

5.2 Timber Management Indicator 1. Prompt Reforestation of Disturbed Areas

5.2.1 Background:

To ensure a sustainable timber supply into the future, disturbed areas should be promptly reforested and actively managed throughout the rotation.

Within Timber Supply Areas:

- licensees have the obligation to reforest all areas harvested after October 31, 1987 within 4-7 years of harvest, and to manage them to a thrifty, “free-growing” state (as defined by MOF establishment to free-growing guidelines) within 8-20 years of harvest.
- the Crown assumes obligation for management of all areas harvested before October 31 1987¹, all licensee free-growing areas, and areas denuded by fire, windthrow and pests.

¹ Licensees assumed full reforestation obligations for certain blocks where harvesting operations had begun but were not completed before October 31, 1987. Block area is grouped with post-October 1987 blocks for reporting purposes.

Figure 22

Generalized Forest Age Distribution in THLB

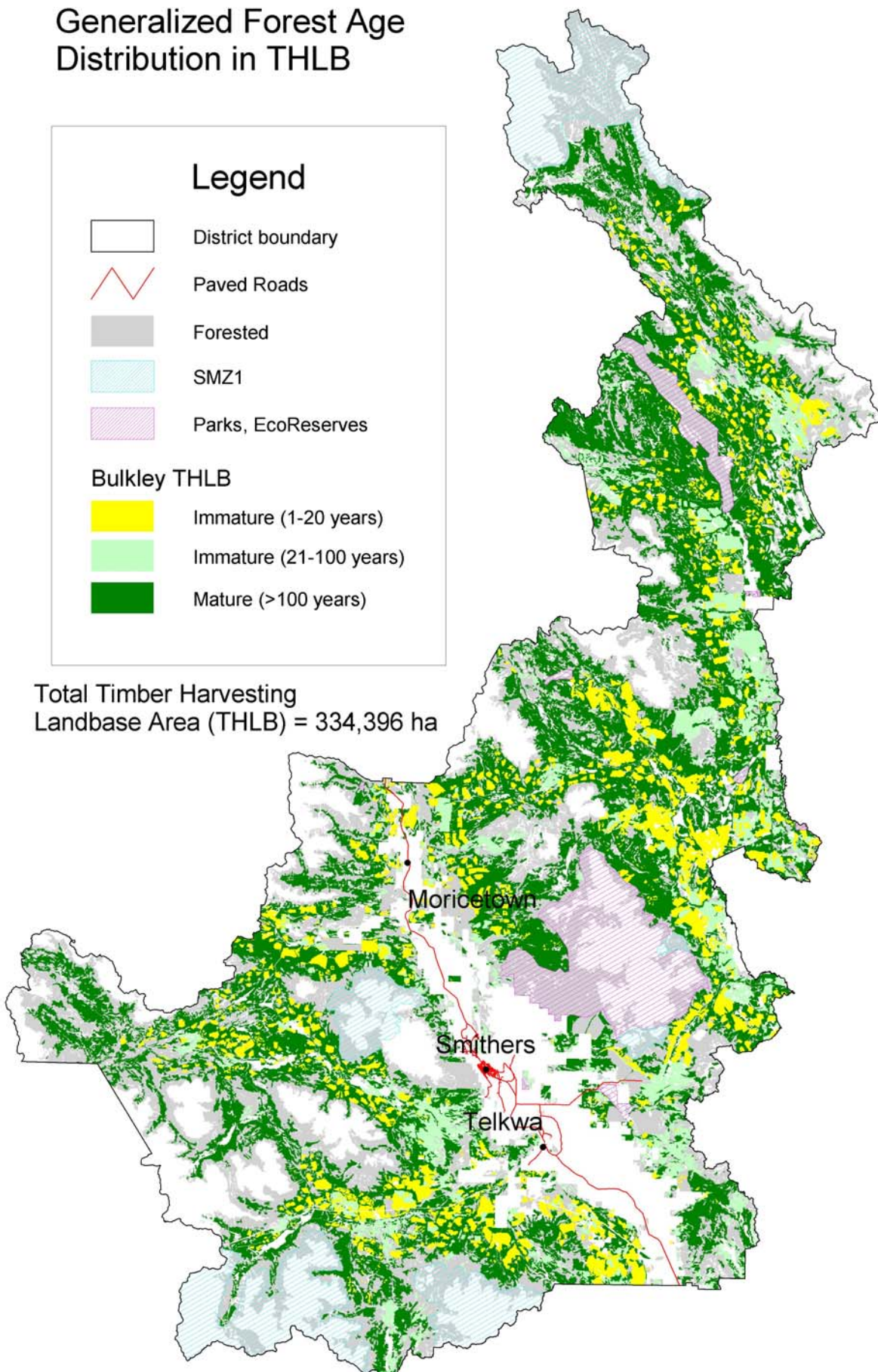


Figure 23

Sustainable Harvest Forecast, Bulkley TSA (2001)

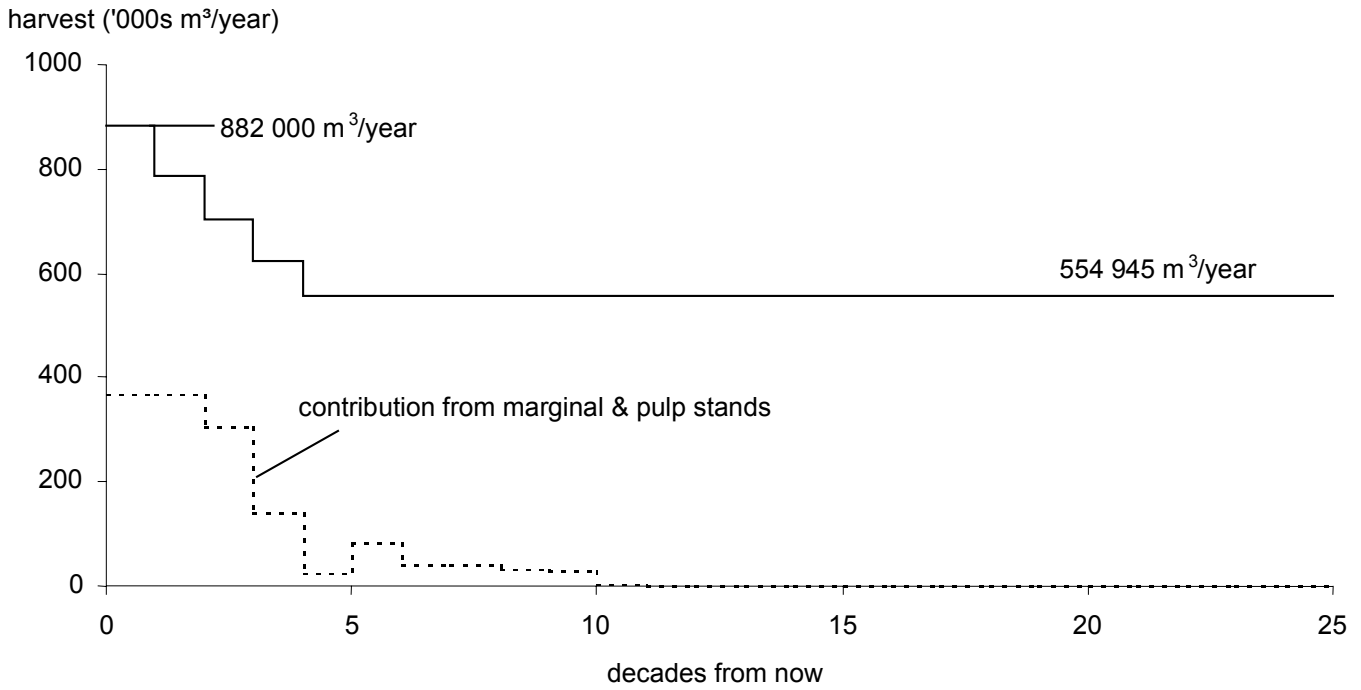
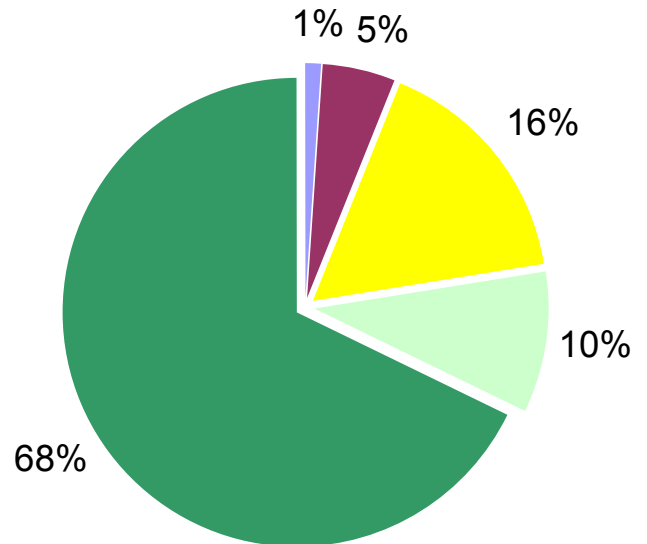
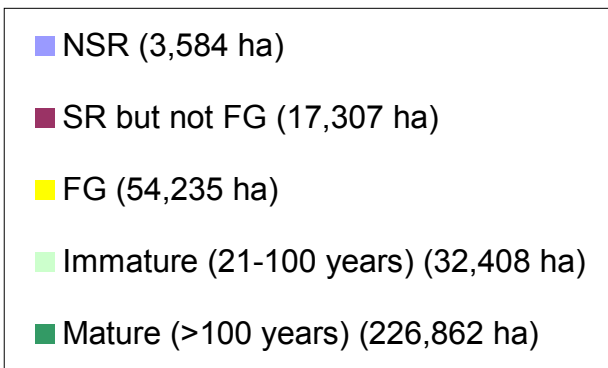


