
Lakes TSA

Documentation of Analysis for NVAF and Vegetation Resources Inventory Statistical Adjustment

**PREPARED FOR:
MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE**

**PREPARED BY:
Jahraus & Associates Consulting Inc.
Maple Ridge BC**

&

**Churlish Consulting Ltd.
Victoria BC**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this project was to provide statistical adjustment factors for the mature (61+ years of age) component of the Lakes TSA in the vegetated treed (VT) portion of the landbase, excluding private land, Indian reserves, parks and protected areas. Within this population, a total of 100 samples were selected using Probability Proportional to Size with Replacement (PPSWR) techniques. The adjustment was based on the new Ministry of Forests & Range (MFR) interim methodological standards for VRI statistical adjustment using the VDYP7 yield model. In addition, a parallel analysis was carried out using the VDYP6 yield model however this portion of the analysis was restricted to a comparison of the estimated volume impact of a VDYP6 versus VDYP7 adjustment. A basic analysis and summary description was also provided for 15 samples established in an “immature” stratum (stands up to 60 years of age). However, no statistical adjustment was carried out in this stratum.

The adjustment incorporated new NVAF values computed from the pooled 2001 Babine and 2007 Lakes NVAF samples. The resulting NVAF values, by stratum, and associated sampling error are shown below:

<i>Lakes TSA Net Volume Adjustment Factors</i>			
<i>Stratum</i>	<i>NVAF Value</i>	<i>% Sampling Error</i>	<i>sample size</i>
All Deciduous Spp	0.97315	30.4	7
Pine	1.00268	4.5	21
All Conifer spp excepting pine and balsam	1.02453	5.0	36
Balsam	1.03168	12.3	19
All Dead spp	1.00484	9.4	18

These NVAF corrections indicated that the taper equations and the VRI net factoring process area performing adequately in this unit.

At the time of sample selection, the 100 mature samples (i.e. those >60 years of age) were allocated proportionally by area to one of three strata:

- Mature, Other Conifer leading, Deciduous leading, and Pine <50%
- Mature, Pine – 50 to 80%
- Mature, Pine – 81% +

For this analysis, the samples were restratified to provide more targeted adjustment factors. Deciduous leading samples were moved to a separate stratum, as were non-pine, coniferous leading samples. The lodgepole pine leading samples were then split into those with 80% or more pine and those that were leading in pine but had <80% of this species. To account for the

restratification, sampling weights were computed and were carried with each sample throughout the analysis.

The VDYP7 adjustment process occurs in two stages, similar in this respect to the VDYP6 “Fraser Protocol” adjustment. At the first stage, age and height are adjusted. However with VDYP7, two additional inventory attributes, basal area per hectare (BA) and trees per hectare (TPH) at 7.5cm+ dbh utilization are also adjusted. The VDYP7 “Stage 1” adjustment factors (and their associated sampling errors at the 95% confidence level) are shown in the table below:

VDYP7 “Stage 1” Adjustment Factors and Sampling Error (at 95% confidence level)								
Stratum	n	Age Adjustment		Height Adjustment		Basal area/ha Adjustment		Trees/ha Adjustment
		Factor	n	Factor	n	Factor	n	Factor
Mat-PL <80%	16	0.911 ± 14%	15	1.108 ± 15%	17	1.045 ± 20%	17	1.098 ± 22%
Mat-PL 80+	44	0.919 ± 6%	44	0.963 ± 7%	45	0.987 ± 11%	45	1.170 ± 19%
Mat-conif	28	0.955 ± 12%	28	0.980 ± 7%	28	1.063 ± 10%	28	1.446 ± 21%
Mat-decid	6	0.854 ± 35%	6	0.915 ± 41%	9	1.216 ± 43%	9	1.452 ± 35%

The adjustment factors for height, age, BA and TPH were input into the VDYP7 model which then produced an expanded output set of inventory attributes. Only one adjustment factor, that for volume net decay & waste 2 at the 12.5cm+dbh utilization level, was directly developed from the available attributes produced by VDYP7 at this stage. The ratios developed for this particular volume were applied to volumes at other utilizations. Although the VDYP7 software has been designed to also accept second stage adjustment factors for other attributes, including Lorey height and basal area at 12.5cm+ dbh, adjustment factors for these additional attributes were not computed at this time.

VDYP7 “Stage 2” Adjustment Factors: Volume/ha @12.5cm+ dbh utilization net DW2			
Stratum	n	Volume adjustment factor	
		(after Stage 1 attribute adjustment)	SE % at 95%
Mat-PL <80%	17	0.937	27%
Mat-PL 80+	45	1.101	12%
Mat-conif	28	1.143	11%
Mat-decid	9	1.434	53%

The VRI Phase 2 ground sample indicated that the VDYP7 volume in the Lakes TSA is underestimated by about 10% overall, with a sampling error of ±9.1%. This level of sampling error met the target specified in the VPIP for this unit.

In all strata, the adjustment is expected to increase volume, with the “Mat-PL 80+” stratum showing the smallest increase (~2%) and the “Mat-decid” stratum showing the largest increase (nearly 60%). For the larger strata, the sampling errors for the estimated volume impacts were quite small. Although the sampling error for the “Mat-decid” stratum was high, this stratum accounts for a relatively small proportion of the area. Stakeholders should consider the relative importance of the mature deciduous leading area when assessing the risk associated with the adjustment in this stratum.

Mountain Pine Beetle devastation is widespread in this unit. To facilitate the current TSR approach for representing the effect of Mountain Pine Beetle on the inventory and to ensure consistency with that approach, timber supply requested that dead pine volume be included with live volume in the adjustment. Hence the Phase 2 compiled values for all per hectare-based adjustments (i.e. basal area/ha, trees/ha, volume/ha) included dead pine. The magnitude of the dead pine component in the resulting total volumes (and basal areas etc.) was significant. In the samples where the inventory indicates “pure” pine (leading in pine by more than 80% by basal area), dead pine accounts for more than half of the total volume for live trees (of all species i.e. including spruce, balsam, etc.) plus dead pine. Even in stands where pine is not the leading species, the sample suggests that pine mortality accounts for close to 20% of the total volume of live trees of all species plus dead pine.

In addition, many of the samples may have contained MPB attacked pine that was still green in 2006 or 2007 but which will be dead by the time the TSR process is complete. The impact of including dead pine volume in the analysis should be considered in terms of degradation of volume and value in the pine component and therefore pine volumes should not continue to be projected. Pine volume should actually be reduced according to shelf-life findings but this portion of the analysis would not be possible through existing versions of VDYP and could only be done during the TSR netdown. A process is currently being developed for dealing with the dead pine component of the inventory in a more systematic and consistent manner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of people were involved in implementing the VRI statistical adjustment for the Lakes TSA including: Graham Hawkins, (MPB Inventory and Monitoring Team Leader, MFR) who managed this analysis project; Will Smith (Volume and Decay Sampling Forester, MFR) who analyzed the destructive sampling data and provided the NVAF values applied in this project; Sam Otukol (Biometrician, MFR) and Gary Johansen (VRI Audit Coordinator, MFR) who provided guidance and statistical advice; and Carolyn Krawchuk (VRI MPB Sampling Forester, NIFR, MFR) and Dick Nakatsu (Forest Analyst/Inventory Team Leader, NIFR, MFR) who provided input and review of the final report. Their contributions were all significant in the completion of this project.

We would like to also acknowledge Nona Phillips of Nona Phillips Forestry Consulting, to whom we were subcontracted on this project. Through her involvement in the VSIP and VPIP process for the Lakes TSA, Nona provided us with important background information for this project.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Vegetation Resources Inventory Strategic Inventory Plan (VSIP) for the Lakes TSA¹ identified completion of Phase 2 ground sampling followed by analysis and adjustment of the current photo-interpreted inventory as being among the priority VRI activities for the TSA. In anticipation of ground sampling activities in the Lakes TSA, a detailed project implementation plan (VPIP) was completed in November 2006 by Nona Phillips Forestry Consulting. This document, entitled *Lakes Timber Supply Area: Vegetation Resources Inventory Project Implementation Plan for Ground Sampling*, specified details of ground sampling activities including NVAF² sampling.

According to the VPIP, the main objective of the ground sampling was to sample the vegetated treed (VT) portion of the landbase, excluding private land, Indian reserves, parks and protected areas. Out of a total of 115 samples, 15 were to be allocated to stands up to 60 years of age (immature) with the remaining 100 samples to be allocated to stands 61 years of age and older. The sampling error target of $\pm 10\%$ (at a 95% confidence level) was specified for total volume in the mature (61+ years of age) stands.

