

Mud Operating Area Visual Impact Assessment RDI Resource Design Inc September, 2021

Legend





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Introduction

RDI conducted this Mud Operating Area Visual Impact Assessment for BCTS Kamloops Business Area under contract PD18TEB007 in September, 2021. The project was requested by Ches Clem, RPF, Planning Forester, Clearwater Field Team, BCTS Kamloops Business Area on August 4, 2021. Two sets of cutblocks were provided for analysis. Set 1 contains cutblocks presently ready for auction up to 2025 or with harvesting already underway, and those not currently in the BCTS sales plan due to access issues and poor timber (marked TBA) and requested for separate accounting for percent alteration. The full array of 26 cutblocks along with their VIA report dates and estimated auction dates were provided in the spreadsheet derived by Ches and provided as Table 1 on page 4 of this report. The blocks highlighted in yellow in the table are the specific subject of this VIA although all cutblocks in the list were simulated from each viewpoint where they may appear. The data package was provided on August 4, including new cutblocks, existing cutblocks, WTRAs, and roads. A replacement configuration for MUABP was provided by Ches Clem on August 25, 2021.

Ches Clem identified 6 viewpoints for the Mud-Redsands Visual Assessment in 2020 covering his stopping points where photos were taken by him between January and April, 2020. RDI added the "RS" nomenclature for ease of tracking, increasing in number north from RS1 Blue River Petrocan:

RS1 52 06 34.6, 119 18 33.2 Blue River Petro Can: photos 9392 to 9395

RS2 52 07 22.5 119 17 47.4 Blueberry Road JCT with Hwy 5: Photos 9396 to 9401

RS3 52 07 28.9, 119 17 41.9 Pullout West Side of Hwy 5: photos 9402 to 9406

RS4 52 07 56.6, 119 17 10.0 Mud FSR near Railway Tracks, glimpse view: photos 9407 to 9409

RS5 52 09 54.8N 119 16 01.0 Drive by Hwy 5: photos 9251 to 9256

RS6 52 10'17.7N 119 15'31.1 W Hwy 5 North RDI: photos 9243 to 924.

Upon preliminary review by RDI of the coverage afforded from the viewpoints in ArcGIS and VNS, RDI added an additional tentative viewpoint: RS7 52 12' 41.68N 119 13' 17.69 W north on Hwy 5. Ches kindly followed-up with photography from that viewpoint (photos 9423 to 9437), confirming its relevance as a view from the north towards the cutblocks in TA1036.

A second set of viewpoints, also established by Ches Clem, commenced at Blue River Petrocan (Ches #1 / RS1) and continued southward (Ches #2-Ches #5) These viewpoints were initiated for the 2018 Peddie-Wilkins-Mud VIA by RDI and renumbered consecutively by RDI in the southerly direction by RDI for ease of recognition. Together, the two sets of viewpoints cover 18.4km of viewing potential towards the Mud 2021 proposed and existing alterations as might be seen when travelling along Highway 5.

RDI also has assessed views from the Boat Dock on Lower Mud River, a new location on Mud Lake's southwest end (Mud Lake 6) and resurrected the "Plantation" viewpoint from the Mud North VIA of February 2020 (also known as the TA0944/TA0645/TA0647 VIA of the same date), for the purpose of examining the cutblocks in Landform 3, including MUAAE and the adjacent MU 2021 03 TBD in the unrecorded VLI area between Landform 2 and Landform 3. These viewpoints provided visual access extending from the Mud FSR at Highway 5 eastwards for 10.7km reaching the Plantation Viewpoint located on the Upper Mud River. RDI also added a view from the Wiegele Ski runs for an elevated perspective. The coordinates of all 17 viewpoints in decimal degrees are presented as Table on page 4. The chart also shows the approximate highway distance away from the RS1 Petrocan viewpoint for each of the 11 other highway viewpoints tested by RDI.

Please note: RDI has provided links to each and every VIA produced for BCTS Kamloops Business Area over the past 11 years (67 in number). The reports are easily download at https://www.rdi3d.ca from the Visual Impact Assessments page under the "More" tab. The VIA reports are grouped by year. RDI will be updating the list with the 2021-2022 projects soon.

Procedures and Analysis

RDI placed new data into pre-existing ArcGIS and VNS models. Forest Cover VRI was added from the 2020 release with heights assigned from the "Proj_Heigh" attribute. All viewpoints were simulated in VNS, showing Sets 1 and 2 cutblocks together. Four landforms were differentiated based on Visual Sensitivity Unit boundaries, physical terrain breaks, and dominant visual forces. All VSUs had the same Visual Quality Objective of Modification, allowing merging of some units where appropriate. The "Modification" Category of Visual Alteration means an alteration of a forest landscape resulting from the presence of cutblocks or roads, such that, when assessed from a viewpoint that is representative of significant public viewing opportunities, the alteration is very easy to see and is either: (a) large in scale with a design that is natural in its appearance, or (b) small to moderate in scale but with a design that has some angular characteristics.

The landforms and cutblock visibility within them are shown on the key map on page 1, in Table 3 on page 4, and all are clearly labelled in each visual simulation sheet. Percent alteration calculations by landform were produced from three viewpoints: RS1 Petrocan, RS4 Mud FSR at Highway 5, and the Plantation viewpoint along the upper Mud River. Percent alteration contributions of Set 2 cutblocks marked TBD were kept separate in the tallies calculated from the three viewpoints. Findings are presented on each viewpoint Percent alteration sheet.

Some cutblocks are located in unclassified area according the VLI. Where simulations revealed greater visibility that the VLI, those unclassified areas were included in the landforms as detailed in the visibility chart (Table 3).

Several existing openings are present in the visible landforms. These openings have been depicted in purple in the simulations for ease of differentiation. According to Tyson Leutdke "these are not govt/BCTS blocks so detailed survey data is not available", but he provided updates from 2018 analysis and extended the findings to 2020:

- E1 1.5m (Existing Opening ID 109532): Gilbert Smith cutblock, 9.5ha IMM ART, last update 2015 -Sx (Cw) 1.7-2.1m height, est (conservative) 30cm/yr leader, projected 2020 height ~4m (add 30cm for 2021 growth),
- E2 2.2m (Existing Opening ID 90894): Gilbert Smith cutblock, 19.3m IMM ART, last update 2011 -Fd (CwHw) 2.0m height, est 40cm/yr leader, projected 2020 height ~6m (add 40cm for 2021 growth),
- E3 1.5m (Existing Opening ID 90895): Gilbert Smith cutblock, 30.8ha IMM ART, last update 2012 SxCwFd 2+m height, est 40cm/yr, projected 2020 height ~5.5m (add 40cm for 2021 growth).

The 50% probability of achieving summer Visually Effective Green-up (VEG) is 5.5 m and approx. 5.7m for winter. E1 and E2. The lower E1 and E2 openings contain noticeable dispersed and clumped residuals which cover approximately 30% of the area by ocular estimate of the photos with snow on the ground. The height required to achieve VEG can be modified by slope class analysis. This was not carried out by RDI at this time given that the two viewpoints tested for percent alteration were well within the Modification Visual Quality Class limit of 7-18% with the TBD blocks held separately for consideration. RDI was unable to determine if the 2001 Plantation visible in the Plantation view is VEG.

RDI employed its standard application of Visual Nature Studio to render each viewpoint coverage of the cutblocks. RDI adjusted roadside vegetation from VRI to better emulate that seen in the photos where available. The VNS planimetric camera inset on page 4 provides confirmation (proof) that all 26 cutblocks and the four existing nonVEG openings were present in the model when rendered from each viewpoint.

Findings

The Mud Operating Area array of 26 proposed, TBD, or underway cutblocks spread across 4 landforms comprising 7 Visual Sensitivity Units, all with the Modification Visual Quality Objective. Some cutblocks are also located in areas identified as unclassified/non-visually-sensitive (NVS) in the Visual Landscape Inventory, but were seen from selected viewpoints. These unclassified but visible areas were added to the appropriate landform. As well, RDI tracked existing nonVEG openings, for a total of 30 cutblocks requiring assessment. Of this 26 cutblock array, a total of 17 cutblocks have been found to have at least some visual apparency while 9 cutblocks were without any apparency (Table 3, page 4). The same table shows the 16 viewpoints applied for visual simulation and analysis, spanning over 18km of Highway 5 and nearly 11km inland along Mud River and Mud Lake. For good measure, RDI produced a visual simulation from on top of the Wiegele heli-ski runs overlooking Blue River.

