



**Forest
Practices
Board**

HARVESTING YOUNG STANDS

A presentation for the CSC Summer Workshop

Mission, BC

June 2017

Del Williams RPF

Manager Audits and Investigations



Introduction

- **Why we are looking into young stand harvesting**
 - **Methods**
 - **Initial findings**
 - **Implications**
- 

Introduction

- A retired forester complained about a young stand that was being logged
- Some stats:
 - 38 yrs old
 - 22cm DBH
 - 24m tall
 - Thinned
 - Pruned



Introduction

- We started to look at the issue for this cutblock
- Realized that this was more than a one stand issue.
- The complainant withdrew the complaint since the Board was carrying out a broad special investigation into young stand harvesting

Introduction

We wondered:

- What is too young?
- Why is it happening?
- Is this a significant issue?
- Where is it an issue?
- Are many treated stands logged before the benefits are realized?
- Who decides when to log a stand?



Introduction

For the purposes of the investigation we homed in a two questions that were within our mandate and allowed some broader discussion:

- What is the extent of harvesting young stands?
- Who determines when a stand will be harvested?

Introduction

- The coastal forest industry has long been shifting from this...



Introduction

- The coastal forest industry has long been shifting from this... to this



Methods

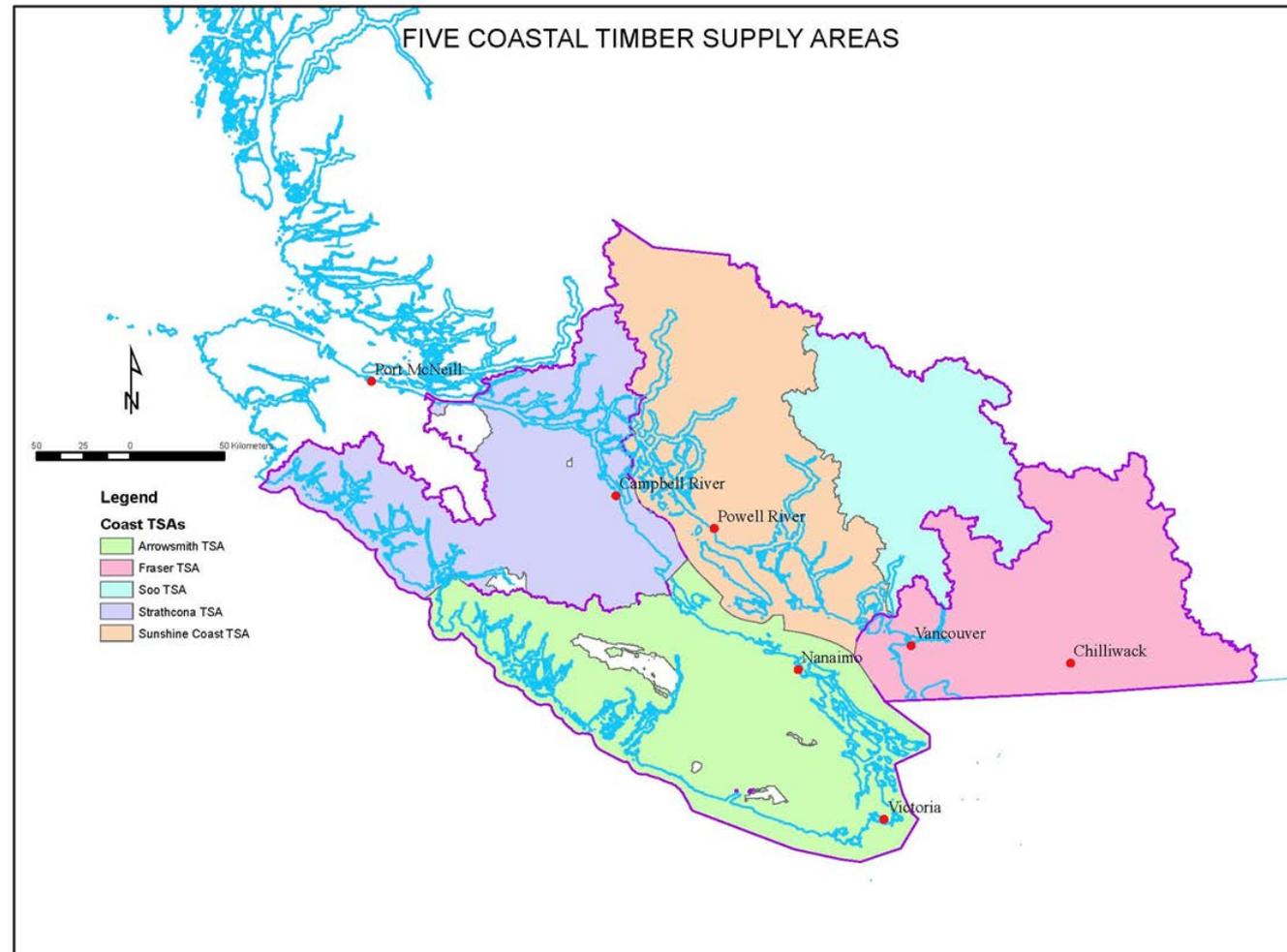
- Investigation is nearing completion
- Here is how we have been going about it...



Methods

Determined area and time period to look at...

- 5 TSA's
- 2007 to 2014



Methods

What is “too young”?

