Path of Destruction!

Central Oklahoma - Tornado Alley's Hot Spot

Jennifer Maxwell, Tucson Country Day School, Tucson, AZ Earth Camp for Educators 2013

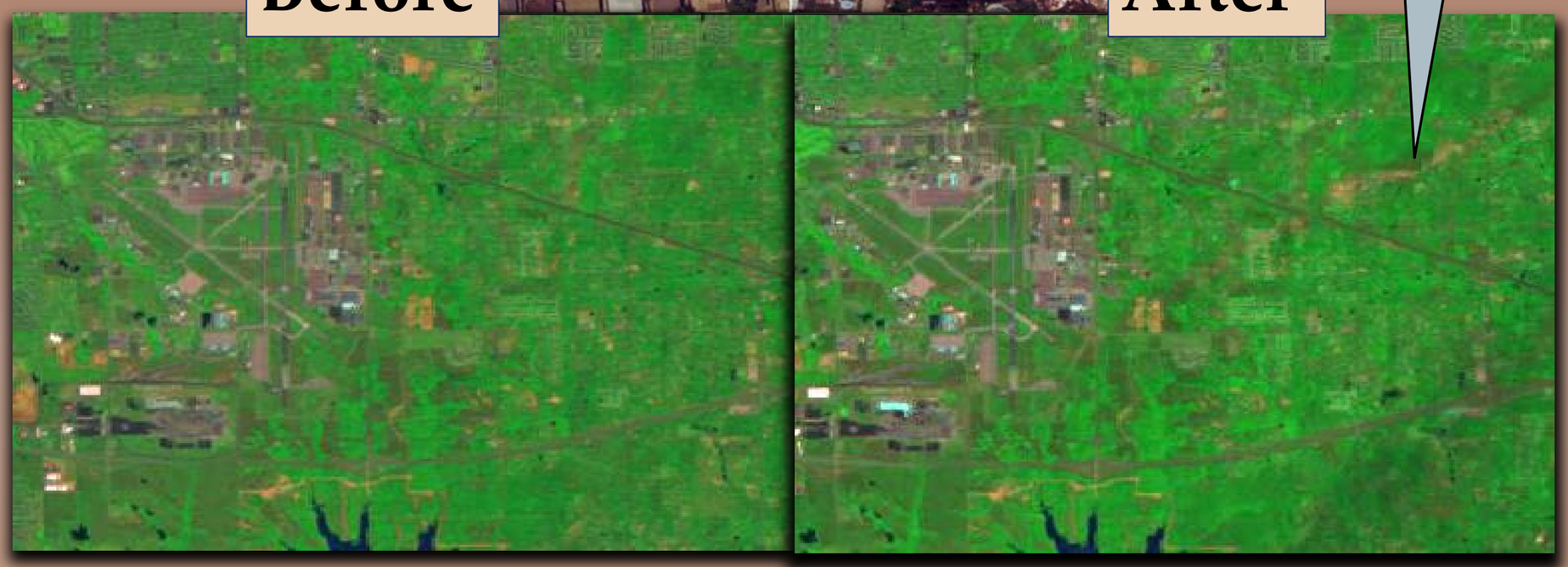
Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA.

Before

After

Path of May 2003 Tornado!

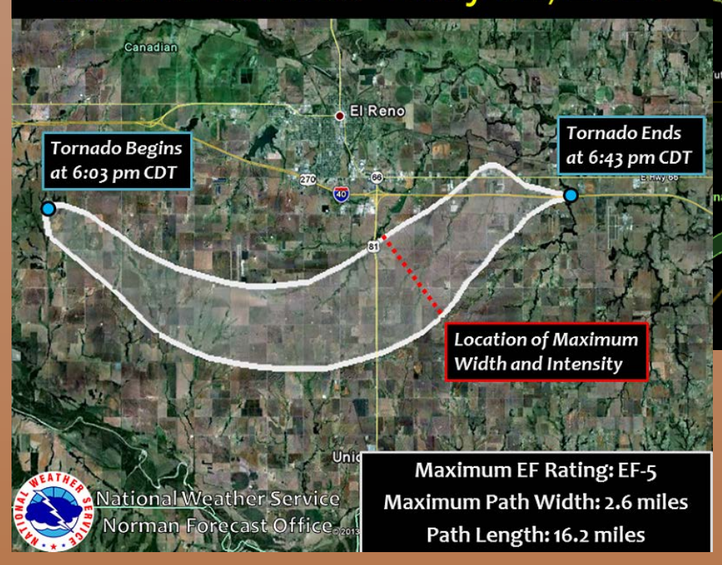
Tornadoes are categorized on the Enhanced Fujita Scale of Intensity and ranked from 0 to 5 based on their wind speed and size. On May 31, 2013, central Oklahoma was hit by a record 2.6 miles wide EF5 tornado.