The cutblock array as seen from Highway 5, Blue River and Mud River and Lake viewpoints form a richly diverse pattern of openings which coalesce with the existing history of forest management across the landforms, and reflect consideration of visual quality class definitions and conformance with visual forces. Percent alteration is safely within the limits of Modification Visual Quality Class (7.1-18%) for the blocks in Group 1 (see percent alteration sheets for viewpoints RS1, RS4 and Plantation. The separation of Group 2 TBD blocks from the main analyses allows the VQO to be presently met without them, but will exceed the limits of alteration perspective view when eventually added in for Landform 1 (20.25% from RS1, and 19.05% from RS4. The deduction for residual cover within the existing 2003 openings of 1.8% for RS1 and 2.5% for RS4 would bring RS1 down to 18.45% and 16.55% respectively (see Table 4, page 4 and full calculations on the RS1 and RS4 percent alteration sheets. The existing openings are on track to achieve VEG in a year or two. Further refinement based on careful measure of intervening screening effect and slope assessment within the openings can further moderate the percent alteration from these viewpoints. Snow-on-ground conditions lengthen the achievement of VEG with cutblocks standing out against the dark forest. This is why good design is particularly important in the Blue River-Mud landscape. While some openings are large, shapes are "natural-appearing" to the extent possible due to colour contrasts in the winter landscape. Consideration might be given to reducing or otherwise mitigating the scale with WTRAs of MUABU and MU93X from the viewpoints indicated in Table 3 on page 4, if and when the cutblocks are considered for auction. The 3 cutblocks in L2 will create highly contrasting parallel horizontal slices across the landform. Consider minimizing the visual effect of MU 2021 02 from viewpoints CHES #2 and RS1 when readied for auction.

Tan D. Han Runs KB Fairhurst hD, RPF RDI Resource Design Inc September 16, 2021

Longitude

52.109611

Latitude

-119.309222

Label

RS1-PetroCan

RS2-Blueberry (RS1+1732	2m north)	52.122917	-119.296500					
RS3-Pullout (RS1+1936r	n north)	52.124694	-119.294972					
RS4-MudFSR (RS1+2992	m north)	52.132389	-119.286111					
RS5-DriveBy1 (RS1+6861	m north)	52.165222	-119.266944					
RS6-DriveBy2 (RS1+7765	m north)	52.171583	-119.258639					
RS7-RDI-North (RS1+1296	8m north)	52.210910	-119.221527					
Ches #1-(RS1+266m s	outh)	52.107419	-119.309864					
Ches #2-(RS1+1381m	south)	52.097546	-119.310362					
Ches #3-(RS1+2066m	south)	52.091402	-119.310768					
Ches #4-(RS1+2412m	south)	52.088232	-119.310714					
Ches #5-(RS1+5342m	south)	52.063967	-119.323418					
Boat Dock		52.130420	-119.269000					
Mud Lake 6		52.122670	-119.242321					
River Plantation	1	52.121439	-119.129026					
Ski Run		52.091768	-119.230468					
		Table 4						
	Summ	ary of Porcont Alteration, by Lan	dform					

Summary of Percent Alteration, by Landform Viewpoint Landform													
viewpoint													
Cutblock Group	L1	L1a	L2	L3									
RS1 G1	10.09%	,	6.53%	Ď									
RS1 G2 TBD	10.16%		4.27%	ò									
RS1 Total	20.25%		10.80%	,									
RS4 G1	11.25%	7.90%	4.71%	b									
RS4 G2 TBD	7.80%		1.62%	b									
RS4 Total	19.05%	7.90%	6.33%	,									
Plantation G1				12.0									
Plantation G2 TBD	,			0.0									
see detailed re	port sumn	narv discus	sion and p	ercent									

2003 openings

TSL Block VIA previously completed VIA Report Date **Estimated TSL Auction Date** TBD HL96G Jun-20 TBD TA0136 HL96W August 1st, 2025 Jun-20 TA0136 HL978 Jun-20 August 1st, 2025 Yes TA0136 HL979 Jun-20 August 1st, 2025 Yes TA0136 MUAB1 No n/a August 1st, 2025 MUABT No n/a TA1876 September 1st, 2024 TA1876 MUAB8 No n/a September 1st, 2024 No n/a September 1st, 2024 TA1208 MU95T Jun-20 October 6th, 2021 Yes TA1208 MUA00 Jun-20 October 6th, 2021 Yes TA1208 MU9ZY Yes Jun-20 October 6th, 2021 TBD No TBD n/a TBD MU93X Jun-20 TBD Yes TA1445 MU975 Yes Jan-21 January 10th, 2023 TA1445 MU7AP Yes Jan-21 January 10th, 2023 August 1st, 2022 A0944 MUA9K No n/a No n/a TA0944 MU9RT Yes Feb-20 August 1st, 2022 TBD No TBD n/a TBD n/a TA0645 MU9RR Feb-20 Yes Auctioned, harvesting underway TA0645 MU9RP Feb-20 Auctioned, harvesting underway Yes MU9R1 TA0647 Yes Feb-20 Auctioned TA0647 MU96X Yes Feb-20 Auctioned August 1st, 2023 TA1871 MU7AR Yes Feb-20

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		143.00																									
		Mud Visibility 2021																									
		Landform 1 (VLI_Polys 820M-West+831M combined) plus East portion of 809M							309M	Landform 1a (VLI_Poly 809M West)						Landform 2 (VLI_Poly 820M-East), 821, 832				Landform 3 (VLI_Poly 818M) plus adjacent unclassified west to 821 edge							
		MUABU-TBD	MUAB4	MU93X-TBD	MU9ZY	MU95T	MUA00	MU7AP	MU975	HL978	HL979	HL96G-TBD	HL96W	MUABT	MUAB1	MUAB8	MU_2021_02-TBD	MUA9K	MUABP	MU9RT	MU_2021_03-TBD	MUAAE	MU9RP	MU96X	MU9R1	MU7AR	MU9RR
_ Cł	nes #1 Petrocan 1	V	٧	V			V (minor)										V	V	V								V
<u>c</u> l	nes #2	V	V	V			V (minor)										V	٧	V	V (minor)							
Cł	nes #3	V	V	V			V (minor)	V (minor)	V (minor)											V (minor)							
Cł	nes #4	V	V	V			V (minor)	V (minor)	V (minor)								V (minor)	٧	٧	V (minor)							
c⊦	nes #5																	٧	V	V							
RS	S1 Petrocan 2	V	V	V			V										V	٧	V								
RS	S2 Blueberry Jnx	V	V	V			V		V (minor)								V	V (minor)	٧								
RS	3 Pullout H5 #1	V	V	V			V										V	V (minor)	٧								
RS	64 Pullout H5 #2	V	V	V			V (minor)				V (minor)						V	V	٧								
RS	55 Drive-by #1				,		,		,			No	Cutblock	s Visible	- VLI_Pol	ys 807M a	nd 812 M										
RS	66 Drive-by #2											No	Cutblock	s Visible	- VLI_Pol	ys 807M a	nd 812 M										
♦ RS	7 H5 North RDI									V (minor)	V																
М	ud Lake VP6	V		V													V (minor)										
Вс	oat Dock	V	V (minor)	V																							
Ri	ver Plantation																				V (minor)		٧	V (large)	V (minor)		V
Sk	i Run	V	V	V				V	V (minor)								V (minor)	V	V								
Ve	erified in VNS Model	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
<u>.</u>	thlocks with hold to	v+ /17 -f 26\ b.		a al veia ila ilita e fua	+	at 1		المسلم منالم		reed by DD	ماده واطعرو	بد منمام طنیب	+	fill solo	(0 of 20	م م میرم ۱	بحالمانمان ما بيامانه المحمد	f==========				h. DDI					

Cutblocks with bold text (17 of 26) have predicted visibility from at least 1 viewpoint as tested in simulations produced by RDI; cutblocks with plain text and no fill colour (9 of 26) have no predicted visibility from any viewpoint tested in simulations produced by RDI.