- Used minimum harvest criteria (MHC) from TSR
- Arrowsmith, Fraser and Strathcona include minimum age and volume in their MHC
- Soo and Sunshine Coast used minimum volume only

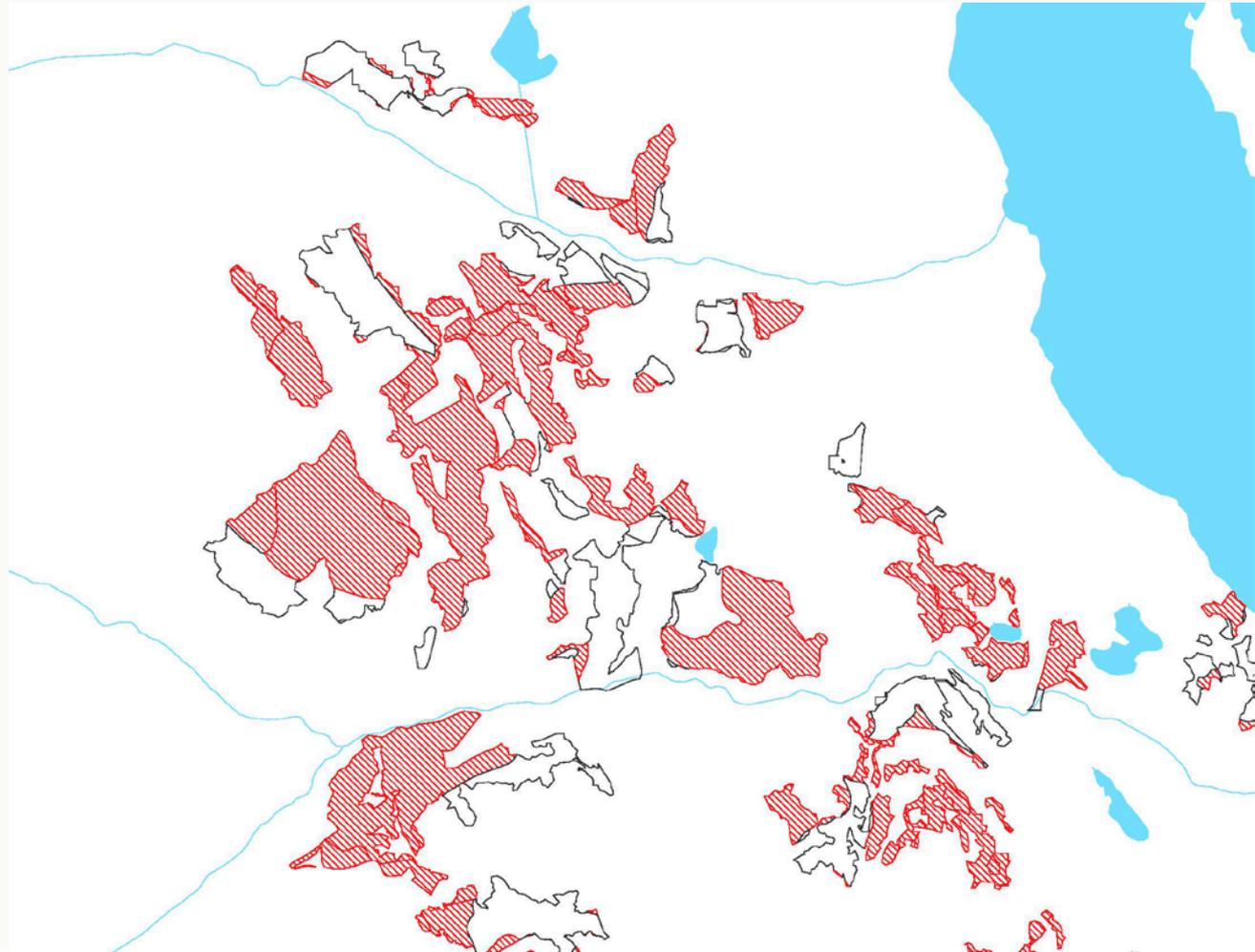


Methods

- Used consolidated cutblock layer to determine spatially the areas logged from 2007 to 2014
- Used VRI data to find polygons that overlapped with the areas logged that were below the MHC