Figure 24

Breakdown of Bulkley THLB by Category, 2002



5.2.2 Measures:

- A comparison of reforested areas versus all area denuded by harvest, fire or windthrow, sorted by obligation
- A comparison of free-growing reforested areas versus all denuded area, sorted by obligation

Areas fully or partially denuded by forest pests are addressed in Timber Management Indicator 2: Maintenance of Forest Health.

5.2.3 Results and Discussion:

Figure 25 shows the area fully or partially denuded by harvest, fire and windthrow in Bulkley TSA according to forest inventory files². The proportion that is actively managed within silviculture openings, as tracked by the MOF's Integrated Silviculture Information System (ISIS), is also shown.

As the figure indicates, not all areas denuded by wildfire are actively managed. Because of budget limitations, silviculture activities in wildfire areas are generally concentrated in those portions that:

- are accessible and meet criteria that ensure their inclusion in the Timber Harvesting Landbase;
- require treatment, according to criteria set by legislation;
- are economic for treatment, based on cost/benefit analysis;
- have good or medium site productivity, so treatments provide value for expenditure.

The remaining areas are left to develop naturally, and their progress is reported through ongoing forest inventory update (i.e. outside of ISIS).

Figure 26 shows the proportion of net area³ within openings that has been "reforested" or satisfactorily restocked (SR), and what still remains not satisfactorily restocked (NSR). The figure reveals that significant plantable NSR still remains in post-October 1987 licensee harvested areas. ISIS records indicate 87% of this NSR is in openings harvested within the past 4 years, and 98% is in openings harvested within the past 7 years, so there is a strong likelihood that licensees will meet reforestation obligations within timelines.

Figure 27 shows the proportion of net area within openings that is now free-growing (FG), and what remains not free-growing (NFG). The figure reveals that:

- Over 94% of areas harvested prior to October 1987 have achieved FG status.
- ISIS reports that close to 60% of the remaining NFG areas were harvested 20 or more years ago. There is a strong likelihood that these areas too are FG, but require a field check to confirm that status.
- FG status has been achieved on 49% of BC Timber Sales areas harvested after October 1987, and 59% of areas of industry responsibility. Licensees are well on their way towards achieving FG obligations within timelines.

