



**Forest
Practices
Board**

FOREST PLANNING AND PRACTICES AT EAST CREEK

A presentation for the FMLT
Port McNeill, BC
April 2017

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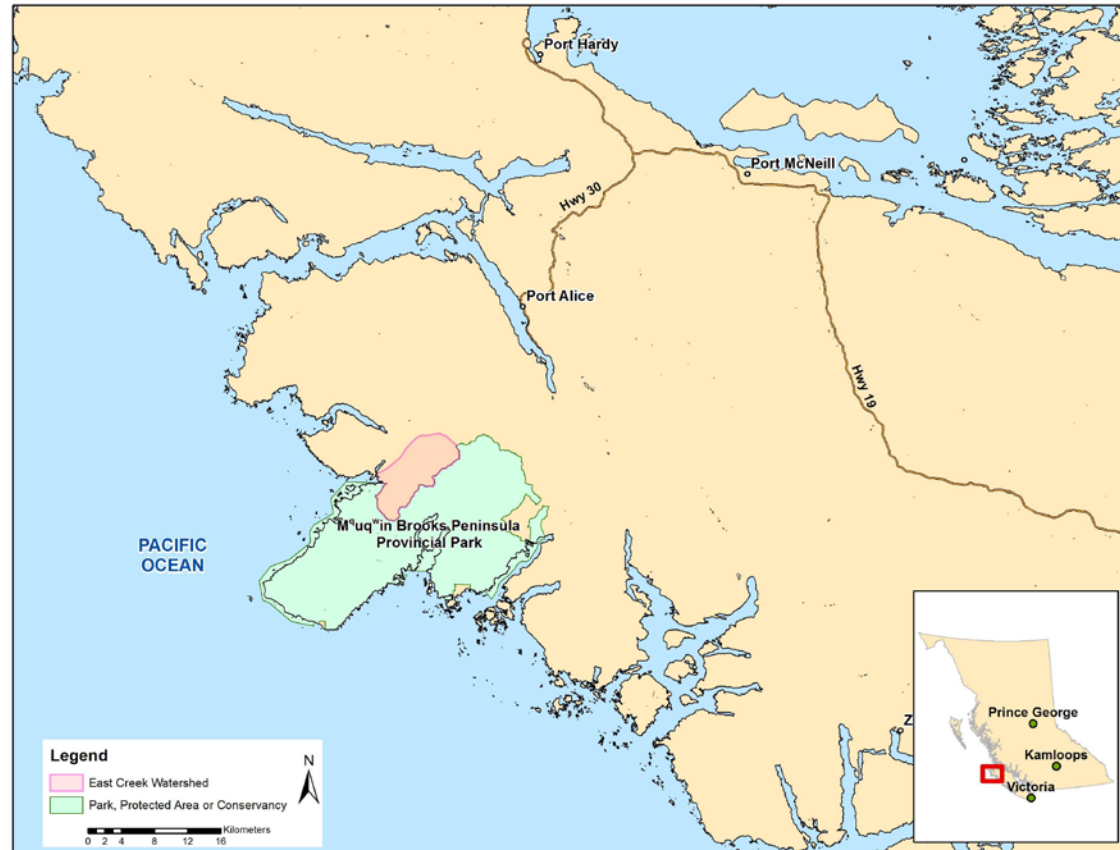
Introduction

Today...

- Brief recap of the East Creek report
 - The complaint
 - Investigation
 - Conclusions
- Relationship to VILUP

The complaint

- The complaint was broad
- Included concerns about:
 1. Forest practices
 2. Access to planning information



How we looked into the complaint

- Audit-style investigation
- Looked at most of the blocks and roads from previous 2 yrs.
- In field and office
- Talked to gov't, First Nations and licensee staff

What we found → Forest Practices

- Bridges
 - Minor issues with delineators and guard logs
 - No environmental issues



What we found → Forest Practices

- Roads
 - Roads were well-built and maintained



What we found → Forest Practices

- Logging
 - No issues
 - Harvesting well-done and in compliance with SPs



What we found → Forest Practices

- Planning
 - SPs were consistent with the FSP
 - FSP was consistent with VILUP Order and other requirements



What we found → Forest Practices

- Overall...
 - Licensee's forest practices met all legal requirements

What we found → Access to plans

- Complainant had requested access to SPs in December
- Finally saw them in June of the following year
 - Reasons on both sides for delay
 - Nevertheless, Board concluded that Licensee did not provide reasonable access to SPs

What we found → Access to plans

- Questions for FMLT:
 - Must SPs include maps?
 - Should they be emailed upon request?
 - How much effort should you expend to satisfy information requests?

VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order

- Some items from SMZ 3 requirements in VILUP Plan:
 - not creating clearcuts over 5 hectares (the **retention silviculture system** is permissible on larger cutblocks),
and
 - “When applying retention silvicultural systems, the amount of retention should generally range between 10 and 20 percent of the gross cutblock area.”
- Retention system carried through into Order
- 10 to 20% level of retention was not

VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order

Also from the VILUP Plan:

- Forested SMZ units are intended to become vanguard areas for implementing the principles of sustainable forest ecosystem management

VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order

Here is what happened on the ground:

- **Most blocks have 7% retention**
- Blocks are very close to each other
- Windthrow is chipping away at the leave strips and retention areas

VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order



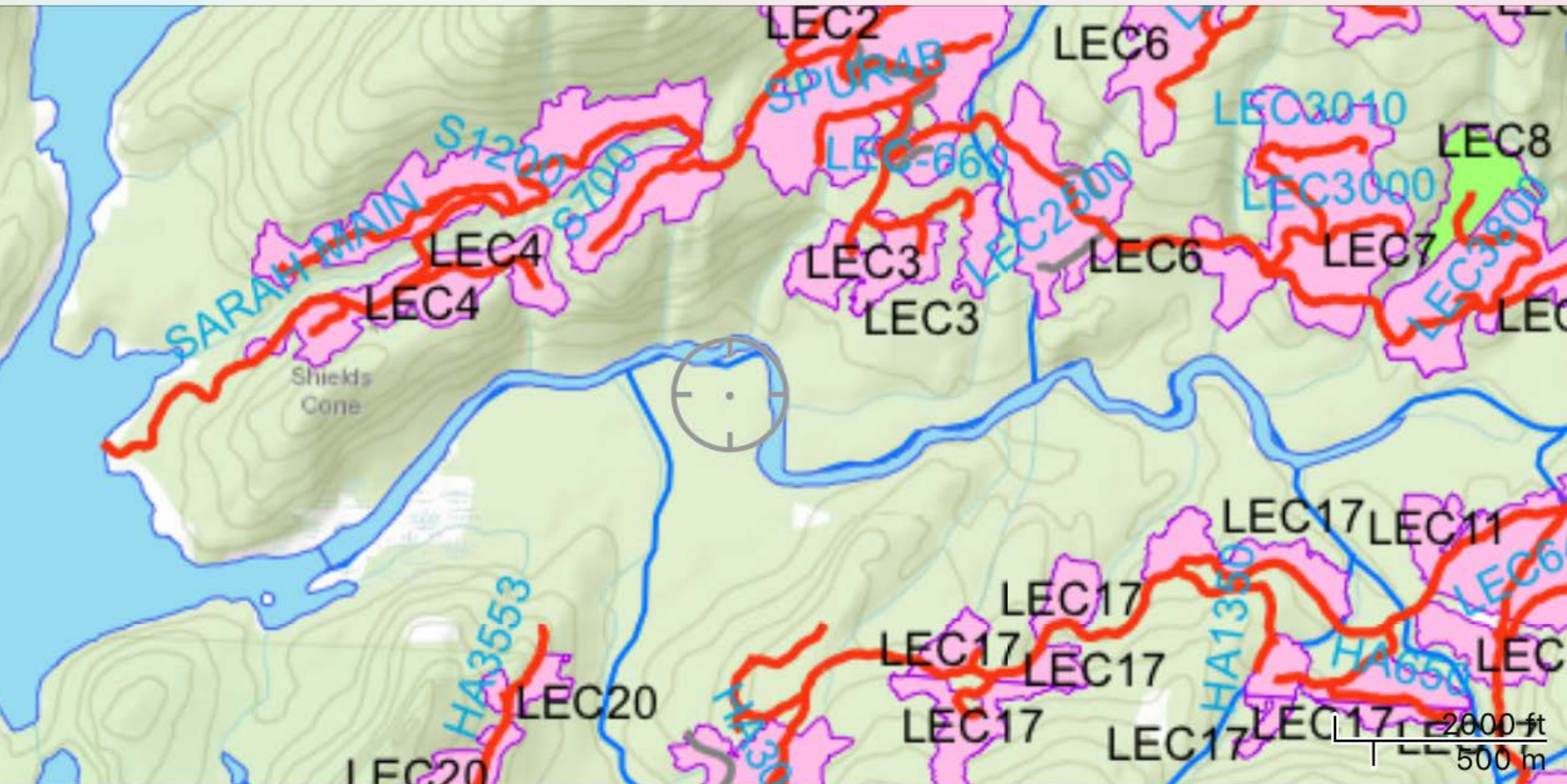
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VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order

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VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order

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VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order



VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order



VILUP Plan vs VILUP Order

- Questions for FMLT
 - Is intent of SMZ 3 being met?
 - Should foresters be looking beyond the legal orders back to the source plans when planning operations?
 - What does the term “retention system” mean to you?

Conclusions

- Licensee forest operations were good
- Licensee did not provide reasonable access to SPs
- Interesting things arising from East Creek investigation...
 1. What is reasonable access to SP's?
 2. Intent of land use plans versus legal orders

Discussion

