

Logging in the Apex-Nickel Plate Recreation Area

Public Information Forum
Apex Mountain Resort
February 28, 2015

Apex Property Owners Association
Forestry Advisory Committee

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When reading this document it is important to remember that the forestry companies are operating legally within the current BC regulatory environment. As we understand it, their staff and the staff of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) consider the harvest license holder's current harvesting rates and practices in the Apex area to not only be within "acceptable industry standards", but to actually exceed them.

It is inappropriate to "blame" the companies, and especially their employees, for doing what they are legally entitled and encouraged to do – generate economic value from a renewable resource. The issue is most certainly not one of bad intent. It is an issue of what local stakeholders in an economically important tourism and recreation area consider to be the undesirable outcome of residing in the provincial timber harvest land base.

As you will read, this issue is fundamentally a regulatory and political one.

Agenda

Presentation (30-45 min)

- How we got here
- Current Issues
- What is next

Q&A (30-45 min)

How We Got Here

Green Mountain – 2010



This picture, taken in the late 2000s shows Green Mountain and Apex Village, taken from one of the ski runs.

Green Mountain – Summer 2012



This is how Green Mountain looks after the clear-cut harvesting done by Sn'pink'tn forestry in 2011-2012.

It was this highly visible clear-cut that caused the APOA to form the APOA Forestry Advisory Committee with the purpose of investigating what was happening with respect to harvesting in the Apex area and represent the interests of Apex property owners.

Forestry Committee 2013-14 Review

Dec '12 • Met with Weyerhaeuser about their plans, ask about new ribbons

Jan '13 • Researched situation, learned Sn'pink'tn had more harvest plans
to • Initial meeting with Sn'pink'tn and Gorman

Mar'13 • APOA AGM motion authorized hiring of RPF to advise us

- Hired Mark Marton, RPF. He produced a report.

- Jun 4 meeting with Mark, RDOS, Sn'pink'tn, Gorman, and WeyCo

Apr '13 • Learned Green Mountain cutblock to be doubled in size summer 2013

to • Learned pine beetle threat reduced significantly starting last summer

Jun '13 • **Jun 10 Public forum, sparked public support**

- Public sent numerous letters to gov't and newspapers

- Several APOA interviews by press (newspaper and radio)

Jul '13 • "All Parties" meeting hosted by provincial gov't (MFLNRO)

to • **4-point MOU developed and signed**

Sep '13 • No harvesting in immediate area around Apex Village since

- No significant pine beetle activity

Sep '13

To • Sn'pink'tn still working on their Apex area plans

Dec '14 • Commented on Skul'qalt (LSIB) draft Forest Stewardship Plan

- **Met with WeyCo on new cut block plans**

The main purpose of this slide is to convey that a lot of work went into discovering who was harvesting and what their plans were. There were several planned cut blocks that, if harvested, would significantly alter the viewscape. Since we felt we were getting highly filtered information from the industry, APOA hired its own Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to evaluate the Green Mountain clear cut and the other proposed cut blocks near the village and determine if: 1) pine beetle was a danger, and 2) did these cuts meet the requirements of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP). No and No was our RPF's conclusion. After several meetings between the APOA and industry, coupled with no apparent willingness for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) to do anything substantial to assist us, the APOA hosted a public information forum in Penticton. The press coverage and letters sent to government as a result of that forum prompted MFLNRO to host an all-parties meeting.

The outcome of that July 2013 meeting was a Memorandum Of Understanding signed by all parties, with the four key items of the MOU outlined on the next page.

The next major effort by the APOA was to comment extensively on the Skul'qalt FSP in Oct 2013. It appears that very little if any of the APOA issues and recommendations were taken seriously, evidenced by Skul'qalt performing 40,000 m3 of harvesting in the area with no notification or consultation with any local stakeholders that we know of.

In Dec 2014 Weyerhaeuser provided the APOA with a cut block map showing existing and planned cut blocks in the area, as well as an approximate schedule for harvesting over the next 5-7 years. After studying this information and presenting it to the APOA board, the Forestry Advisory Committee had what can only be called an "ah ha" moment. The volume of harvesting being proposed was much, much higher than we had expected, and this did not include any planned harvesting by Skul'qalt.

Four Points of the MOU

- 1. Reaffirms objectives of the Land Resources Management Plan (LRMP)**
- 2. Sn'pink'tn Forestry to review Green Mountain cut block**
- 3. Apex area's cut block plans are to be reviewed by APOA**
- 4. Follow-up meeting fall 2013 for wildfire risk reduction**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

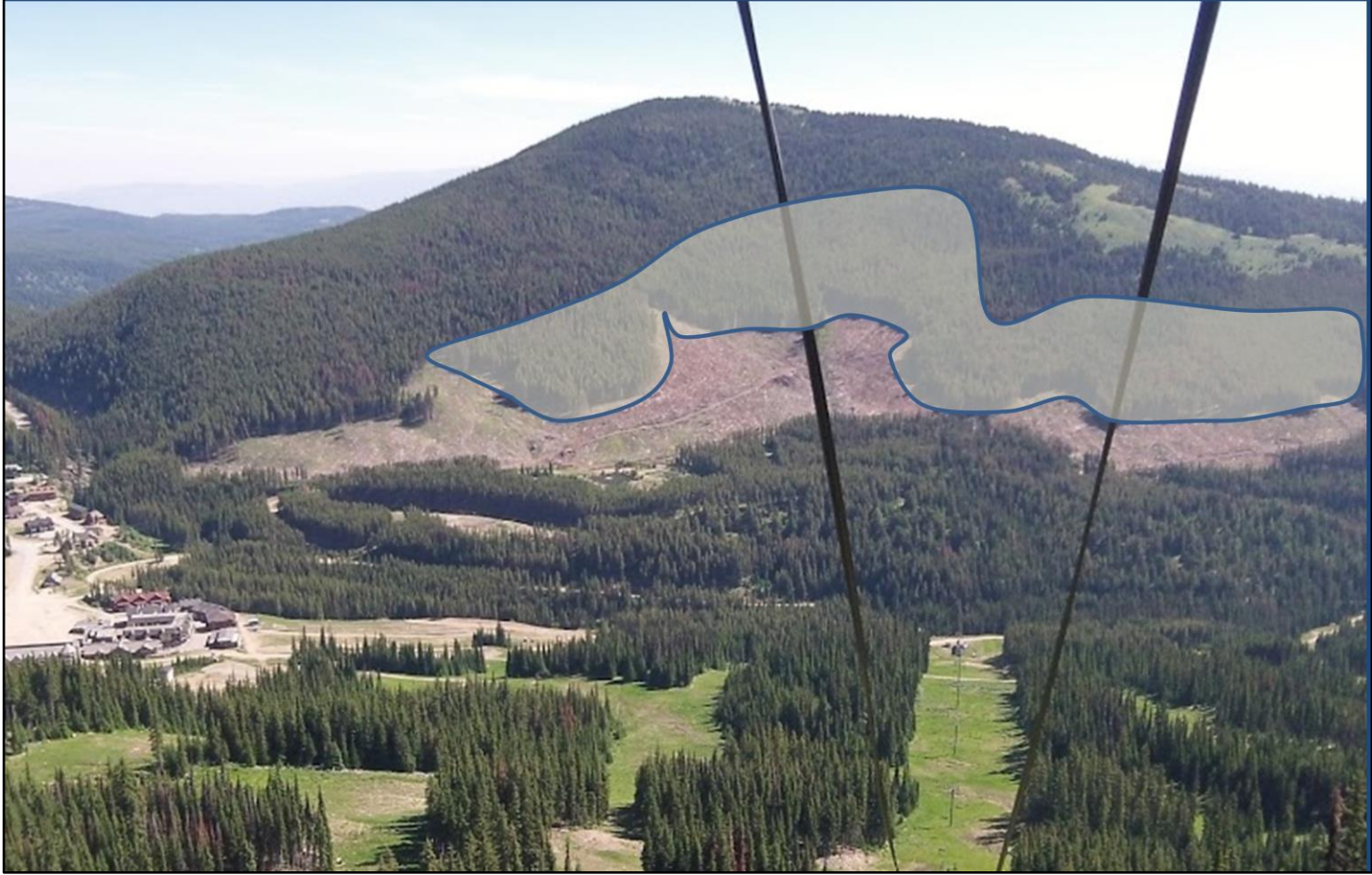
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July 22, 2013

This memorandum of understanding is between the following Parties:

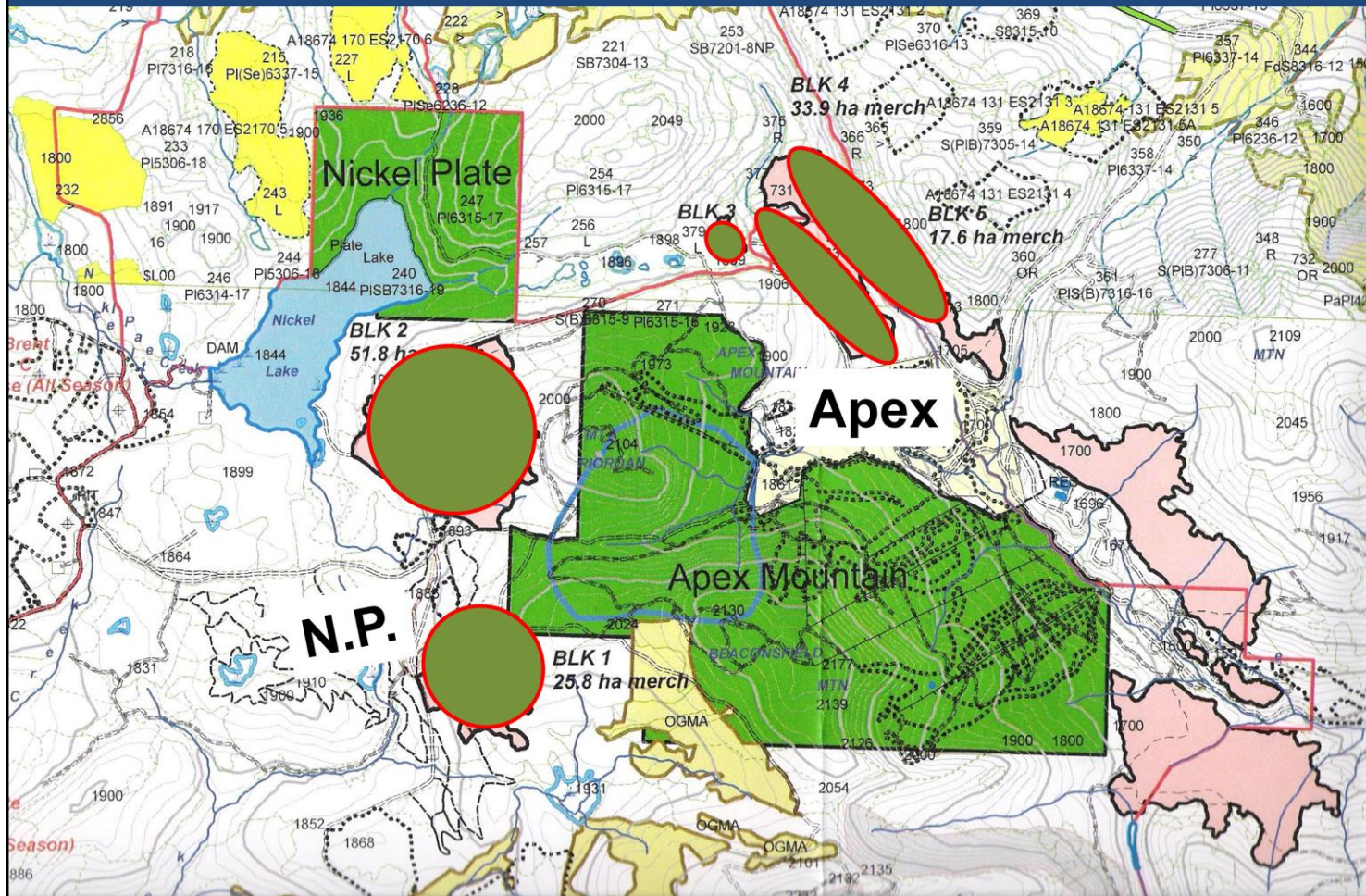
Snpinktn Forestry LP – represented by Warren Houde and Doug Campbell
APEX Property Owners Association (APOA) – represented by Jeff Brown, Denis O'Gorman, and Mark Marton
Weyerhaeuser Company Limited – represented by Brian Drobe
Gorman Bros Lumber Ltd – represented by Jeff Hatch and Matthew Scott
Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) – represented by Dave Hails, Ray Crampton, and Pam Shumka

2013 – What we achieved



Sn'pink'tn did not complete the Green Mountain cut block, thereby keeping it from becoming substantially larger and more visible than originally laid out.

2013 – What we delayed



To-date, no harvesting has occurred in the other proposed Sn'pink'tn cut blocks as highlighted in the above map.

BC Timber supply down 53%

+

Price of lumber increasing

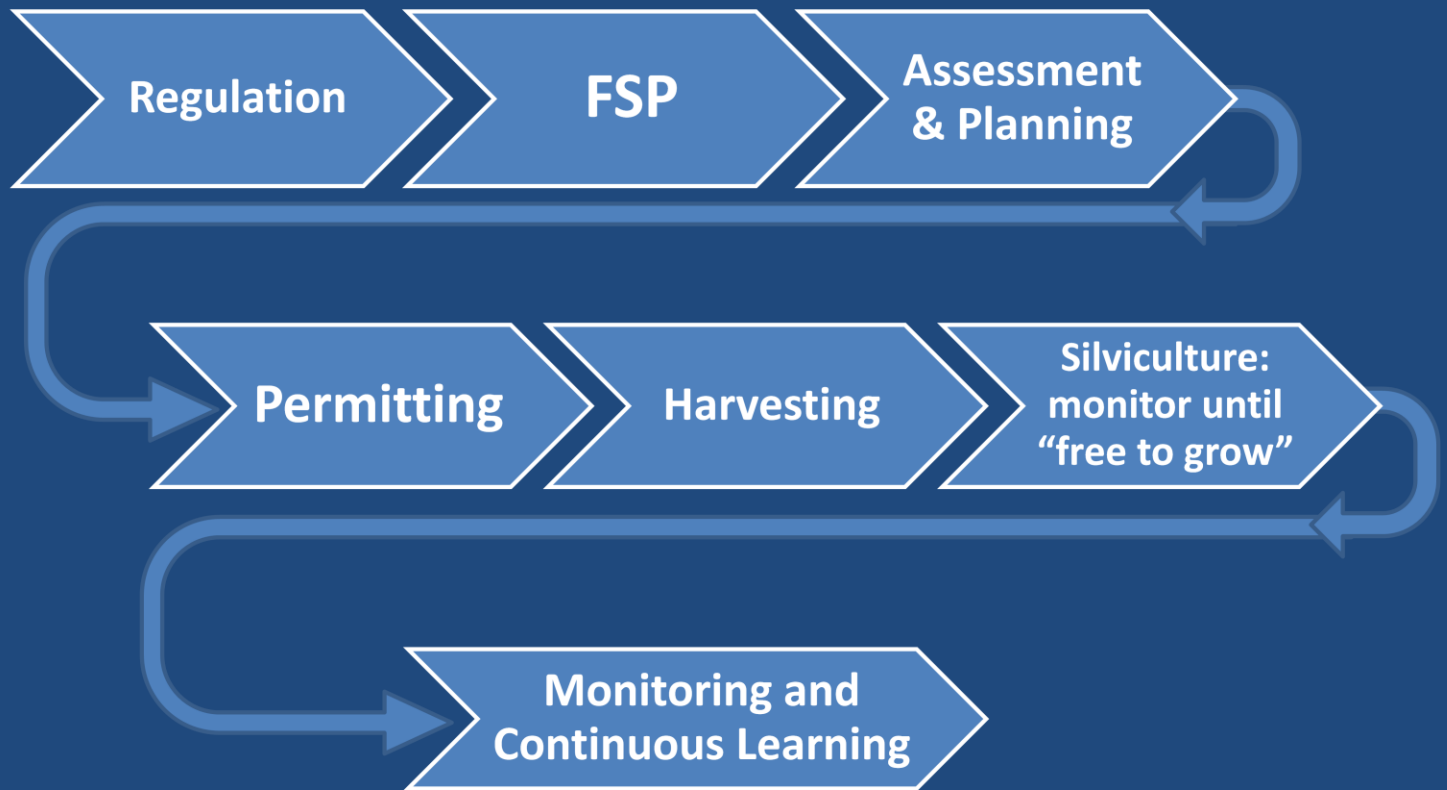
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**Increased pressure on
remaining forest**

At the March 2014 APOA AGM the Forestry Advisory Committee stated its concern that the combination of reduced timber supply and increasing lumber prices was going to entice harvest license holders to more aggressively harvest in the remaining forested areas. This warning has proven to be accurate.

Current Issues

Forestry in BC



To structure the discussion, MLFNRO's own forestry process flow chart is used. This is taken from a document called: Forest Management in the Okanagan Shuswap District

Contact Information

BC Timber Sales: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TOC.htm>

Canoe Forest Products: <http://www.fclcanoe.com/>

Gorman Bros. Lumber: <http://www.gormanbros.com/>

Louisiana Pacific: <http://www.lpcorp.com/>

Okanagan Shuswap District: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/>

Tolko Industries: <http://www.tolko.com/>

Westbank First Nations – Heartland Economics:
<http://www.wfndc.ca/>

Weyerhaeuser: <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/>

Helpful Links

Association of BC Forest Professionals: <http://www.abcfp.ca/>

Forestry Legislation: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/>

Okanagan Shuswap LRMP: <http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/kamloops/okanagan/index.html>

Our Experience with FSP

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graph LR; Regulation --> FSP; FSP --> Assessment_Planning[Assessment & Planning]; Assessment_Planning --> Permitting; Permitting --> Harvesting; Harvesting --> Silviculture[Silviculture: monitor until "free to grow"]; Silviculture --> Monitoring[Monitoring and Continuous Learning]; Monitoring --> Permitting; Silviculture --> Assessment_Planning; Silviculture --> FSP
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The diagram illustrates a continuous cycle for Forest Stewardship Planning (FSP). It begins with **Regulation**, leading to the central **FSP** stage. From **FSP**, the process moves to **Assessment & Planning**, then to **Permitting**, **Harvesting**, and **Silviculture: monitor until "free to grow"**. The final stage, **Monitoring and Continuous Learning**, feeds back into the **Permitting** stage, completing the cycle. The **FSP** stage is highlighted in green, while the other stages are in blue.

