Visual Rehabilitation

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Kamloops

Visual Rehabilitation

Purpose:

Visual rehab is concerned with improving the visual quality of existing man-made alterations by finding ways to make them appear more natural.

Concept can be applied to mines, roads, gravel pits, harvesting, utility corridors, structures, etc.

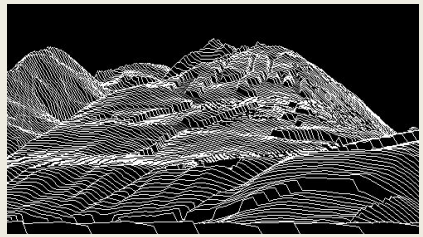
Forestry context:

- Reshaping cutblock shapes and boundaries
- Recontouring and revegetating roads, landings, borrow pits, other site disturbances
- Cleaning or removing negative features such as heavy slash accumulations or slash piles, windthrown trees, etc. (usually in foreground views)
- Encouraging rapid greenup through various strategies

Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

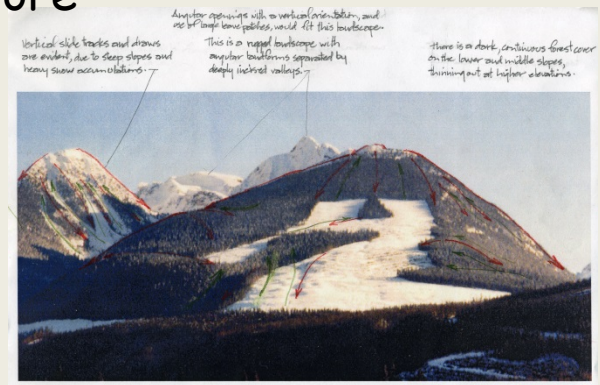
Issue: straight upper boundaries conflict with natural features.
Objective: create irregular edges and vertical orientation to tie in with surrounding natural features.



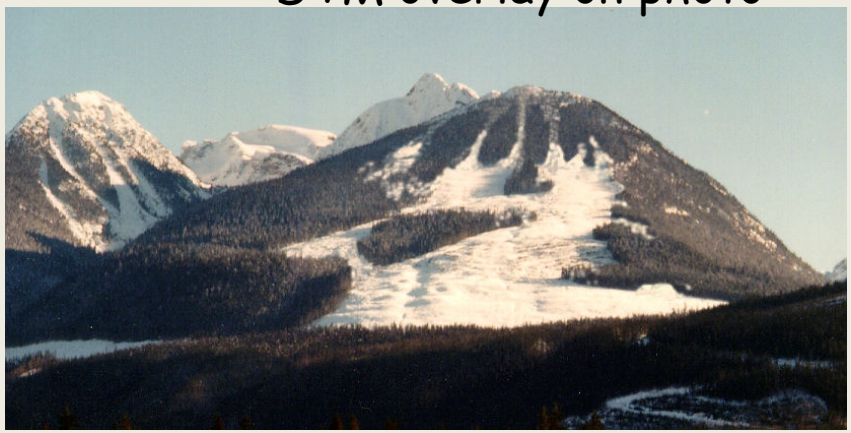
Digital Terrain Model

Before

DTM overlay on photo



Landscape analysis



Visual rehab simulation

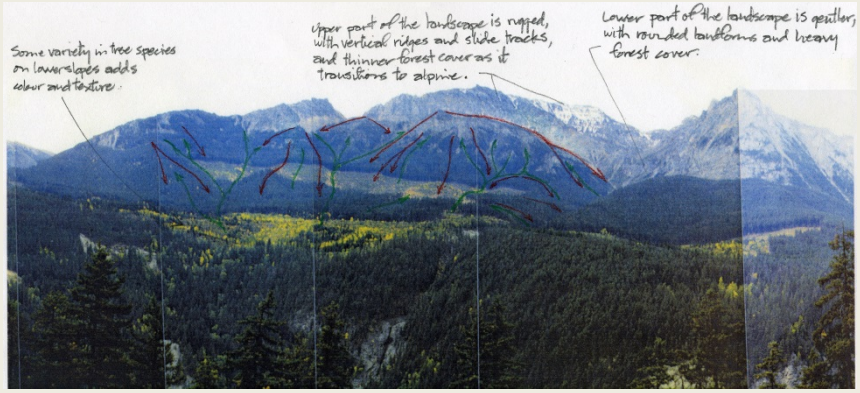
Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