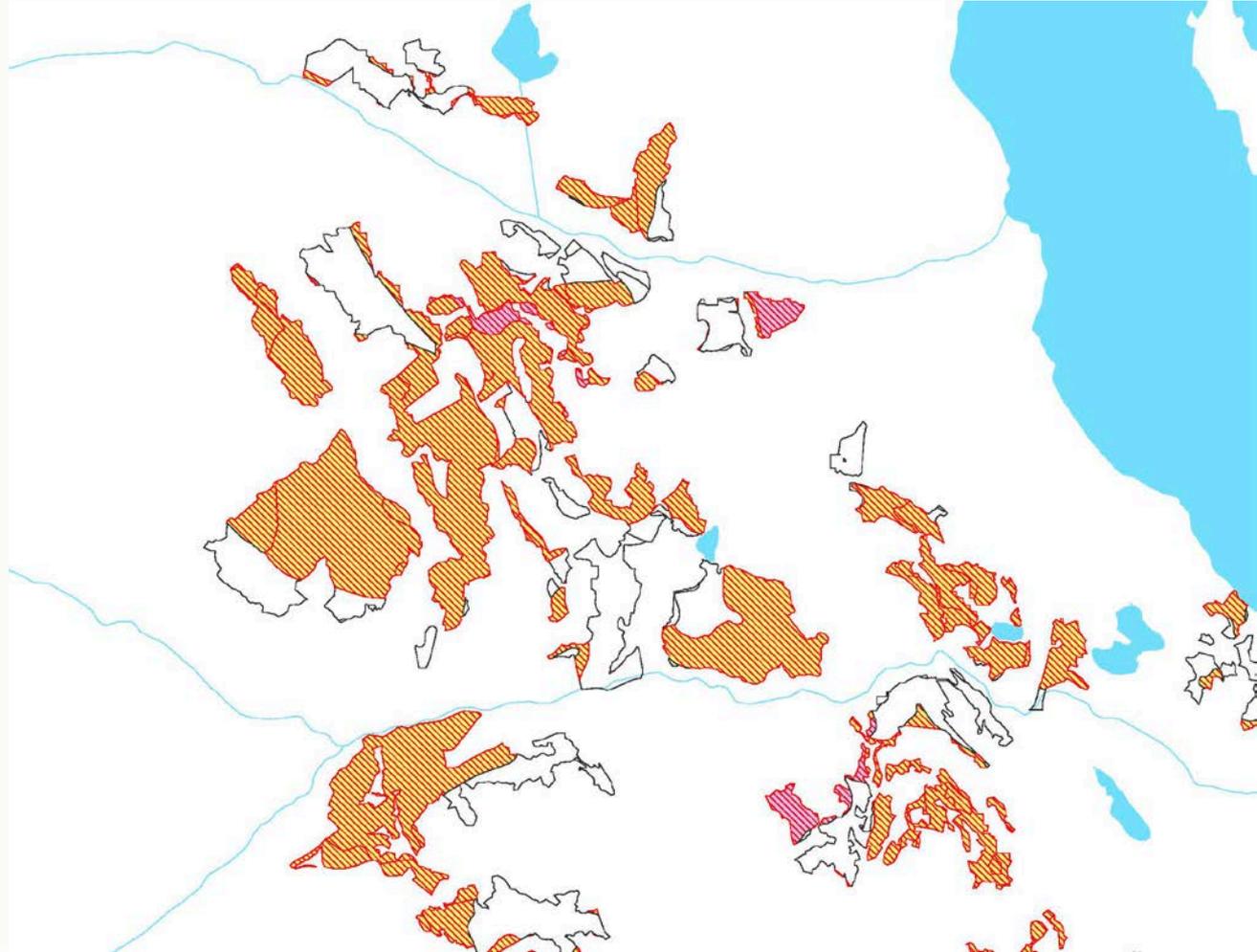
Methods

- Cutblocks are outlined
- Red hatching is below MHC



Methods

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- Yellow areas are under age 100



Methods

- Cutblocks are outlined
- Red hatching is below MHC
- Yellow areas are under age 100
- Black hatching indicates WTRAs



Methods

We found in the 2007-2014 time period:

- Total logging → 16,712 polygons (43,723 ha)
- Below MHC → 2,004 polygons (5,618 ha)

Randomly selected 210 polygons to have a closer look.

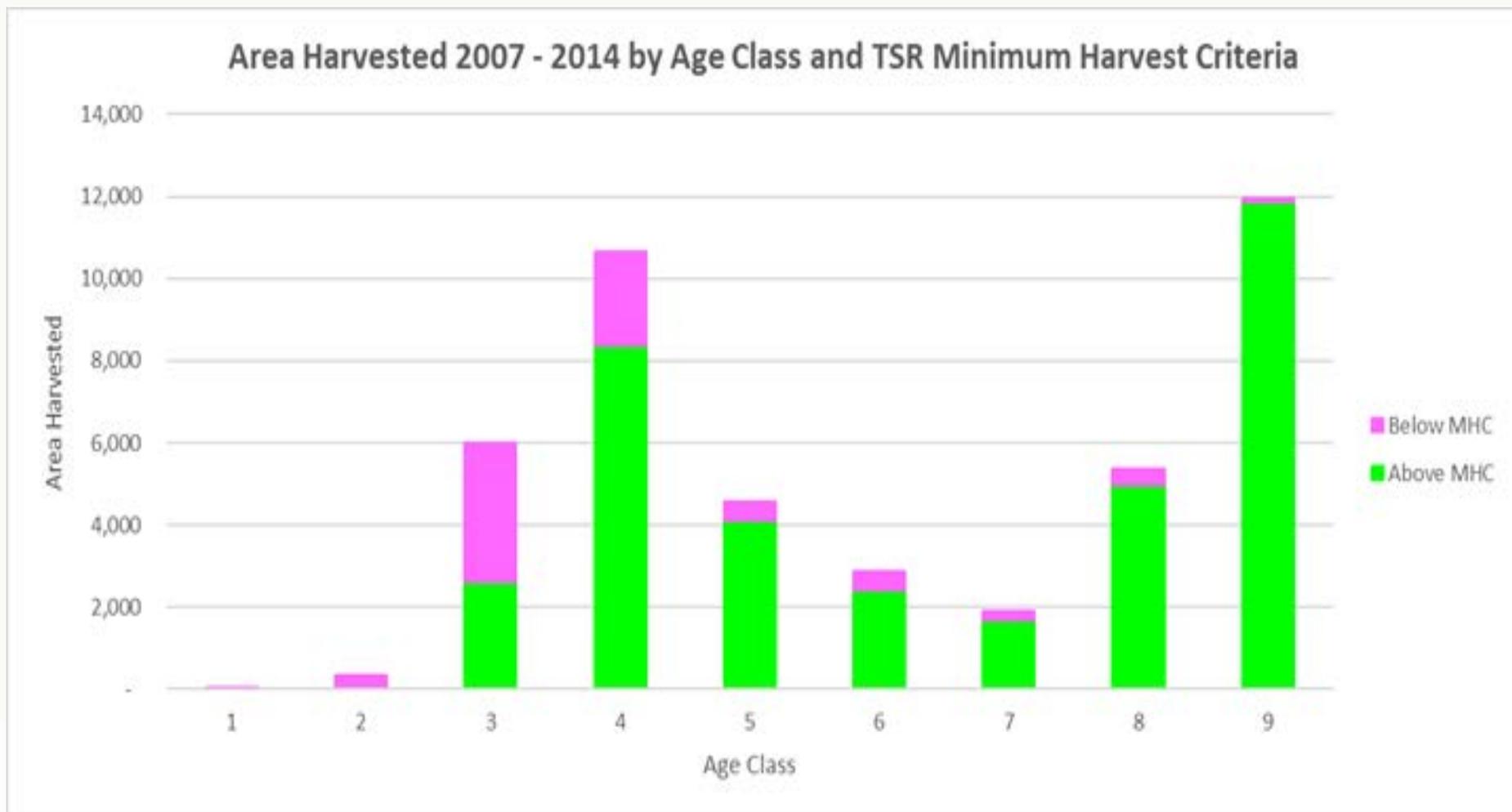
- compared cruise data against VRI and TSR assumptions.