“Forest harvesting in BC is governed by the Forest and Range Practices Act. The Act specifies forest practice requirements and compels forest licensees to prepare, and have approved, a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). This plan specifies results or strategies that forest licensees will employ to meet government objectives (including objectives for water, riparian, wildlife, soils, visuals and biodiversity) when carrying out forest harvesting activities. (eg. reserving timber adjacent to a stream) The FSP is a strategic plan and does not include specific locations for harvesting and road construction. A requirement of an approved FSP is to allow for a 60 day review and comment period during which the public, First Nations and stakeholders may provide input.”

- Forest Management in the Okanagan Shuswap District

APOA commented on FSP

No subsequent consultation

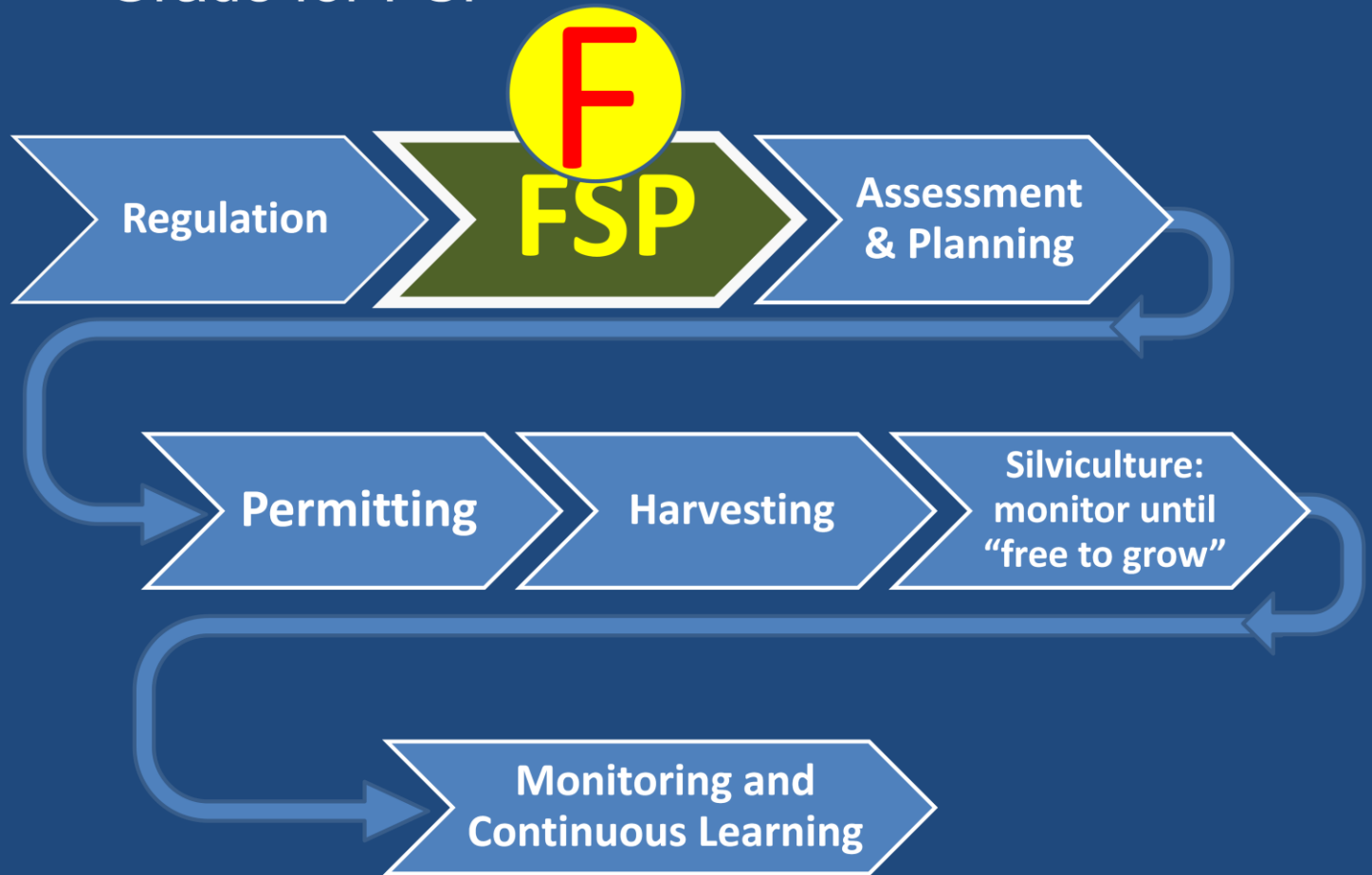
40,000 m³ logged

Logging trucks for 1/2 the ski season

The key point to this slide is that the APOA contributed to the Skul'qalt FSP yet that made no apparent impact on their behaviour: they ignored us as a local stakeholder. Nickel Plate Nordic Center management also had no knowledge of the extensive clear cutting being done by Skul'qalt via their contractor Capacity Forest Management.

The safety risk (and negative impact on tourism) of having numerous logging trucks running down Apex Mountain Road and Green Mountain Road during the heart of the ski season was raised in a phone call to Ray Crampton of MLFNRO and Mike Beck of Capacity Forest Management. The trucks continued to run until mid-Feb in spite of the very real danger of inexperienced tourist and skier traffic conflicting fatally with a loaded logging truck.

Grade for FSP



The APOA's only experience with being "consulted" during the creation of a license holder's Forest Stewardship Plan was given a grade of F.

Our Experience with Planning



"Once approved, licensees identify specific locations for harvesting and utilize forest and other professionals to prepare detailed site specific plans and assessments. Site specific development of roads and cut blocks includes considerations from legal and non-legal sources. An example of a non-legal source is the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). This plan was a consensus document created by various stakeholder groups to guide resource development by balancing a variety of interests and values in the Okanagan and Shuswap watersheds.

Although not legally required, many licensees prepare and circulate information sharing packages to known stakeholder groups, tenure holders and First Nations to allow for the opportunity to comment on proposed development during the site specific planning stage."

- Forest Management in the Okanagan Shuswap District

Professional Reliance in BC

A “significant regulatory experiment”

Natural resource management overseen
by private sector professionals

New era of “**professional reliance**”

“Just over a decade ago, the British Columbia government embarked on a significant regulatory experiment. It adopted an ambitious goal of cutting or deregulating one-third of the regulations, coupled with an equivalent reduction in the size of the public service. Natural resource management and environmental protection laws and agencies were a prime focus for this initiative as government believed resource companies were significantly over-regulated. Knowing that many British Columbians care deeply about the environment, former premier Gordon Campbell sought to assure the public that environmental standards would not diminish; instead, they would be overseen by professionals in the private sector, rather than government bureaucrats. To bolster this claim, government revised legislation for self-governing professions, such as foresters and agrologists, and passed legislation establishing a new college for biologists. Professional accountability would be maintained primarily through the enforcement of codes of ethics and the disciplinary processes of professional associations, rather than through the approval of plans, permits and licences by government agencies. This was the “new era of professional reliance.””

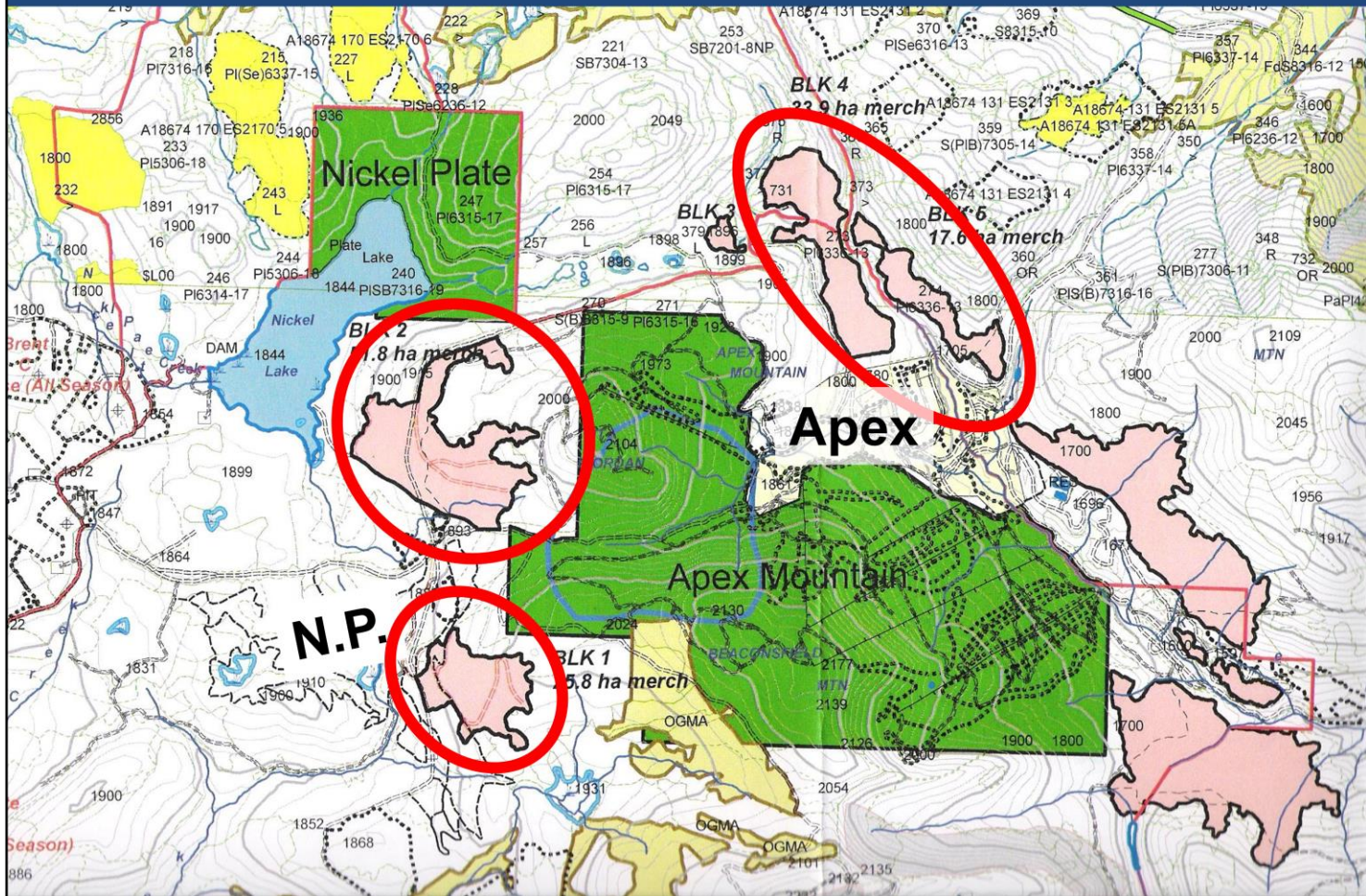
- Professional Reliance and Environmental Regulation in British Columbia.
Environment Law Centre, University of Victoria.

Professional Reliance – Green Mountain



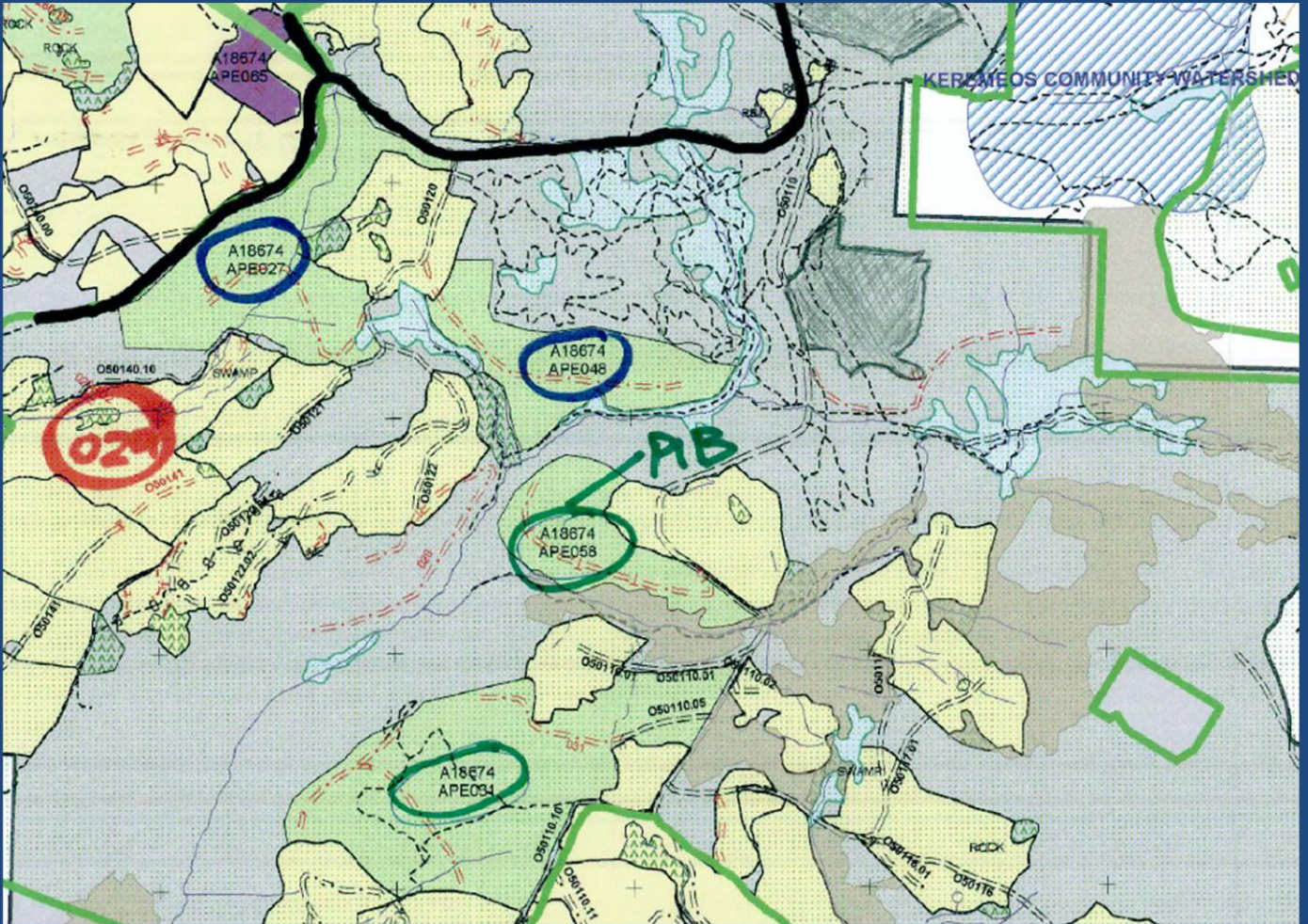
This picture graphically shows the APOA experience with how effectively Professional Reliance has worked in the Apex area. Note that had APOA not generated significant public outcry this cut block would be almost twice as large.

Professional Reliance – Apex Village



One has to question how these cut blocks, being so close to key recreation assets, could be considered acceptable in a recreation and tourist area, especially an area specially designated by the OSLRMP.

Professional Reliance – Nordic Center



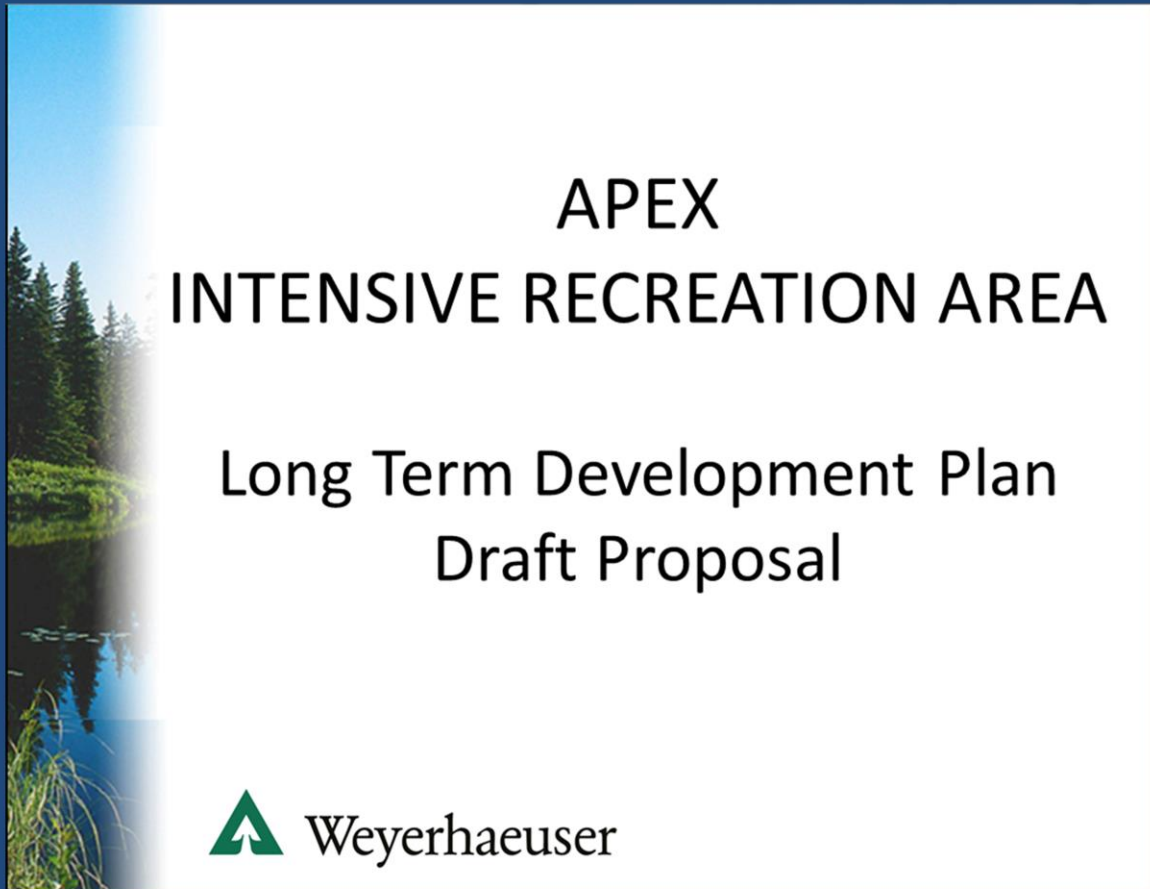
This is a zoom-in on the Weyerhaeuser/Sn'pink'tn map showing existing clear cuts in yellow and "planning polygons", i.e. future harvesting blocks, in green.