Ground sampling activities were carried out in the summers of 2006 and 2007 and the data was made available for analysis later in the fall of 2007. NVAF destructive sampling was completed in 2006/07 and was analyzed by the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR).

1.2 Description of the Inventory Unit

The following description and map of the inventory unit is taken from the “*Lakes TSA Vegetation Resources Inventory Project Implementation Plan for Ground Sampling*”, prepared by Nona Phillips Forestry Consulting, November 11, 2006.

The Lakes TSA is located in north central BC and is bounded roughly by Babine Lake in the north and the Entiako River in the south. It is administered from Burns Lake as part of the Nadina Forest District and is adjacent to the Prince George TSA to the north and east, the Morice TSA to the west and the Mid-Coast TSA to the south. The predominant biogeoclimatic zone is Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBS), found in valley bottoms and characterized by the prevalence of lodgepole pine, hybrid white spruce and subalpine fir. Higher elevations are largely within the Englemann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF) biogeoclimatic zone.

¹ *Lakes Timber Supply Area: Vegetation Resources Inventory Strategic Plan*. Nona Phillips Forestry Consulting, September 2006.

² Net Volume Adjustment Factor



Figure 1: Map of the Lakes TSA.

1.3 Scope and Objectives

The objective of this project was to provide statistical adjustment factors for the mature (61+ years of age) component of the Lakes TSA based on the new Ministry of Forests & Range (MFR) interim methodological standards for VRI statistical adjustment using the VDYP7 yield model. In addition, a parallel analysis was to be carried out using the VDYP6 yield model however the VDYP6 analysis was restricted to a comparison of the estimated volume impact of a VDYP6 adjustment. It is anticipated that the VDYP7 adjustment will become the official adjustment as the VRIMS data system and VDYP7 become fully operational. A basic analysis and summary description of the immature data was also to be provided. However, no statistical adjustment was planned for this stratum.

The adjustment was to incorporate new NVAF values based on pooled data collected from 2 previous projects³ in the TSA. The computation of the NVAF was completed by MFR staff (Will Smith), who provided the NVAF values for this analysis.

As a result of widespread Mountain Pine Beetle damage in this unit, timber supply requested that dead pine volume be included with live volume in the adjustment. This was to facilitate the current

³ Lakes and Babine

TSR approach to representing the effect of Mountain Pine Beetle on the inventory whereby an external modeling process is used to “kill off” the pine.

2. METHODS

2.1 Overview of NVAF analysis

The NVAF values applied to the compiled Phase 2 ground sample volumes in the Lake TSA were provided by Will Smith, MFR. They were computed from the pooled 2001 Babine and 2007 Lakes NVAF samples and used design-based weighting procedures. All Babine pine were excluded since they were pre-MPB attack and did not represent the current population. The resulting NVAF values and associated sampling error is shown in Table 1 below. Details of the NVAF analysis are provided in Appendix I.

Table 1: Lakes TSA NVAF values, by stratum.

Stratum	NVAF Value	% Sampling Error	sample size
All Deciduous Spp	0.97315	30.4	7
Pine	1.00268	4.5	21
All Conifer spp excepting pine and balsam	1.02453	5.0	36
Balsam	1.03168	12.3	19
All Dead spp	1.00484	9.4	18

2.2 Population for Adjustment

The target population for VRI statistical adjustment was the vegetated treed (VT) landbase excluding private land, Indian reserves, parks and protected areas⁴. The adjustment was further restricted to polygons greater than 60 years of age. Although there were 15 ground samples established in an “immature” stratum (i.e. polygons ≤ 60 years of age), this portion of the population was not adjusted.

2.3 Sample Selection

The Phase 2 ground samples were selected by Churlish Consulting Ltd. using Probability Proportional to Size With Replacement (PPSWR) procedures. Out of the total sample size of 115, 15

⁴ Private land, Indian reserves, parks and protected areas are generally classified as “non-contributing” ownerships, that is, they typically do not contribute to the forest landbase. Hence, for brevity, later sections of this report refer to “contributing ownerships” to describe that portion of the landbase that is NOT in private land, Indian reserve, park or protected areas.

samples were allocated to an “immature” stratum i.e. polygons ≤ 60 years of age. The remaining 100 samples were allocated proportionally by area to one of three strata⁵:

- Mature, Other Conifer leading, Deciduous leading, and Pine <50%
- Mature, Pine – 50 to 80%
- Mature, Pine – 81% +

Each of these strata was, in turn, subdivided into 3 volume classes at time of sample selection to ensure good representation⁶.

The distribution of samples, by sample selection stratum, is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Distribution of samples, by stratum.

Stratum	Population area (ha)	Number of samples	Area represented by each sample (ha)
Mature, Pine – 81% +	241611	35	6903
Mature, Pine – 50 to 80%	174713	25	6989
Mature, Other Conifer, Deciduous, and Pine <50%	282630	40	7066
Immature	72730	15	4849

2.4 Data Sources

2.4.1 Phase 1 photo-interpreted inventory data

The Phase 1 photo-interpreted data was obtained from the MFR as a cut from the INCOSADA database⁷. An analysis subset of the Phase 1 data, corresponding to the list of Phase 2 sample polygons was then prepared. The resulting dataset is provided in Appendix A. The reference years Phase 1 photo-interpreted sample data ranged between 1965 and 1998, with 1990 being the median year. Samples with photo-inventory reference dates prior to 1996 (56 samples) were from FIP-type inventories and hence did not include V-type inventory attributes like height and age of second species, basal area or trees/hectare.

⁵ Sample selection is based on Rank 1 attributes however, for two samples, #207 and #140, the Rank 2 attributes were inadvertently used for stratum assignment. Based on their Rank 1 attributes, these samples would have been allocated to the immature stratum. However, after discussions with Sam Otukol, MFR, it was decided to keep these samples in their originally assigned strata.

⁶ As per the MFR standard procedures, each stratum is sub-divided into three volume classes such that each volume class has approximately the same number of polygons. A roughly equal number of samples are then allocated to each volume class.

⁷ In the new VRIMS system, the data would be obtained as a Personal GeoDataBase (PGDB) from the LRDW.

In preparation for the adjustment analysis, the Phase 1 data was projected to the year of ground sampling, either 2006 or 2007. For samples from V-type inventories, the second species heights and ages were also projected.

2.4.2 Phase 2 ground sample data

The Phase 2 ground samples were compiled using the NVAF values for the Lakes TSA as provided by the Ministry (see section 2.1). Important analysis attributes from the final Phase 2 compilation are shown in Appendix A, along with the corresponding Phase 1 data.

Note that the data collection procedures were modified in 2007 to include dead trees in the auxiliary plots. For the Lakes TSA, 87 of the Phase 2 ground samples were established in 2007 and hence included dead trees in the auxiliary plots. However, 28 samples were established in 2006, under the old data collection procedures. This required changes to the compiler to accommodate both data collection standards so that live/dead volume could be correctly computed. To maintain consistency with the treatment of MPB in the upcoming timber supply analysis for the Lakes TSA, timber supply analysts, requested that adjustment include dead lodgepole pine volume. Hence this analysis included dead lodgepole pine in the compilation of the Phase 2 ground sample basal area/ha, trees/ha and volume/ha.

2.4.3 Data matching

The data matching used to determine the appropriate heights and ages upon which to base the adjustment ratios followed the standard procedures outlined by the MFR. The results have been included in the Appendix A cut of the analysis spreadsheet.

For each VRI sample polygon, the ground sample data was matched with the corresponding inventory data for the same polygon. The ground heights and ages used in the adjustment were based on the average values for the T, S & L⁸ trees for the leading species (by basal area at 4cm + dbh utilization) on the ground. Since the Lakes TSA includes a mix of FIP (F-type) and VRI (V-type) inventory data height and age may or may not have been available for both the leading and second species. The objective in the matching process was to choose an inventory height and age (i.e. for either the leading or second species) so that the ground and inventory species “matched”. If a match could not be made at the sp0⁹ level, conifer-to-conifer matches were allowed. However, conifer-

⁸ T or “top height” tree is the largest DBH in 0.01 ha plot, regardless of species; L or “leading species” tree is the largest DBH in 0.01 ha plot, of leading species; S or “second species” is the largest DBH in 0.01 ha plot, of second species. T and S trees are selected and measured at the IPC only whereas L trees are selected at the IPC and all auxiliary plots. For details, refer to the MSRM document “Vegetation Resources Inventory Procedures and Standards for Data Analysis Attribute Adjustment and Implementation of Adjustment in a Corporate Database Version 2.0”, March 2004.