MUAB4 is split between VLI_Polys 820 and 809

MU_2021_03, MU9RR, and MU9RP are in unclassified NVS zone between VLI_Polys 820 and 818 but are considered as part of VLI_Poly 818 for accounting purposes

HL978 and HL 979 are in unclassified area in gap of VLI Poly 809

VNS Planimetric Camera - all 30 new and existing CB's verified as present in the model

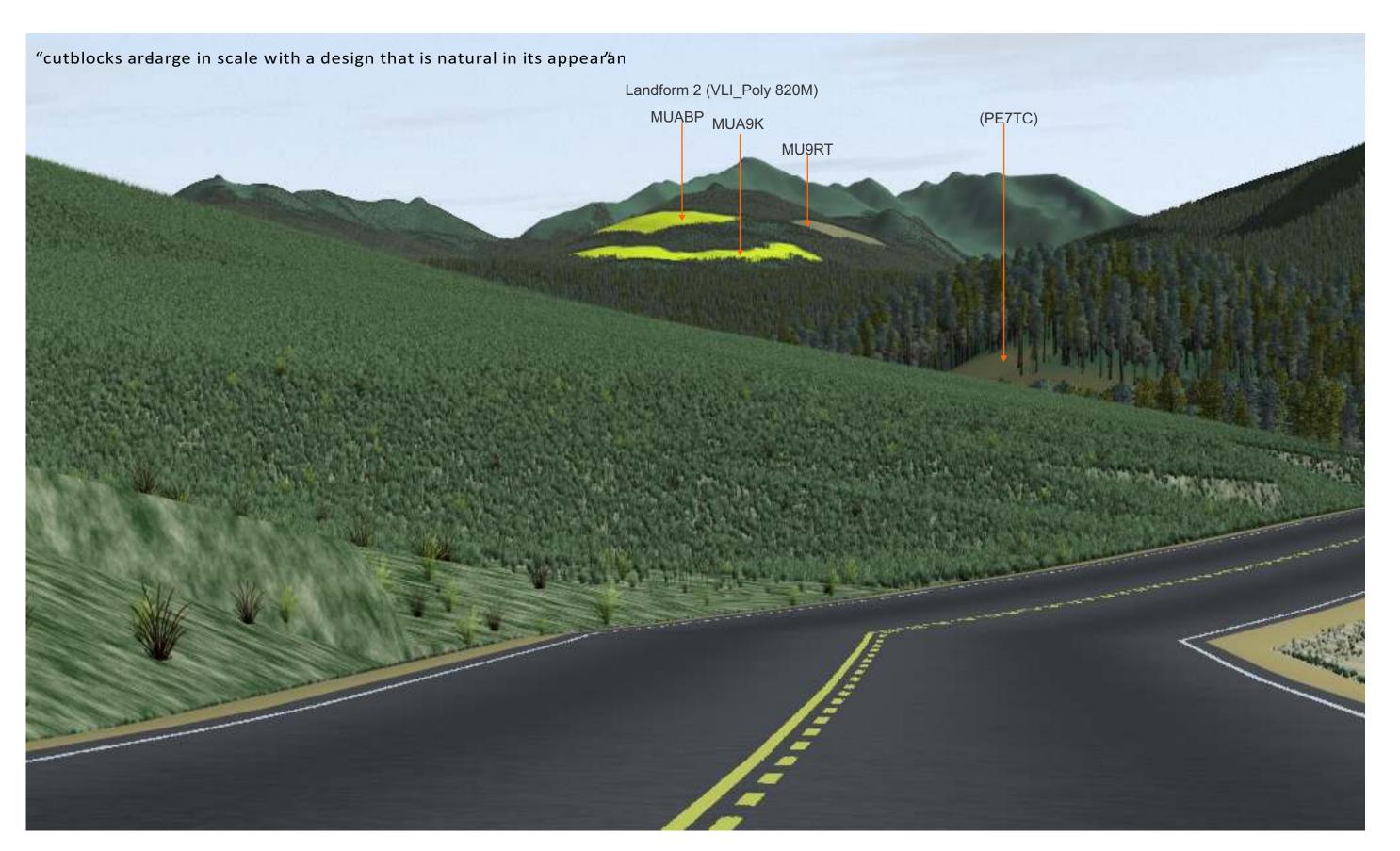
L1 contains 3 existing openings - 90895 (2002), 90894 (2003) and 109532 (2005). All are nonVEG with the '02 and '03 openings containing grouped and individual residuals approximating 30% ocular cover. These show on the key map. L2 contains 1 opening from 2015 (near MUABP), not showing on key map.

Three of the above existing 4 openings are visible in the simulations, bringing the total visible to 16 of the grand total of 30 new and recent openings tracked and assessed for the Mud 2021 VIA.

Ches #1 and RS1 are the same Petrocan viewpoint. Viewpoint numbering for Ches #2-Ches #5 increases southwards along the highway from Ches #1/RS1; viewpoint numbering for RS2 to RS7 increases northwards along the highway from Ches #1/RS1 - see key map for viewpoint orientation

^{*} TBD - to be determined - "No auction date" - considered separately in Percent Alteration Calculations (HL96G, MUABU, MU93X, MU 2021 02, MU 2021 03)

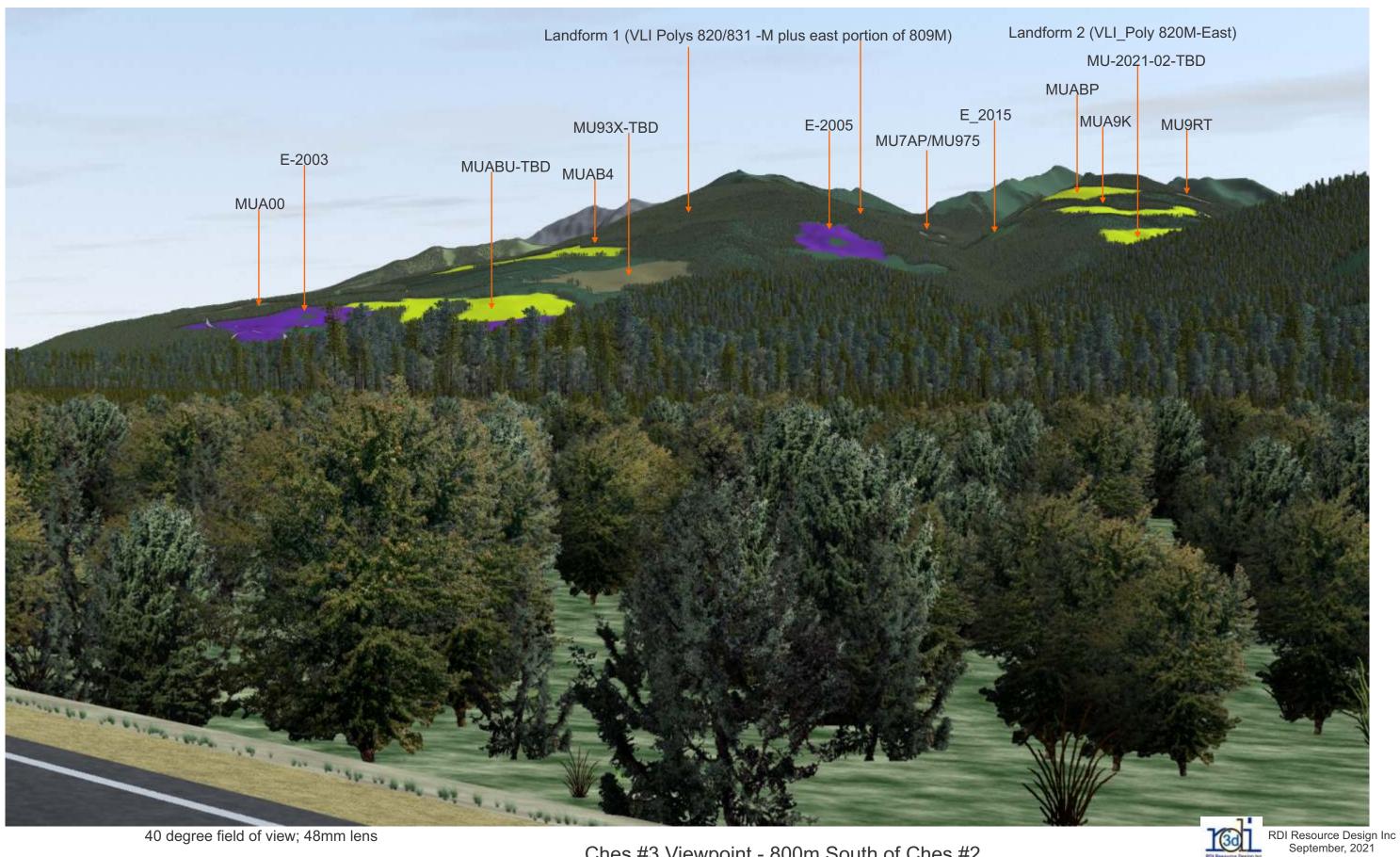
^{**} MUA00 to be auctioned October 6, 2021