Is anyone surprised that these cut blocks (essentially regardless of how they are harvested) are going to be unacceptable to recreation users and management of Nickel Plate Nordic Center? The block shaded in grey would overlap Vindicator and Eagle's Nest trails, and would provide a direct link between the Winter's Creek forestry road and the upper meadow via a clear cut – a severe temptation for snowmobile riders to enter the upper meadow area.

The Weyerhaeuser polygon block numbered APE058 has Cannon Ball trail directly to its north and Buck's Trek directly to its south. If harvested via clear cutting, and that is the only style of harvesting that has been done to-date, it would eliminate the forest between these two core trails of the Nordic Center.

If you add in the other green polygons (two Weyerhaeuser, one PIB) it would result in the Nordic Center being essentially surrounded by clear cuts to its east, south, and west, with the road to the north. The lack of wind protection, and its subsequent impact on user experience, is of huge concern. Is it any surprise we are questioning if "Professional Reliance" as it is structured today can really work in a recreation area?

Weyerhaeuser Gets the Best Marks

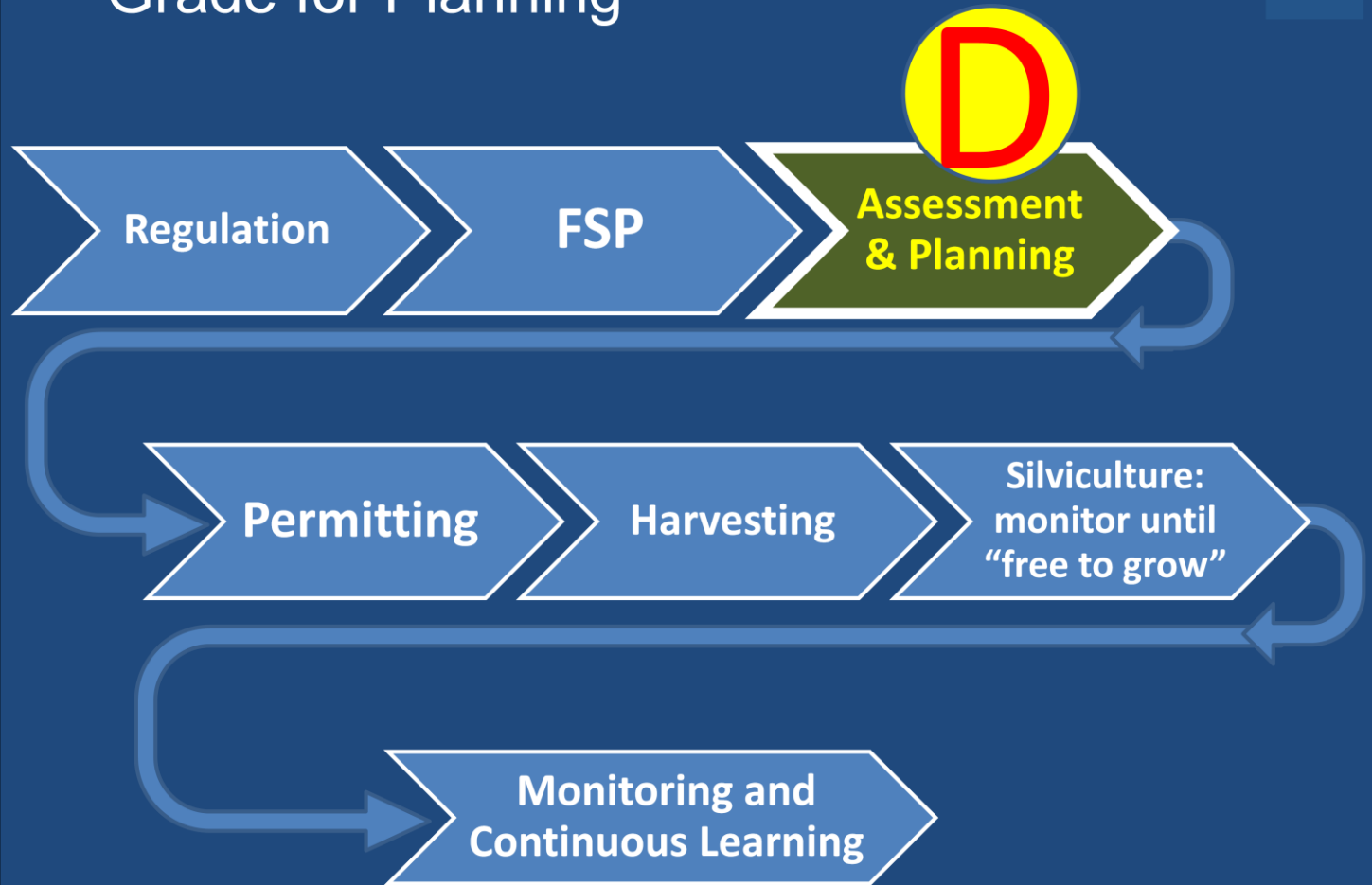


After the July 2013 MOU was signed, Weyerhaeuser attempted to get the other license holders involved in creating a Long Term Development Plan for the area. This initiative died when other license holders showed little initiative in participating. One has to speculate that either MLFNRO applied no pressure for this effort to succeed, or has no power to force or entice license holders to participate in long-term planning for recreation areas.

"Objective:

- Create a long term plan for timber development within the Apex Intensive Recreation Area (IRA) which includes:
 - Multi-licensee involvement and commitment
 - Improved communication with stakeholders
 - Greater certainty as to how and when harvesting will occur
 - A more comprehensive plan as to how the multiple values will be managed"
- APEX INTENSIVE RECREATION AREA Long Term Development Plan Draft Proposal

Grade for Planning



The APOA graded the Professional Reliance model and the Assessment and Planning process in general as follows:

Weyerhaeuser received a "B" for its willingness to communicate and its continuing efforts to address local stakeholder concerns. An "A" would have required lower harvest volumes and not proposing clearly damaging planning polygons such as those within and around Nickel Plate Nordic Center.

Skul'qalt receives an "F" for not consulting before harvesting, and running logging trucks during the ski season.

Sn'pink'tn receives an "F" for the Green Mountain and Dividend clear cuts, leaving the remaining planning polygons on the books around Apex, and lack of communication around long-term plans.

This averages out to a "D" for the industry as a whole.

Professional Reliance

Professional Reliance and Environmental Regulation in British Columbia



 **Environmental
Law Centre**
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

"This research project sought to answer the following questions:

- To what extent has British Columbia come to rely on qualified professionals in the environmental regulatory sphere?
 - What issues have arisen in this new regulatory model, and how have they been addressed?
 - How do the various professional reliance models in BC compare and contrast to each other, and to those in place in other jurisdictions?
 - Are the qualifications for professionals adequately defined, and do they ensure that decisions are made by competent experts?
 - How have the professional associations responded and adapted to this new regulatory model?
 - What are the indicia of effective professional reliance regulatory models?
 - Are there areas of environmental regulation that do not lend themselves to the professional reliance model? "
- Professional Reliance and Environmental Regulation in British Columbia.
Environment Law Centre, University of Victoria.

Conflict of Interest

Many activities in the natural resource sector involve **trade-offs** between proponent interests and **public interests** in fish, wildlife, water, air, soil, scenic **views****scapes**, **outdoor recreation**, and more. Practices-type regulations cannot always effectively anticipate or address all of these issues. It is **inappropriate** to **delegate** decision making over trade-offs to **private interests**, unless the issues are minor and the activity poses low risk to these public interests.

p. 32-33

"7. Conflicts of Interest

The regulatory system needs to be more alert to the potential for conflicts of interest. When government delegates decision making to professionals who are retained or employed by proponents, it introduces a risk of biased decisions. Natural resource operations are often complex, and while most professional associations require some observance of the public interest, a professional's duty to their client is very prominent. Failure to acknowledge and address conflicts of interest results in undue reliance on codes of ethics and professional disciplinary processes. There are limits to the ability and willingness of professional associations to discipline conduct that complies with the law but may prefer client interests to the public interest. They expect government to determine the public interest. While some situations of conflict may be manageable through proper rules, checks and balances, some are probably irresolvable."

- page 34

Don't Put the Butcher in Charge of the Petting Zoo

A useful analogy is putting a private butcher in charge of a public petting zoo, and then telling the children using the zoo they will be “consulted” when determining which animals will be butchered for food. Even an omnivore who loves his steak will recognize the butcher’s obvious conflict of interest when trading-off the profit of butchering and the “soft” recreation value of the petting zoo. This is especially true if the butcher receives absolutely no revenue from the petting zoo and the “children” have no real say when they start noticing a lot of animals are going missing! It also hints at the incredible stress such a situation would put on the “children” in the petting zoo when they are being asked to recommend which animals will live a bit longer and which get “harvested” next.

A tourism and recreation area like Apex – Nickel Plate is akin to a public petting zoo, not a feed lot.

Professional Reliance @ Apex

Professionals aren't in sync

- Too many butchers in the zoo

Change in 1st Nation Oversight

- The local ref has joined the game

RDOS has little authority

- No execution

Preoccupied Local Stakeholders

- Resort & NP are busy!
- APOA are “just a bunch of NIMBs”

The province abdicated forest harvesting decisions to industry employees who let professional ethics and standards guide their work. There are three companies actively logging in the area. It is akin to having three private enterprise butchers managing a single public petting zoo. It has been our experience that these professionals (in many respects competitors) are not always able to work closely together nor communicate all that well – they work for different employers with different interests and different short term goals.

The government further abdicated their responsibility for local oversight to “local stakeholders” who are supposed to be consulted (or at least “informed”) by the industry, but have no substantial legal rights per se. Unpaid volunteers and local business owners are perhaps too easily out-worked and out-argued by experienced industry employees, making it difficult for local stakeholders to adequately present their case.

First Nations are an exception because regulation gives them special stakeholder status. Recently many First Nation Bands have been granted substantial forest harvest licenses. It brings important economic benefit to a specific local stakeholder for political and social reasons. But what happens when the only legally influential local stakeholder joins the industry? Shouldn't we rebalance the local oversight equation?

We Need a Recreation Professional

Petting Zoo Manager



Apex – Nickel Plate is an area where the primary social and economic value is recreation and tourism, yet it happens to fall in the timber harvest land base. The APOA believes for areas like ours we need modified forestry regulations, processes, and practices.

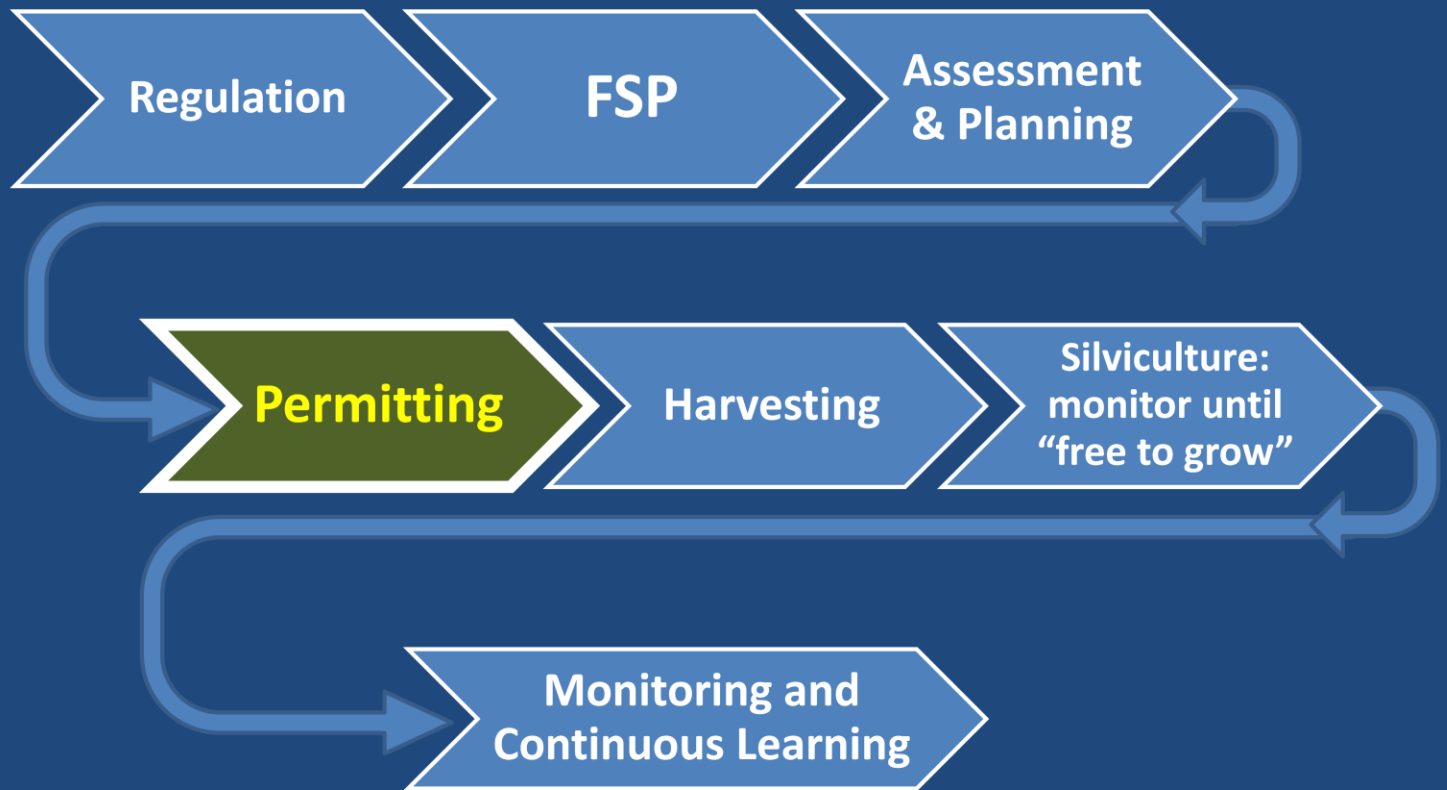
We need to counter-balance the RPF's potential and practical conflict-of-interest (i.e. the private butcher managing the public petting zoo).

The local consultation process needs to involve a paid recreation professional who is first and foremost responsible for protecting recreation and tourism values.

We need an integrated approach to wild fire risk reduction, forest health management, and increasing rather than decreasing the recreation and tourism values of the forest.

And most importantly we need to make one thing very explicit: There are small but economically important recreation and tourism areas in this province, and Apex - Nickel Plate is one of them. In these areas recreation and tourism must take precedence over forestry even when that area is in the timber harvest land base.

Our Experience with Permitting



"Once plans are complete, licensees apply for permits in order to implement harvest plans. Cutting permits are required to harvest Crown timber. There are three tests to determine if a permit can be issued. The permit area must be within a Forest Development Unit of an approved FSP, must be consistent with the license under which it will be issued and Aboriginal interests within the area must have been considered. Once a permit is issued, licensees are monitored for compliance with forest legislation and their approved plans by government staff."

- Forest Management in the Okanagan Shuswap District

Cut Permit

Cut permit issued by MFLNRO

Just Three tests:

- Consistent with license
- Within Forest Development Unit of FSP
- Aboriginal interests were considered

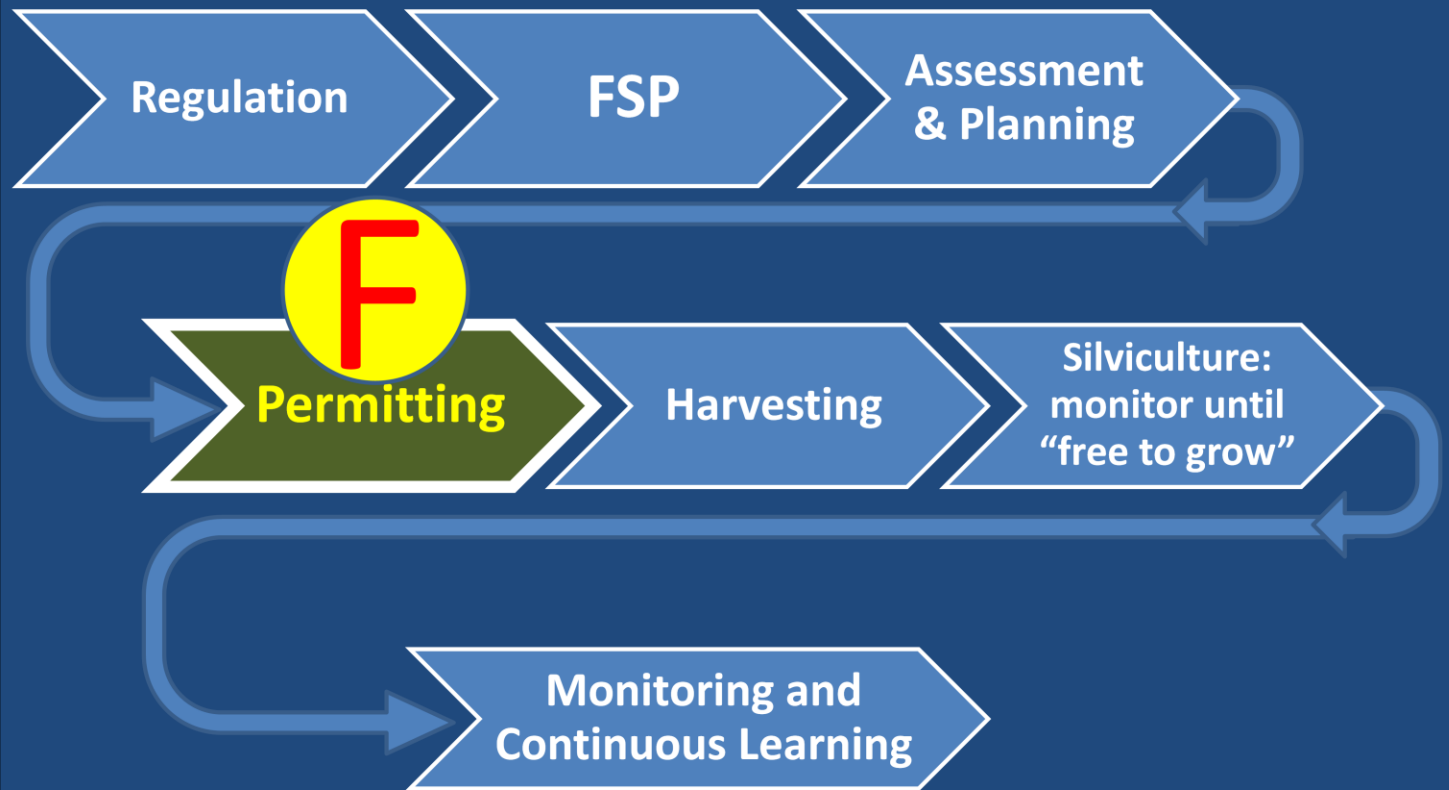
Results:

- Inconsistent consultation
- The “Green Mountain Fiasco”
- Logging trucks in ski season

It has been our experience, confirmed by their own literature, that MFLNRO does very little oversight at this permit issuing phase. Indeed that is at the core of the Professional Reliance model. We’ve learned first-hand that MFLNRO oversight does NOT include checking if local stakeholders have been adequately consulted about the specific harvesting being permitted.