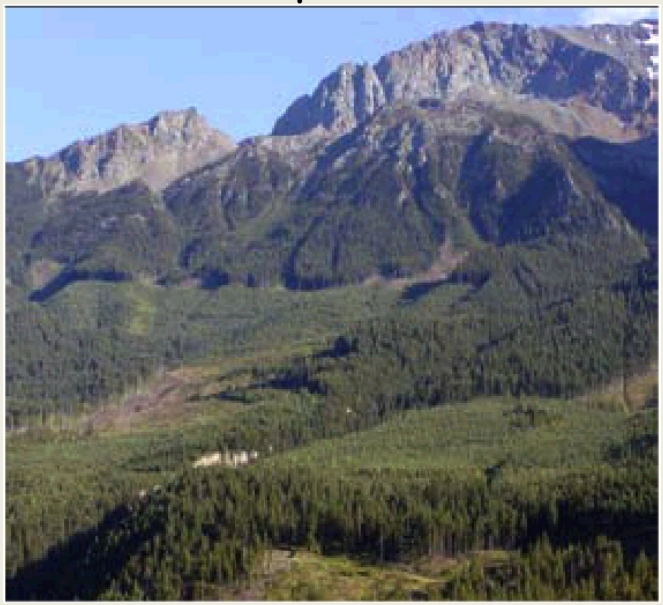
Issue: horizontal orientation of openings cut across vertical ridges and slide tracks of upper slopes.
Objective: visually tie upper opening to natural features and connect openings.

Before – close up

Before



Landscape analysis



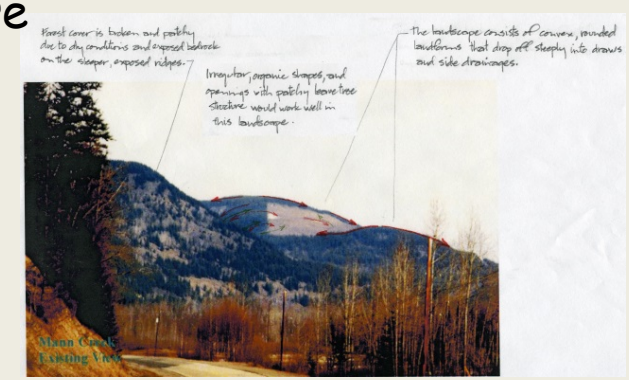
After

Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

Issue: straight vertical boundary is focal and conflicts with ridge line.
Objective: break up vertical opening boundary and thinly treed skyline.

