

## Visual Impact Assessment

 Mahood West RDI Resource Design Inc
## June, 2021

Legend


Cumulative Viewshed - All Viewpoints - Mahood West - West Side and Mahood West- East Side with VSU Boundary adjustment for cohesion and simplification 1

## Visual Impact Assessment - Interim Report

RDI was requested by Ches Clem, RPF, Planning Forester, Clearwater Field Team, BC Timber Sales Kamloops Business Area, to conduct a Visual Impact Assessment of 16 cutblocks proposed in the Mahood Lake West Operating Area. RDI received the go-ahead and data initial data transfer including cutblocks, roads, and Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRAs) on April 9, 2021. A second transfer was received on May 14, including an additional Visually Sensitive Unit (VSU) polygon (Modification (M) VQO), and existing cutblocks. Viewpoints tested were those selected for an initial visibility study conducted by RDI (delivered October 23, 2020): White Horse Bluffs Trail Start, White Horse Bluffs Trail End, Helmcken Falls, Green Mountain Tower Lookout, and a view from northeast Mahood Lake itself (Viewpoint 13) Ches provided photos from each of the viewpoints except from the lake surface. RDI added three additional viewpoints from Mahood Lake. Cutblocks, WTRAs, roads, and existing openings were provided to RDI. No further assessment was conducted from the Tower viewpoint as the operating area is non-Visually Sensitive (NVS) due to foreground tree screening.

RDI updated the existing ArcMap and Visual Nature Studio projects with the new data, and proceeded with 4 procedures: 1) Arc Map Key Map update, 2) Visual Nature Studio visual simulations, 3) determination of appropriate landforms for analysis, and 4) percent alteration calculations. Simulations were rendered with tree cover according to stand heights from Vegetation Resources Inventory. The existing openings were grouped by year harvesting. Most recent (2018) harvesting appeared to have a significant, non-visually-greened-up areas (nonVEG) influence.

RDI rationalized the lakeside VSUs by merging the shore (VSU142) and back unit (VSU145) as both were Partia Retention (PR) VQO. There appeared to be no compelling purpose for keeping them separate. The Modification VSU (VSU 144) had a distinct sliver separate from the main VSU appearing isolated within the PR VSU which RDI Imerged into the PR VSU for cohesion. The main boundary between the PR and M VSUs was adjusted slightly to follow a ridge, thereby simplifying the analysis as the original boundary straddled small tips of several cutblocks as seen from the bluffs viewpoints. MWAAZ and MWA98 were made fully PR while MWA9G was made fully M. RDI created sublandforms in both the PR and M VSUs. Landform 1A contains all of the Mahood West west cutblock group having the PR VQO; Landform 1B contains all the Mahood West east cutblock group having the PR VQO following adjustment of the VSU line by RDI; Landform 2A contains all of the Mahood West - east cutblock group having the M VQO following adjustment of the VSU line by RDI. Landform 2B incorporates the Mahood East Operating Area (no cutblocks planned), and Landform 2C is the low land beneath Landform 1B and has an M VQO (no cutblocks planned). The landforms are delineated on the key map (page 1), and further delineated on the simulation sheets in perspective (camera) view from each viewpoint. Percent alteration was calculated from Mahood Lake VP 13, and from both Bluffs viewpoints in perspective view. The Falls viewpoint was foregone for percent alteration analysis due to substantial truncation of the landforms by intervening topography and trees in that view. The other lake viewpoints presented less visible alteration than VP 13.

## Results

The results of visibility analysis from all viewpoints and percent alteration analysis from Viewpoint Lake 13 and the Bluffs are presented in tabular form on the next page. The Lake 13 viewpoint exceeds upper limit of the PR VQO by $2.62 \%(9.62 \%)$ and fails to meet the VQO. Other lake viewpoints are less in extent of visible alteration than VP13. The Bluffs 1 viewpoint meets the PR VQO (4.94\%) in Landform 1B, but Bluffs 2 exceeds the PR VQO ( $9.8 \%$ ) in Landform 1B. Due to landform truncation in the Bluffs 2 view of Landform 1B, it is recommended that Bluffs 2 not be considered for determination of VQO achievement, favouring Bluffs 1 for that purpose due to greater visible extent. Landform 2A meets the M VQO from both Bluffs viewpoints. Recommendations have been made by RDI to bring the percent alteration, shape and pattern into line with the VQOs. These are added to the percent alteration tables and on each simulation sheet. Further discussion is planned by Ches with the planning team. RDI will provide further design and VQO achievement suggestions as requested. All cutblocks are likely to be visible except MWAA4.