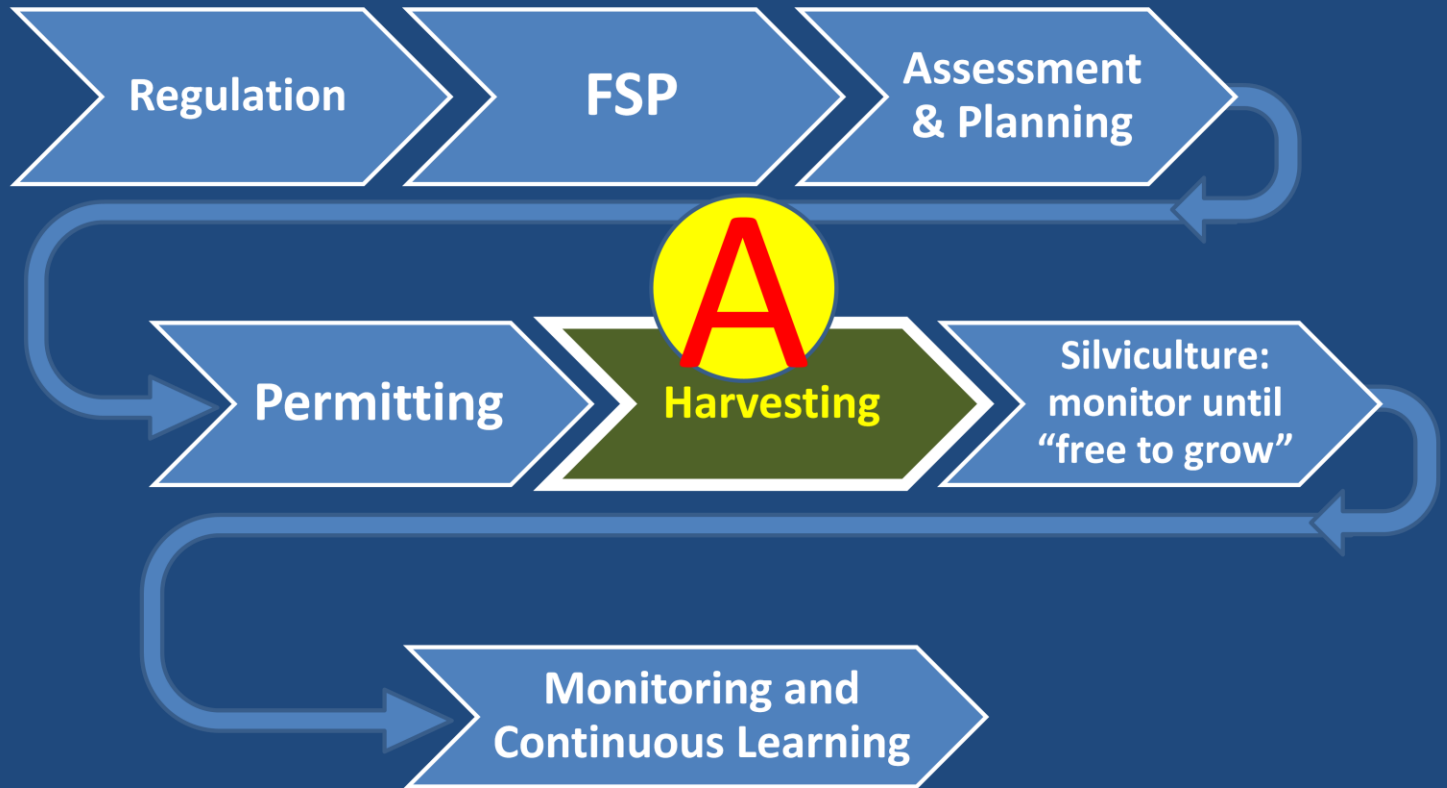
Perhaps that is why so often us local stakeholders have been in-the-dark about what is actually happening once specific harvesting begins. For example, in December people were guessing the logging trucks running during the ski season were Weyerhaeuser's trucks. It took the APOA forestry committee’s annual meeting with Weyerhaeuser, then a phone call to MFLNRO to get a phone number, and then finally a call to Capacity Forest Management (Skul’qalt Forestry’s contractor) before APOA could confirm how long the trucks would be rolling and state our safety and tourism impact concerns. And that was the case even after the APOA “consulted” earlier in the FSP phase with Skul’qalt.

Grade for Permitting



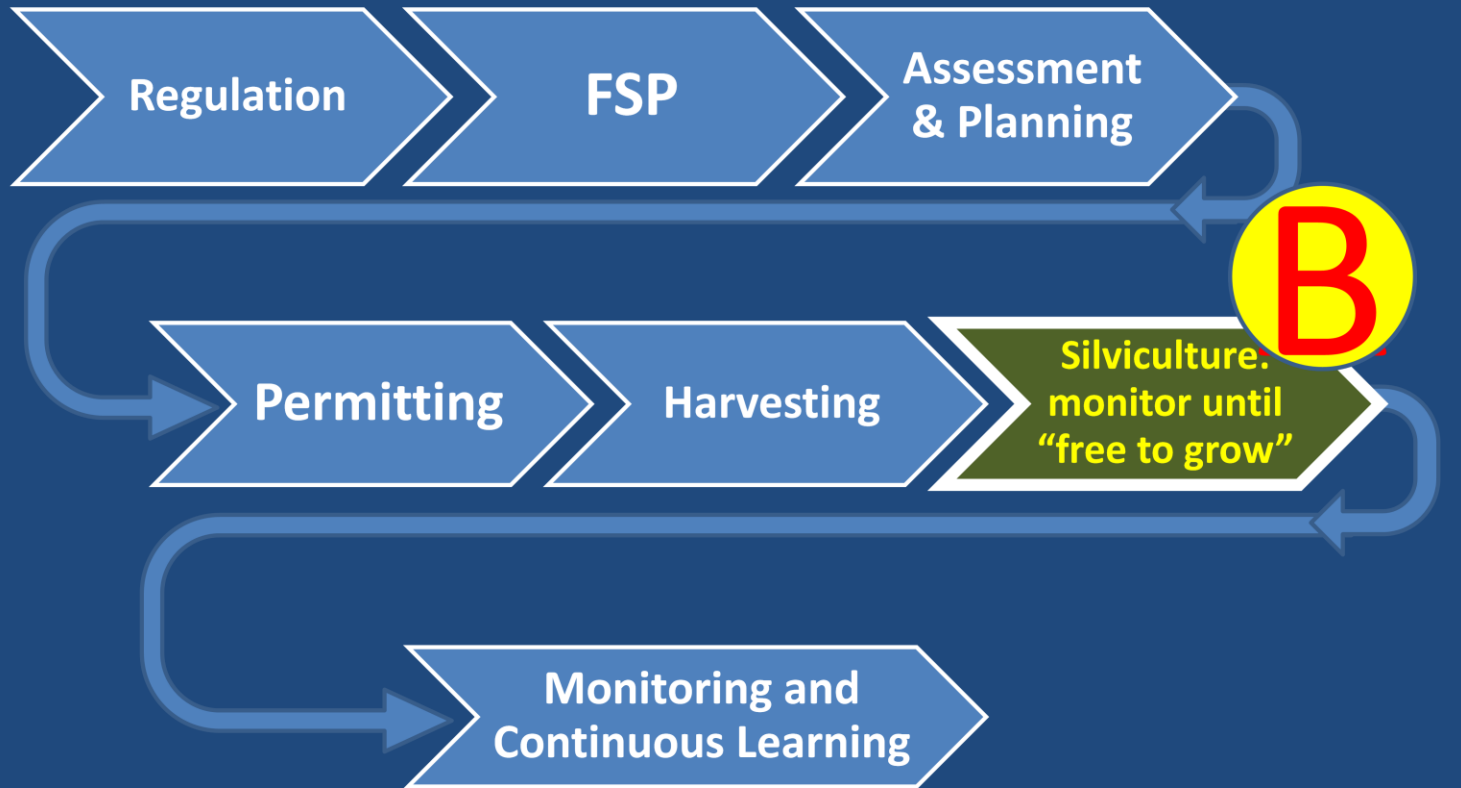
The permitting phase of the process gets an "F" for the reasons stated on the previous page.

Our Experience with Harvesting



We somewhat facetiously give the companies an "A" for the harvesting phase. They appear to be very good at harvesting a lot of trees in a very short time.

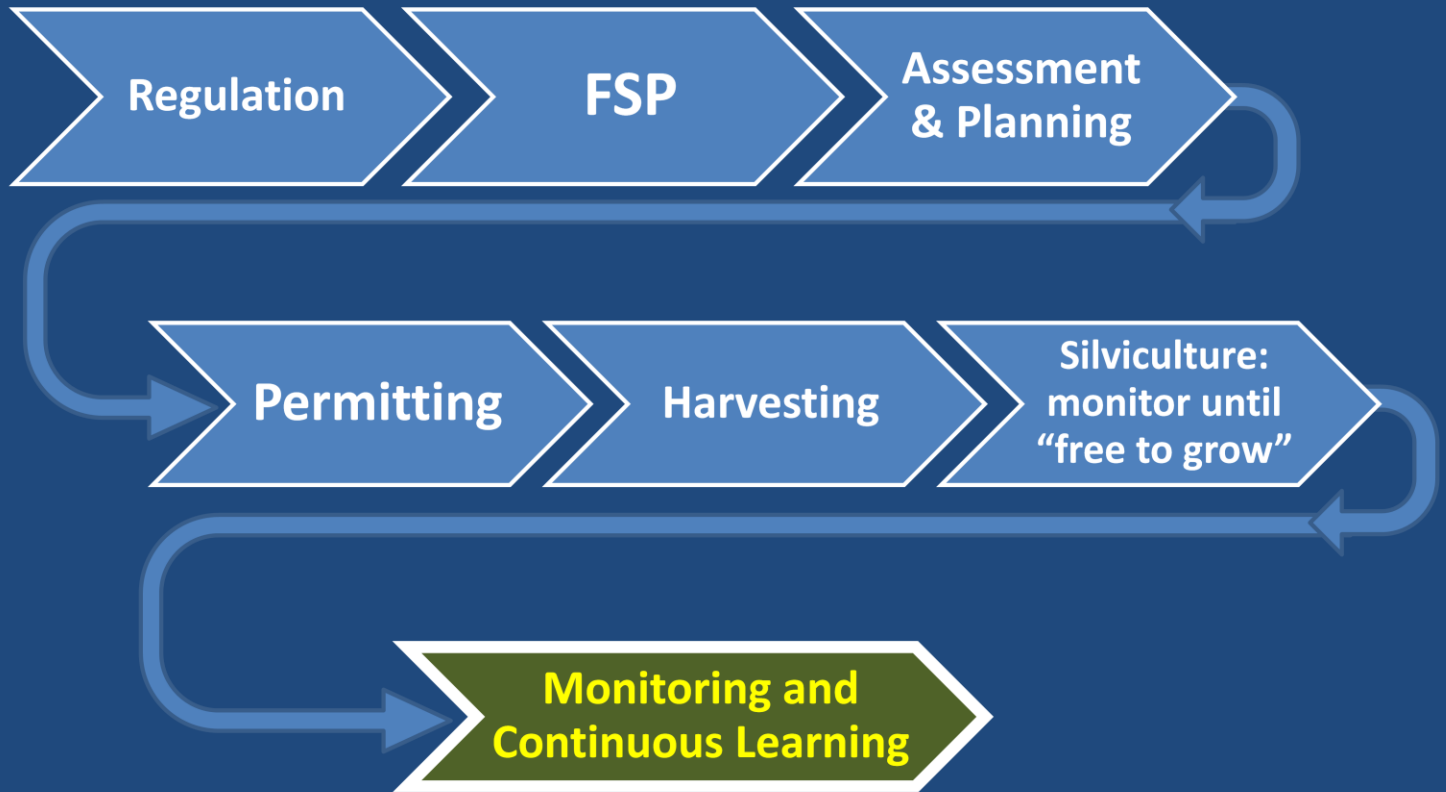
Our Experience with Siviculture



Weyerhaeuser gets an "A" for its replanting, Sn'pink'tn gets an "F" for the two year delay in replanting Green Mountain and Dividend – the two most visible and troublesome clear cuts in the area. However we were informed by a knowledgeable property owner at the public forum that replanting is planned for this summer. We had no information about Skul'qalt before the public forum, but the same property owner said they have been good at replanting immediately.

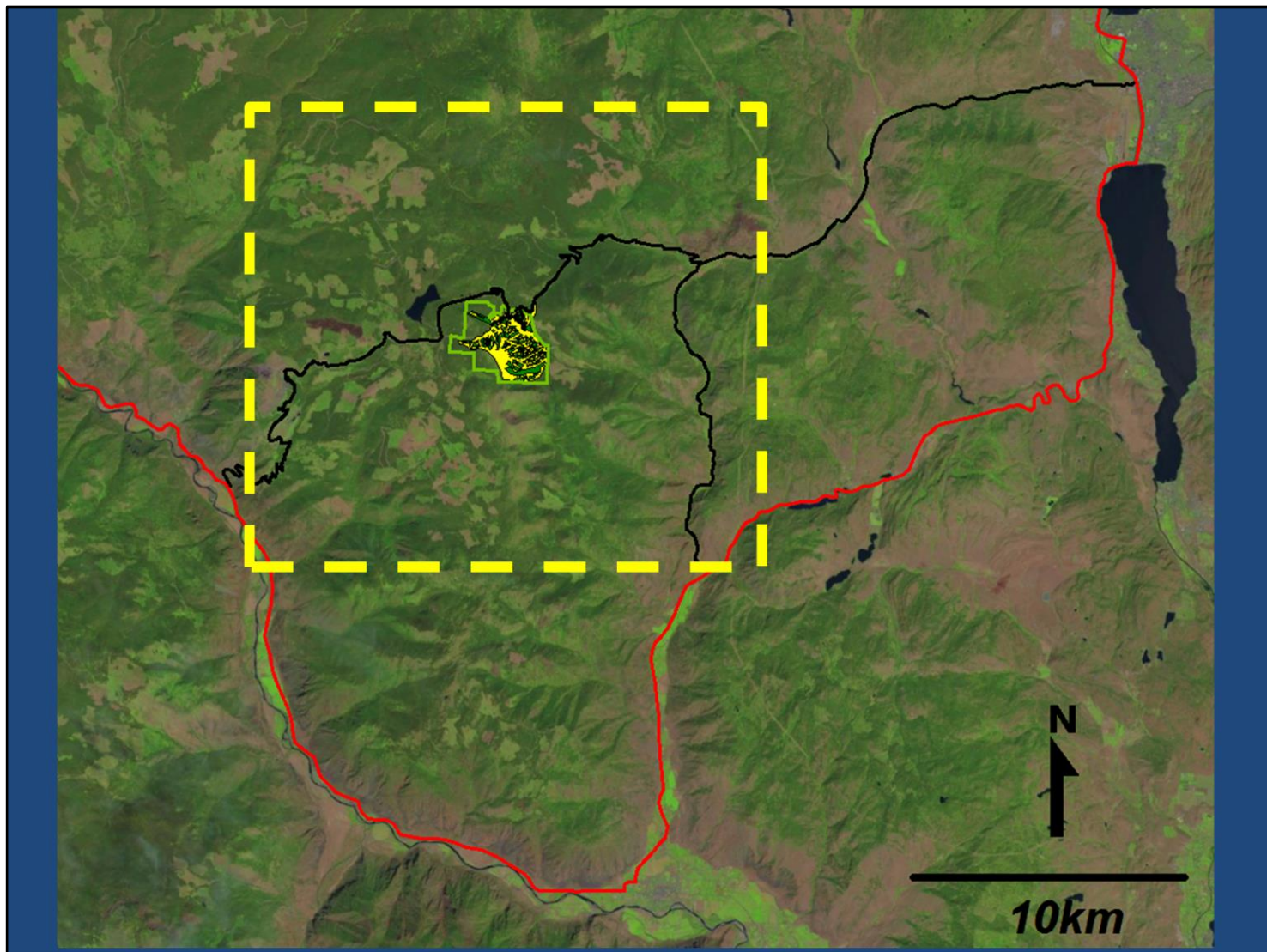
Since Weyerhaeuser has done most of the harvesting and replanting their "A" was given a heavier weight and the industry overall was given a grade of "B".