Before



Landscape analysis

Visual rehab simulation

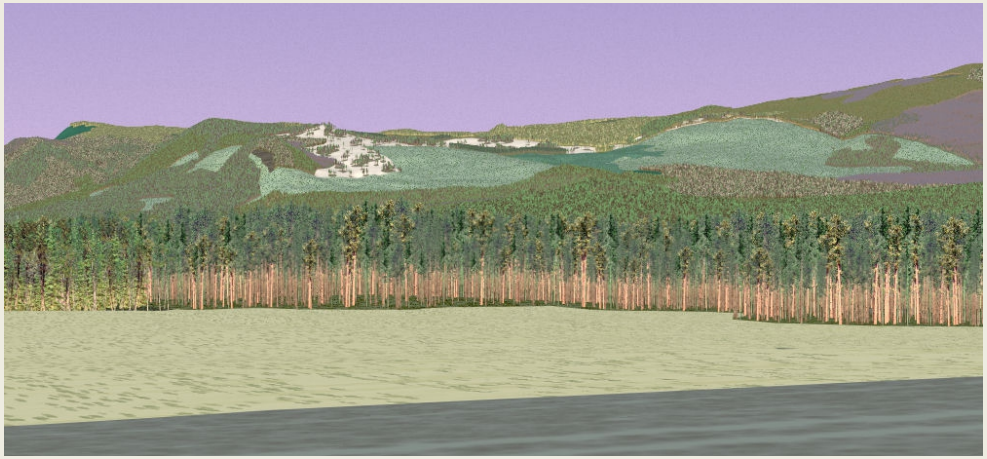
After

Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

Issue: straight private lot boundaries do not blend.

Objective: break up angular boundaries with adjacent retention cuts and connect openings.



Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

Issue: geometric shape & straight boundaries do not blend.

Objective: break up angular boundaries with adjacent small harvest areas and connect openings for less fragmented effect.

Before – Aug.1997

After - Aug.2000

After – Aug.2005

Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

Issue: stacked, geometric shapes with even spacing.

Objective: break up straight, horizontal boundaries and connect openings with adjacent harvesting, leaving retention clumps for texture/structure.

Before – 2001

After – 2001

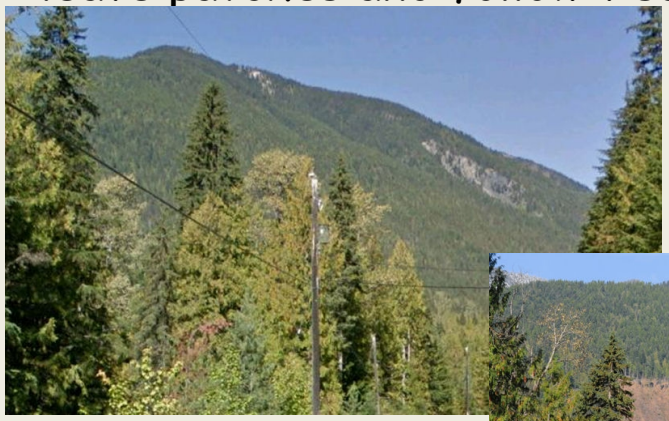
Close-up leave patches

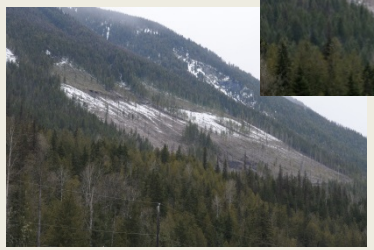
Visual Rehabilitation

Examples

Issue: geometric shapes and straight upper boundaries do not blend.

Objective: break up boundaries with small vertical cuts that tie in with leave patches and follow visual force lines.

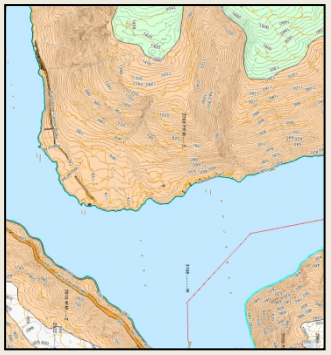


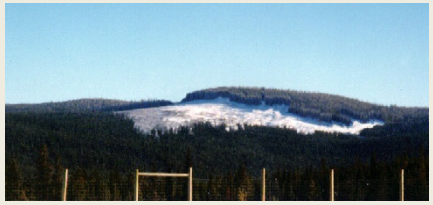


Visual Rehabilitation

Priority Areas:

- VQOs of R, PR, and M; *and*
- Viewed within 8 km of communities, highways, or recreational lakes; *and*
- Clearly visible geometric opening shapes, preferably multiple existing openings; *and*
- Harvested within past 10-12 years; *and*
- Adjacent stands of similar quality; *and*
- Existing usable road network