² Harvest depletion information was updated to the end of 2002

³ Net opening area is the total opening area less roads and landings, non-productive or non-forest types, and reserves

5.2.4 Data Sources:

Bulkley TSR3 database

Ministry of Forests Integrated Silviculture Information System (ISIS)

Forest Cover datafiles

Pacific Inland Resources Opening Status datafile

Figure 25

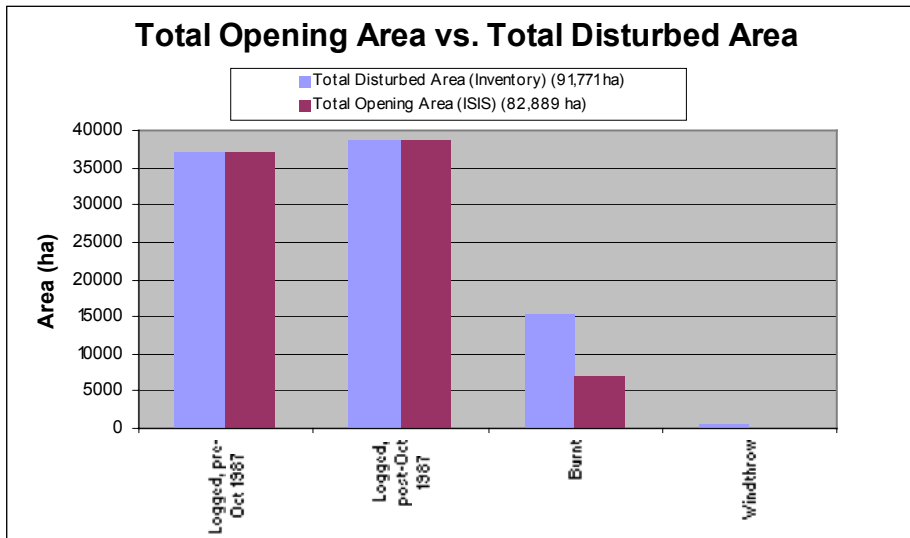


Figure 26

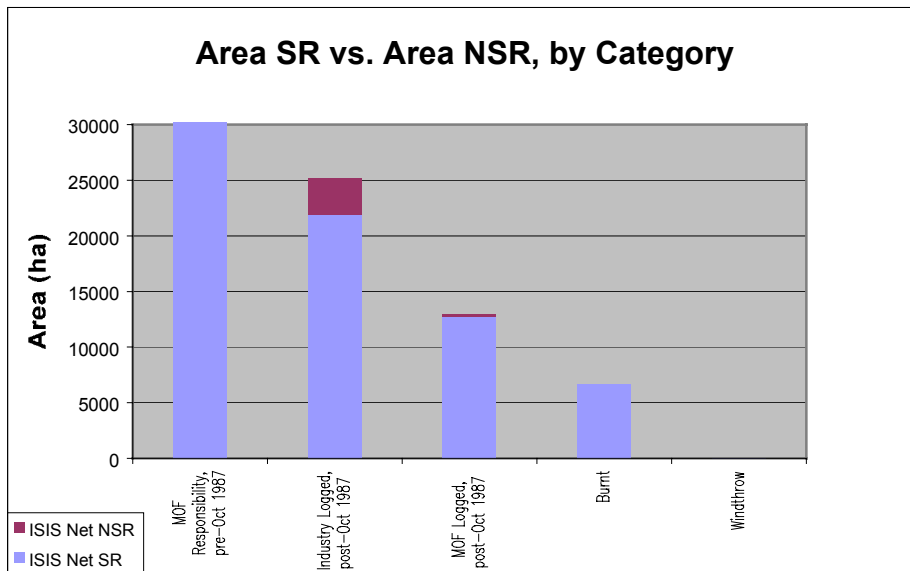


Figure 27