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June 8, 2021

| Percent Alteration Mahood Lake VP13NE - M merged into L1-PR |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Name | AREA2 | \%Alt |  |
| Landform 1A-PR | 938957.33 |  | includes L2-PR (was M) |
| MWA8K | 17190.16 | 1.83\% | needs break at central pinch-point |
| MWA7E | 2281.99 | 0.24\% |  |
| MWA7G-L | -757.70 | -0.08\% |  |
| MWA7G | 19266.15 | 2.05\% | needs large break or defer |
| MWA7J | 177.34 | 0.02\% |  |
| MWA7J | 1262.56 | 0.13\% |  |
| MWA7N | 2388.10 | 0.25\% |  |
| MWA7N | 309.33 | 0.03\% |  |
| MWA7Q | 2498.51 | 0.27\% | reduce rectangular appearance |
| MWA7Q | 9325.93 | 0.99\% | reduce square corners |
| MWA7L | 11165.52 | 1.19\% | add break or two |
| MWA96 | 5833.13 | 0.62\% |  |
| MWA96-L | -137.17 | -0.01\% |  |
| MWA7S | 299.53 | 0.03\% |  |
| E-2012 | 349.98 | 0.04\% |  |
| E-2018 | 2442.50 | 0.26\% |  |
| E-2018 | 57.54 | 0.01\% |  |
| E-2018 | 19.25 | 0.00\% |  |
| E-2018 | 37.19 | 0.00\% |  |
| E-2018 | 1701.77 | 0.18\% |  |
| E-2018 | 638.79 | 0.07\% |  |
| E-2018 | 19.03 | 0.00\% |  |
| E-2018 | 66.07 | 0.01\% |  |
| E-2018 | 73.94 | 0.01\% |  |
| E-2018 | 103.04 | 0.01\% |  |
| E-2018 | 33.47 | 0.00\% |  |
| E-2018 | 2173.42 | 0.23\% |  |
| E-2018 | 3504.83 | 0.37\% |  |
| E-2018 | 4437.20 | 0.47\% |  |
| E-2018 | 3599.33 | 0.38\% |  |
| Sum Alt L1A | 90360.74 | 9.62\% |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Landform 1B-PR | 121683.12 |  |  |
| MWAAZ | 235.70 | 0.19\% |  |
| MWAAZ | 20.80 | 0.02\% |  |
| E-2012 | 1688.51 | 1.39\% |  |
| Sum Alt L1B | 1945.01 | 1.60\% |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Landform 2-M | 5859.89 |  | M deleted and added to 1-PR above |
| Landform 2-M | 1444.09 |  |  |
| LandformWest | 27740.93 |  |  |


| Name | AREA2 |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Landform 1B | $\%$ Alt |  |
| MWA98 | 37629.36 |  |
| MWAAZ | 527.46 | $1.40 \%$ |
| Sum Alt L1B-PR | 1329.66 | $3.53 \%$ |
| 1857.12 |  |  |
| Landform 2A | $4.94 \%$ |  |
| MWA9G | 478190.50 |  |
| MWA9G-L | 7959.68 | $1.66 \%$ |
| MWA9G-L | -459.19 | $-0.10 \%$ |
| MWAA2 | -220.16 | $-0.05 \%$ |
| MWAA2 | 396.19 | $0.08 \%$ |
| MWA9A | 442.79 | $0.09 \%$ |
| MWA9A-L | 5735.14 | $1.20 \%$ |
| E-2018 | -367.29 | $-0.08 \%$ |
| E-2018 | 431.97 | $0.09 \%$ |
| Sum Alt L2A-M | 1706.39 | $0.36 \%$ |
|  |  |  |
| Landform 2B | 15625.51 | $\mathbf{3 . 2 7 \%}$ |
| Sum Alt L2B | 1137705.28 |  |