Time for Review

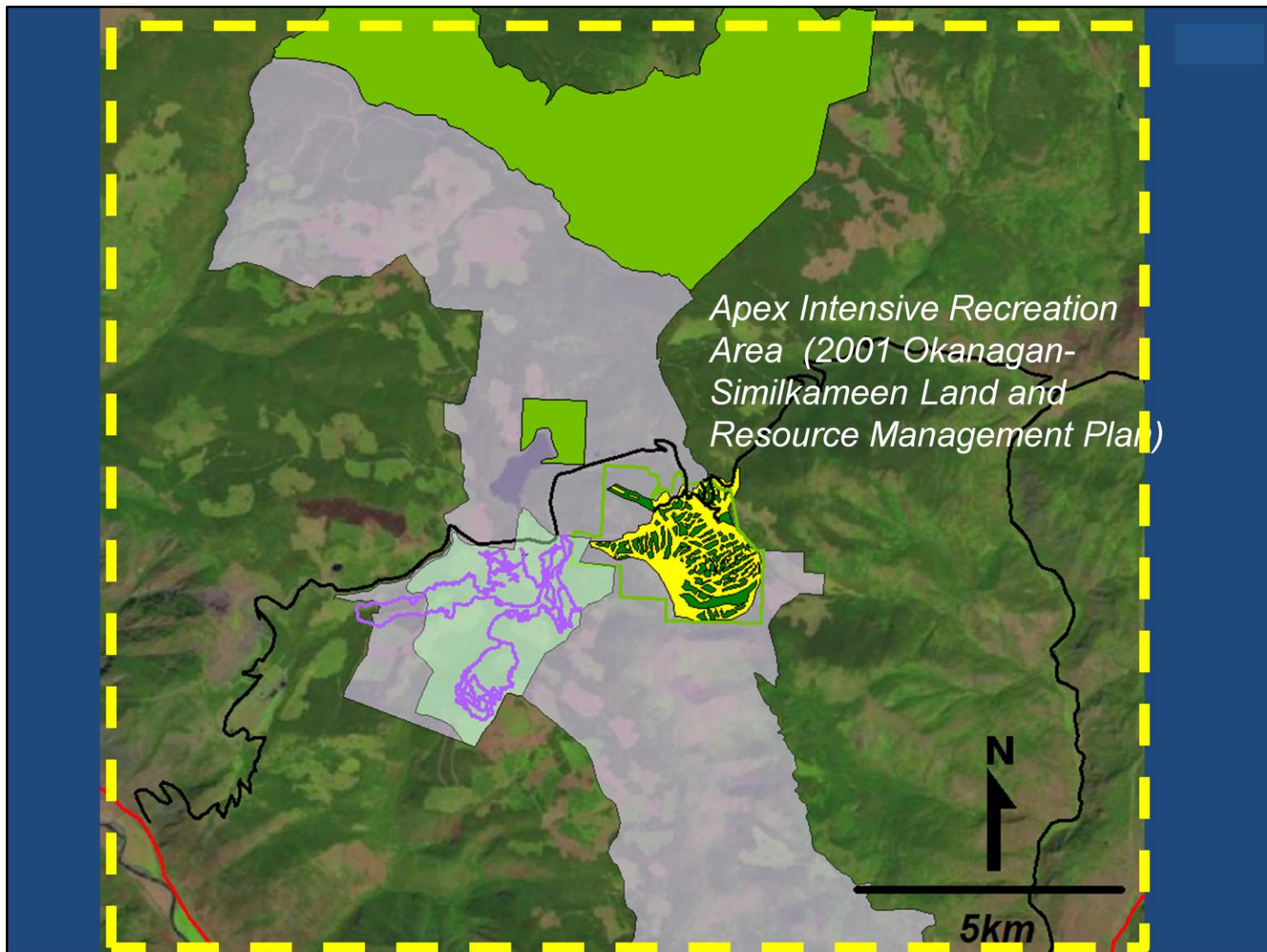


At this point the presentation shifts to a high level evaluation of the cumulative impact of the harvesting that has already occurred in the area...

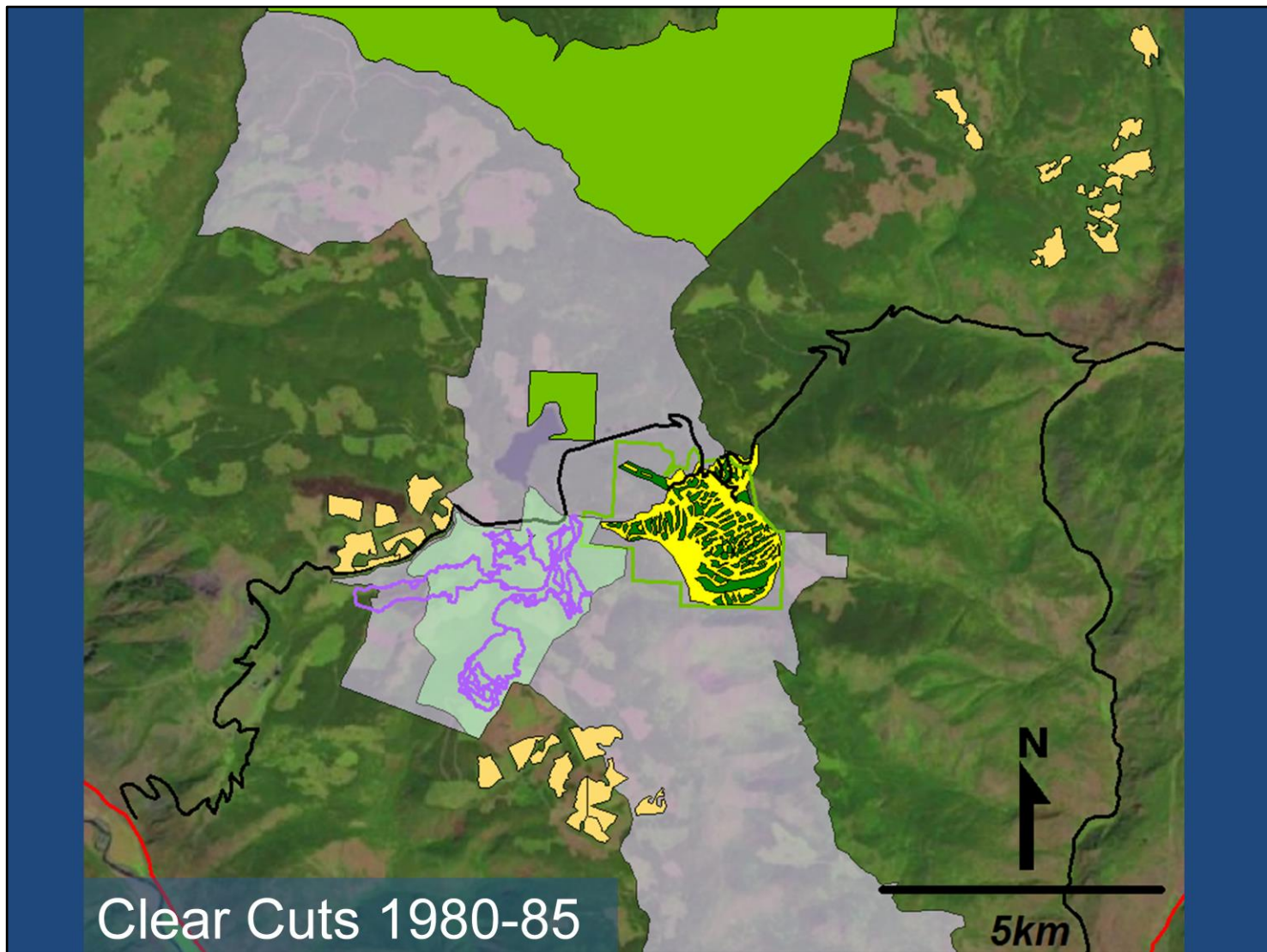
Cumulative Impact



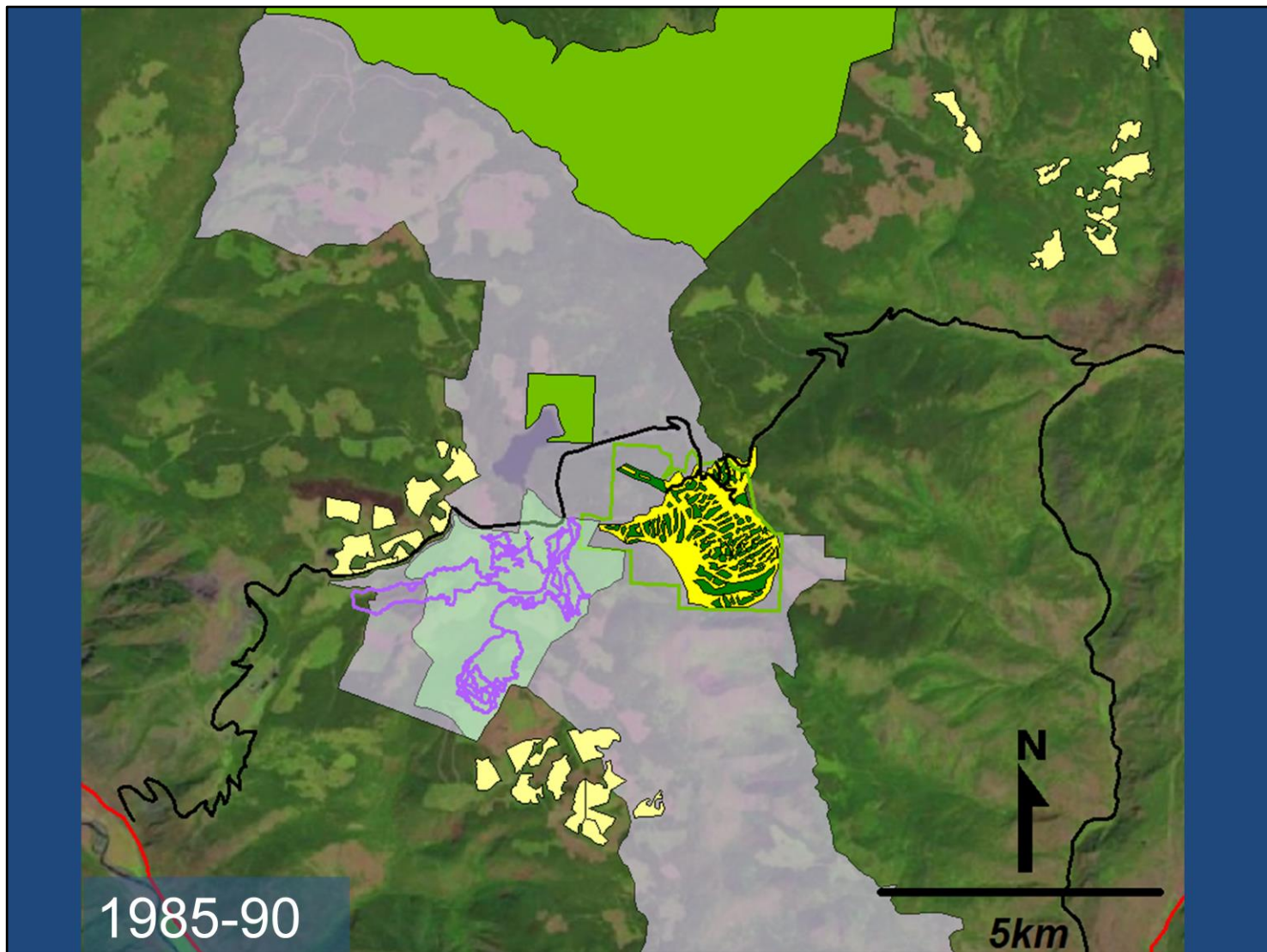
The yellow dotted box is the area we will be reviewing via satellite images. Skaha Lake is on the far right hand side, the red line is Highway 3, the black lines are Green Mountain Road and Apex Mountain Road.



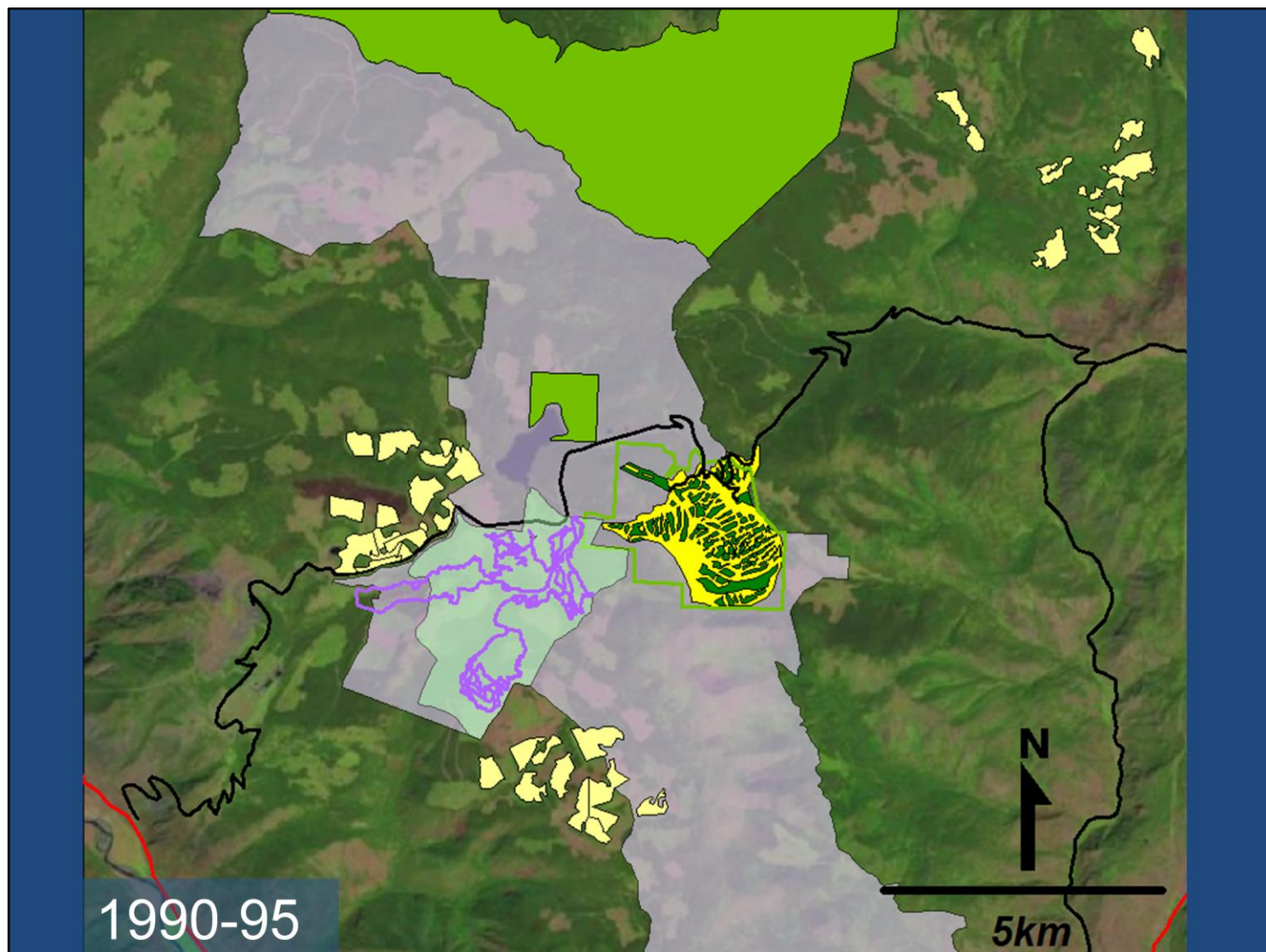
Brent Mountain Protected Area is at the top in green, Nickel Plate Provincial Park is the small green area in the middle. The large, lightly coloured boot shaped area is the designated Apex Intensive Recreation Area. Apex Resort is the yellow and green stripped area, while the light blue with purple lines area is Nickel Plate Nordic Center and its trails.



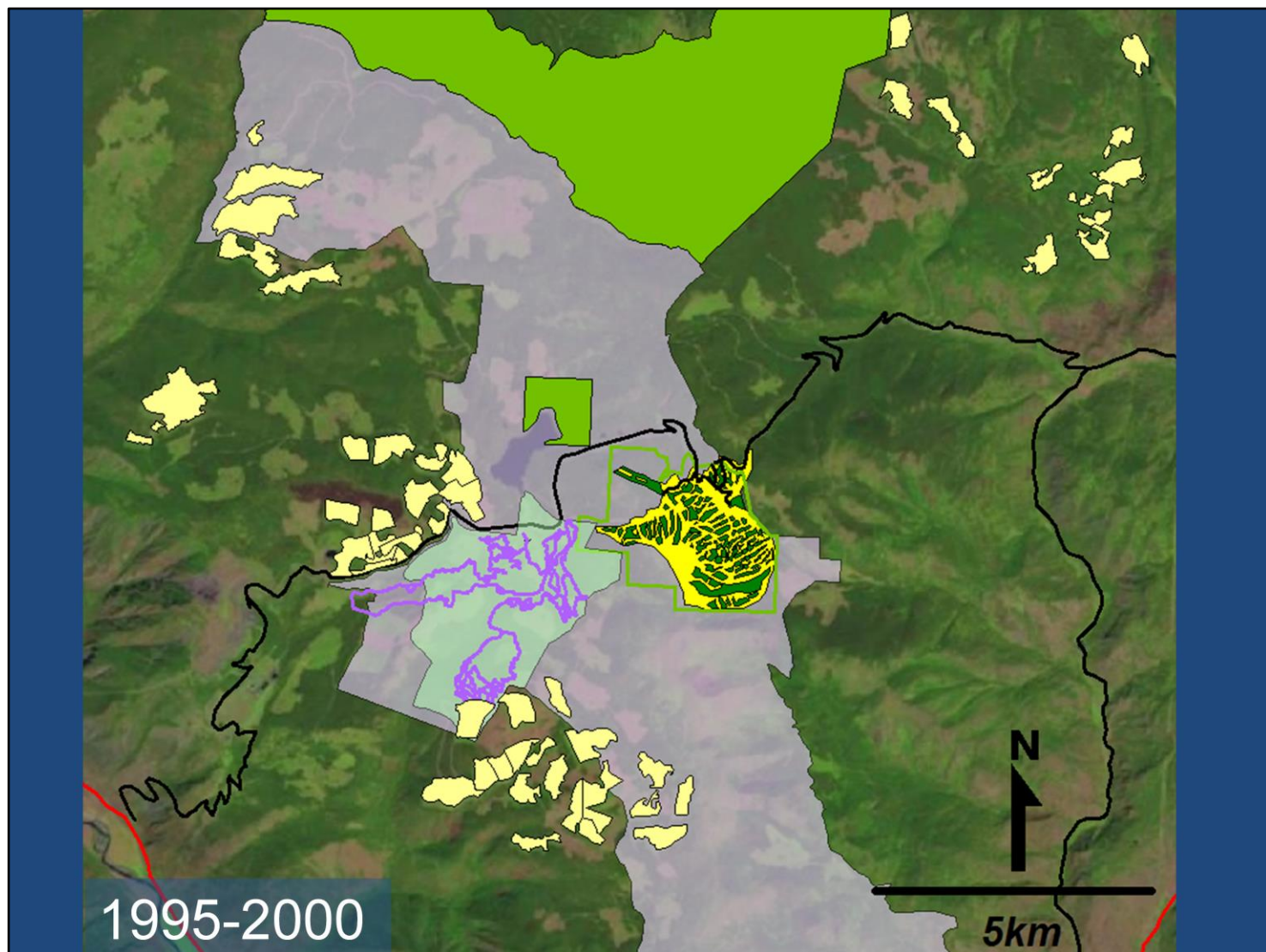
The next series of slides is based on historical satellite photos, with cut blocks (in yellow) overlain. The cumulative impact of harvesting since 1980 becomes visible as you move through each 5-year period.