⁹ sp0 refers to the 16 major species codes and is roughly equivalent to the genus level.

deciduous matches were not considered acceptable. Note that where second species inventory ages and heights were required and were available, these attributes were also projected to the year of ground sampling.

There were a number of height and age data collection issues (specific details are provided in Appendix B) related to site tree data collected from lodgepole pine trees which in some cases were dead or had been attacked by MBP. These issues were discussed on a sample-by-sample basis with Sam Otukol, MFR, for resolution.

For 52 of the 99 samples, the inventory leading species matched the ground leading species at 4cm+ dbh utilization. For a further 11 samples, the ground leading species matched the inventory second species. Thirty-one samples were matched based on conifer-to-conifer or deciduous-to-deciduous. The remaining 5 samples could not be matched and were excluded from the development of the age and height adjustment factors.

2.5 Data issues related to the statistical adjustment (data screening)

Data issues and assumptions made in the analysis were discussed and approved at meetings and calls with Ministry staff. These issues/questions and their associated resolutions are documented in Appendix B.

One issue of note, that has not been mentioned elsewhere, regarded Sample #74. The compilation for this sample showed no basal area or volume and field card annotations indicated that the polygon had been logged. As a result, Sample #74 was excluded from the analysis since it was now vegetated non-treed and did not meet the VT population of interest criterion.

2.6 Stratification and weights for analysis

To provide a more focused adjustment, the original sample selection strata for the mature samples were modified for the analysis. However, sample weights were computed based on the original sample selection strata and these weights were carried with each individual sample when the new analysis strata were assigned. The sample weights were computed as shown in Table 3. Note that the weight assigned to each sample is provided in Appendix A.

Table 3: Sample selection strata and sampling weight calculation.

Stratum	Volume class sub-stratum	Area (ha)	n	Sample weight (area/n)
Mature, Pine – 81% +	0	74316	11	6756
	1	78689	12	6557
	2	88606	12 ¹⁰	7384
Mature, Pine – 50 to 80%	0	50493	8	6312
	1	56761	9	6307
	2	67459	8	8432
Mature, Other Conifer, Deciduous, and Pine <50%	0	81590	13	6276
	1	95295	14	6807
	2	105746	13	8134
Immature	0	36712	5	7342
	1	19359	5	3872
	2	16659	5	3332

In the new analysis stratification for the mature (i.e. ≥ 61 years of age), deciduous leading samples were moved to a separate stratum, as were non-pine, coniferous leading samples. The lodgepole pine leading samples were then split into those with 80% or more pine and those that were leading in pine but had <80% of this species¹¹. The new distribution of the samples is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Allocation of mature (≥ 61 years of age) samples to new analysis strata.

New stratum for analysis (stratum acronym)	n
Mature polygons leading in pine but with <80% pine (Mat-PL <80%)	17
Mature polygons with 80% or more pine (Mat-PL 80+)	45
Mature polygons, other coniferous species (i.e. non-pine) leading (Mat-conif)	28
Mature polygons, deciduous leading (Mat-decid)	9

¹⁰ Sample #74, which was excluded from the analysis since it was found to have been logged, was part of this original stratum. Sampling weights were not recomputed after this sample was excluded.

¹¹ Note that the stratum assignment was based on the species composition reported in the MFR's INCOSADA inventory files. In these files, the species composition for F-type (old FIP) inventory records is volume based. When these records are processed through VDYP7, the volume-based species composition is converted to basal area-based species composition and, as a result, the species percentages may change slightly.

2.7 Overview of statistical adjustment

For the VDYP6 analysis, the statistical adjustment follows the MFR interim process often referred to as the “Fraser Protocol”. In this process, the age and height attributes are adjusted first and used as inputs to generate an interim or “attribute-adjusted” VDYP6 volume. This volume is then used to develop a final volume adjustment factor. Hence the adjustment process occurs sequentially in two stages.

The VDYP7 statistical adjustment process is similar to the “Fraser Protocol” in that it is a sequential process, involving adjustment at two stages. However, in addition to height and age, two new attributes, basal area at 7.5cm+ dbh utilization (BA7.5) and trees per hectare at 7.5cm+ dbh utilization (TPH7.5) are adjusted at the first stage of the process. These adjusted attributes are then used as inputs to VDYP7 to generate an expanded set of attributes which include an interim or “attribute-adjusted” VDYP7 volume.

Although the VDYP7 adjustment process has the flexibility to adjust multiple attributes at the second stage, only volume net decay and waste at the 12.5cm+ dbh utilization is adjusted at the current time. It is anticipated that more attributes may be added to the adjustment process in the future.

Within the VDYP7 context, various internal modules of VDYP7 are used to project the polygons, generate additional attributes, and adjust attributes. Hence the VDYP7 model itself takes a much larger role in the statistical adjustment process than did VDYP6.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 VDYP7 Adjustment for the Mature Strata

VDYP7 adjustment factors are provided for the mature strata only. Results for immature stratum are summarized in section 3.6 but as indicated in the Lakes TSA VSIP and VPIP, there were no plans for this stratum to be adjusted.

The PPSWR formula for computation of the adjustment ratio of means is the same for the VDYP7 adjustment as it was for the “Fraser Protocol”. In most situations¹², the PPSWR formula for computation of the adjustment ratio of means in each stratum can be simplified to the following:

$$\hat{R}_h = \frac{\bar{y}_h}{\bar{x}_h} \quad [1]$$

¹² If the PPSWR pre-stratification is maintained, sample weights (selection probabilities) are generally the same for all samples within a stratum.

where \bar{y}_h is the mean ground height (or age) in stratum h and \bar{x}_h is the mean inventory height (or age) in stratum h . Since the sample selection pre-stratification was not maintained in this analysis, the samples within each new analysis stratum (see Table 4) may not have had the same sample weight (i.e. selection probability). As a result, the sample weights were incorporated into equation [1] by computing the adjustment factor as a ratio of the weighted mean ground i.e. Phase 2 value, over the weighted mean inventory i.e. Phase 1 value, using the weights assigned to each sample as per Table 3.

3.1.1 First stage VDYP7 adjustment: Height, age, basal area & trees per hectare

The VDYP7 adjustment process occurs in two stages, similar in this respect to the VDYP6 “Fraser Protocol” adjustment. At the first stage, age and height are adjusted. However, two additional inventory attributes, basal area per hectare (BA) and trees per hectare (TPH) at 7.5cm+ dbh utilization are also adjusted. The data matching process for the height and age adjustment is the same for VDYP7 as it was for VDYP6 and the “Fraser Protocol”.

Tables 5 and 6 show the weighted mean values and the ratio of means for the age and height adjustment factors, respectively, for the VT, greater than 60 years of age, and “contributing ownerships” population of interest in the Lakes TSA. Scatterplots of the Phase 1 and 2 relationships for these attributes are provide in Appendix C. Plots of the residual¹³ values were examined within each stratum for potential trends in adjustment bias (see Appendix D). The residuals did not indicate any notable bias trends with the adjustment.

For a sample to be included in the calculation of the age (or height) adjustment factor, it must have an available ground age (or height) and a suitable inventory species match. There were five and six samples, for age and height respectively, that could not be used for the development of the age and/or height adjustment factors. Note, however, that these samples still contributed to the development of the remaining adjustment factors.

¹³ Plots of “residual” values for adjusted attributes (ground value minus the adjusted value) can be used to assess potential bias problems associated with an adjustment model.

Table 5: Mean ages and ratio of means adjustment factors, by stratum, for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age, and in “contributing ownerships”, for the VDYP7 adjustment.

Age: VDYP7 Adjustment Factors					
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 Age	Wt'd Mean Phase 1 Age	Ratio of Wt'd Means	SE % at 95%
Mat-PL <80%	16	110	121	0.911	14%
Mat-PL 80+	44	122	132	0.919	6%
Mat-conif	28	134	140	0.955	12%
Mat-decid	6	82	96	0.854	35%

Table 6: Mean heights and ratio of means adjustment factors, by stratum, for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age, and in “contributing ownerships”, for the VDYP7 adjustment.

