

Easy Photo Point Animations



Water Lettuce—Repeat photography of a 10-acre pond infested with water lettuce before (top) and after (bottom) the introduction of a biological control agent.



TIP—RESIZING

Photos can be resized using the **Format Picture** dialog. Right click on the photo and select **Format Picture**. In the **Format Picture** dialog, select the **Size** tab. Modify the size by changing the **Height**, **Width**, or **Scale**.

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Introduction

Photo point photographs (repeat photography of the same area), in addition to documenting vegetation and ecosystem change, can help the public, funding entities, or cooperators understand the impact of invasive weeds or the results of treatment activities in a particular area. These photos can be a highly motivating component of educational efforts.

This document provides guidelines for creating simple animations from photo point photographs using PowerPoint.

Major Steps

1. Obtain and align the photos.
2. Animate the photos.
3. Insert the animation into a presentation.

Obtain and Align the Photos

Carefully select two or more photographs of an area that were taken from the same photo point. Ensure that the photos you select adequately illustrate the message you wish to convey. If you do not have digital photos, scanned slides or photographs work equally well. The following steps will guide you through the process of importing and aligning the photos in PowerPoint:

1. Launch PowerPoint (2002 or later version) and create a new presentation with one blank slide.
2. Insert the photos.
 - From PowerPoint's **Insert** menu, select **Picture**, then **From File...**
 - In the **Insert Picture** dialog, navigate to the location of the "before" photo, select it, then click **Insert**. Repeat for the "after" photo.
3. Resize the photos to fill the desired extent of the slide.
 - Click on one of the pictures. Small circles will appear at the corners
 - Hover the mouse over one of the circles until a double-headed arrow appears (figure 1).
 - With the arrow visible, click, hold, and drag to resize the photo.

QUICK LOOK

Objective:

This document will help you create animations from photo point photographs that can illustrate change associated with weed invasion or treatments.

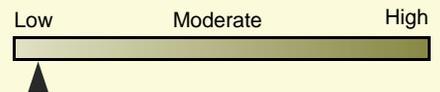
Data Requirements:

- Two or more photographs of the same area

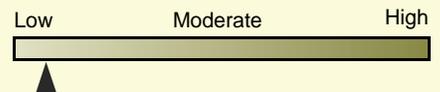
Software Requirements:

- PowerPoint

Cost:



Expertise:



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TIP—ALIGNMENT

To quickly check the alignment of the photos, click to select the top photo, then press the **Delete** key on the keyboard to delete it. Quickly replace it by holding the **Ctrl** key and pressing the letter **Z**, or by selecting **Undo Clear** from the **Edit** menu. Repeat in rapid succession to visually check the alignment.

4. Align the top photo to the bottom photo so key features in the landscape line up. The following suggestions will help you do this:

- If the scales of the two photos differ, adjust the size of the top photo to match the scale of the bottom photo (figure 1).
- To reposition a photo, click, hold, and drag. Or, click to select, then move the photo using the arrow keys.
- For fine position adjustments, click the photo to select, then hold down the **Ctrl** key on the keyboard and use the arrow keys to move the photo.
- To rotate a photo, click to select it, then click, hold, and drag the rotate handle (green circle at the top of the photo).

5. Crop the photos so that the edges match.

- If the **Drawing** toolbar is not visible when a picture is selected, select **Toolbars** in the **View** menu, then click **Picture**.
- Click a picture to select it.
- Click the **Crop** tool  on the **Picture** toolbar.
- Hover the crop tool over one of the black bars along the edges of the picture. When the crop tool changes shape, click, hold, and drag to crop (figure 2).

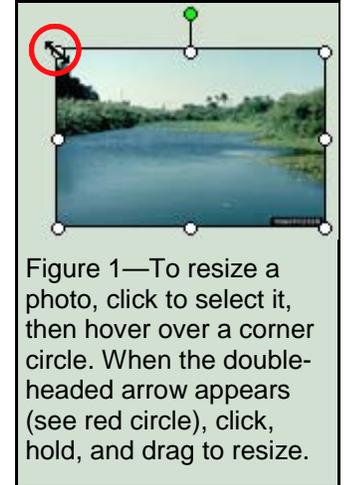


Figure 1—To resize a photo, click to select it, then hover over a corner circle. When the double-headed arrow appears (see red circle), click, hold, and drag to resize.

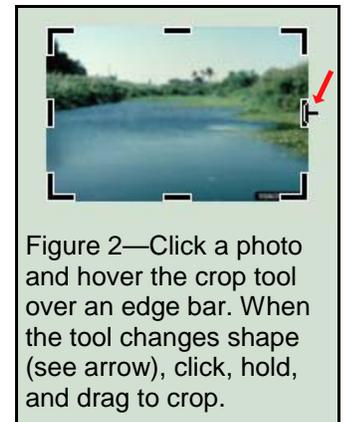


Figure 2—Click a photo and hover the crop tool over an edge bar. When the tool changes shape (see arrow), click, hold, and drag to crop.