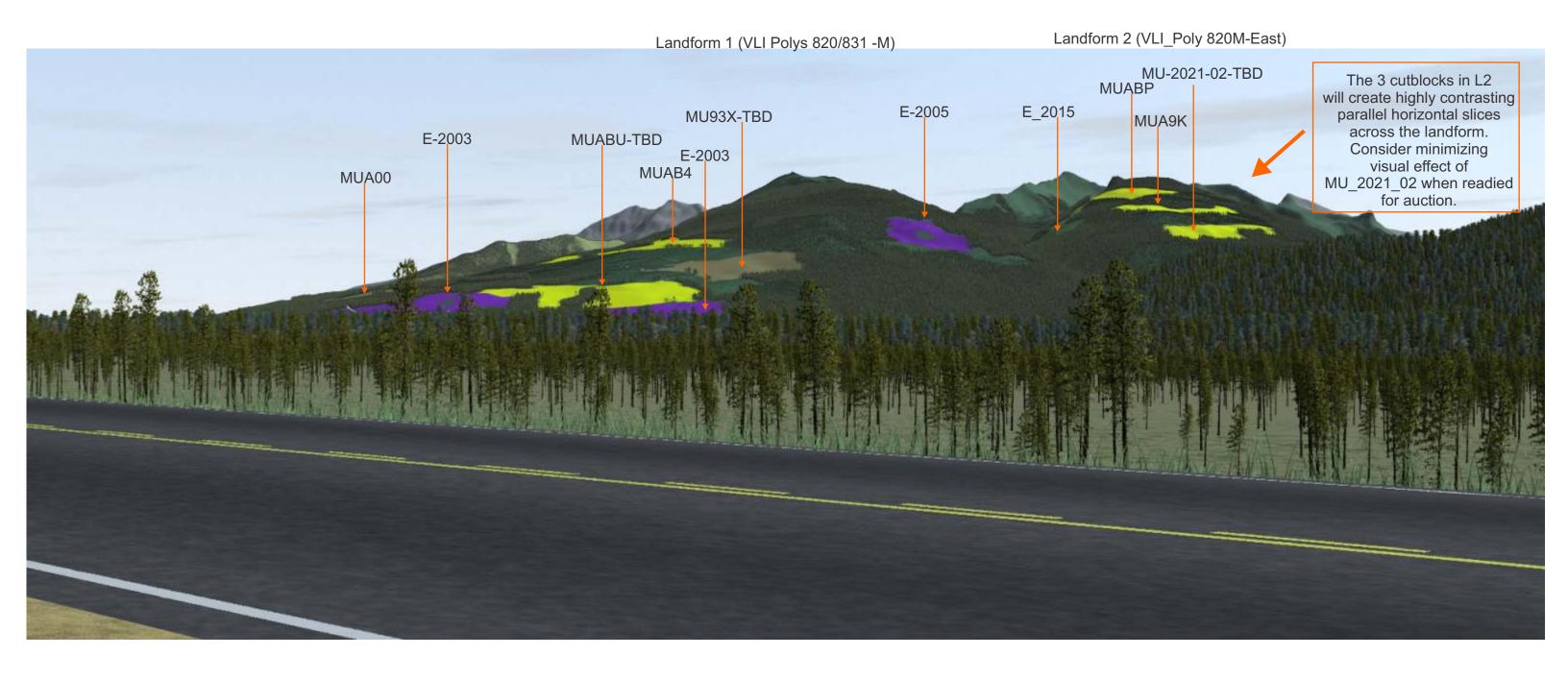


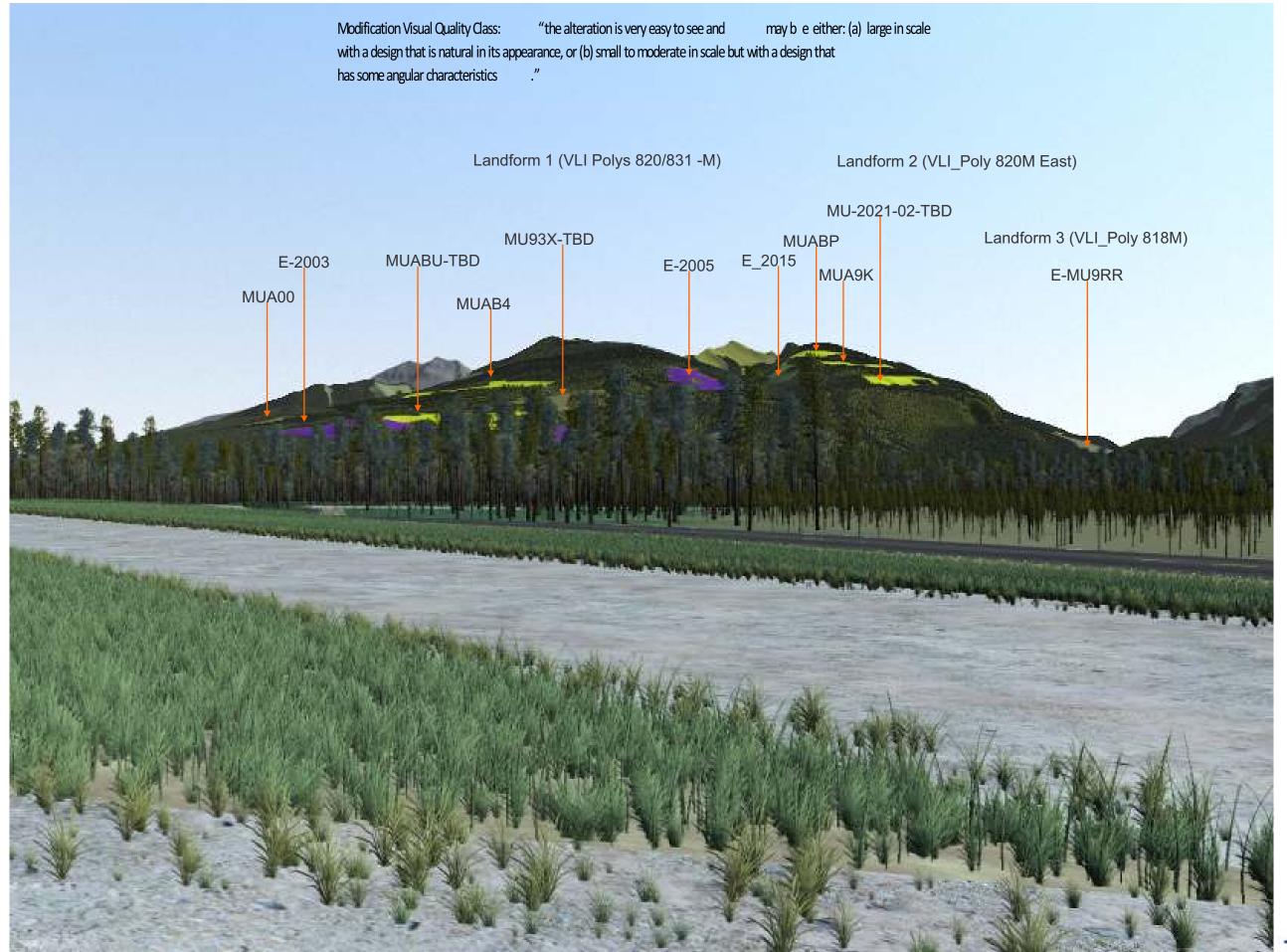
40 degree field of view; 48mm lens; foreground cleared for potential visibility