Height: VDYP7 Adjustment Factors					
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 Height	Wt'd Mean Phase 1 Height	Ratio of Wt'd Means	SE % at 95%
Mat-PL <80%	15	22.7	20.5	1.108	15%
Mat-PL 80+	44	20.5	21.2	0.963	7%
Mat-conif	28	21.9	22.4	0.980	7%
Mat-decid	6	19.9	21.7	0.915	41%

In the VDYP7 adjustment procedure, adjustment factors for two additional attributes, basal area/ha and trees/ha (at 7.5cm+ dbh utilization) are also computed at the first stage of the adjustment. These adjustment factors are shown in Tables 7 and 8. Note that for both basal area/ha and trees/ha, the Phase 2 ground sample compilation includes dead lodgepole pine. Scatterplots of the Phase 1 and 2 relationships for these attributes are provide in Appendix E. Residuals plots for these adjustment factors are shown in Appendix F.

Table 7: Mean basal area/ha and ratio of means adjustment factors, by stratum, for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age, and in “contributing ownerships”, for the VDYP7 adjustment. Note that the Phase 2 ba/ha includes live ba/ha (all species) plus dead ba/ha for lodgepole pine only.

Basal Area/ha @7.5cm+ dbh utilization: VDYP7 Adjustment Factors					
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd Mean	Ratio of Wt'd Means	SE % at 95%
		Phase 2 BA/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Phase 1 BA/ha		
Mat-PL <80%	17	35.6	34.1	1.045	20%
Mat-PL 80+	45	35.9	36.4	0.987	11%
Mat-conif	28	32.1	30.2	1.063	10%
Mat-decid	9	34.4	28.3	1.216	43%

Table 8: Mean trees/ha and ratio of means adjustment factors, by stratum, for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age, and in “contributing ownerships”, for the VDYP7 adjustment. Note that the Phase 2 trees/ha includes live trees/ha (all species) plus dead trees/ha for lodgepole pine only.

Trees/ha @7.5cm+ dbh utilization: VDYP7 Adjustment Factors					
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd Mean	Ratio of Wt'd Means	SE % at 95%
		Phase 2 TPH (LIVE + Dead PL)	Phase 1 TPH		
Mat-PL <80%	17	1,184	1,078	1.098	22%
Mat-PL 80+	45	1,434	1,226	1.170	19%
Mat-conif	28	1,144	791	1.446	21%
Mat-decid	9	1,038	715	1.452	35%

The adjustment ratios in Table 5 indicate that age is consistently overestimated in the inventory. For most strata, height is also overestimated. However, the sample indicates that for stands ≥ 61 years of age, where pine is leading but <80%, height is underestimated by about 10% (or about 2m on average). Basal area is underestimated in all strata except where pine is greater than 80%. This stratum showed a small (<2%) basal area overestimation. As is to be expected, photo-interpreted trees per hectare is underestimated in all strata.

For the most part, strata level sampling errors are all at reasonable levels, with the larger strata (those with more samples) showing particularly low sampling error. However, sampling errors for the deciduous leading stratum were relatively high, reflecting the small sample size in this stratum and the larger inherent variability in the deciduous leading stands.

3.1.2 Second stage VDYP7 adjustment: Volume

The adjustment factors for height, age, BA and TPH (Tables 5-8) were input into the VDYP7 model which then produced an expanded output set of inventory attributes. Only one adjustment factor, that for volume net decay & waste 2 at the 12.5cm+dbh utilization level, was directly developed from the available attributes produced by VDYP7 at this stage. The ratios developed for this particular volume were applied to volumes at other utilizations¹⁴. Although the VDYP7 software has been designed to also accept second stage adjustment factors for other attributes, including Lorey height and basal area at 12.5cm+ dbh, adjustment factors for these additional attributes were not computed at this time¹⁵.

Table 9 below shows the VDYP7 volume adjustment factors by strata for the population defined as VT, operable, ≥61 years of age, in “contributing” ownerships. The ground volumes used to compute the adjustment ratio of means were based on net factored volumes to which the NVAF values had been applied in the compilation. The adjustment was based on a ground volume that included dead lodgepole pine (i.e. live volume for all species plus dead volume for lodgepole pine). All volumes are net decay and waste2 only, at the 12.5cm+ dbh utilization level for all polygons.

Scatterplots showing the volume relationship and the residuals from the adjustment are provided in Appendix G. There were some potential trends in bias observed for the volume residuals in the “Mat-PL <80%” and the “Mat-conif” strata which suggested that the adjustment may underestimate volume in younger stands. However, with only 17 samples in the “Mat-PL <80%” stratum, there was limited opportunity for post-stratification by age. Similarly, post-stratification by age in the “Mat-conif” stratum would have resulted in a sample size of only 8 for a younger sub-stratum (<121 years of age). In addition, the residuals plots for the stage 1 adjustment attributes did not exhibit the same age-related bias in these strata. As a result, further post-stratification by age was not pursued.

¹⁴ VDYP7 produces volumes at numerous utilization levels. Any adjustments input into VDYP7 must be harmonized, that is, care must be taken to ensure that the utilization relationships (e.g. volume at 12.5cm+ always less than or equal to volume at 7.5cm+) are not contorted by the adjustment ratios. As a simple approach to ensure harmonization, only one volume adjustment factor was computed and this factor was applied to all of the other volumes. This approach was approved by Sam Otukol, Forest Biometrician, MFR.

¹⁵ The VDYP7 adjustment procedures are still under development and are being tested. At the recommendation of Sam Otukol (Forest Biometrician, MFR), Lorey height and BA at 12.5cm+ dbh were assigned an adjustment factor of 1.0. That is, no adjustment was made for these attributes.

Table 9: Mean volumes and volume adjustment ratios, by stratum, for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age and in a “contributing ownership”, for the VDYP7 adjustment. Utilization: 12.5cm+dbh net dw2. Note that the Phase 2 volume includes live volume (all species) plus dead volume for lodgepole pine only.

Volume/ha @12.5cm+ dbh utilization net DW2: VDYP7 Adjustment Factors					
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd Mean	Ratio of Wt'd Means	SE % at 95%
		Phase 2 Vol/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Phase 1 Attribute- adjusted vol/ha		
Mat-PL <80%	17	252.2	269.0	0.937	27%
Mat-PL 80+	45	252.5	229.3	1.101	12%
Mat-conif	28	239.1	209.3	1.143	11%
Mat-decid	9	225.2	157.1	1.434	53%

3.2 Estimated volume impact for the VDYP7 statistical adjustment

Timber supply analyses are typically done on a net decay, waste and breakage volume basis. Hence, a special unadjusted run of VDYP7 was done to provide unadjusted volumes net decay, waste & breakage so that the estimated volume impact of the VDYP7 adjustment and its associated sampling error could be computed. The estimated volume impacts of the adjustment were computed as ratios of the ground volume to the unadjusted VDYP7 volume. The results, by stratum, are shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Estimated VDYP7 volume impact by stratum for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age and in a “contributing ownership”, based on the Phase 2 samples. Utilization: 12.5cm+dbh net dwb. Note that the Phase 2 volume includes live volume (all species) plus dead volume for lodgepole pine only.

Volume/ha @12.5cm+ dbh utilization net DWB: VDYP7 Adjustment Impact					
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd Mean	Estimated Adjustment	SE % at 95%
		Phase 2 Vol/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Phase 1 Unadjusted vol/ha	IMPACT Ratio of Wt'd Means	
Mat-PL <80%	17	246.8	220.6	1.119	26%
Mat-PL 80+	45	247.4	242.9	1.019	15%
Mat-conif	28	234.2	202.1	1.159	10%
Mat-decid	9	218.9	137.4	1.593	54%

In all strata, the adjustment is expected to increase volume, with the “Mat-PL 80+” stratum showing the smallest increase (~2%) and the “Mat-decid” stratum showing the largest increase (nearly 60%). For the larger strata, the sampling error for the estimated volume impact was quite small. Although the sampling error for the “Mat-decid” stratum was high, this stratum accounts for a relatively small

proportion of the area. Stakeholders should consider the relative importance of the mature deciduous leading area when assessing the risk associated with the adjustment in this stratum.

3.2.1 Sampling error

The VPIP for the Lakes TSA specified a target sampling error of $\pm 10\%$ (at a 95% probability level) for total volume for the mature (≥ 61 years of age) portion of the VT landbase in “contributing” ownerships. To provide an indication of the sampling error achieved in the VDYP7 adjustment process, a comparison of the overall estimated adjusted inventory volume and the overall estimated VDYP7 unadjusted sample inventory volume was made. The overall ratio of these values and its standard error were computed using the formula for a separate ratio estimate after a pre-stratified PPSWR sample. The results are summarized in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Estimated adjusted VDYP7 total volume and sampling error (for a 95% confidence interval) for the Lakes TSA based on separate ratio estimators (for the population of VT, ≥ 61 years of age polygons from “contributing” ownerships). Utilization: 12.5cm+dbh. Volumes are net decay, waste & breakage. Note that the adjusted inventory volume represents live volume (all species) plus dead volume for lodgepole pine only.