TIP—NO “FADE”?

If **Fade** does not appear on the **Entrance** menu, select **More Effects...** In the **Add Entrance Effect** dialog that appears, select **Fade** from the **Subtle** category.

Animate the Photos

The following steps will guide you through the process of animating the photos:

1. Ensure that the “after” photo is on top of the “before” photo. If it is not, right click on the “before” photo, select **Order**, then select **Send to Back** from the popup menu. The “after” photo should now be on top.
2. From the **Slide Show** menu, select **Custom Animation...** The **Custom Animation** task window should appear.
3. Click the “after” photo to select it.
4. In the **Custom Animation** task window, do the following:
 - Click the **Add Effect** menu button, then select **Entrance** followed by **Fade** (figure 3).
 - With the top photo still selected, click the **Add Effect** menu button again, then select **Exit** followed by **Fade**.
 - Click to select the first animation effect (i.e., fade-in) (figure 4).
 - Click the down arrow on the **Start** pull-down menu (in the **Custom Animation** task window) and select **Start After Previous**.
 - Click the down arrow on the **Speed** pull-down menu and select **Slow**.



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TIP—SPEED

Try different fade speeds to achieve the effect you desire.



TIP—DELAY

The timing delay controls how quickly the “after” photo begins to fade out. Try different values to achieve the desired effect. A delay can also be added to the fade-in entrance if desired.



TIP—LOOPING

Checking the **Loop continuously until ‘Esc’** box in the **Set Up Show** dialog causes the animation to play continuously. Leave the box unchecked if you want the animation to play only once.



TIP—PREVIEWING

You can preview the animation at any time by clicking the **Play** button at the bottom of the **Custom Animation** or **Slide Transition** task windows. The animation can also be previewed by selecting **View Show** from the **Slide Show** menu.

- Click to select the second animation effect (i.e., fade-out).
- Set **Start** to **Start After Previous**.
- Set **Speed** to **Slow**.
- Click the down arrow of the second animation effect and select **Timing...**
- Enter 1.5 next to **Delay** in the **Timing** tab of the **Fade** dialog, then click **OK**.

5. From the **Slide Show** menu, select **Set Up Show...**

6. In the **Set Up Show** dialog, do the following:
 - Check the box next to **Loop continuously until ‘Esc’** in the **Show Options** section.
 - In the **Advance Slides** section, enable the radio button next to **Using timings, if present**.
 - Click **OK**

7. From the **Slide Show** menu, select **Slide Transition...** The **Slide Transition** task window should appear

8. In the **Advance slide** section of the **Slide Transition** task window, do the following:
 - Uncheck **On mouse click**.
 - Check **Automatically after** and enter 0 into the corresponding box (figure 5).

9. The animation is now finished. Save it as a PowerPoint presentation or show, and close the presentation.

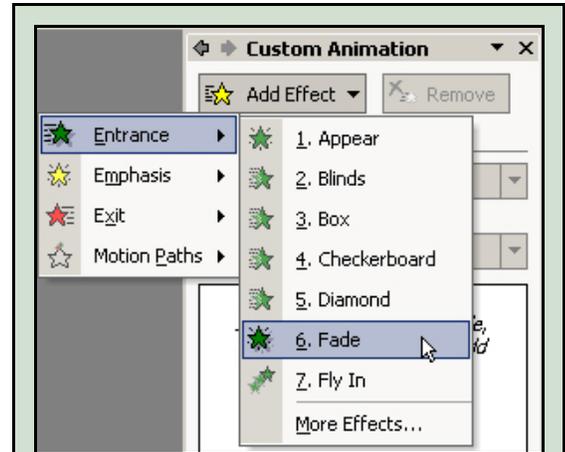


Figure 3—In the **Custom Animation** task window, click the **Add Effect** menu and select **Entrance** followed by **Fade** to produce a fade-in effect.

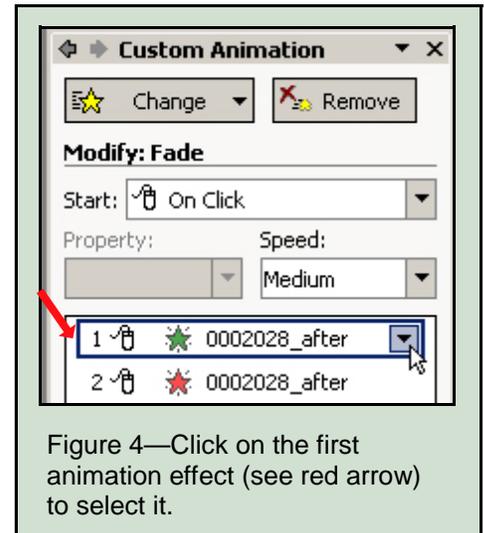


Figure 4—Click on the first animation effect (see red arrow) to select it.