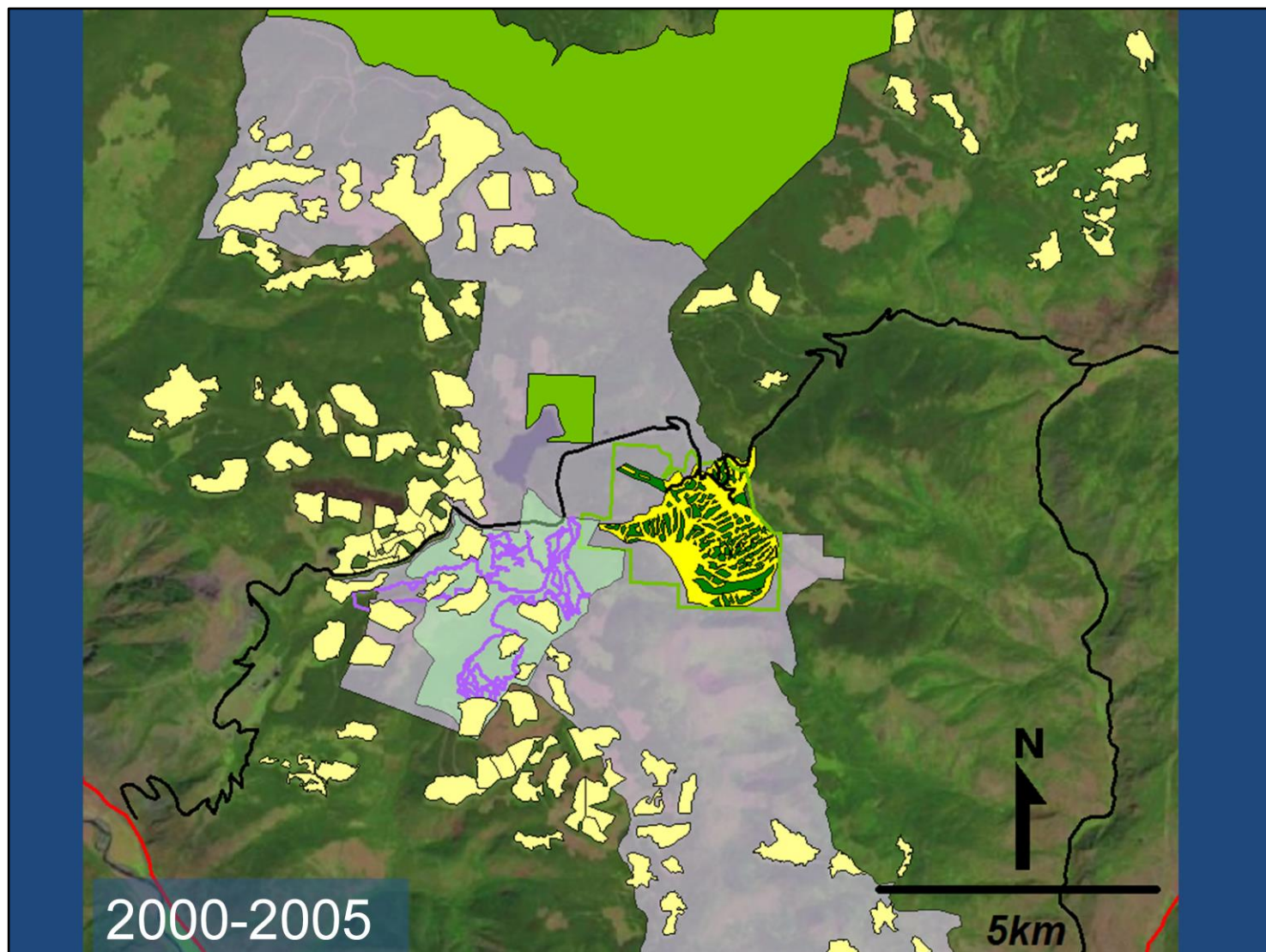
Cut blocks logged up to 1990 are highlighted with yellow patches.



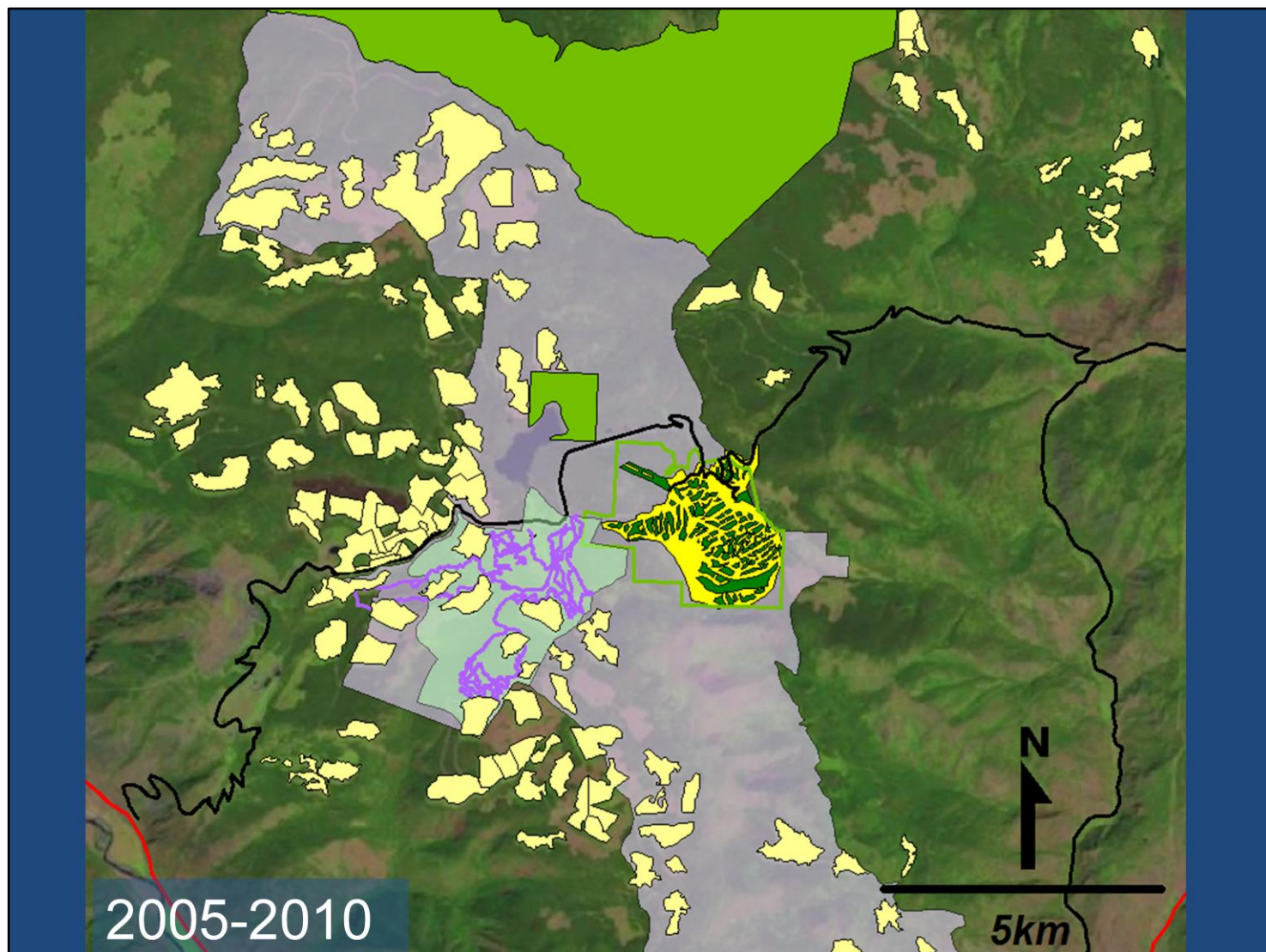
Cut blocks logged up to 1995 are highlighted with yellow patches.



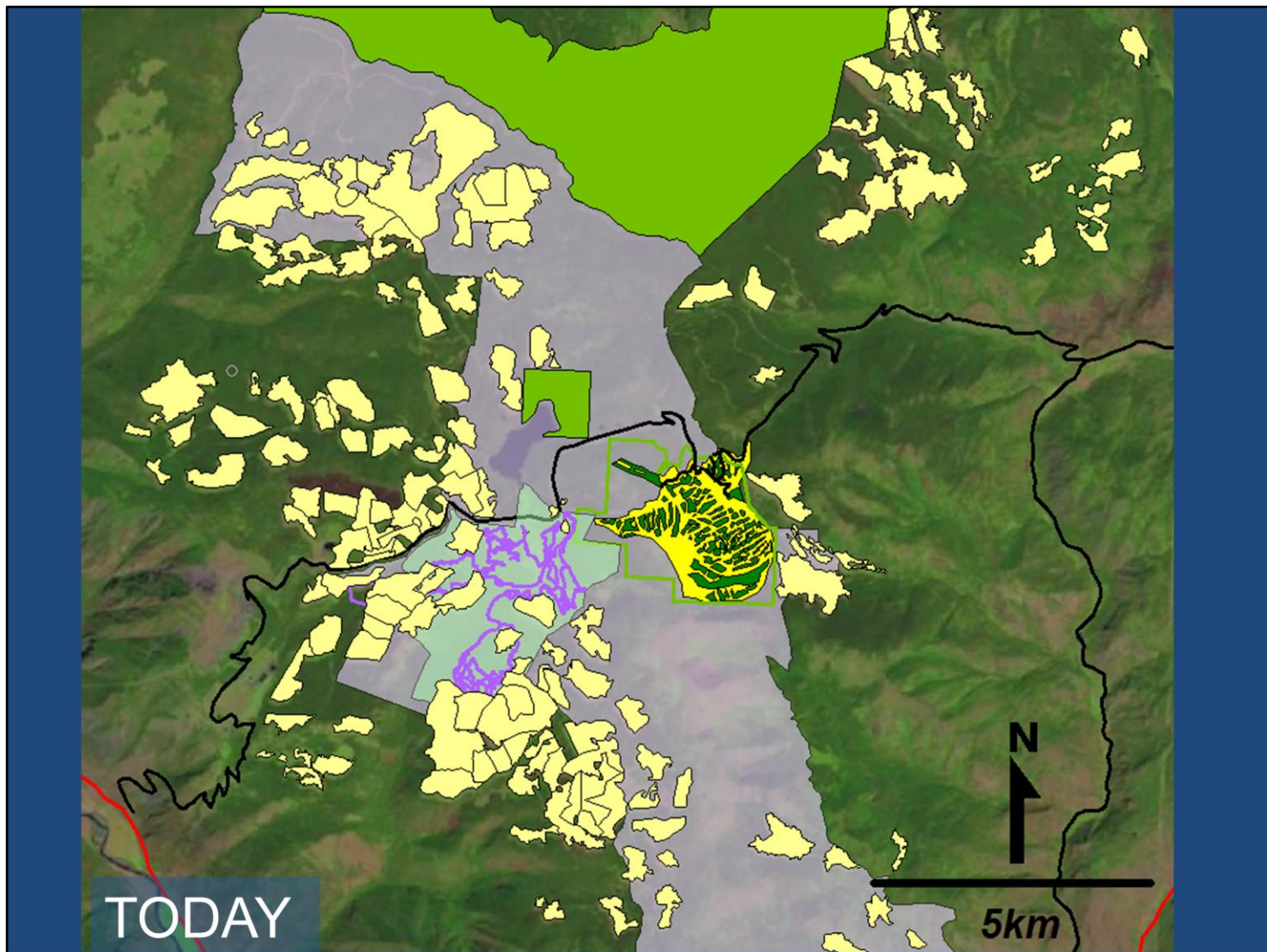
Cut blocks logged up to 2000 are highlighted with yellow patches.



Cut blocks logged up to 2005 are highlighted with yellow patches.



Cut blocks logged up to 2010 are highlighted with yellow patches.

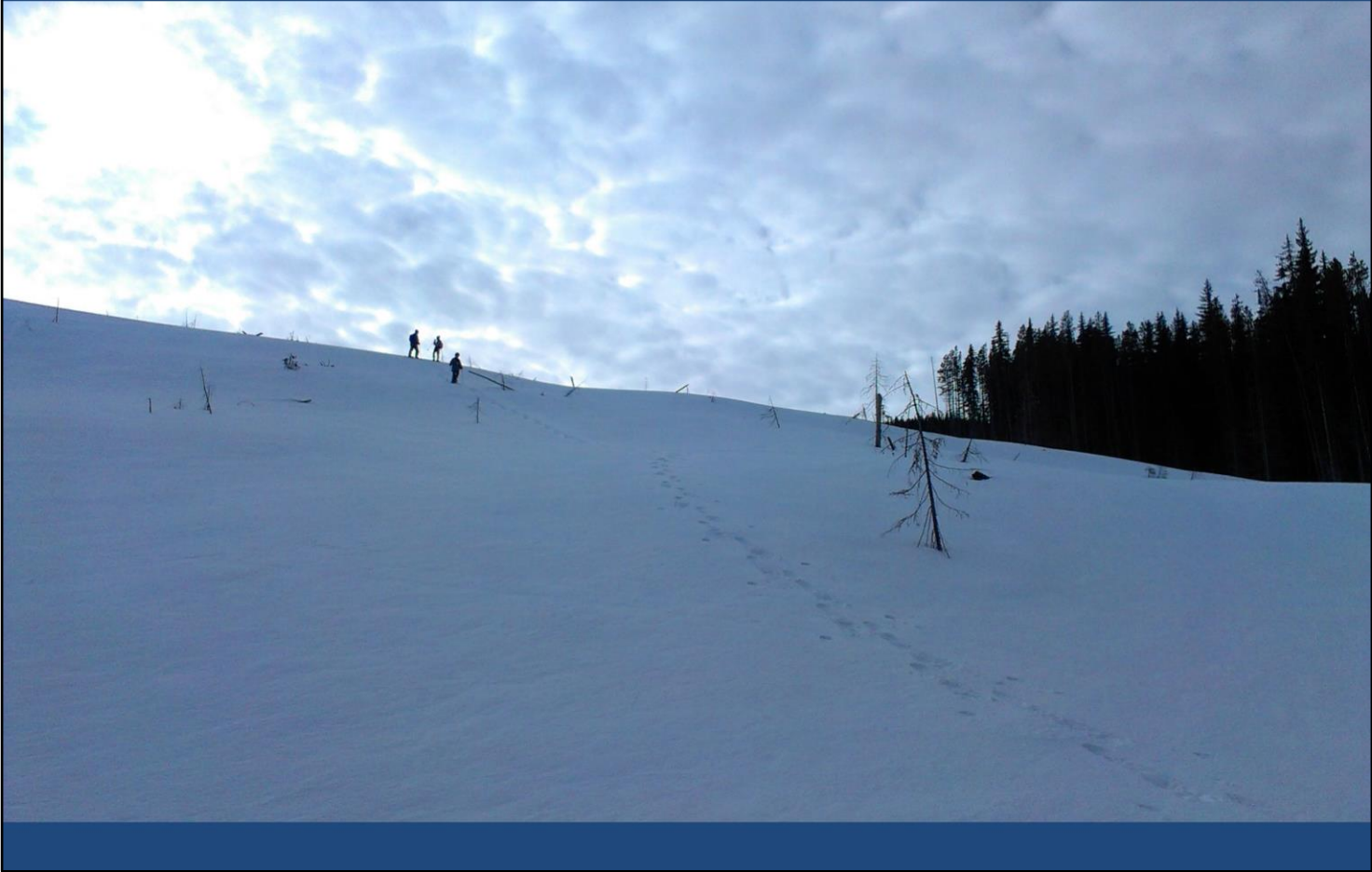


The yellow patches highlight all the clear cuts that currently exist. Note that the vast majority of these areas have been harvested in the last 20 years, with a very noticeable increase in harvest rate in the last five years. This reflects the two new license holders (Sn'pink'tn and then Skul'qalt) becoming quite active in the area.

Regrowth

Obviously forestry is a renewable resource, so we need to take into account cut-block replanting and regrowth when analysing the impact of harvesting activities over the years.

3 Years: 0 meters (0 feet)



This is a picture of the Dividend Mountain clear cut, harvested three years ago, picture take this winter. No replanting, no regrowth yet. The Green Mountain cut-block looks about the same.

10-15 Years: 2.8 m = 9 ft



This is photograph is of a cut block that was harvested 10-15 years ago.

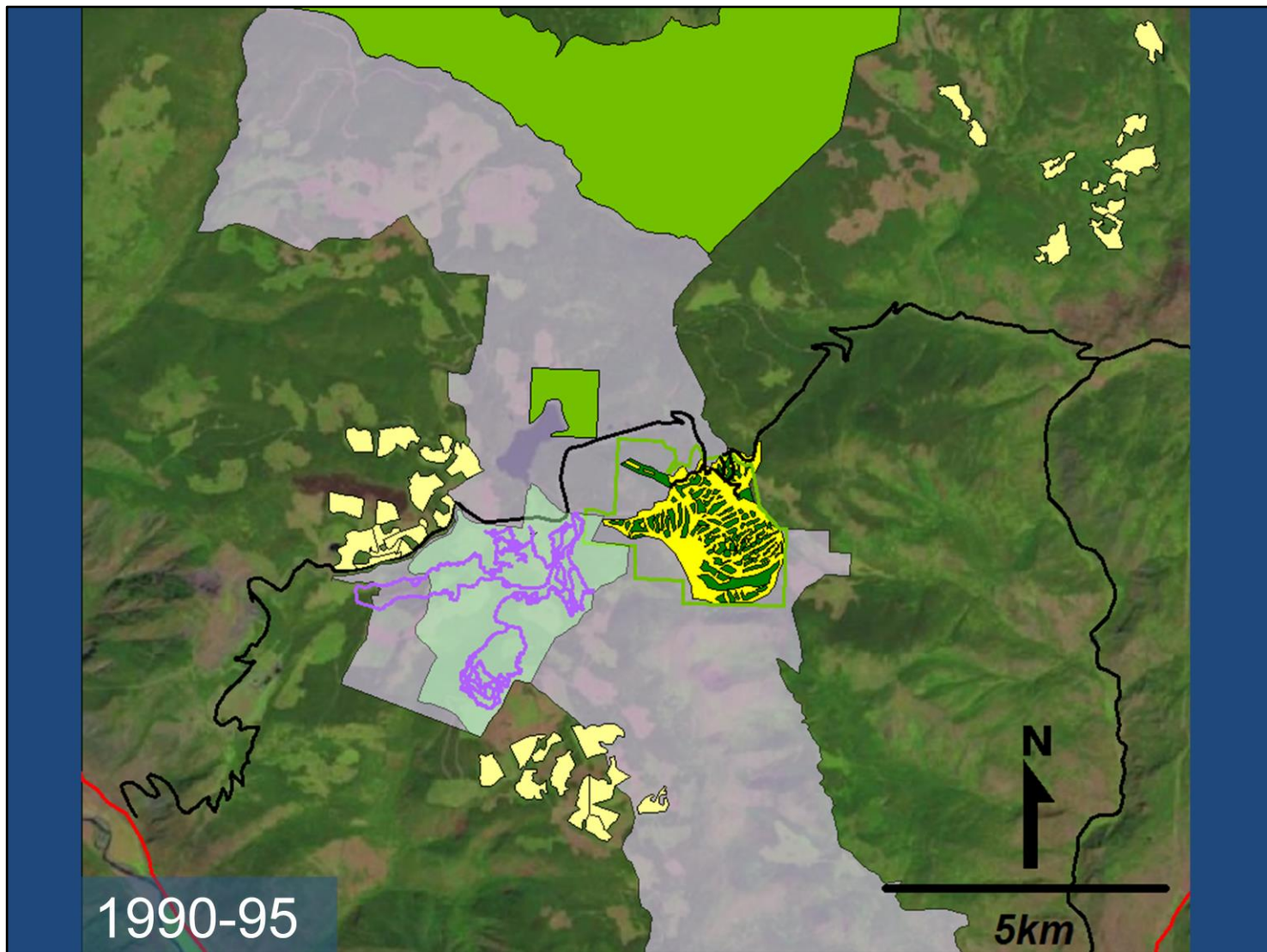
Note the survey rod. An average height tree for that area was selected and measured. The tree's height is included in the slide title.