Findings

- There are some interesting observations and trends showing up...

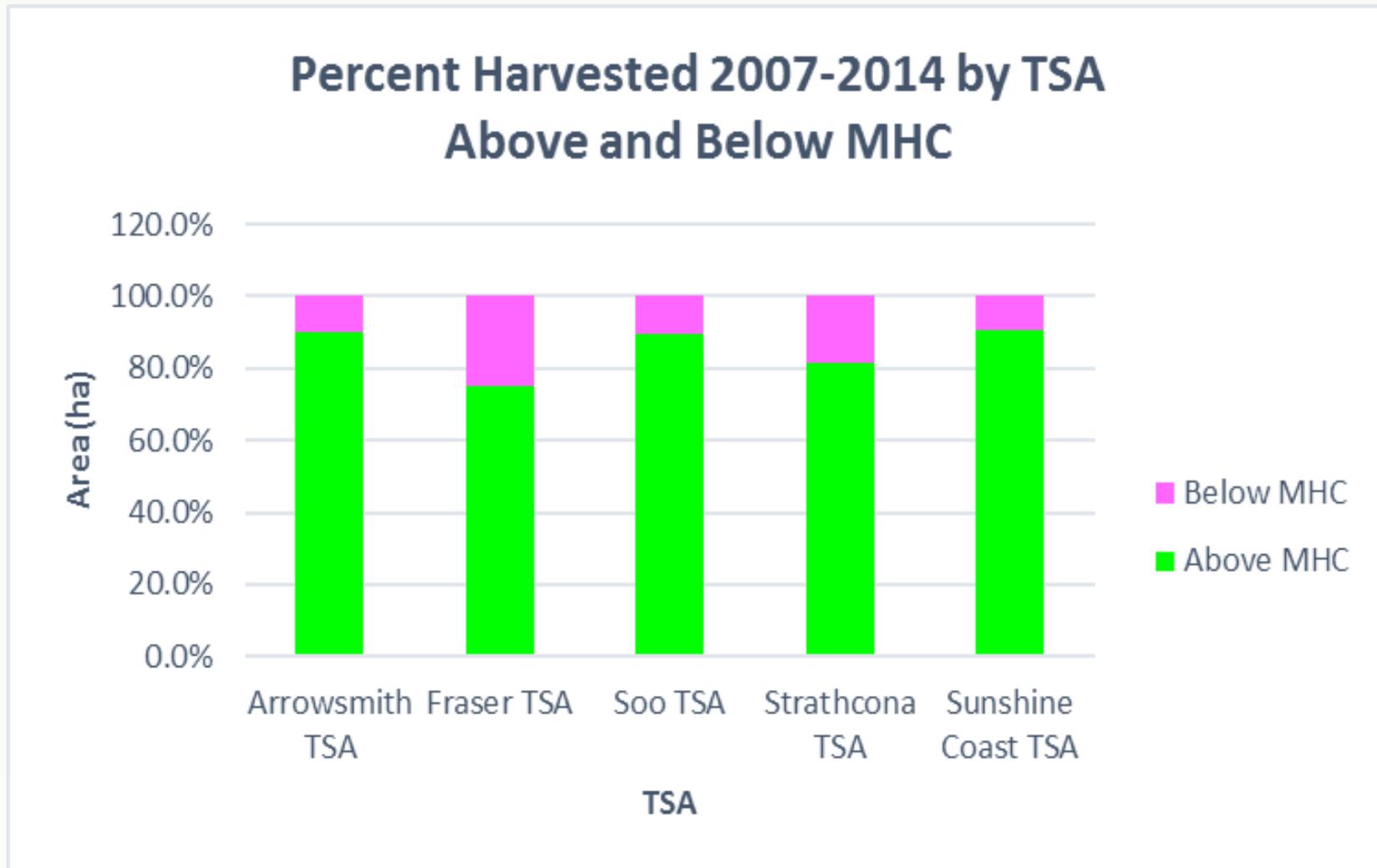
Findings

Age classes where harvesting below MHC is occurring:



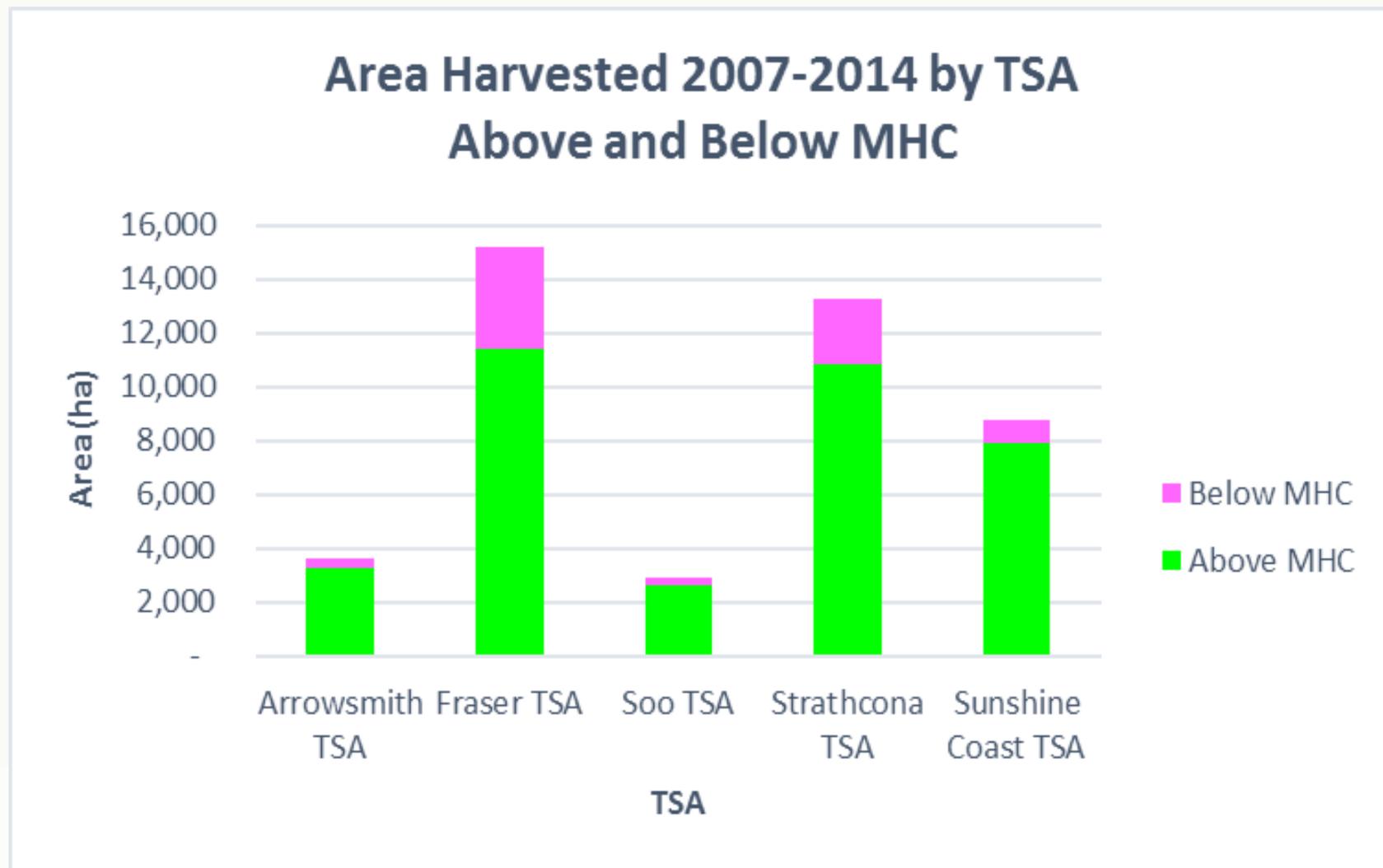
Findings

TSA:



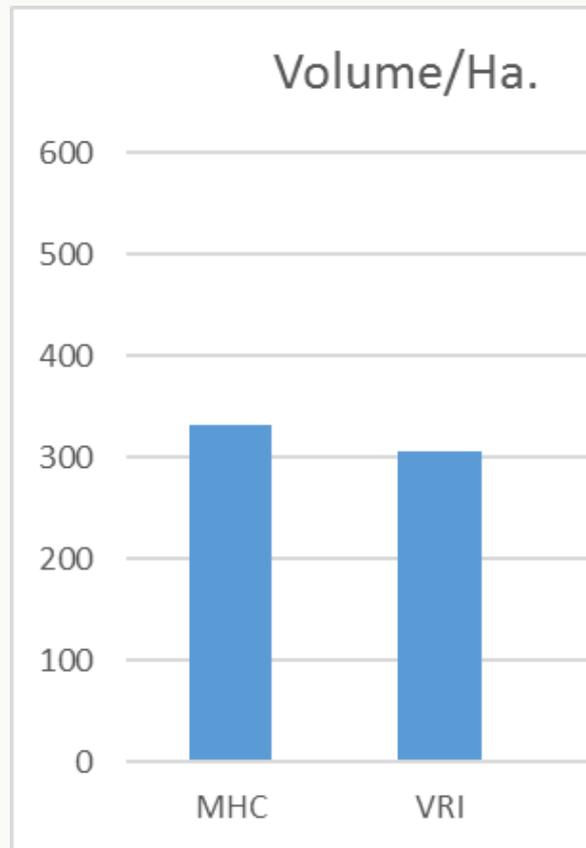
Findings

TSA:



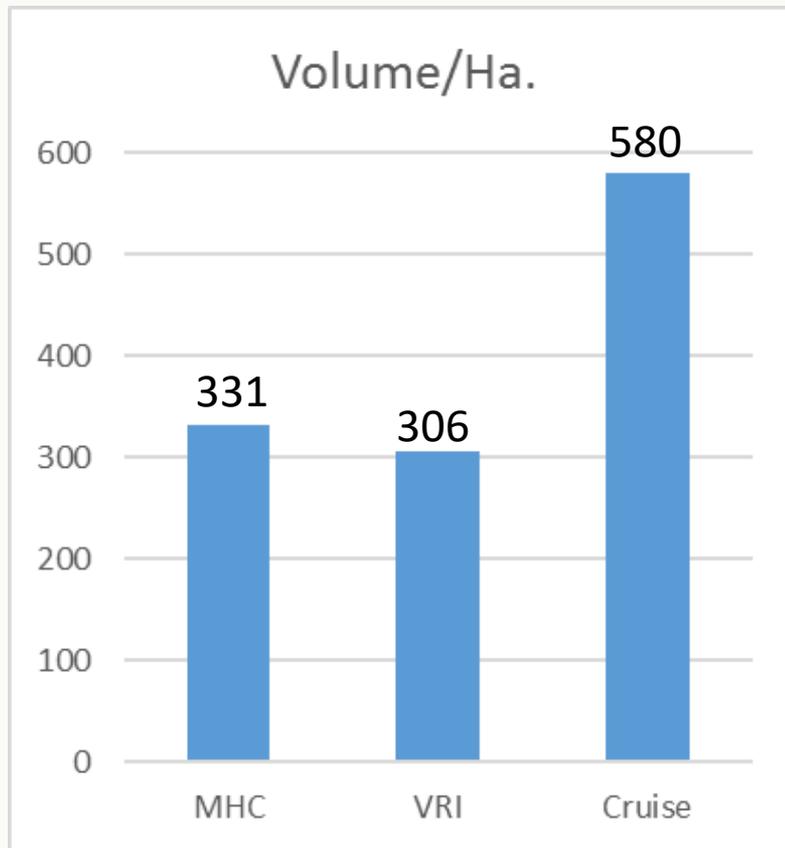
Findings

- We compared VRI volumes with MHC volumes



Findings

- We compared VRI volumes with MHC volumes



... and then with cruise volumes.

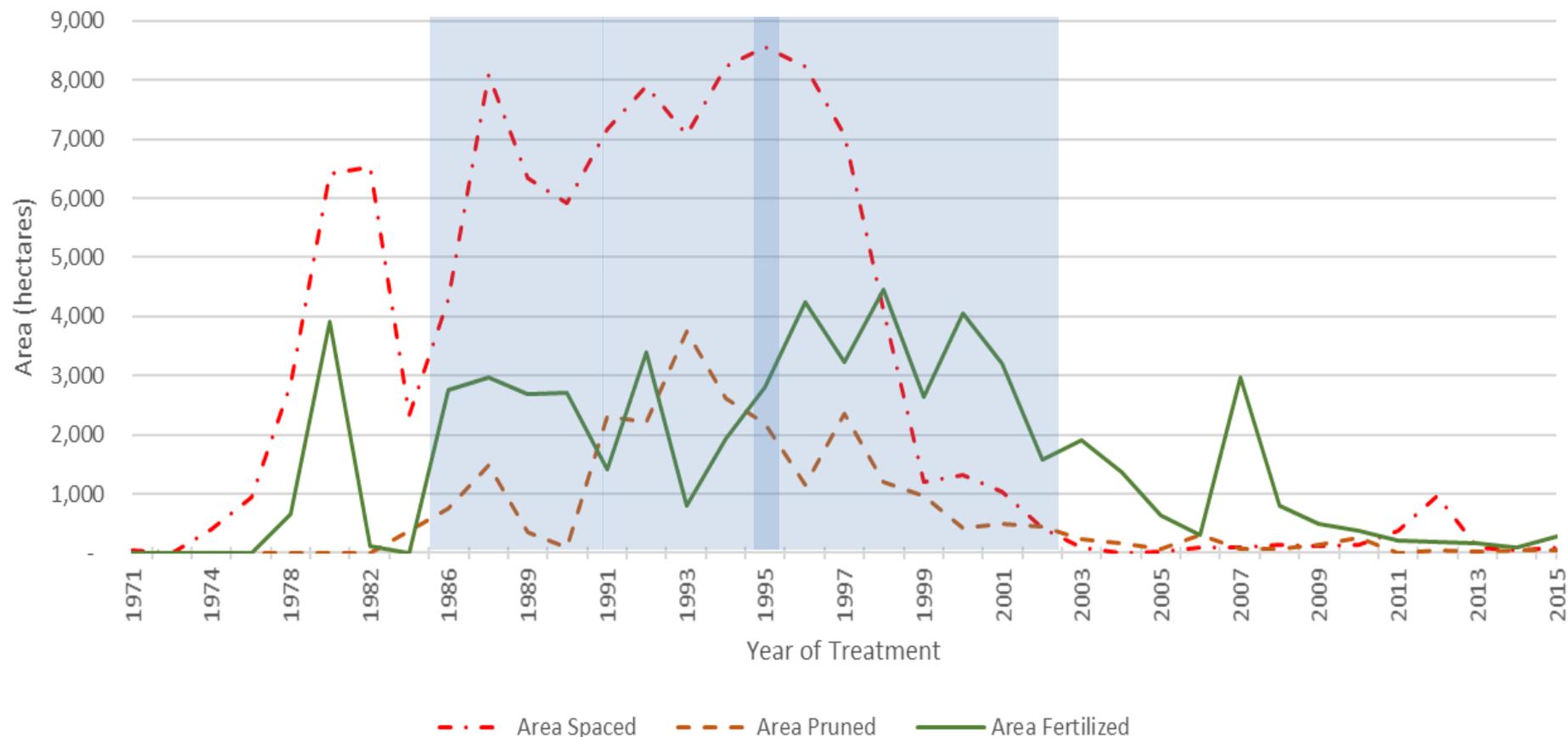
- Problems with VRI?
- Licensees selecting the very best stands?