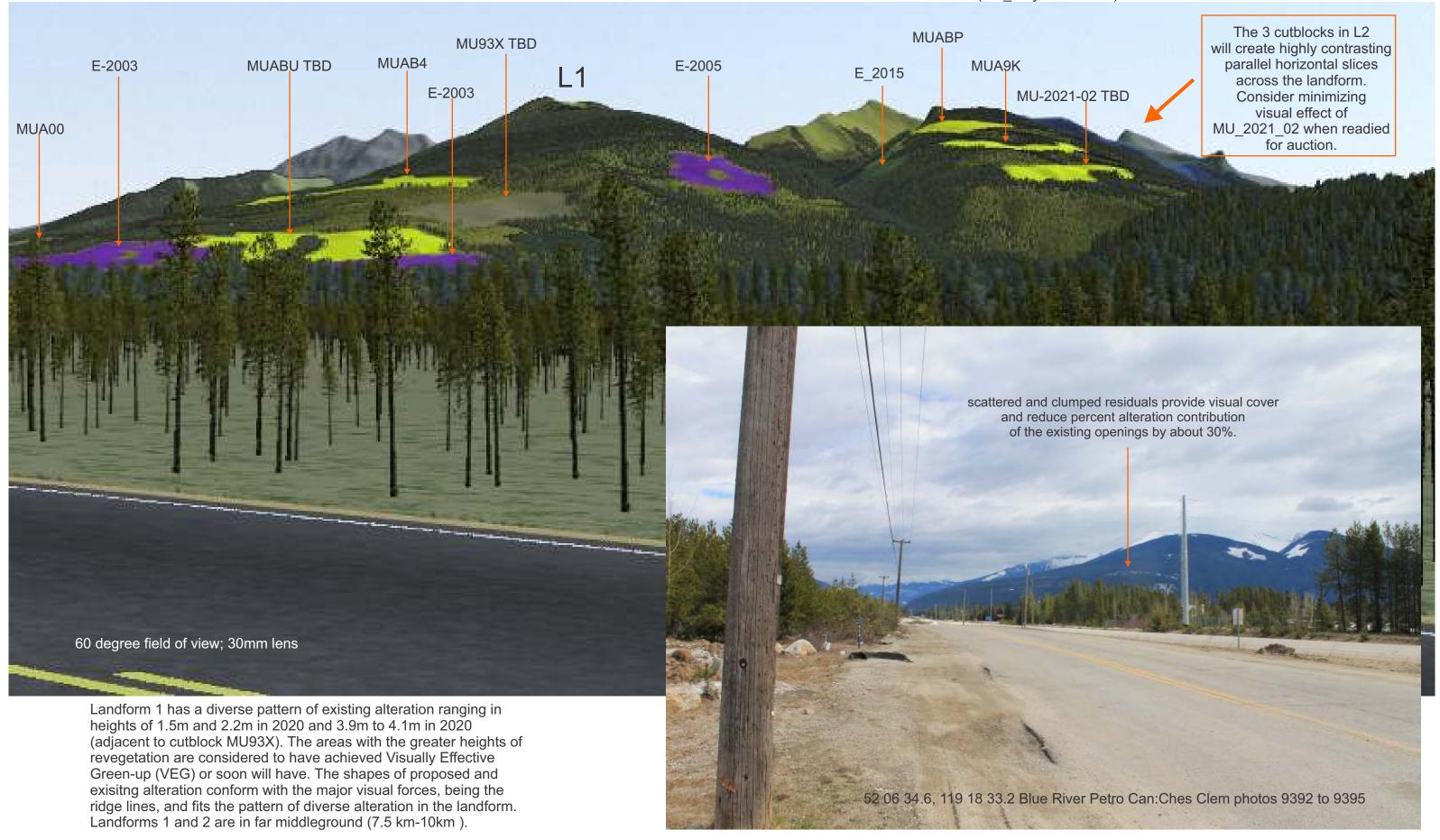
the alteration is very easy to see and is either: (a) large in scale with a design that is natural in its appearance, or (b) small to moderate in scale but with a design that has some angular characteristics.