| Percent Alteration from White Horse Bluffs 2 |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Name | AREA2 | \%Alt |
| L1B - PR | 57810.84 |  |
| MWA98 | 1444.35 | $2.50 \%$ |
| MWAAZ | 4220.31 | $7.30 \%$ |
| Sum Alt L1B-PR | 5664.66 | $9.80 \%$ |
|  |  |  |
| L2A - M | 738124.40 |  |
| MWA9G | 17384.49 | $2.36 \%$ |
| MWA9G-L | -866.20 | $-0.12 \%$ |
| MWA9G-L | -471.22 | $-0.06 \%$ |
| MWA9A | 12823.43 | $1.74 \%$ |
| MWA9A-L | -669.98 | $-0.09 \%$ |
| MWAA2 | 763.32 | $0.10 \%$ |
| MWAA2 | 2236.05 | $0.30 \%$ |
| E-2018 | 937.27 | $0.13 \%$ |
| E-2018 | 3956.83 | $0.54 \%$ |
| E-2018 | 490.94 | $0.07 \%$ |
| E-2018 | 19.96 | $0.00 \%$ |
| E-2018 | 132.16 | $0.02 \%$ |
| Sum Alt L2A - M | 36737.05 | $\mathbf{4 . 9 8 \%}$ |
|  |  |  |
| L2B - M | 455466.73 |  |
| Sum Alt L2B - M | 0.00 | $\mathbf{0 . 0 0 \%}$ |


| Mahood West 2021 Cutblock Visibility by Landform - Ordered West to East |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cutblock | Mahood10 | Mahood11 | Mahood12 | Mahood13 | Falls | Bluff 1 | Bluffs2 |
| Landform 1A (PR) - Mahood West - West Cutblocks |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MWA7S | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | NVS | NVS | NVS |
| MWA96 | V | V | V | V | NVS | NVS | NVS |
| MWA7L | V | V | V | V | NVS | NVS | NVS |
| MWA7Q | V | V | V | V | $V$ (PART) | NVS | NVS |
| MWA7N | NVS | V (PART) | V | V | NVS | NVS | NVS |
| MWA7G | V | V | V | V | $V$ (PART) | NVS | NVS |
| MWA7J | V (PART) | V | V | V | $V$ (PART) | NVS | NVS |
| MWA8K | V | V | V | V | $V$ (PART) | NVS | NVS |
| MWA7E | V | V | V | V | V | NVS | NVS |
| E-2018 | NVS | V | V | V | NVS | NVS | NVS |
| Landform 1B (PR) - Mahood West - East Cutblocks |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MWA8M | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | NVS | NVS |
| MWAA4 | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS |
| MWA98 | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | V | V |
| MWAAZ | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | $V$ (PART) | V | V |
| E-2018 | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | V |
| Landform 2A (M) - No Alteration Proposed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MWA9A | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | V | V |
| MWA9G | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | V | V |
| MWAA2 | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | NVS | V | V |



Mahood West-West Side




Visual Force Convexity Visual Force Concavity



Mahood Lake NE Viewpoint Visibility

## Bare Ground Visibility Analysis

## Visibility Analysis

Mahood West East Side and Mahood East
RDI Resource Design Inc

## October 22, 2020

Legend

- Contours
- NE Mahood_Lake VP
m20_Lake_InsideAug_8_2020_Operating_Area's
MahoodLake
m20_LakeAll
- WhitehorseEnd
- WhitehorseStart
- Fallstrue
- Mahood2020Viewpoints

Aug_8_2020_Existing_WTRA's






Photos by Ches Clem


## Bare Ground Visibility Analysis



Visibility Analysis
Mahood West East Side and Mahood East RDI Resource Design Inc

## October 22, 2020

- NE Mahood_Lake_VP

MahoodLake
-

- Wh
- WhitehorseStar
- FallsTrue
- Mahood2020Viewpoints
m20W1
Aug_8,_2020_Existing_WTRA's


White Horse Bluffs 1 (Trail Start) Viewpoint Visibility
Visible: West-E - 325 ha; East - 162 ha

Bare Ground Visibility Analysis


## Visibility Analysis

Mahood West_East Side and Mahood East RDI Resource Design Inc October 22, 2020 Legend

- Contours
- NE_Mahood_Lake_VPAug_8, 2020_Operating_Area's
MahoodLake
$\square$ m20W2_insid
$\square$ m20W2ok
- WhitehorseEnd
- WhitehorseStart
- FallsTrue
- Mahood2020Viewpoints

Aug_8,_2020_Existing_WTRA's


White Horse Bluffs 2 (Trail End) Viewpoint Visibility



Bare Ground Visibility Analysis

## Visibility Analysis

Mahood West_East Side and Mahood Eas
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Legend

- ContoursNE_Mahood Lake VPAug_8._2020_Operating_Area's
MahoodLakem20_Falls_within
m20Fallsuse
- WhitehorseEnd
- WhitehorseStart
- FallsTrue
- Mahood2020Viewpoints

DAug_8,2020_Existing_WTRA's


Visible: West-E - 669 ha; East - 42 ha
Helmcken Falls Viewpoint Visibility


Mahood Operating Areas NVS in Photos
NVS - no simulation produced

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