15-20 Years: 3.3 m = 11 ft



20-25 Years: 4.4 m = 14 ft





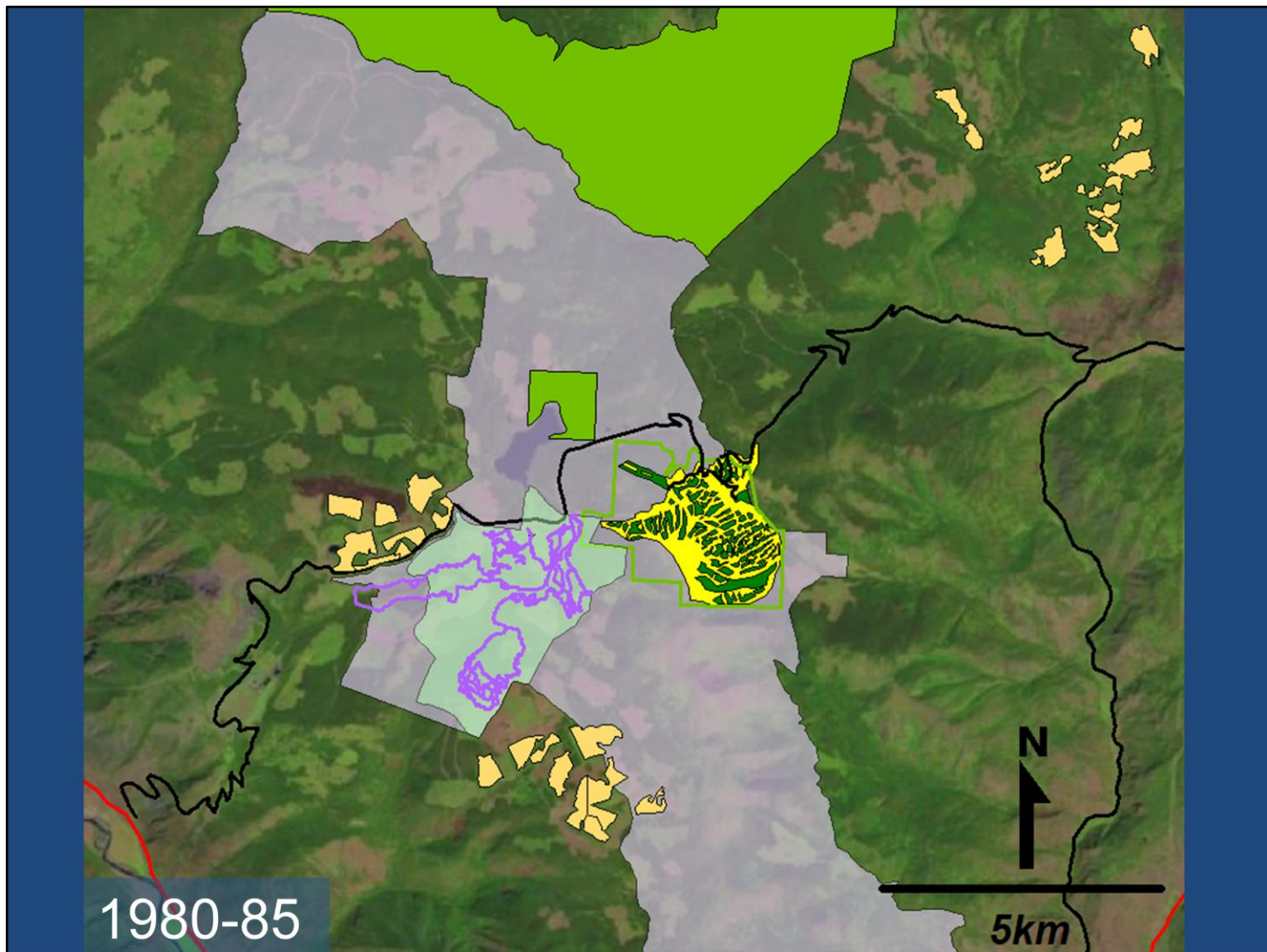
This repeated slide is included to show just how few of the existing cut blocks are older than 25 years.

25-30 Years: 5.5 m = 18 ft



30-35 Years: 7.0 m = 23 ft

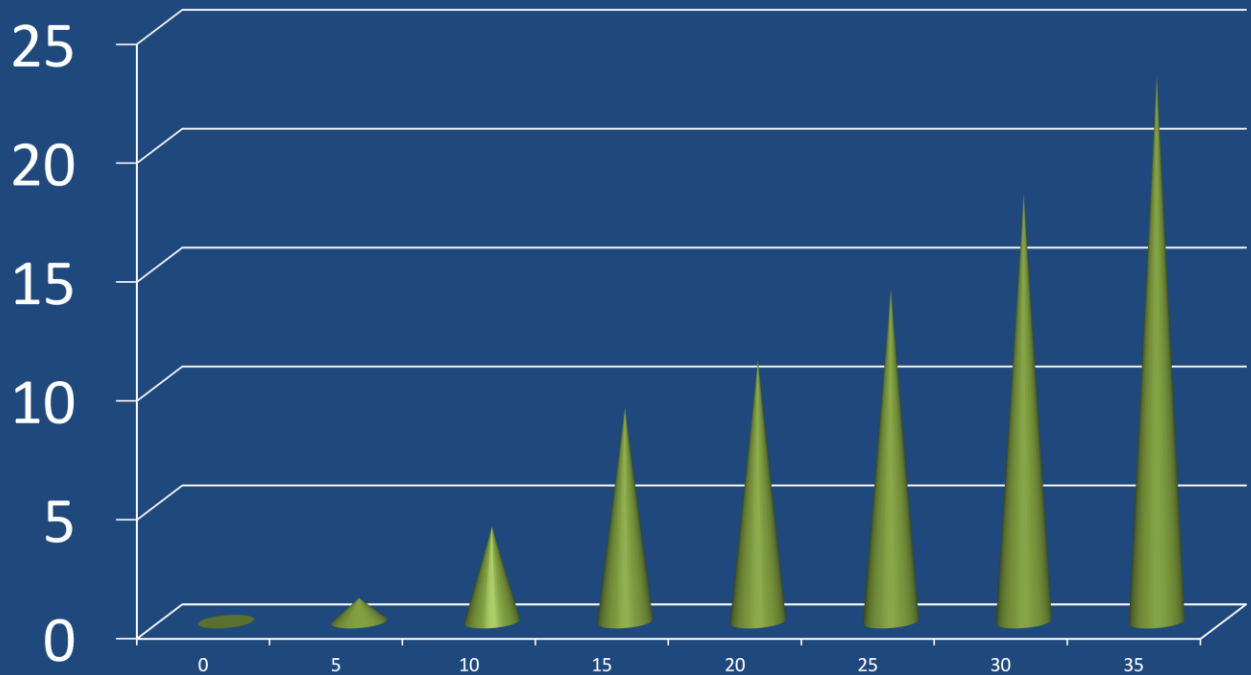




Very few cut blocks are older than 35 years.

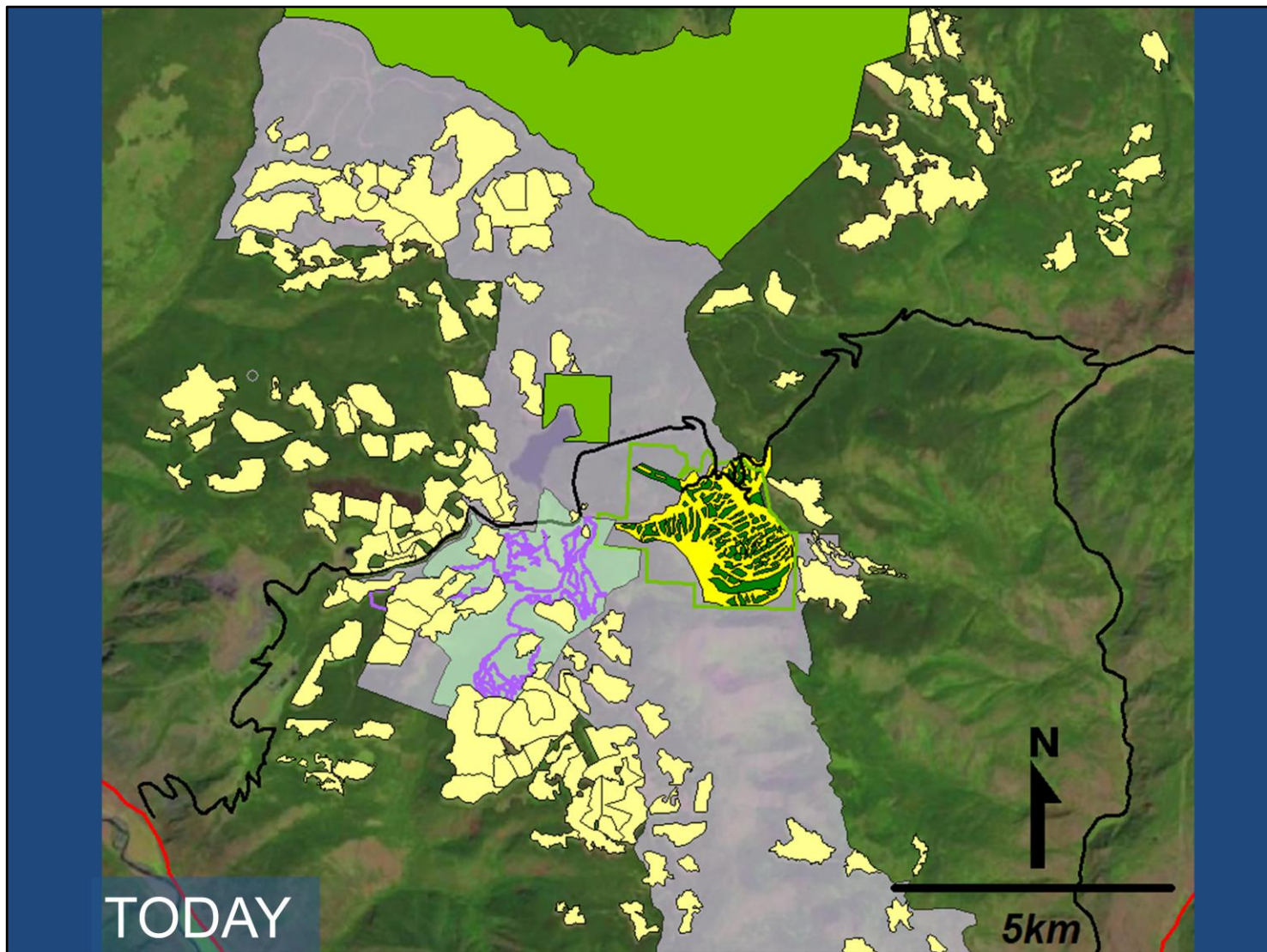
Regrowth Rate

Tree Height (ft)

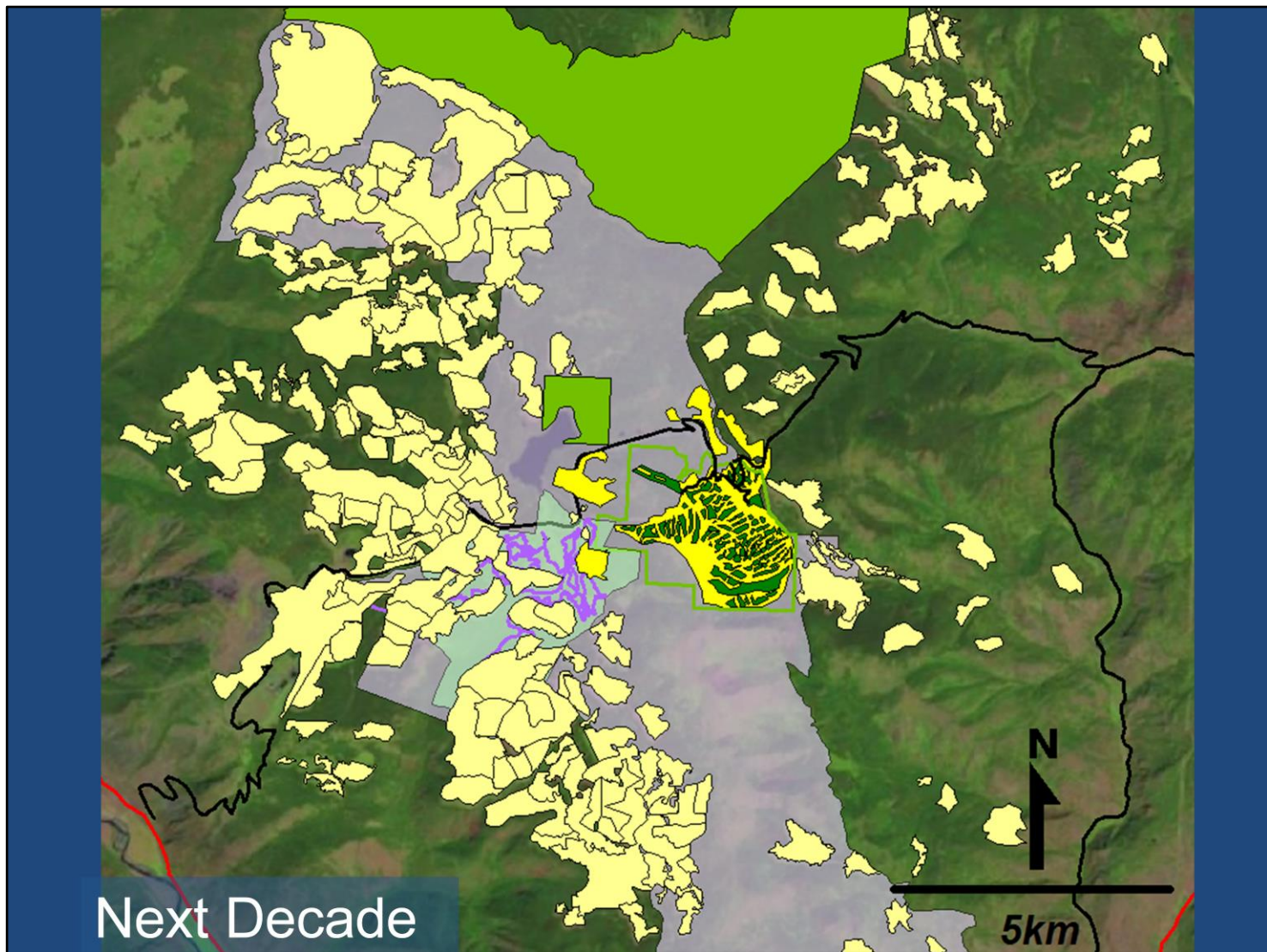


Based on our measurements, average tree growth rate up here appears to be 6"-7" a year. Obviously this was calculated from a small sample set, but we are unlikely to be very far off given what we can see in the various cut blocks.

Planned Harvesting



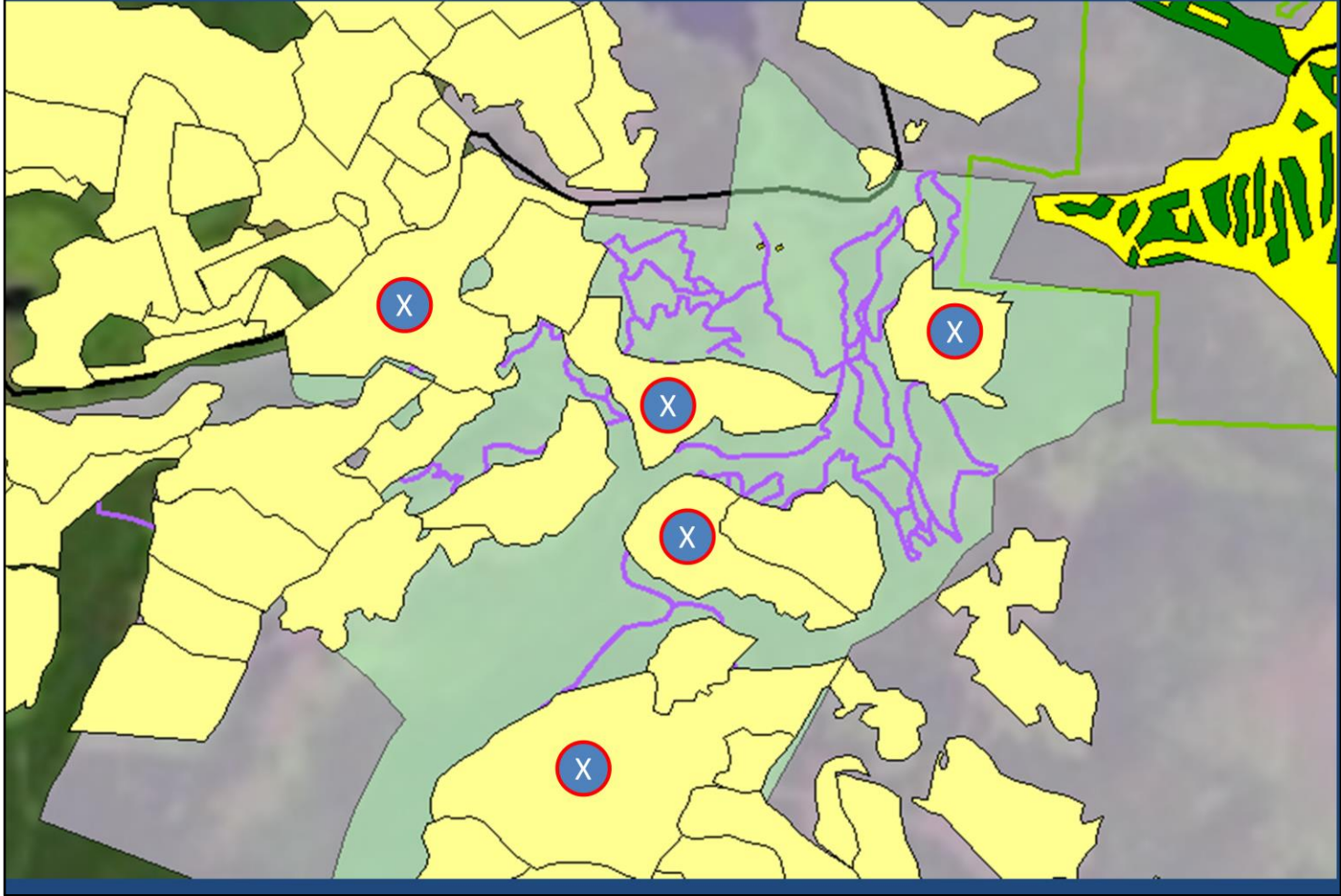
A repeat of the "today" slide for easy comparison to the tomorrow.