Insert the Animation into a Presentation

The photo point presentation can now be launched and viewed independently or as part of another presentation. To view as part of another presentation, do the following:

1. Open the presentation that you want the animation inserted into and navigate to the slide where you want it inserted.



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IMPORTANT

The size and position of an animation preview on a slide will not affect how it is viewed in the slide show.

- From the **Insert** menu, select **Object...**
- Enable the **Create from file** radio button in the **Insert Object** dialog.
- Click **Browse...**, then navigate to and select the photo point animation file in the **Browse** dialog. Click **OK** when finished.
- A preview of the animation should appear on the slide. Resize and reposition the preview as you like. Insert additional animations onto the same or other slides (figure 6).
- To view an animation during a slide show, click the preview. When the animation launches, it will enlarge to occupy the entire screen.
- To exit an animation and return to the presentation, press **Esc** on the keyboard.

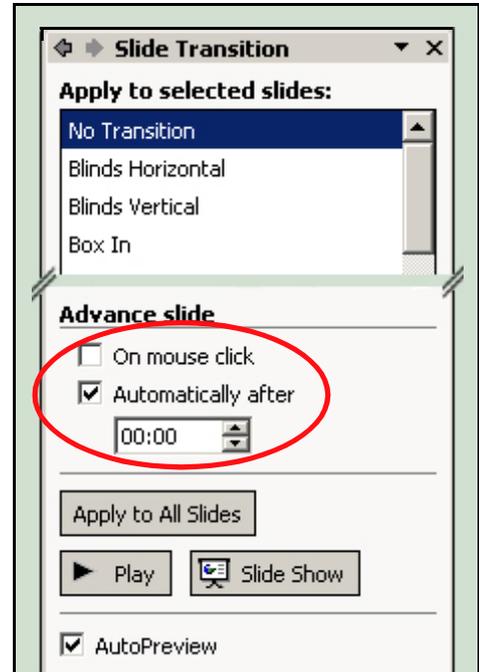


Figure 5—In the **Slide Transition** task window, uncheck **On mouse click** and check **Automatically after**. Enter 0 into the **Automatically after** box.



ASSISTANCE?

For more information or assistance, please contact the USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC):

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Salt Lake City, UT 84119
(801) 975-3750

RSAC Intranet:

<http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us/>

RSAC Internet:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/rsac/>

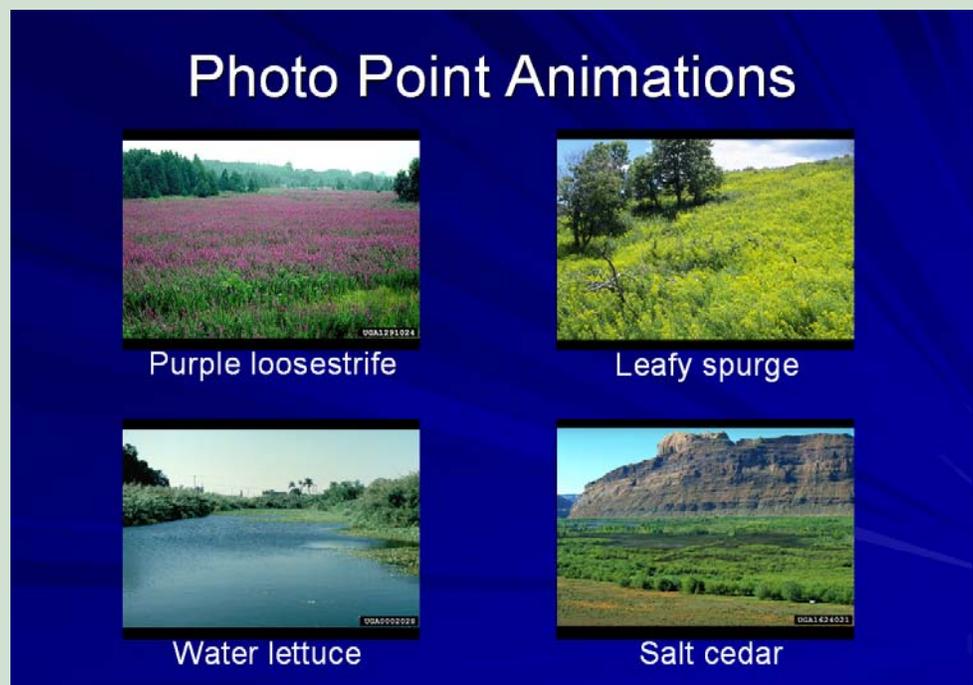


Figure 6—Sample slide from a PowerPoint presentation. As shown, multiple photo point animations can be inserted onto a single slide. During a PowerPoint slide show, clicking any of the animation previews launches the animation for that weed.

