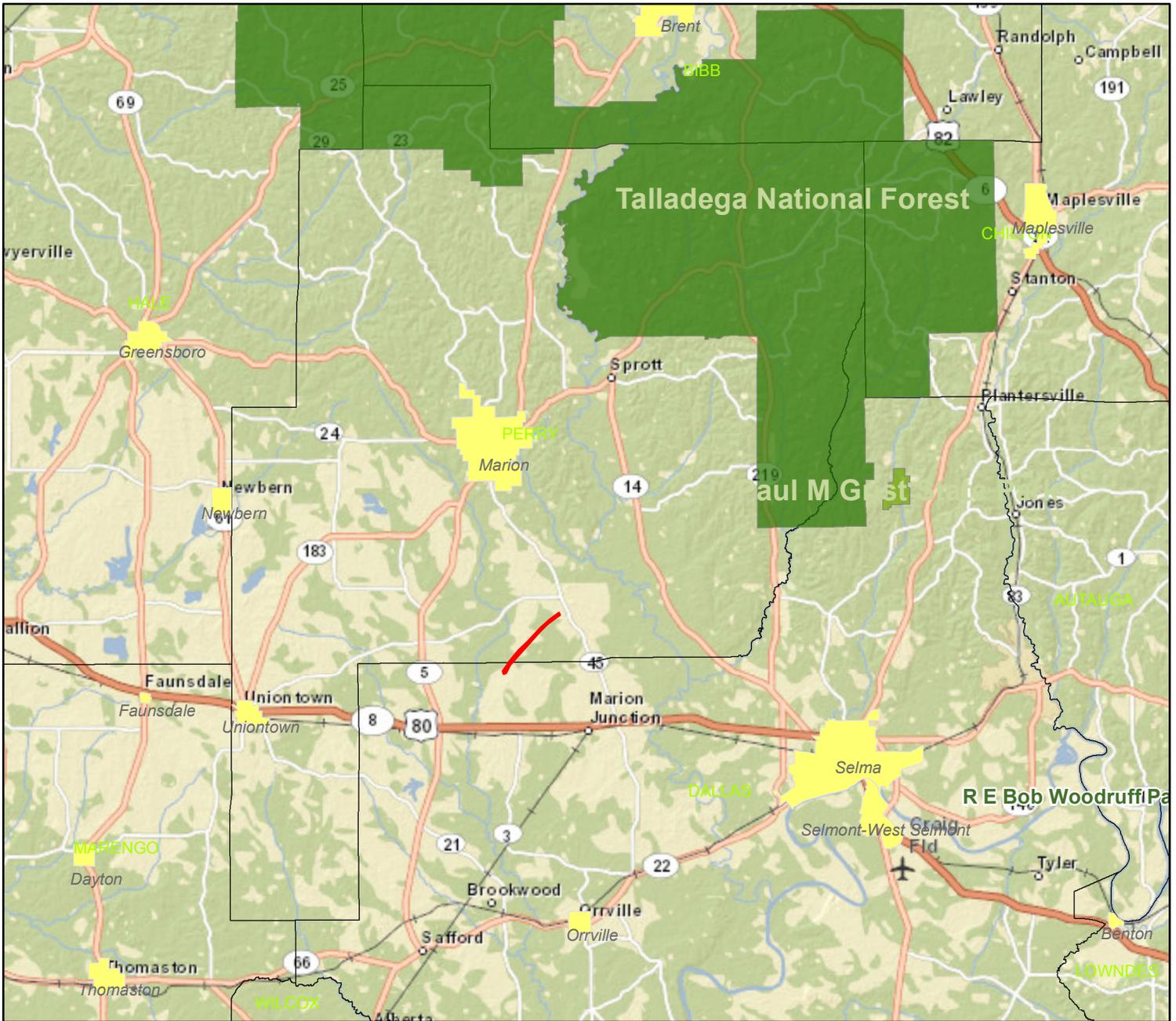
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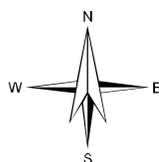