<i>Volume</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Total area (ha)</i>	<i>Overall estimated total adjusted inventory volume (m³)</i>	<i>Overall estimated total unadj'd VDYP7 inventory volume (m³)</i>	<i>Overall adjustment impact Ratio</i>	<i>Sampling error for total adjusted volume (as % of total adjusted volume)</i>
<i>Overall</i>	99	698,955	166,673,174	150,921,401	1.104	9.1%

The overall impact of a VDYP7 adjustment was estimated to be 1.104 with a 9.1% sampling error (at the 95% confidence level). This sampling error met the target set in the project VPIP.

3.3 Inventory file adjustment for the VDYP7 statistical adjustment

The Phase 1 inventory files for the population of interest (VT, ≥ 61 years of age, “contributing ownerships”) were adjusted using the factors in Tables 5 through 9. The adjustment was performed using MFR’s VDYP7 Attribute Adjustment interface for the VDYP7 model.

Appendix H shows the volume and area distribution by age class, for the population of interest, before and after the VDYP7 adjustment. The pre- and post-adjustment comparisons are based on an inventory file projected to 2007, the majority year of ground sampling.

The unadjusted total VDYP7 population volume was compared with the final adjusted total VDYP7 population volume¹⁶. The ratio of the adjusted to unadjusted VDYP7 volume in the population was 1.104, which was essentially the same as the volume impact ratio that was estimated from the sample and shown in Table 11. This close correspondence between the sample-estimated volume impact and the actual population volume impact may indicate that the sample was a good representation of the population distribution and that the adjustment was applied correctly. A comparison of the estimated volume impact from the sample and the actual volume impact for the population is shown by stratum in Table 12.

Table 12: Sample-estimated volume impact of the VDYP7 adjustment compared with actual population volume impact, by stratum.

Volume/ha @12.5cm+ dbh utilization net DWB: VDYP7 Adjustment Impact			
Stratum	Area (ha)	Sample estimated volume impact ratio	Actual population volume impact ratio
Mat-PL <80%	155,085	1.119	1.125
Mat-PL 80+	294,870	1.019	1.013
Mat-conif	197,027	1.159	1.161
Mat-decid	51,973	1.593	1.562

3.4 Estimated volume impact for the VDYP6 statistical adjustment

The estimated volume impact for the VDYP7 adjustment was provided in section 3.2. For comparison, the unadjusted inventory VDYP6 inventory volumes were also compared with the ground volumes to estimate the volume impact of a VDYP6 adjustment. The results are shown in Table 13. The results in each stratum were reasonably close with the exception of the “Mat-conif” stratum where the sample indicated that VDYP7 underestimates volume more than VDYP6¹⁷. The overall impact of a VDYP6 adjustment was estimated to be 1.061 with an 8.8% sampling error (at the 95% confidence level).

The analysis of a VDYP6 adjustment was restricted to an estimated volume impact comparison with VDYP7. A set of VDYP6 adjustment factors were not produced nor was the inventory population adjusted in a VDYP6 context.

¹⁶ Sum of the polygon volumes/ha times the polygon areas. The population volumes in this comparison were based on net dwb volumes at the 12.5cm+ dbh utilization.

¹⁷ The VDYP7 volume impact ratio in this stratum was 1.159 compared with 1.015 for VDYP6.

Table 13: Estimated VDYP6 volume impact by stratum for the population of interest defined as VT, ≥ 61 years of age and in a “contributing ownership”, based on the Phase 2 samples. Utilization: 12.5cm+dbh net dwb. Note that the Phase 2 volume includes live volume (all species) plus dead volume for lodgepole pine only.

Volume/ha @12.5cm+ dbh utilization net DWB: VDYP6 Adjustment Impact						
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd Mean	Estimated		
		Phase 2 Vol/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Phase 1 Unadjusted vol/ha	Adjustment IMPACT Ratio of Wt'd Means	SE % at 95%	
Mat-PL <80%	17	246.8	212.5	1.161	21%	
Mat-PL 80+	45	247.4	246.7	1.003	15%	
Mat-conif	28	234.2	230.7	1.015	10%	
Mat-decid	9	218.9	140.2	1.561	55%	

3.5 Impact of including dead pine in the VDYP7 adjustment

As a result of widespread Mountain Pine Beetle damage in this unit, timber supply requested that dead pine volume be included with live volume in the adjustment. This was to facilitate the current TSR approach to representing the effect of Mountain Pine Beetle on the inventory whereby an external modeling process is used to “kill off” the pine. The magnitude of the dead pine component of the volume and basal area is summarized in Tables 14 and 15 below¹⁸.

Table 14: Impact of Dead Pl volume, by stratum

Volume/ha @12.5cm+ dbh utilization net DWB: Estimated VDYP7 Adjustment Impact and Dead Pine %							
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd Mean	Wt'd	Wt'd Mean	Estimated	Dead pine
		Phase 2 Vol/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Phase 2 Vol/ha (LIVE only)	Mean Phase 2 DEAD PL vol/ha	Phase 1 Unadjusted vol/ha	vol impact ratio based on LIVE volume only	vol/ha as a % of LIVE+ dead Pl
Mat-PL <80%	17	247	139	108	221	0.631	44%
Mat-PL 80+	45	247	119	129	243	0.488	52%
Mat-conif	28	234	191	43	202	0.947	18%
Mat-decid	9	219	165	54	137	1.199	25%

¹⁸ The dead pine % in Table 14 (and 15 for basal area) must *NOT* be interpreted as the *percentage of the pine that is dead* since the total LIVE volume reported here includes pine and all other species as well. Note that, for example, over half of the samples for which the inventory indicated “pure pine” (i.e. PL 80%+) were *not* leading in pine based on the ground sample compilation. Hence many of the samples in this stratum included significant percentages of live non-pine volume (e.g. spruce, balsam). If other species are ignored and the examination is restricted to pine volume only, the proportion of dead among the pine trees is higher.

This summary shows that dead pine comprises a significant portion of the volume in the pine leading strata. In the samples where the inventory indicates “pure” pine (leading in pine by more than 80% by basal area), dead pine accounts for more than half of the total volume for live trees (all species) plus dead pine. Even in stands where pine is not the leading species, the sample suggests that pine mortality accounts for close to 20% of the total volume. A similar comparison by basal area is shown in Table 15.

Table 15: Impact of Dead PI basal area/ha (@7.5cm+ dbh utilization), by stratum

<i>Basal area/ha @7.5cm+ dbh utilization: Estimated VDYP7 Adjustment Impact and Dead Pine %</i>							
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 BA/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 BA/ha (LIVE only)	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 DEAD PL BA/ha	Wt'd Mean Phase 1 Unadjusted BA/ha	Estimated BA/ha impact ratio based on LIVE BA/ha only	Dead pine BA/ha as a % of LIVE+ dead PI
Mat-PL <80%	17	35.6	22.2	13.4	34.1	0.651	38%
Mat-PL 80+	45	35.9	20.1	15.8	36.4	0.553	44%
Mat-conif	28	32.1	27.5	4.7	30.2	0.908	15%
Mat-decid	9	34.4	28.2	6.3	28.3	0.994	18%

3.6 Results for the immature samples

The Phase 2 ground sampling in the Lakes TSA included establishing 15 samples in stands ≤ 60 years of age. This portion of the inventory population was not adjusted. However, some basal area summary statistics are provided for these samples in Table 16. Dead pine comprised about 15% of the total basal area for the immature samples. Ten of the fifteen samples in this stratum were leading in pine. The analysis indicates that the basal area in the immature samples is significantly underestimated in the inventory. However, caution is advised when interpreting this result since it may be at least partially impacted by the fact that VDYP7 will not report basal areas (or volumes) until a stand reaches certain minimum threshold values for height and quadratic mean diameter.