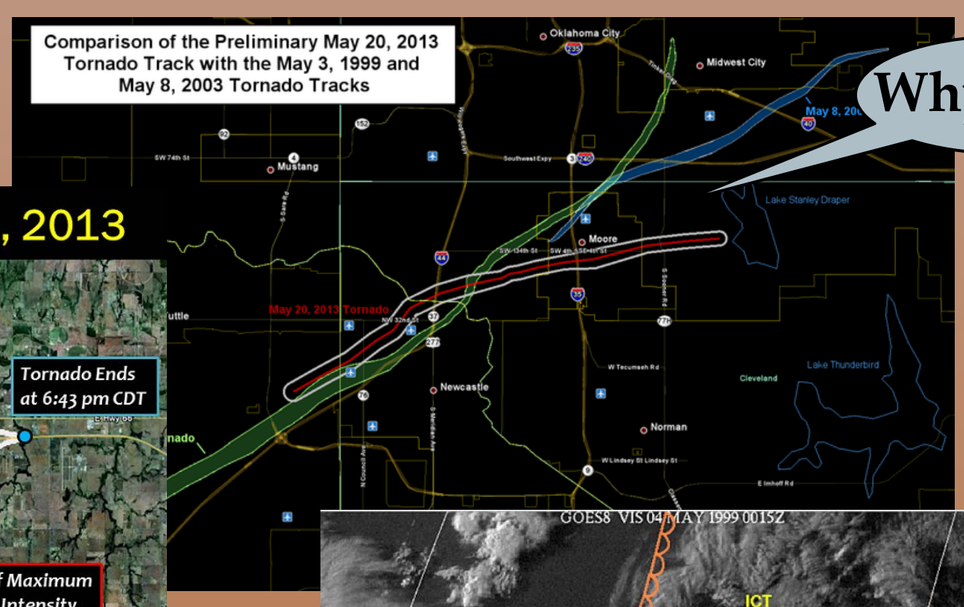
Landsat image of Central Oklahoma - Vegetation before an EF5 tornado April, 2003. Accessed via Google Earth Engine Trusted Tester Program

Landsat image of Central Oklahoma – Vegetation removed in the path of an EF5 tornado - May 2003.

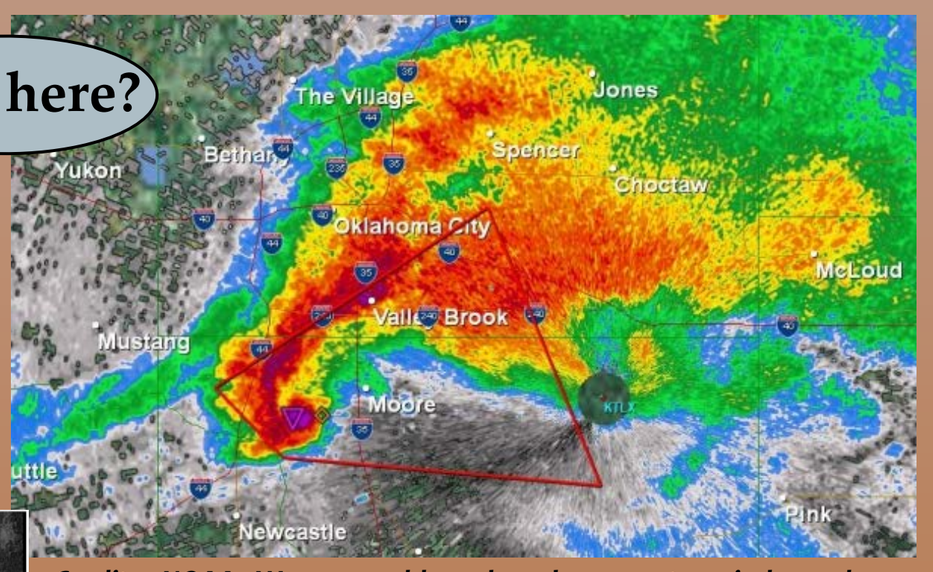
El Reno Tornado - May 31, 2013



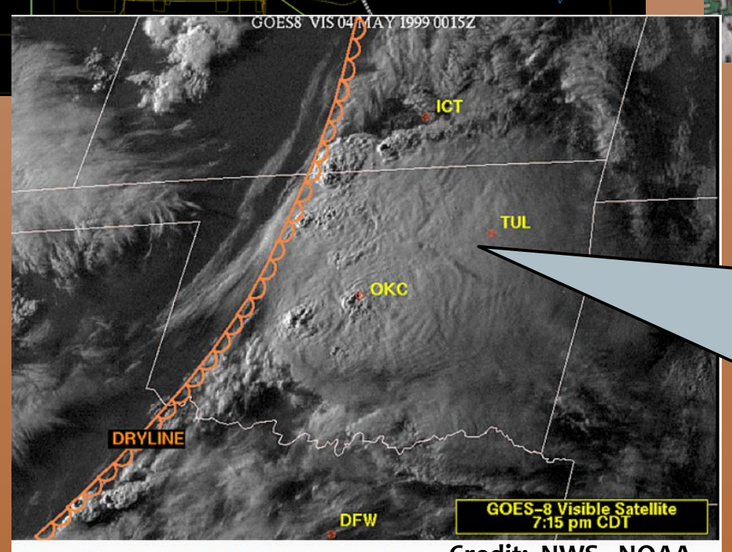
Credit: National Weather Service, WFO Norman, OK



Why here?



Credit : NOAA. Warmer, redder colors show greater wind speeds while cooler, green/blue colors show slower wind speeds .



Visible satellite image with dryline position superimposed. Credit: NWS, NOAA.

Warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico collides with cold Artic air from the Colorado and Canadian Rockies. This wide temperature difference (20°- 80°F) over a very short distance is the perfect combination for large, powerful, devastating tornadoes.

Most Tornadoes occur during the month of May.

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