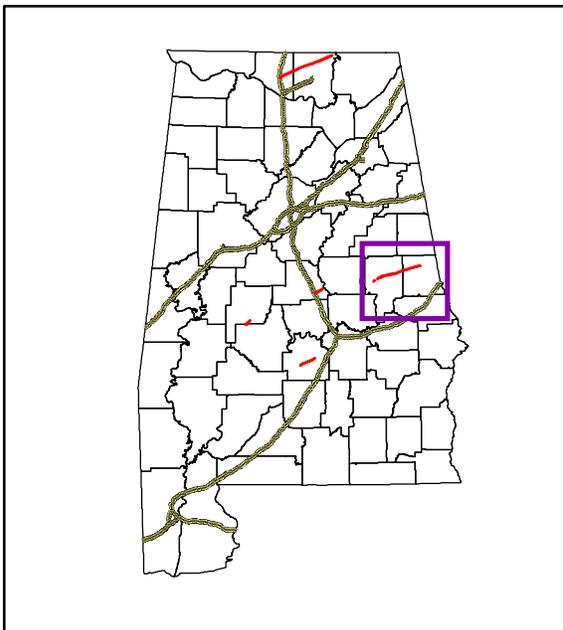
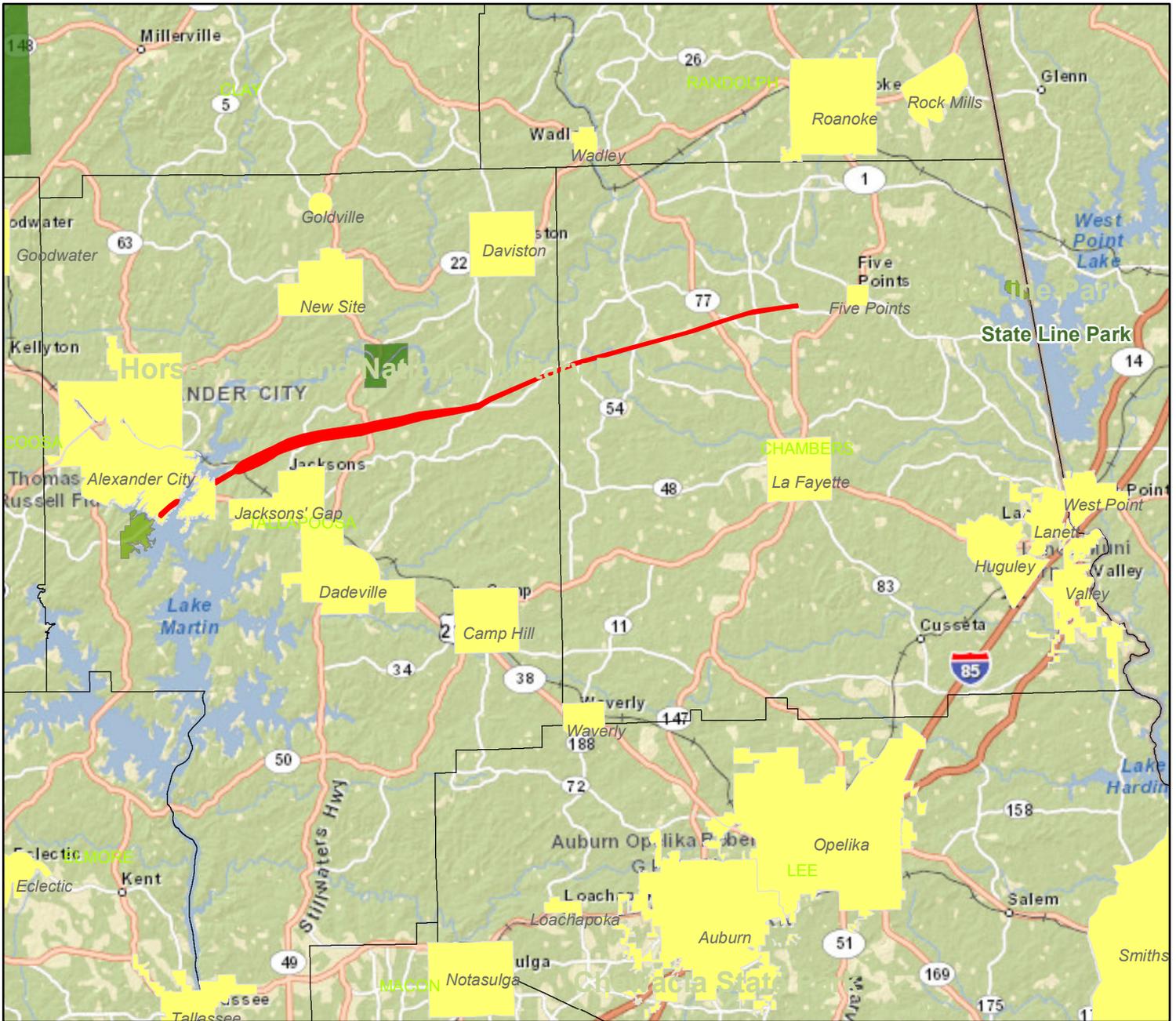
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