This is the total area of existing cut blocks and “planning polygons” provided by Weyerhaeuser. We do not believe it includes any of Skul’qalt’s planned blocks (if there are any). Some of Sn’pink’tn polygons are included, but we are not sure about all of Sn’pink’tn or Gorman Brother’s long-term plans for the area.

Caution is required when interpreting this visual since these “planning polygons” are just that, plans. However we did crosscheck the polygons with the detailed table Weyerhaeuser provided us. The table outlined their planned annual harvest rate and the per-polygon approximate harvest year and volumes. We concluded that without significant deviation from planned to actual the above map will be fairly accurate.

Nickel Plate Nordic Center



As discussed previously, there are various referenced (planned) cut blocks (marked with the "X") that either fully or partially overlap the Nickel Plate Nordic Center trail system. These blocks are Sn'pink'tn Forestry (CP4-1, APE-58) and Weyerhaeuser (APE-27, 34, 48). These are particularly concerning given their surely highly negative impact on the Nordic Center trail system.

Vindicator at Winter's Creek Road



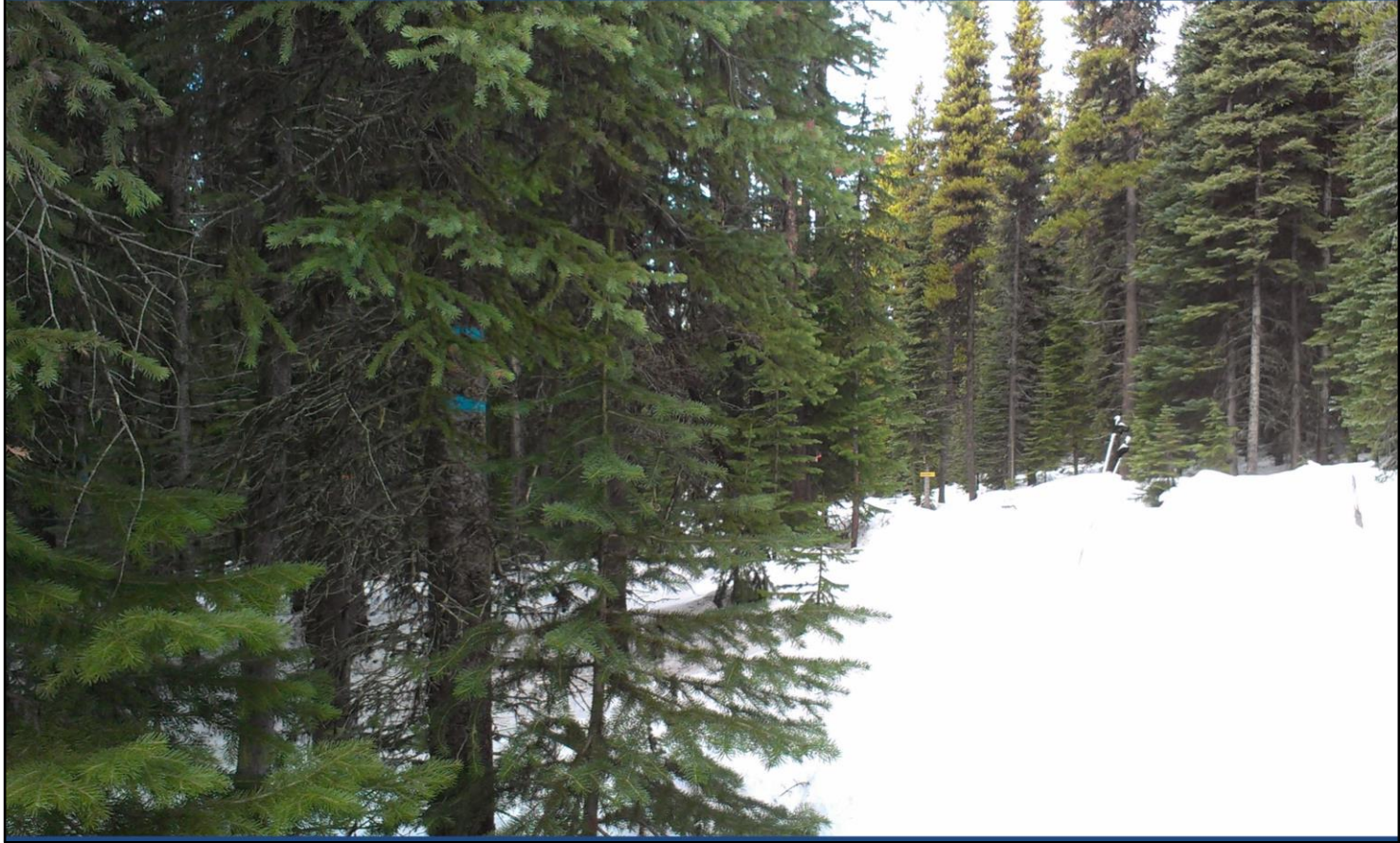
The blue stripped tree shown above marks the corner of a harvest block. This tree is at the very corner of Vindicator trail and Winter's Creek forest road.

Upper Vindicator Trial



Here's another corner marked, this one on the upper (southern section) of Vindicator.

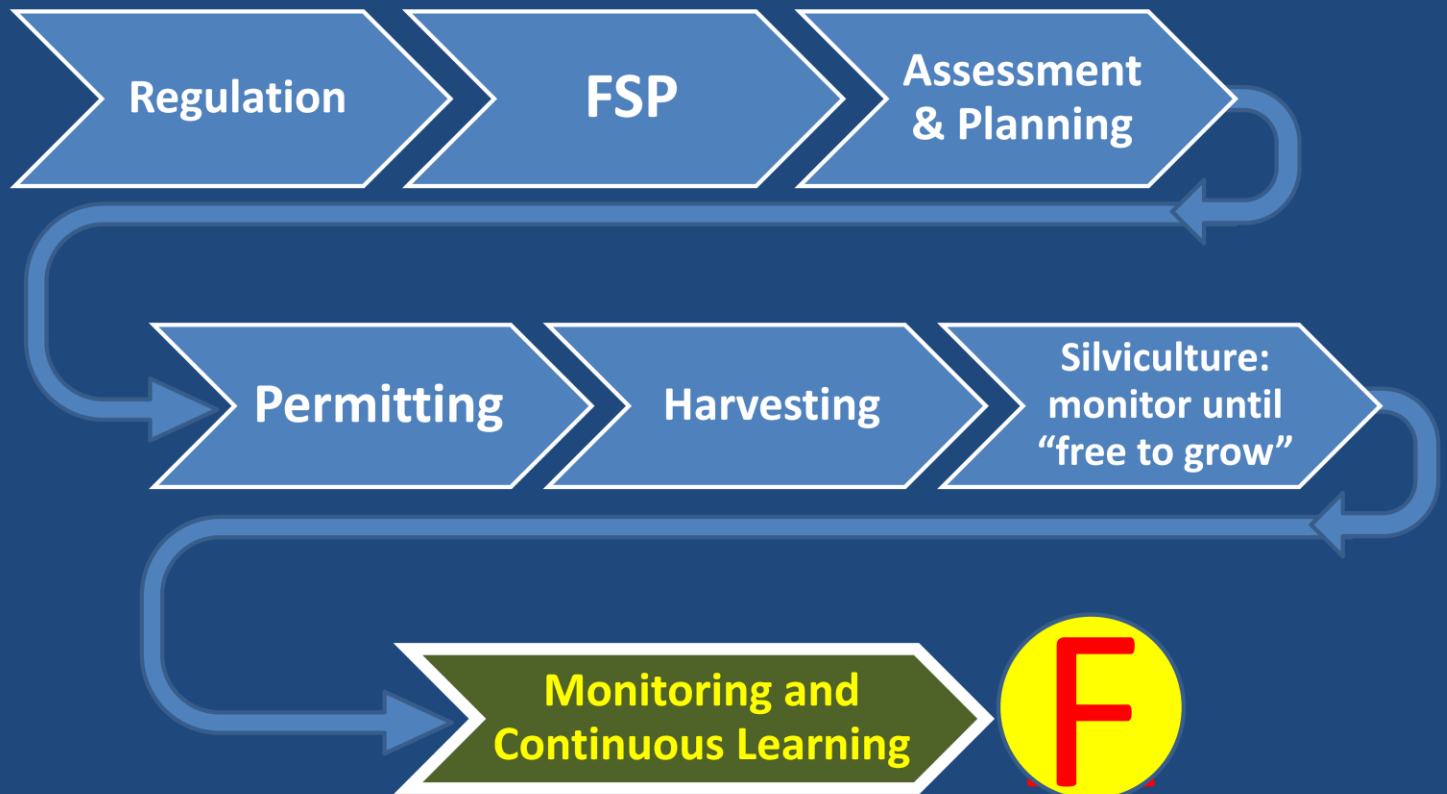
Eagle's Nest



The blue marked tree above is right beside Eagle's Nest trail. This marks the western edge of the planned cut block, and confirms that it will, if harvested, overlap Eagle's Nest trail, thereby putting this entire section of Eagle's Nest into a cut block.

This Vindicator – Eagle's Nest cut block is the one that we fear will connect the forest road to the upper meadow with a large, too tempting (for snowmobilers and ATVs) clear cut.

Grade the Cumulative Impact



This slide was animated and used during the presentation to cycle through A-B-C-D-F. The audience was asked to rate what they've seen, and how they would grade how well the Professional Reliance model is protecting recreation values in our area.

Not all audience members voted, but only 2-3 voted for anything other than a grade of "F". Yes this is not very scientific, but it does highlight that the audience definitely sees significant negative impacts here.

What is APOA Doing?

Work With Industry and Gov't

```
graph LR; A[Regulation] --> B[FSP]; B --> C[Assessment & Planning]; C --> D[Permitting]; D --> E[Harvesting]; E --> F["Silviculture: monitor until 'free to grow'"]; F --> G[Monitoring and Continuous Learning]; G --> C; G --> D; G --> E; G --> F; H[Feedback] --> C
```

The diagram illustrates a cyclical process for forest management, starting with **Regulation**, followed by **FSP** (Forest Site Plan), **Assessment & Planning**, **Permitting**, **Harvesting**, **Silviculture: monitor until "free to grow"**, and finally **Monitoring and Continuous Learning**. A large green arrow labeled **Feed Back** points from the **Monitoring and Continuous Learning** stage back to the **Assessment & Planning** stage, indicating a feedback loop. There are also curved arrows showing feedback from the **Monitoring and Continuous Learning** stage back to the **Permitting**, **Harvesting**, and **Silviculture** stages.

The APOA remains involved in the "local consultation" aspect of the Planning stage of the overall process.

May 2015 All-Parties Meeting

Being Organized by MFLNRO

- Similar to July 2013 meeting

Goal is expanded MOU

Three new participants:

- Skul'qalt
- Nickel Plate Nordic Center
- Ian McLellan, Trails and Recreation Sites

MFLNRO is working to organize another all-parties meeting for this spring. APOA's goal is to address some of the issues we have flagged, as well as address the unfinished "point #4" of the 2013 MOU, which was to begin getting some wildfire risk reduction going in the area. Hopefully this will result in a new or expanded MOU among the parties.

Skul'qalt, the newest active-in-the-area harvest license holder, is being invited, so that will hopefully improve communication on that front.

Nickel Plate Nordic Center's new management has been invited, and has agreed to attend. That will ensure the Nordic Center's interests are better represented this time around.

We are also optimistic that the new Recreation Officer for the Okanagan, Ian McLellan is being invited. We hope this will help the overall conversation progress toward protecting and indeed enhancing the recreation value of the area. We also hope this will start the process of longer term recreation planning and action for the Apex – Nickel Plate area.



What can YOU do?

Support the APOA!

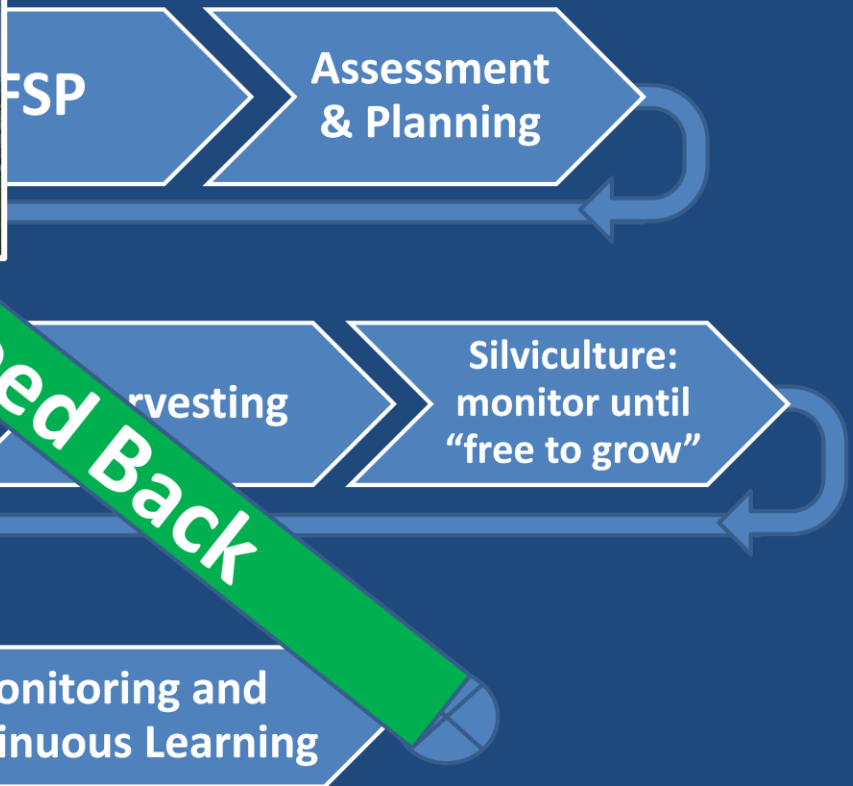
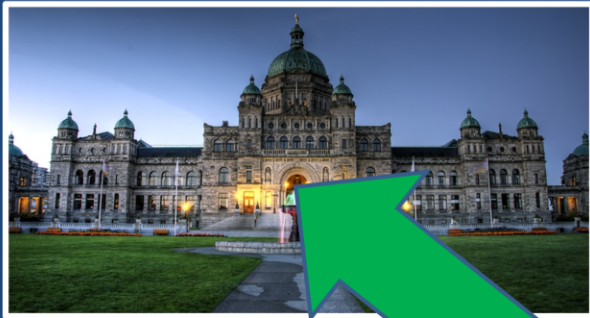
Property Owner

or

“Friend of APOA”

The APOA has a new category of membership called Friend of APOA. It is a non-voting membership that keeps the member informed of APOA activities. And most importantly, Friends of APOA get to attend APOA socials!

Influence Legislation and Regulation



It is important to remember that the forestry companies are operating legally within the current BC regulatory environment. In general their staff and MFLNRO consider their current harvesting rates and practices in the Apex area to not only be within "acceptable industry standards", but to actually exceed them. We should not "blame" the companies, and especially their employees, for doing what they are legally entitled to do. The issue is most certainly not bad intent – it is an issue of what local stakeholders consider to be undesirable outcome.

Therefore the issue is fundamentally a regulatory and political one. Based on our experience, changes cannot happen at the industry level unless forestry regulations and policies are changed for recreation areas like ours. And that will require a groundswell of public feedback to our provincial politicians – forestry is provincial, not federal jurisdiction. If you would like to lend your support and write a letter, below and on the next page are the names and addresses of the relevant politicians.

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041, Station PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1
250 387-1715

Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
250-387-6240 or 250-712-3620

What All Recreation Areas Need

Modified FSPs

- Intensive Recreation Areas are Unique!

Arm's length oversight

- Take pressure off local stakeholders
- Ensure only recreation-appropriate, tourism-appropriate harvesting is allowed

Long-range plans

- Tourism and Recreation must be primary
 - NOT secondary, NOT “where practicable”
- Manage forest health risks
- Manage wildfire risk

Mr. Dan Ashton
MLA Penticton
dan.ashton.mla@leg.bc.ca
East Annex or 210 – 300 Riverside Drive
Parliament Buildings Penticton, BC V2A 9C9
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 250-487-4400
250-356-1745

Ms. Linda Larson
MLA Boundary-Similkameen
linda.larson.mla@leg.bc.ca
East Annex or Box 998
Parliament Buildings 6369 Main Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
250-952-6784 250-498-5122



Harvest Practices Suitable for OUR Recreation Area

Thank you

This report and other information available from:
www.apexpropertyowners.com

Questions?

Jeff Brown

Chair, APOA Forestry Advisory Committee

jeff@brownjj.com

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Question & Answer

What's on YOUR Mind?

At this point the audience was invited to participate, asking questions and sharing their point of view.