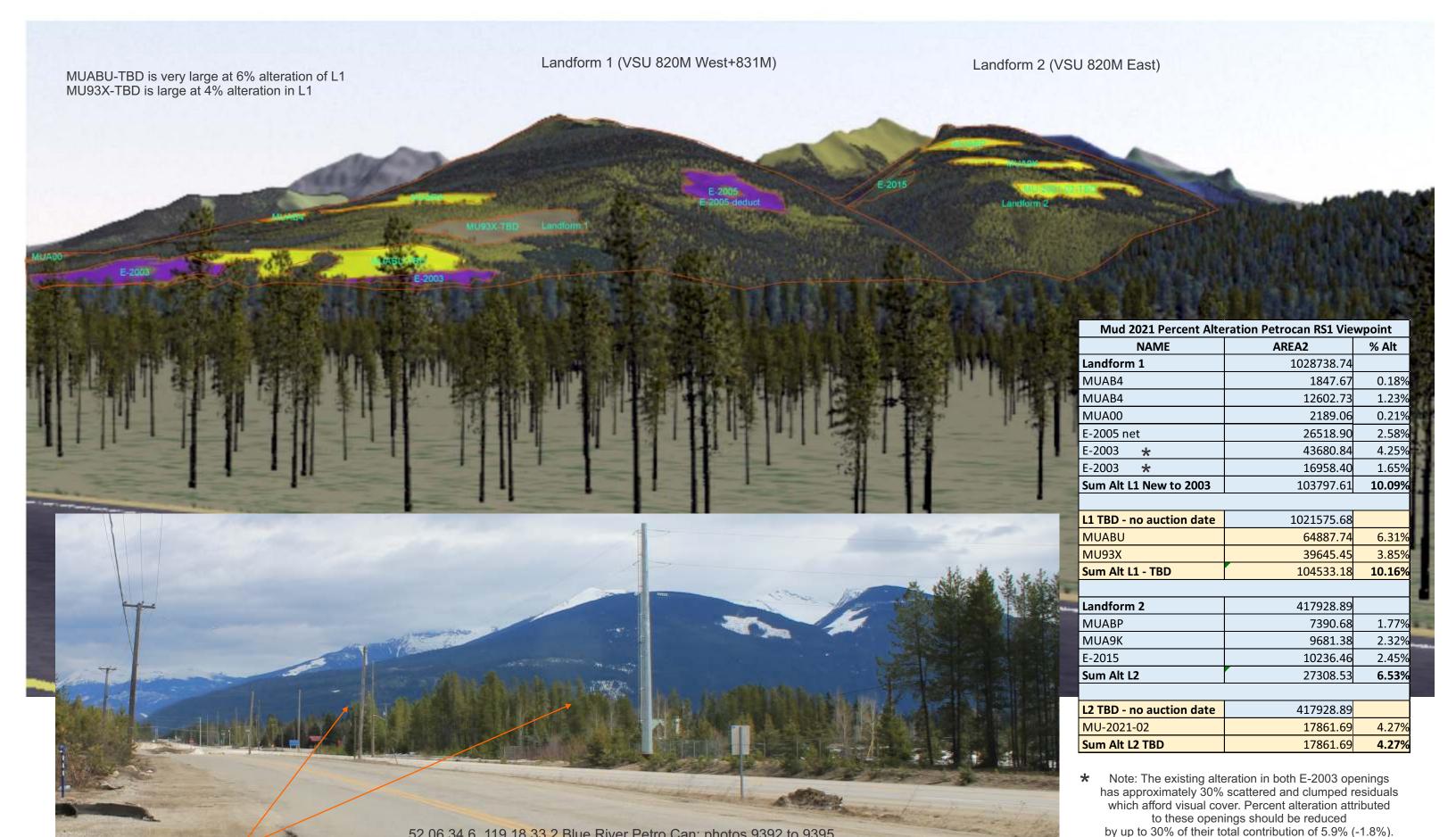
40 degree field of view; 48mm lens







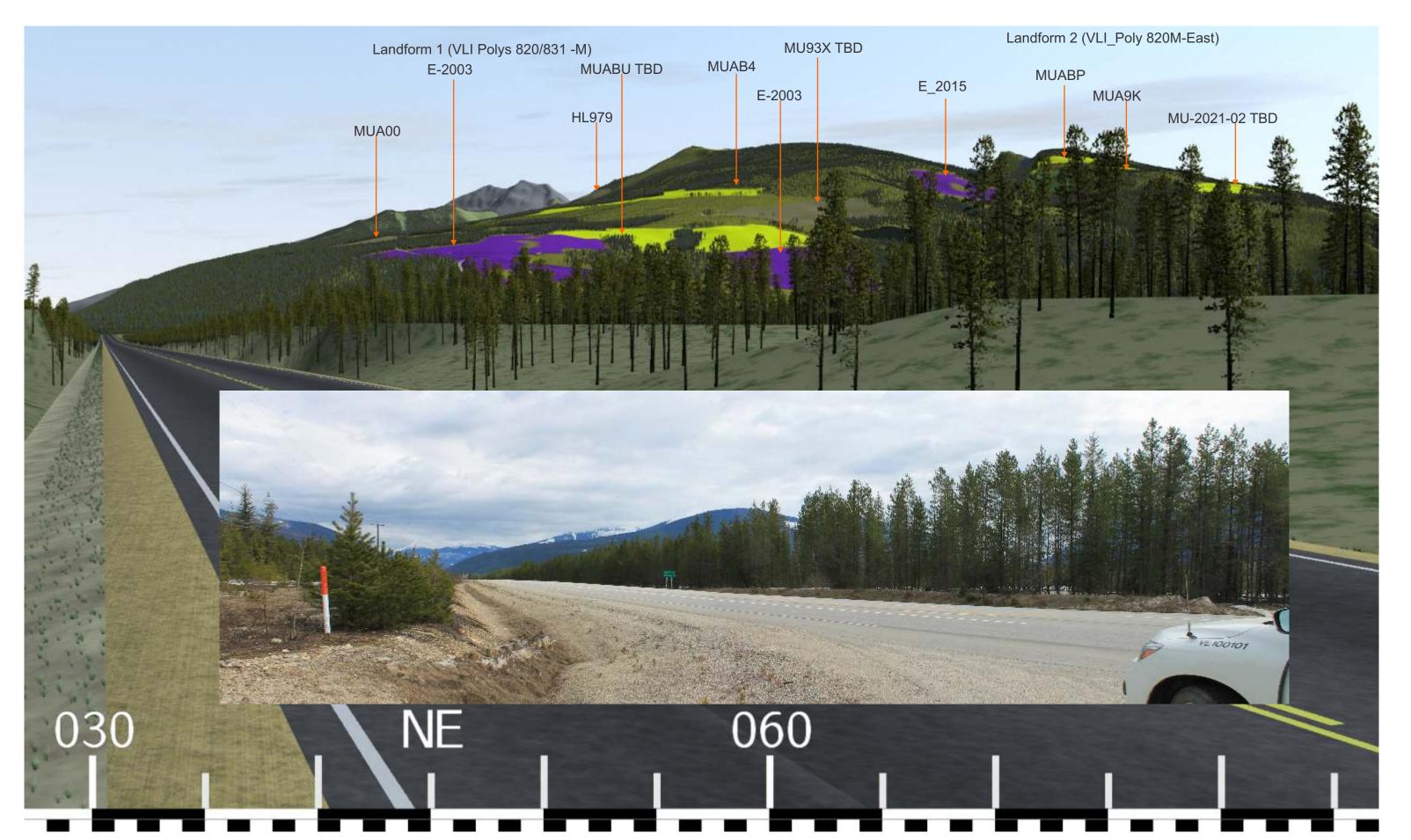




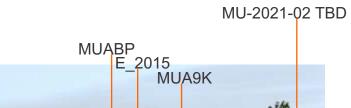
E-2003 openings are currently nonVEG with grouped and scattered residuals

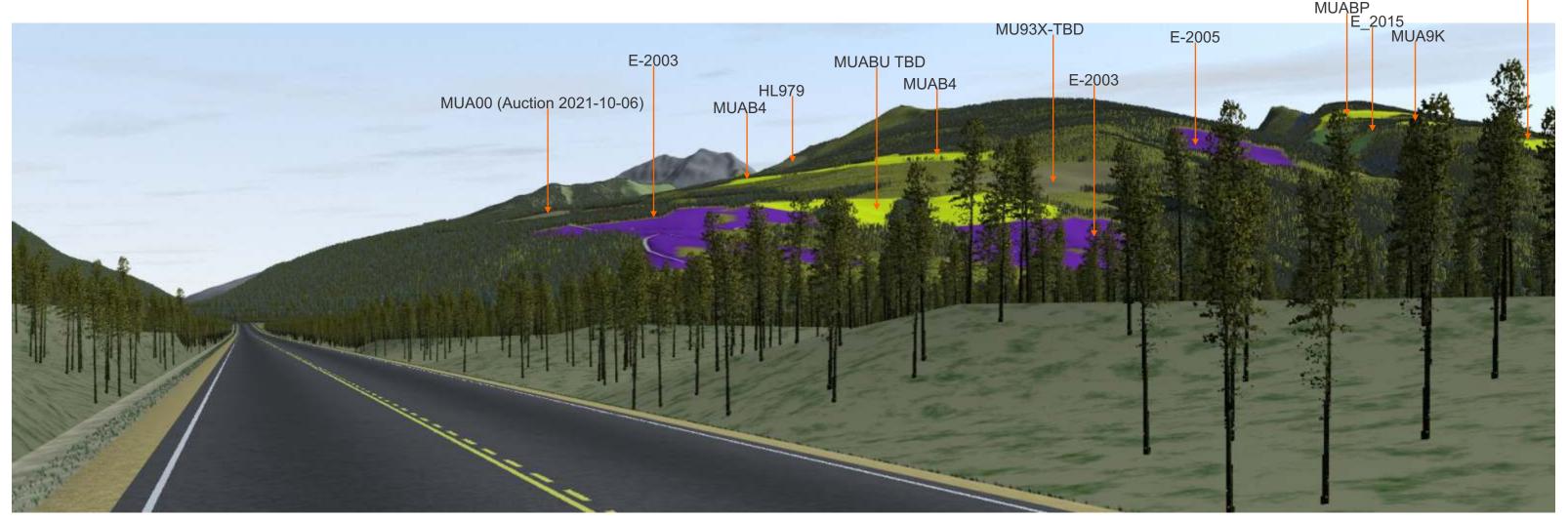
Intervening screening is greater than shown in the VNS model.

