How to REMOVE COLLARS from NW County Imagery

The interim delivery of county mosaics for 12 counties in NW Wisconsin contains 6 counties with extremely large **black** collars (Bayfield, Price, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor). This document briefly describes how to remove collars from the ECW imagery in numerous GIS platforms for easier viewing and work (particularly where counties overlap). DNR Forestry is currently working to remove the collars for final delivery as MrSID images which will not contain these large collar issues.

**fGIS**

1. Open an ECW and view the large collar.
2. If you’re looking at the edge of two counties:
	* Select the **ECW Layer** so it is highlighted in blue in the table of contents**.**
	* Click the **Layer** menu🡪 **Image Transparent Zones** tool.
	* Enter **0** in the **Start Pixel Range Value** and **7** in the **End Pixel Range Value** by using the value slide bars.
	* Click **Set**.
	* The large collar will mostly disappear.
	* Unfortunately, there are a few zero values interior to the image (e.g. some lakes) those will become transparent also. This will not completely remove the black collar, but it will aid in edge matching with an adjacent county photo.

**ArcGIS (with *Forestry Tools*)**

1. Open an ECW and view the large collar.
2. If you’re looking at the edge of two counties:
	* Select the **ECW Layer** so it is highlighted in blue in the table of contents**.**
	* Click the **Utilities** menu🡪 **Make DOP collar transparent** tool.
	* Select input DOP collar color: **Black**.
	* Click **OK**.
	* The large collar will mostly disappear.
	* Unfortunately, there are a few zero values interior to the image (e.g. some lakes) those will become transparent also. This will not completely remove the black collar, but it will aid in edge matching with an adjacent county photo.

**ArcGIS (with *ECW plug-in*)\***

*Installation of the ECW plug-in requires Administrator privileges.*

*\* All ECW’s are to be converted to SID format over the next year. Hence, the ECW plug-in solution will* ***not*** *be necessary long-term and may not be advisable for most users.*

1. Right-click on the ECW and go to the symbology tab.
2. Click the check box next to “Alpha” under “Channel”, and use the drop down under “Band” to select “Band\_4”.



1. Hit OK. The black collar should now be removed.

This document was last updated on September 21, 2012.