Table 16: Immature samples (note: immature stratum was NOT adjusted), weighted mean basal area/ha

<i>Basal area/ha @7.5cm+ dbh utilization: Estimated VDYP7 Adjustment Impact and Dead Pine %</i>								
Stratum	n	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 BA/ha (LIVE + Dead PL)	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 BA/ha (LIVE only)	Wt'd Mean Phase 2 DEAD PL BA/ha	Wt'd Mean Phase 1 Unadjusted BA/ha	Estimated BA/ha impact ratio (LIVE + Dead PL)	Estimated BA/ha impact ratio based on LIVE BA/ha only	Dead pine BA/ha as a % of LIVE+ dead PI
Immature	15	19.6	16.8	2.9	7.1 ¹⁹	2.755	2.354	14.6%
Immature ²⁰	12	22.1	18.4	3.7	10.2	2.163	1.805	16.6%

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the Lakes TSA VRI Phase 2 ground sampling data indicated that ages are consistently overestimated in this unit but this overestimation is typically less than 10% in the pine leading strata. In most strata, height is also overestimated. A notable exception however is the stratum where pine is leading but is <80% of the basal area. In this stratum, the sample indicated that height was underestimated by 10% or about 2m on average. The sampling error for all strata, except deciduous leading, was generally acceptable. For deciduous leading, where there were only 9 samples, the sampling error for the adjustment factors was high (between 35% and 53%).

In all strata, the adjustment is expected to increase volume, with the “Mat-PL 80+” stratum showing the smallest increase (~2%) and the “Mat-decid” stratum showing the largest increase (nearly 60%). For the larger strata, the sampling errors for the estimated volume impacts were quite small. Although the sampling error for the “Mat-decid” stratum was again high, this stratum accounts for a relatively small proportion of the area. Stakeholders should consider the relative importance of the mature deciduous leading area when assessing the risk associated with the adjustment in this stratum.

The VRI Phase 2 ground sample indicated that the VDYP7 volume in the Lakes TSA is underestimated by about 10% overall, with a sampling error of $\pm 9.1\%$. This level of sampling error met the target specified in the VPIP for this unit.

By comparison, the volume impact analysis showed that VDYP6 underestimated volume by about 6% in this unit. These volume impact ratios not only reflect potential bias in the yield models but

¹⁹ For VDYP7 to produce a basal area, a polygon must meet certain minimum thresholds in terms of height, QMD, etc. There were three immature samples for which VDYP7 did not produce a basal area. If a basal area value of zero is assumed for these samples, the mean BA/ha for immature is 7.1 m²/ha.

²⁰ Samples for which VDYP7 produced a non-zero basal area.

they also reflect bias in the underlying inventory attributes such as height and basal area that are required inputs for the yield model. VDYP7 relies, in part, on a different set of input attributes (e.g. basal area) compared with VDYP6 (e.g. crown closure). Hence it is important to be aware that the overall volume bias implied by the impact ratios is influenced by bias in the inventory attributes as well as the bias in the yield models themselves.

The NVAF correction in this unit indicated that the taper equations and the VRI net factoring process are performing adequately in this unit. There was minimal taper-related bias in the compiled volume estimation and net factoring was shown to provide much more accurate estimates of decay and waste compared with alternative decay estimation systems such as loss factors, particularly for dead trees. The NVAF analysis for the Lakes TSA also included testing a new sampling procedure to measure merchantable wood. It is recommended that this procedure for estimating merchantability be investigated further and refined.

Mountain Pine Beetle devastation is widespread in this unit. To facilitate the current TSR approach for representing the effect of Mountain Pine Beetle on the inventory and to ensure consistency with that approach, timber supply requested that dead pine volume be included with live volume in the adjustment. Hence the Phase 2 compiled values for all per hectare-based adjustments (i.e. basal area/ha, trees/ha, volume/ha) included dead pine. The magnitude of the dead pine component in the resulting total volumes (and basal areas etc.) was significant. In the samples where the inventory indicates “pure” pine (leading in pine by more than 80% by basal area), dead pine accounts for more than half of the total volume for live trees (all species) plus dead pine. Even in stands where pine is not the leading species, the sample suggests that pine mortality accounts for close to 20% of the total volume. In addition, many of the samples may have contained MPB attacked pine that was still green in 2006 or 2007 but which will be dead by the time the TSR process is complete. The impact of including dead pine volume in the analysis should be considered in terms of degradation of volume and value in the pine component and therefore pine volumes should not continue to be projected. Pine volume should actually be reduced according to shelf-life findings but this portion of the analysis would not be possible through existing versions of VDYP and could only be done during the TSR netdown. A process is currently being developed for dealing with the dead pine component of the inventory in a more systematic and consistent manner.

Dead pine also comprised about 15% of the total basal area (live trees of all species plus dead pine) for the immature samples. The analysis indicates that the basal area in the immature samples is significantly underestimated in the inventory. However, caution is advised when interpreting this result since it may be at least partially impacted by the fact that VDYP7 will not report basal areas (or volumes) until a stand reaches certain minimum threshold values for height and quadratic mean diameter.