52 06 34.6, 119 18 33.2 Blue River Petro Can: photos 9392 to 9395

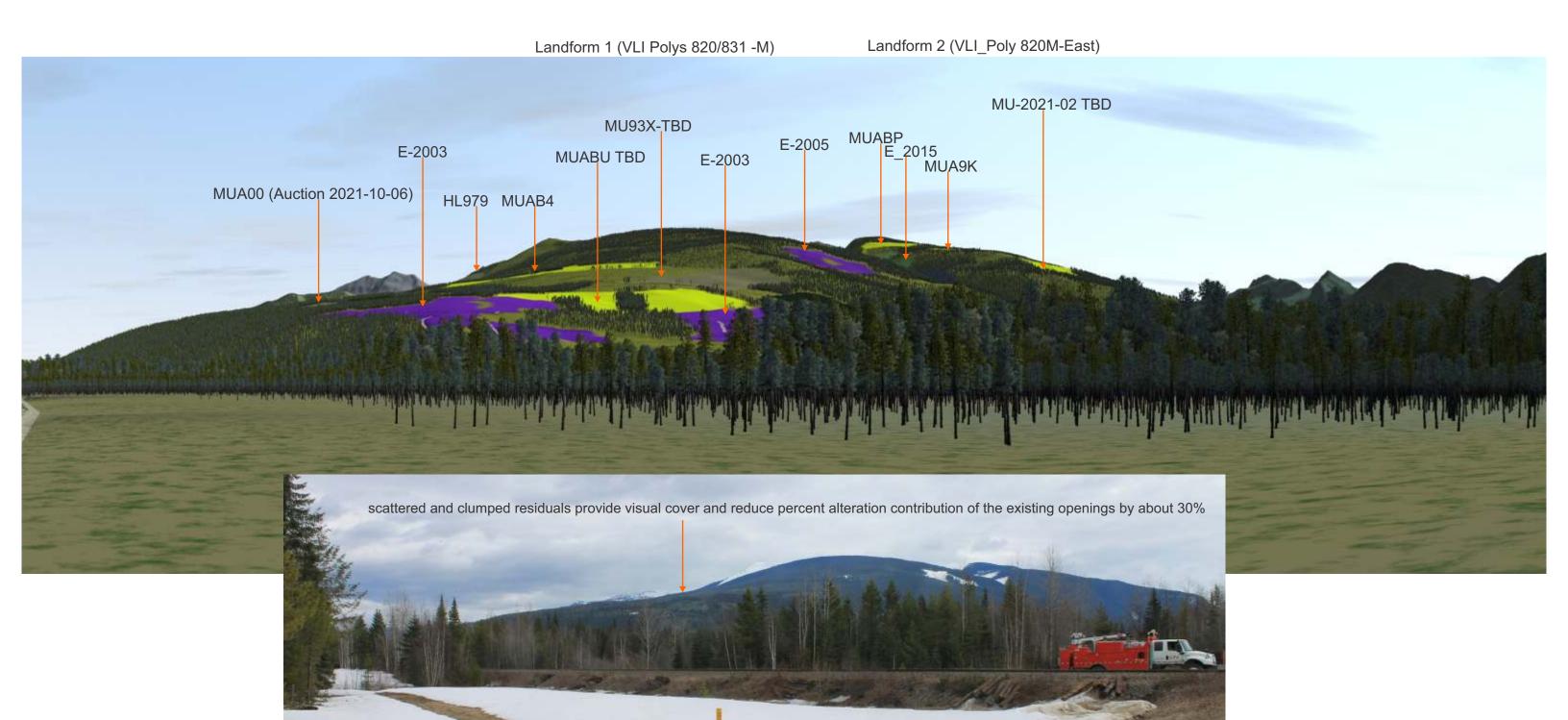


Photos by Ches Clem 20/04/21 Panorama Construction by RDI 60 degree field of view; 30mm lens 52 07 22.5 119 17 47.4 Blueberry Road JCT with Hwy 5: Photos 9396 to 9401

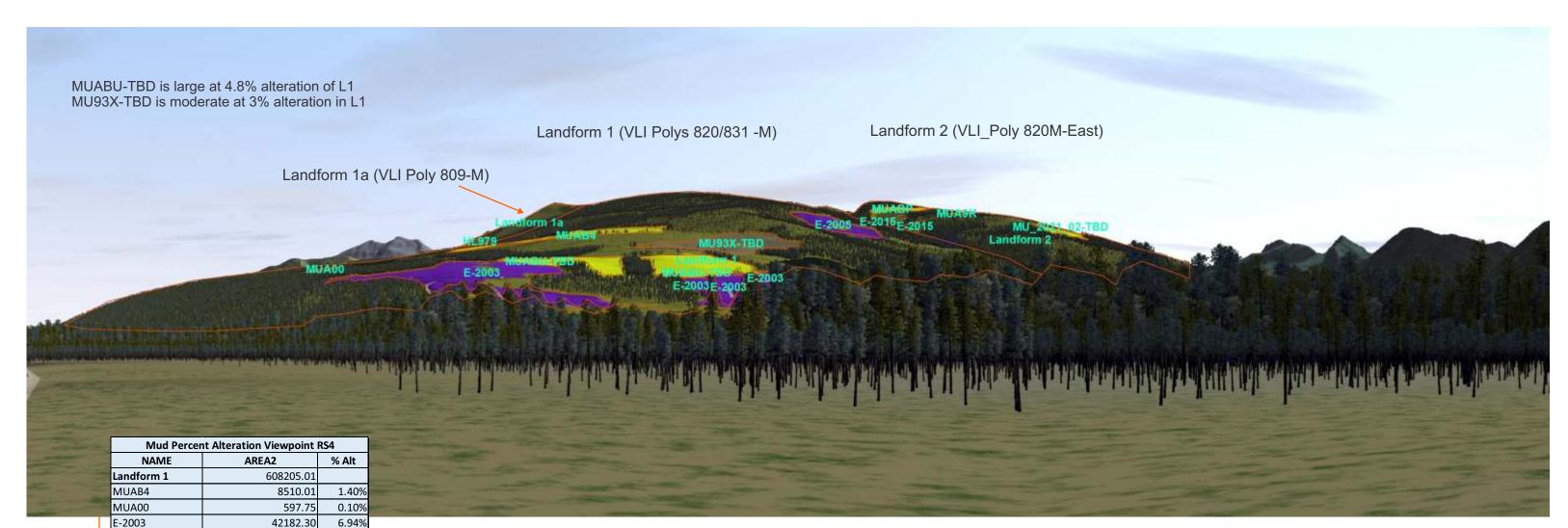








Photos by Ches Clem 20/04/21
Panorama Construction by RDI



Note: The existing alteration in the E-2003 openings has approximately 30% scattered and clumped residuals which afford visual cover. Percent alteration attributed to these openings should be reduced by up to 30% of their total contribution of 8.34% (-2.5%). Intervening screening is greater than shown in the VNS model.