Findings

- We looked at silviculture treatments over time

Graph 3

Silviculture Treatments on 5 Coastal TSAs 1971 to 2015

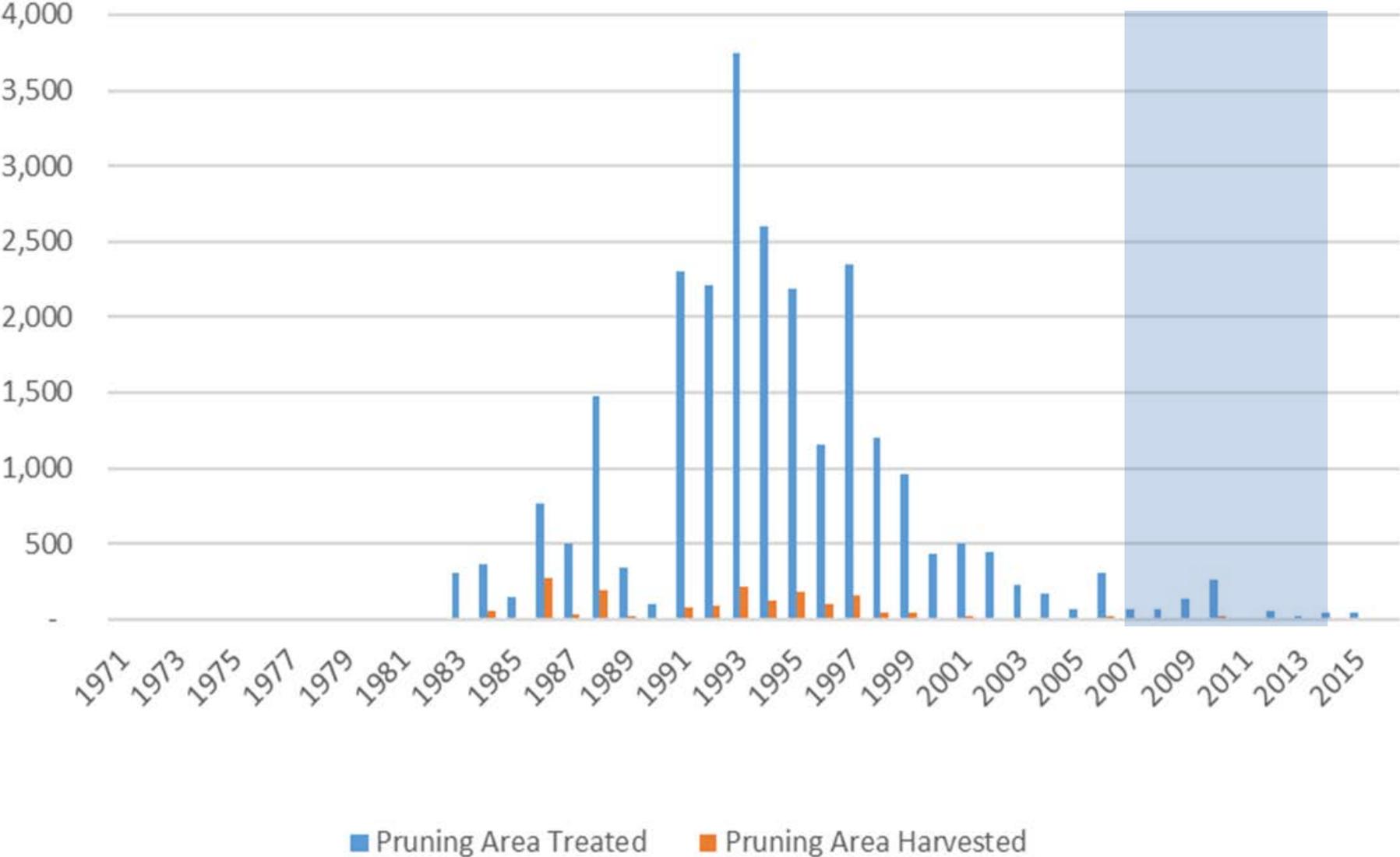


Findings

- How many of these treated stands have been logged?