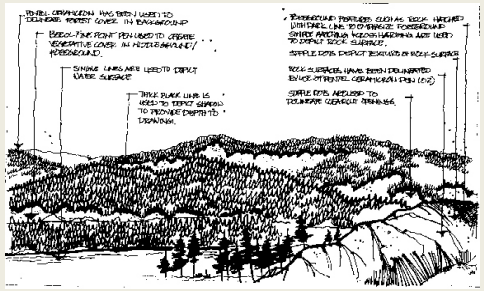




Visual Rehabilitation

Process:

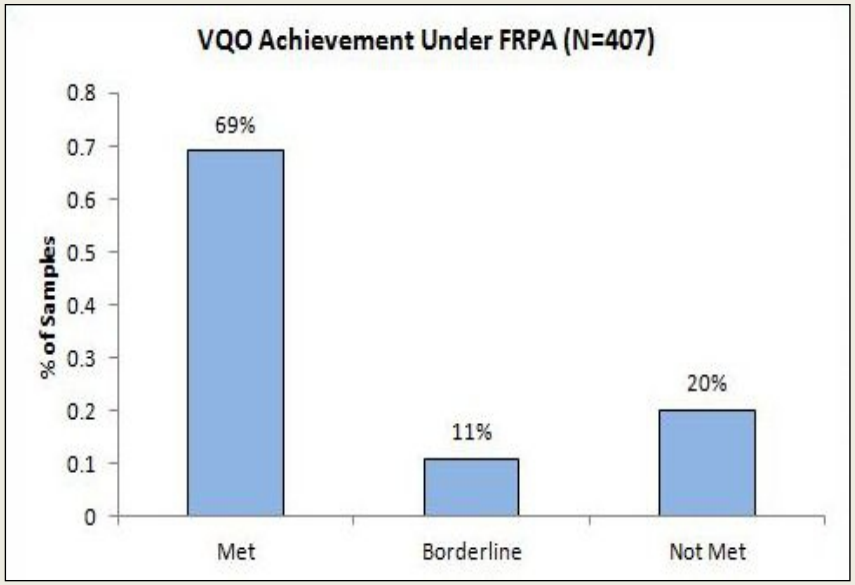
- Identify candidate area
- Assemble information: visual condition, VQOs, other overlapping values, access, harvest opportunities
- Analyze landscape and design issues
- Prepare design option(s) with simulations
- Select preferred option
- Prepare VIA package with rationale
- Request exemption (from VQO) with supporting information.

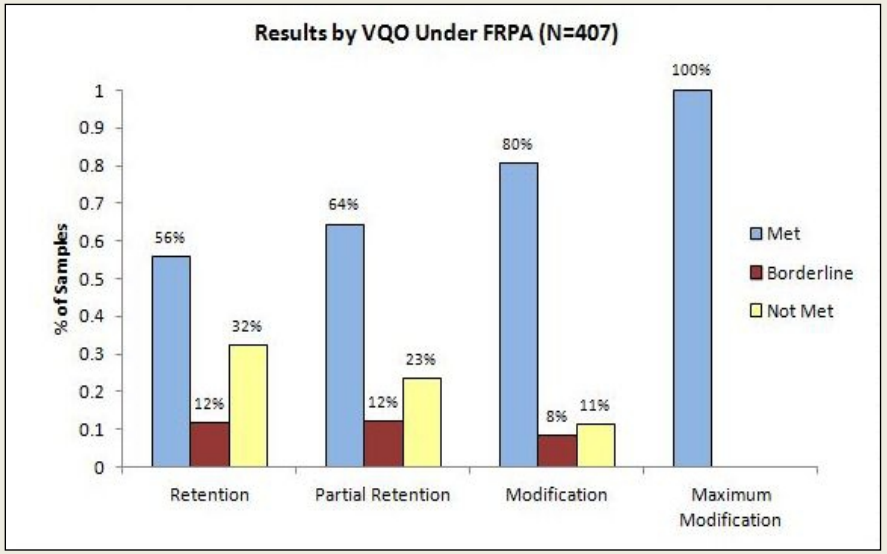


FREP

Provincial Results:

- VQO Achievement:

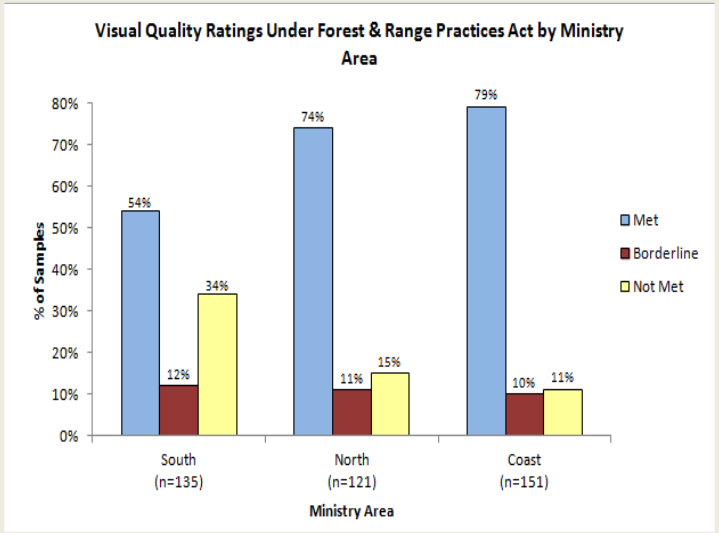


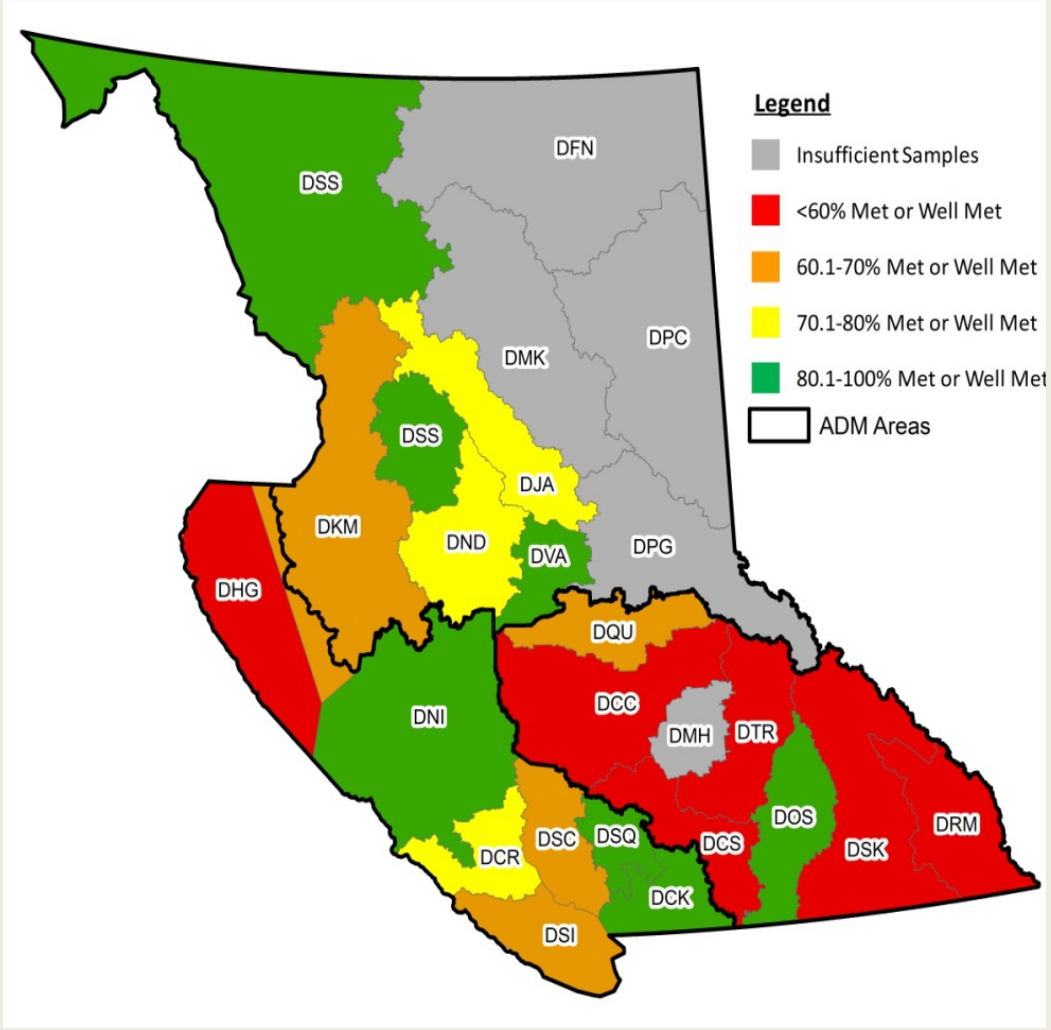


FREP

VQO Achievement:

- By Area.





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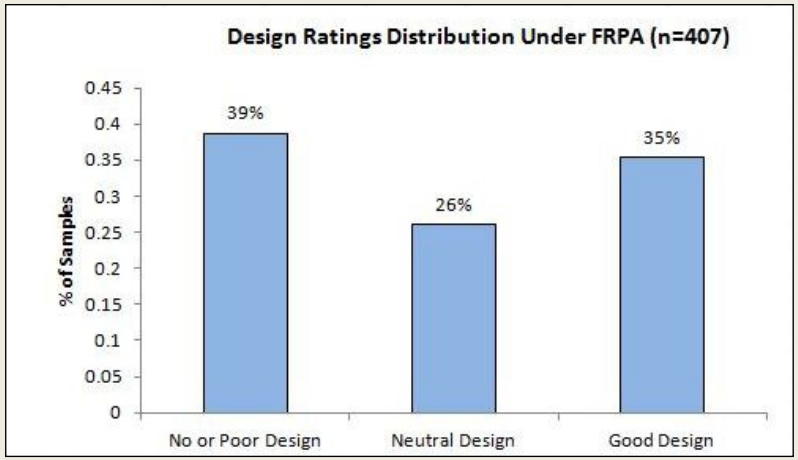
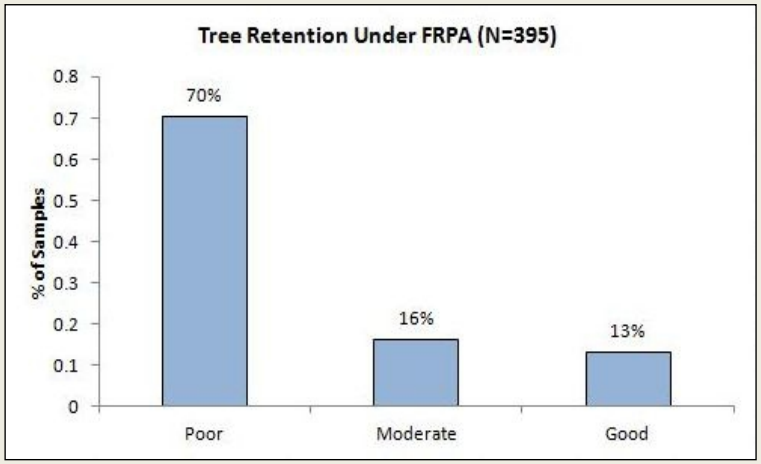
Provincial Results:

- Visual Design:



Provincial Results:

- Tree Retention:



FREP

Provincial Results:

- Consistency with VQOs is 69% Provincially, and 18 of 24 districts are achieving below 80%. In South Area 5 of 8 districts are achieving below 60%.
- Retention VQOs were achieved in 56% of samples, Partial Retention 64%, and Modification 80%. There is room for significant improvement on our most sensitive landscapes.
- Application of visual design principles is slipping. Only 35% of samples were well designed (down from 40% in previous reporting out).
- Visually effective tree retention has dropped from 22% of samples to 13% since last reporting out.