E-2003

E-2003

E-2003 E-2005

E-2005 Deduct

E-2005 Net Sum Alt L1

Landform 1a

Landform 2

MUABP

MUA9K

E-2015

E-2015

Sum Alt L2

Landform 1

MUABU-TBD

MUABU-TBD

MU93X-TBD

Landform 2

Sum Alt TBD - L1

To Be Determined

MU_2021_02-TBD

To Be Determined

HL979 Sum Alt L1a 2018.87

5948.67

9177.20 564.47

8612.73

68430.38

13636.95

1077.45

1077.45

106505.52

2434.95

357.50

880.16

1345.47

5018.07

608205.01

10519.52

18751.79

18161.64

47432.95

106505.52

1723.23

560.06

0.33%

0.98%

0.09%

1.42%

11.25%

7.90%

7.90%

2.29%

0.34%

0.83%

1.26%

4.71%

1.73%

3.08%

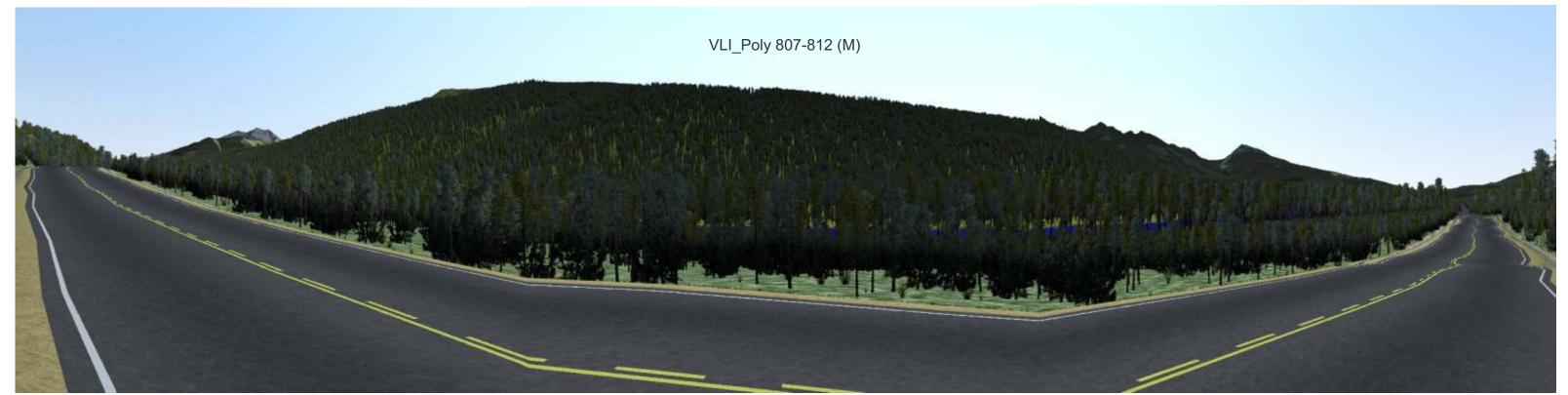
2.99%

7.80%

1.62%



RS4 Viewpoint Percent Alteration





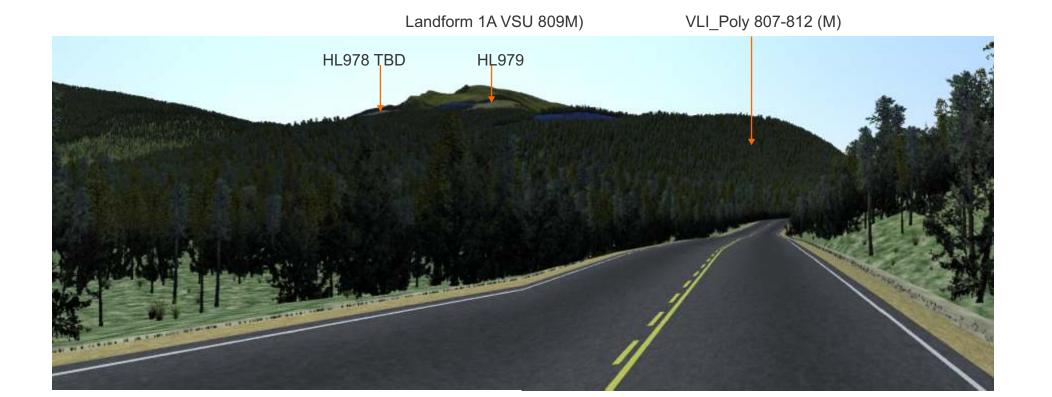
52 09 54.8N 119 16 01.0 Drive by Hwy 5: photos 9251 to 9256

No Cutblocks Visible



Photos by Ches Clem 2020/01 Panorama Construction by RDI

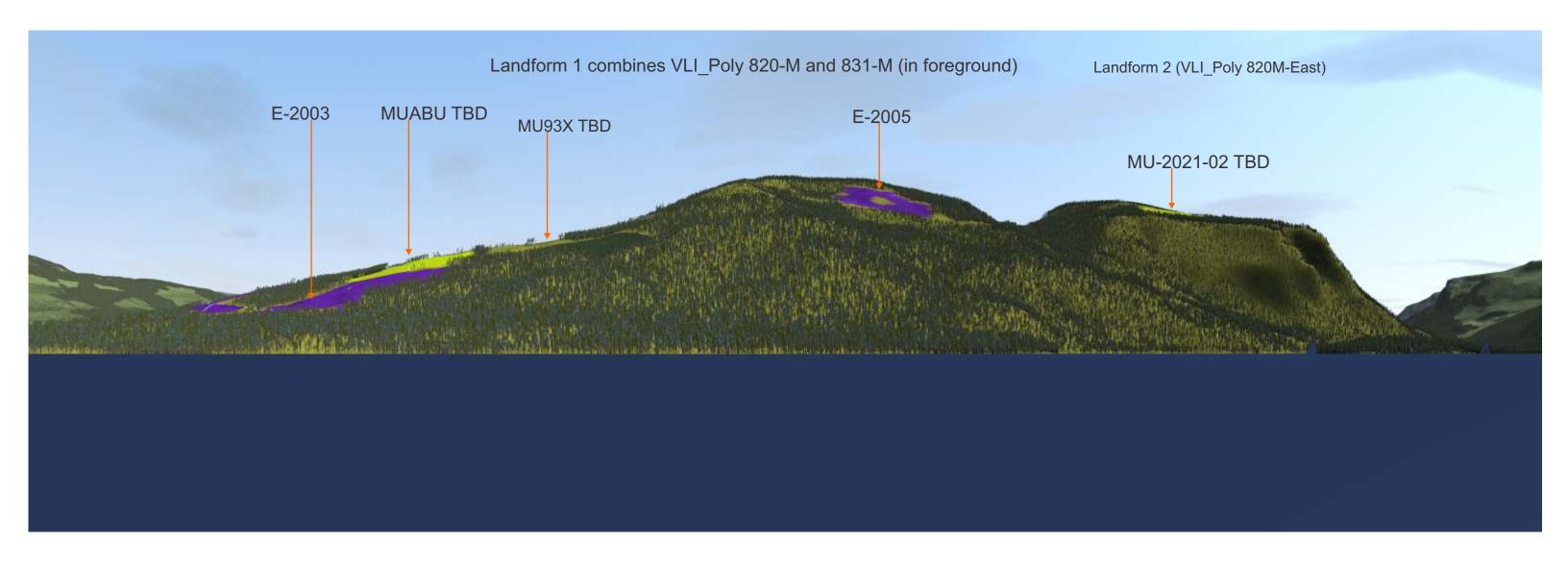
52 10'17.7N 119 15'31.1 W Drive by Hwy 5: photos 9243 to 9249



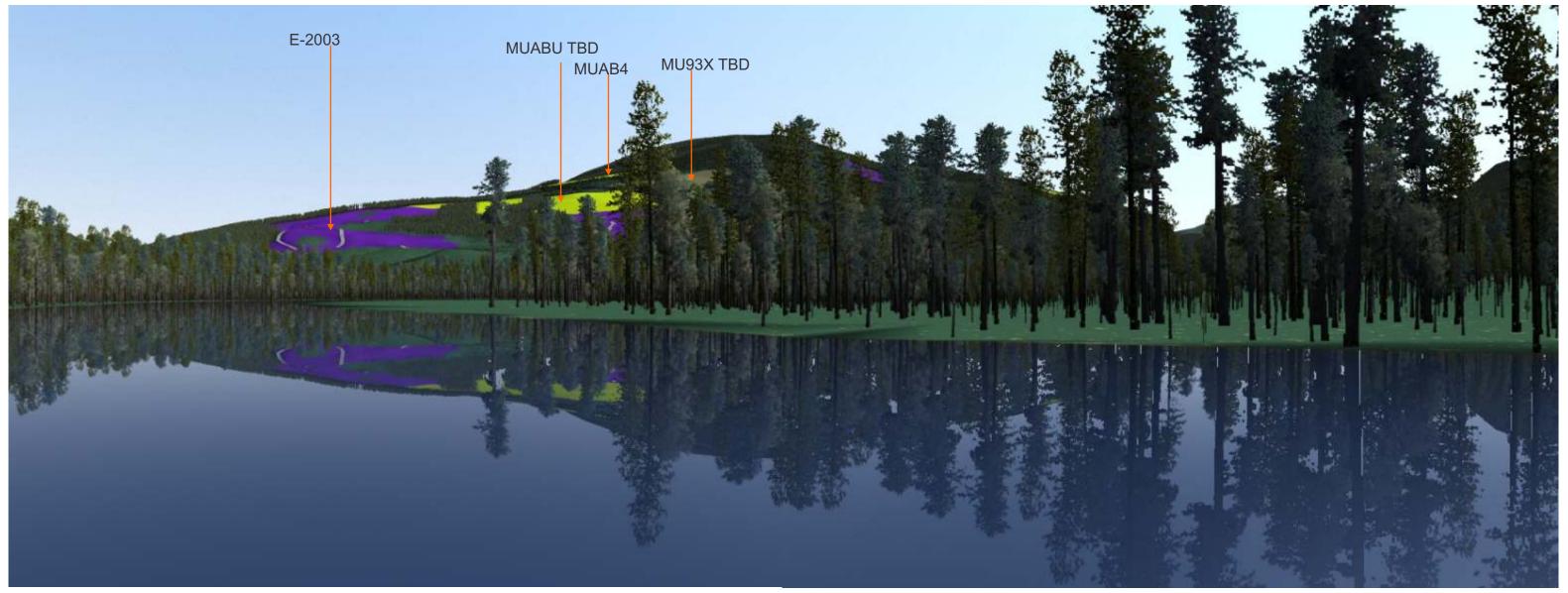
Landform 1a (VSU 809M)



Photos by Ches Clem 20/06/19 Panorama Construction by RDI



MUABU TBD and MU93X TBD are small and well-shaped, conforming with the major visual force line delineating Landform 1 - the skyline ridge. The new cutblocks fit in well with the existing alteration pattern, meeting Modification Category of Visual Alteration in the landform comprised of both VLI_Polys 820 and 831.Cutblocks are 2.5 km distant from the viewpoint (near middleground). MU2021_02 TDB is a narrow sliver along the ridgeline of Landform 2, 3.3km from the viewpoint.



Modification Visual Quality Class: "the alteration is very easy to see and may be either: (a) large in scale with a design that is natural in its appearance, or (b) small to moderate in scale but with a design that has some angular characteristics."

Landform 3 (VLI Poly 818 plus unrated NVS-M)