SAMP_NO	Compiled ground sample data -- January 2008																				Height and Age Case Matching (smy_cs.csv from January 4, 2008)															
	SPB_CPCCT @ 7.5cm-dbh	TOTAL LIVE BA_HA + dead PL only @ 7.5cm-dbh	BA_HA LIVE @ 7.5cm-dbh	BA_HA @ 7.5cm-dbh FOR DEAD PL	TOTAL LIVE STEMS_HA + dead PL ONLY @ 7.5cm-dbh	STEMS_HA LIVE @ 7.5cm-dbh	STEMS_HA @ 7.5cm-dbh FOR DEAD PL	QMD @ 7.5cm-dbh	SPB_CPCCT @ 12.5cm-dbh	BA_HA @ 12.5cm-dbh	STEMS_HA @ 12.5cm-dbh	QMD @ 12.5cm-dbh	SPB_CPCCT @ 17.5cm-dbh	BA_HA @ 17.5cm-dbh	STEMS_HA @ 17.5cm-dbh	QMD @ 17.5cm-dbh	NVL_NWB @ 12.5cm-dbh ALL SPP LIVE + DEAD PL	nvl_nwb_125	R_dead_nwb_125	NVL_NWB @ 12.5cm-dbh ALL SPP LIVE + DEAD PL	nvl_nwb_125	PL_dead_nwb_125	Grid lead @ 4cm-dbh	Phase II Ht/age comments (e.g. Spt=sp2; age but no height; etc)	AGE_TLS	HT_TLS	N_AG_TLS	N_HT_TLS	V7 lead SP01	V7 sp02	V7 case for match	V7 age for ratio (AGE1 or AGE2 depending on case)	V7 H for ratio (HT1 or HT2 depending on case)	Phase 2 AGE_TLS for ratio	Phase 2 HT_TLS for ratio	
0194	PI 53 Sx 27	56	21	35	970.0773	509.5684	460.509	22.90675	PI 57 Sx 21	19.6	377.097	25.72507	19.6	377.097	25.72507	454.82	161.66	293.16	445.0628	157.766	287.2968	PLI		74.37962	22.33333	3	3	AT	SK	4	61	20.2	74.37962	22.33333		
0197	At 100	25	25		949.5823	949.5823	18.30875	At 100	24	831.8642	19.16613	At 100	18	494.6495	21.52497	118.022	118.022	113.076	113.076			AT		83.03657	16.1	5	5	AT	SW	1	87	21.32	83.03657	16.1		
0198	PI 88 Bl 12	33.6	11.2	22.4	1668.221	806.6963	861.5244	13.29563	PI 100	9.8	489.8011	15.96093	PI 100	1.4	43.25597	20.3	239.8533	61.387	178.4663	235.0549	60.159	174.8959	PLI		108.7242	18.76	5	5	PL	SK	1	113	15.7	108.7242	18.76	
0199	At 73 Sw 2	44.8	30.8	14	1771.451	1517.783	253.6683	16.07406	At 68 Sw 3	26.6	911.8	19.27286	At 67 Sw 3	21	593.3943	21.22721	263.5735	151.164	112.4095	256.3186	146.158	110.1606	AT		68.62233	20.95	4	4	AT	SW	1	68	20.49	68.62233	20.95	
0200	Sw 68 Pl 2	36.25	23.75	12.5	1723.092	1233.717	489.3749	15.65594	Sw 69 Pl 2	20	785.0411	18.10142	Sw 88 Sx 1	10	182.0029	26.4494	213.8749	129.737	44.13791	209.5904	127.14	82.45038	SW		63.26465	19.325	3	4	SW	PL	1	73	16.89	63.26465	19.325	
0205	Sx 100	45	45		1890.93	1890.93	17.40699	Sx 100	21	1621.195	18.16194	Sx 100	21	464.3916	23.9951	274.497	274.497	269.004	269.004			SK		127.719	23.36667	3	3	SW	PL	1	87	17.78	127.719	23.36667		
0207	Bl 67 Sx 33	19.8	16.2	3.6	1793.255	1778.587	14.668	10.76899	Bl 100	7.2	272.9625	18.32609	Bl 100	3.6	77.02958	24.39369	101.4102	51.733	49.67718	99.38255	50.697	48.68555	BL		88.56821	12.9	2	1	SK	BL	2	55	10.9	88.56821	12.9	
0208	S 88 Ep 11	18.2	11.2	7	932.4069	856.9777	75.42915	12.89969	S 83 Ep 17	8.4	287.4556	19.28898	S 67 Ep 33	4.2	46.21468	34.01651	145.3288	62.627	82.70182	142.2984	61.251	81.04739	S		103.5229	21.35	5	4	AT	PL	1	87	17.78	127.719	23.36667	
0218	Bl 87 Sx 13	45	45		2480.31	2480.31	15.19877	Bl 83 Sx 17	36	1175.127	19.74986	Bl 75 Sx 25	24	446.6108	26.15749	251.354	251.354	246.323	246.323			BL		249.6316	21.5	3	2	SK	BL	2	178	21.5	249.6316	21.5		
0294	PI 75 Sx 25	28.8	7.2	21.6	751.2156	196.8674	554.3482	21.57915	PI 75 Sx 25	7.2	196.8674	21.57915	PI 75 Sx 25	7.2	196.8674	21.57915	252.0908	59.636	192.4548	247.0538	58.443	188.6108	PLI		81.69084	22.3	3	3	PL	PL	1	112	23.84	81.69084	22.3	
0001	PI 53 Sx 47	6.67899	6.67899		700.4707	700.4707	11.01832	Sx 66 Pl 34	2.667607	180.121	13.732		0	0	0	9.207	9.206893	9.023	9.02262			PLI		19.27162	7.38	5	5	PL	AT							
0003	PI 99 Sx 01	13.0918	13.0918		1200.807	1200.807	11.78198	PI 100	4.692923	300.2017	14.10815		0	0	0	22.447	22.44714	21.998	21.99803			PLI		21.66951	8.42	5	5	PL	SK							
0004	Sw 91 Bl 0	11	11		869.2241	869.2241	12.69362	Sw 88 Bl 1	8	313.5787	18.02299	Sw 100	4	102.7197	22.26681	39.887	39.88726	39.089	39.08902			SW		128.7257	13.875	4	4	PL	PL							
0005	PI 63 S 31	16	16		1128.756	1128.756	13.4343	PI 58 S 33	12	656.6281	15.25408	Ep 50 S 5C	2	52.928	21.93448	60.007	60.00689	58.688	58.68844			PLI		31.45124	12.04	5	5	PL	S							
0006	PI 88 Bl 06	16.192	16.192		1334.641	1334.641	12.42863	PI 91 Bl 09	11.132	604.1939	15.31629	PI 67 Bl 33	3.036	79.42524	22.06108	55.186	55.18595	54.082	54.08187			PLI		25.64872	8.55	5	2	PL	SW							
0008	At 100	29.4	29.4		1439.999	1439.999	16.12306	At 100	9.8	307.9595	20.12896	At 100	9.8	307.9595	20.12896	149.434	149.4341	143.305	143.3047			AT		45.05923	14.22	5	5	AT	SW							
0009	PI 70 Sx 25	11.10364	10.8214	0.282242	700.4707	680.4572	20.01345	14.22972	PI 83 Sx 17	8.327675	360.2421	17.15615	PI 90 Sx 10	5.296514	180.121	19.34942	45.97122	44.59409	1.377219	45.05166	43.70184	1.349664	PL		28.45319	9.6	1	1	PL	BL						
0010	Sw 100	14	7	7	316.5156	186.7955	129.7201	21.84343	Sw 100	7	186.7955	21.84343	Sw 100	5.6	76.27808	30.57378	107.2529	51.46192	55.7909	105.1067	50.43181	54.67471	SW		44.72851	14.46	5	5	PL	PL						
0011	PI 71 Sx 25	24.5	24.5		1692.624	1692.624	13.57556	PI 100	17.5	658.4945	18.39493	PI 100	12.25	355.9016	20.93429	113.629	113.6294	111.356	111.3561			PLI		49.77966	14	4	4	PL	BL							
0012	Sw 56 Pl 4	10	9	1	255.3312	230.8383	24.49291	22.28037	Sw 56 Pl 4	9	230.8383	22.28037	Sw 53 Pl 3	8	188.7839	23.22831	72.87815	66.33343	6.545153	71.42025	65.00581	6.41425	SW		148.2325	18.26667	3	3	PL	SW						
0014	Sw 52 Pl 2	40	23	17	2538.011	1927.107	610.9042	12.32725	Sw 57 Pl 3	14	645.0289	16.62375	Sw 71 Pl 2	7	234.4495	19.49752	198.0428	83.5147	114.5278	193.9805	81.74362	112.2365	PL		62.55144	18.5	1	1	BL	S						
0015	S 46 Ac 25	52.2	50.4	1.8	1904.336	1898.012	6.323968	18.38742	S 46 Ac 27	46.8	1492.797	19.97916	S 50 Ac 33	32.4	721.5957	23.91006	316.2584	300.3583	15.90039	308.1664	292.5842	15.58238	S		51.91167	18.45	4	4	SK	PL						
0116	PI 100	22	19	3	2680.845	2368.568	312.2769	10.10622	PI 100	1	74.19379	13.1		0	0	3.953161	1.184201	2.769161	3.846247	1.160517	2.685247	PLI		21.2319	6.9	5	5	PL	SW							
0121	Bl 57 S 37	38	30	8	1791.626	1530.572	261.0547	15.79752	Bl 54 S 38	26	830.6929	19.9628	Bl 50 S 40	20	488.6107	22.82909	306.6489	256.7655	49.8839	300.4939	251.625	48.86893	BL		45.1033	7.8	1	1	S	PL						
0126	PI 100	23.8	5.6	18.2	936.3555	245.8062	690.5493	17.03149	PI 100	5.6	245.8062	17.03149	PI 100	2.8	106.9234	18.25987	156.1253	37.19125	118.9343	153.0065	36.44724	116.5595	PLI		71.60781	19.7	1	1	PL							

6. APPENDIX B: DATA ISSUES

This table documents issues and assumptions regarding the Lakes TSA VRI data that were made during the course of the analysis.

<i>Sample #</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Action/Resolution</i>
10 & 121	Polygon sampled twice.	Sampling was done with replacement so this is OK. No action necessary.
all	Pre-stratification differed from post-stratification	Sample weights were computed based on original sample selection criteria (original strata and volume classes). Weights were carried forward with samples into their new strata.
207, 140	These samples were inadvertently selected based on Rank 2 attributes (instead of rank 1).	Keep sample in original sample selection stratum for analysis.
74	Field crew indicated polygon was logged. No BA or volume on compilation.	Exclude sample as logged VN (as per Sam).
76	VDYP7 did not produce an "attribute-adjusted" volume for this sample.	Volume assigned zero in analysis.
187	PL ht and age but spp comp was S100. Looks like crews collected dead pine age/ht but no live spruce.	Discussed with Sam; decided to use dead pine ht/age.
38	no age/ht for leading pine. Site tree data collected for spruce (second spp).	Used age/ht for 2nd spruce as per Sam.
46	100% dead pine; age/ht collected on dead pine.	discussed with Sam; USE DEAD PINE HT/AGE

7. APPENDIX C: VDYP7 AGE AND HEIGHT SCATTERPLOTS (STAGE 1 ADJUSTMENT)

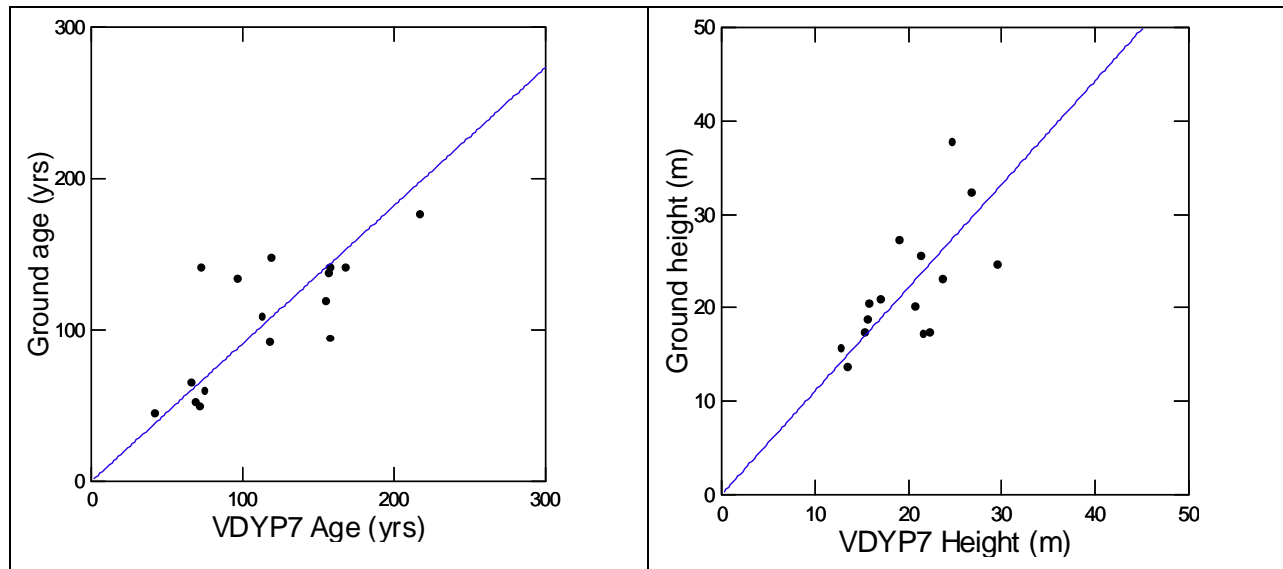


Fig. 1: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Age and height relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