TSA	Spaced	Spaced & Logged	Pruned	Pruned & Logged
Arrow	13830	1041	4837	169
Fraser	39326	3432	7444	705
Soo	20777	369	3031	117
Strathcona	43002	2881	5547	444
Sunshine Coast	22935	941	4687	245
Total	139870	8664	25546	1680
		6%		7%

PRUNED





Findings

- Who makes decisions on whether to log a stand or not?
 - Pre-FRPA, DM made the ultimate decision
 - Now it is the licensee
- Have we got an issue on the BC Coast?

Final Thoughts

- Getting back to the initial complaint... Should that young stand have been harvested?



Final Thoughts

Forester's brain:

**Silviculturist
side**



**Market logger
side**

Final Thoughts

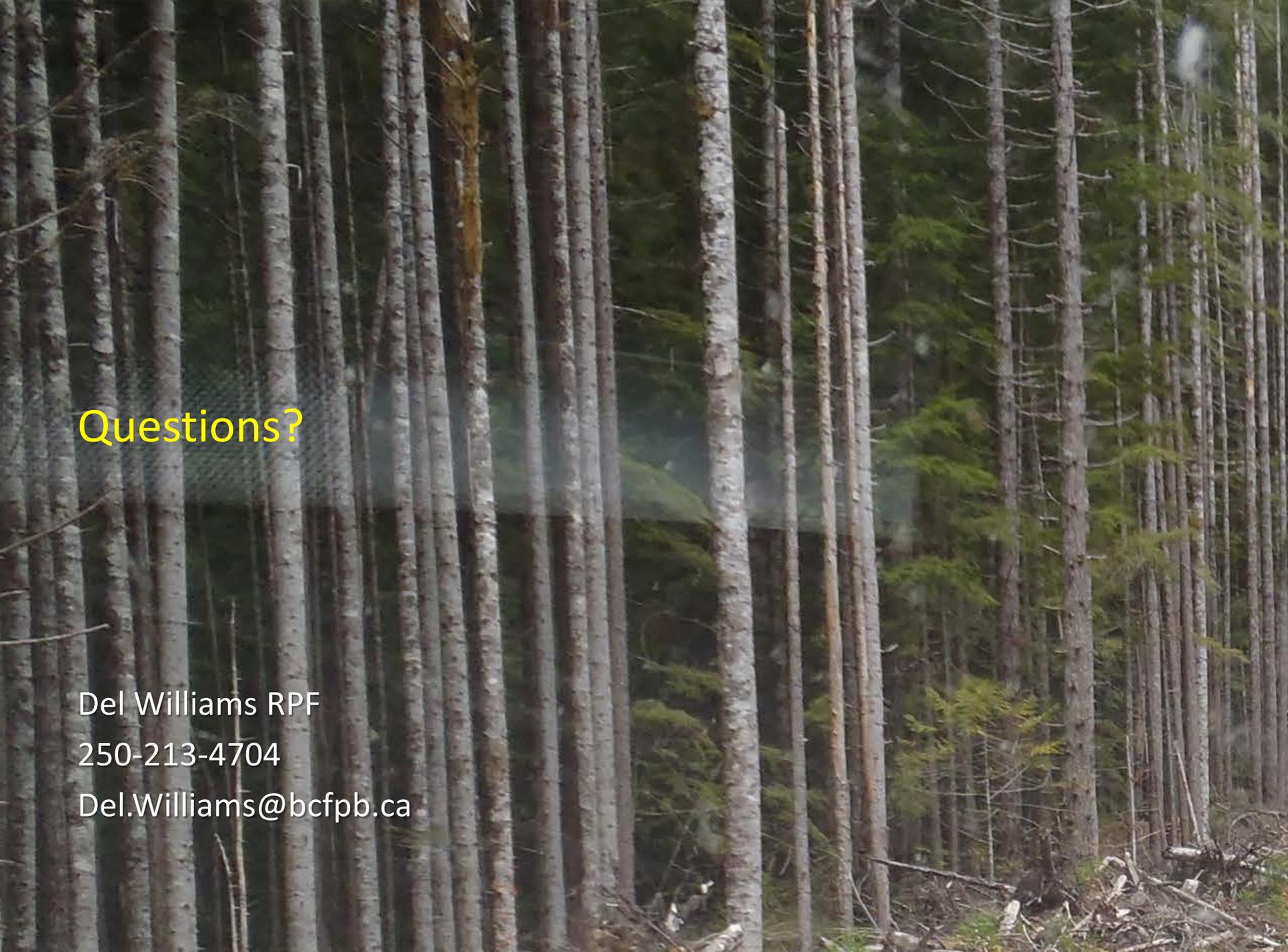
Forester's brain:

**Silviculturist
side**



**Market logger
side**



A photograph of a dense forest of tall, thin trees, likely spruce or fir, with a semi-transparent horizontal band across the middle. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Questions?

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TSA - THLB and Harvest Area by Age Class