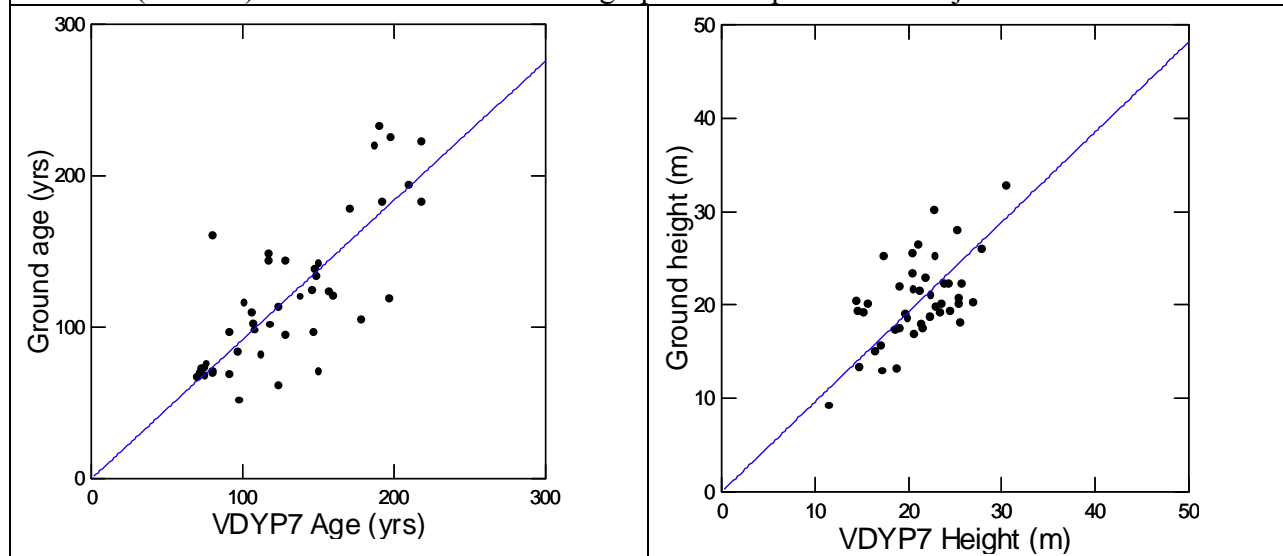


Fig. 2: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Age and height relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

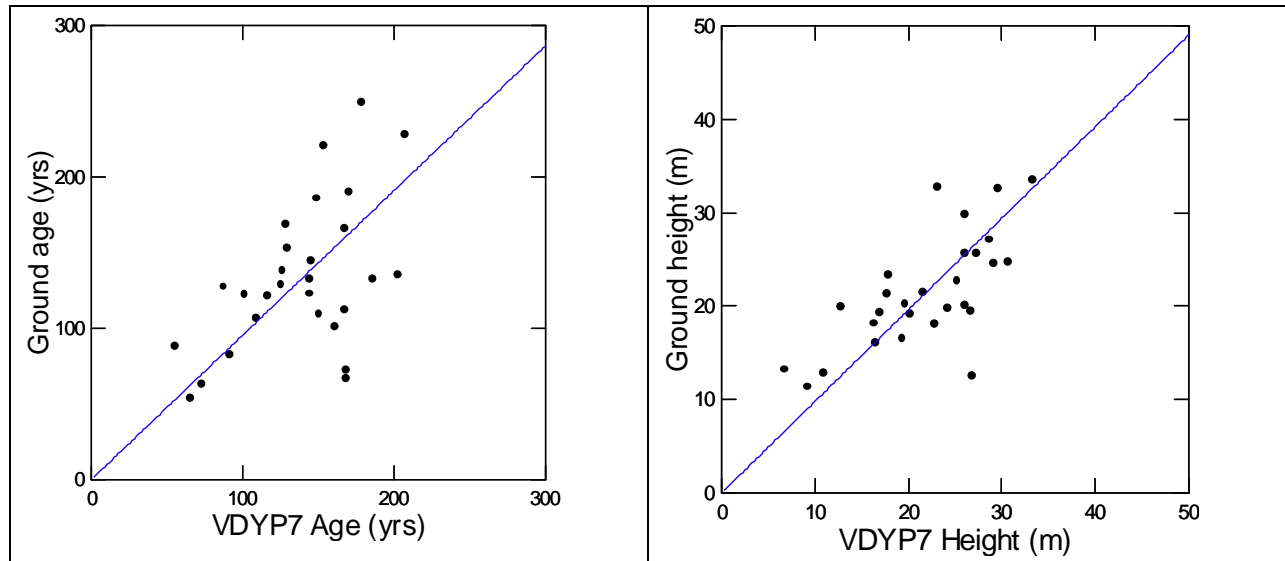


Fig. 3: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Age and height relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

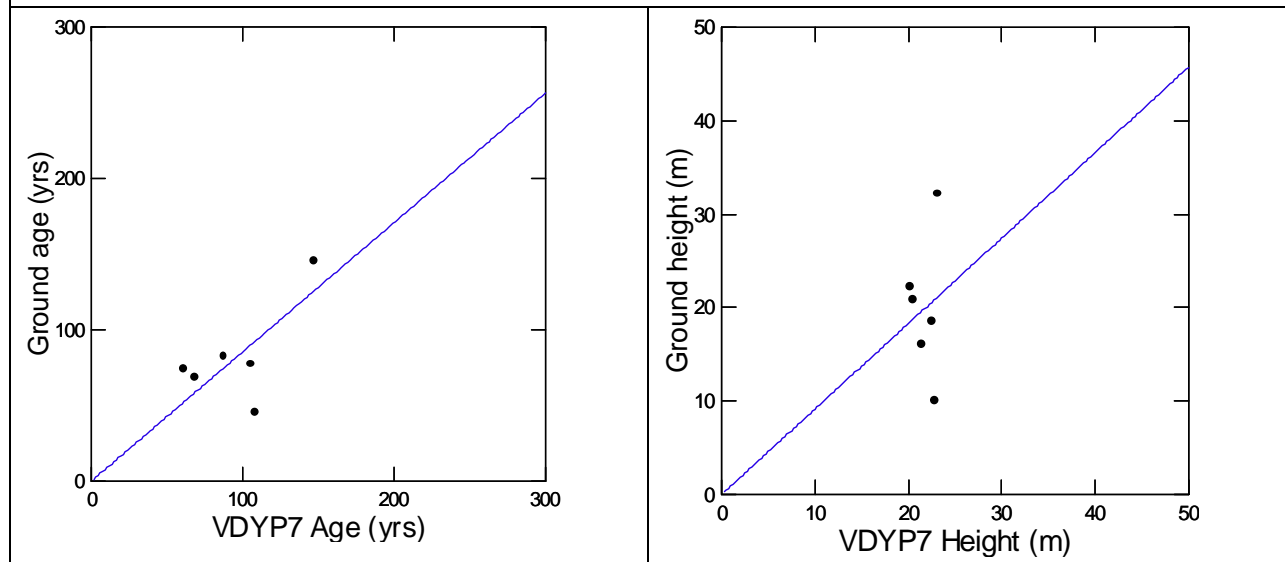


Fig. 4: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Age and height relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

8. APPENDIX D: VDYP7 AGE AND HEIGHT RESIDUALS (STAGE 1 ADJUSTMENT)

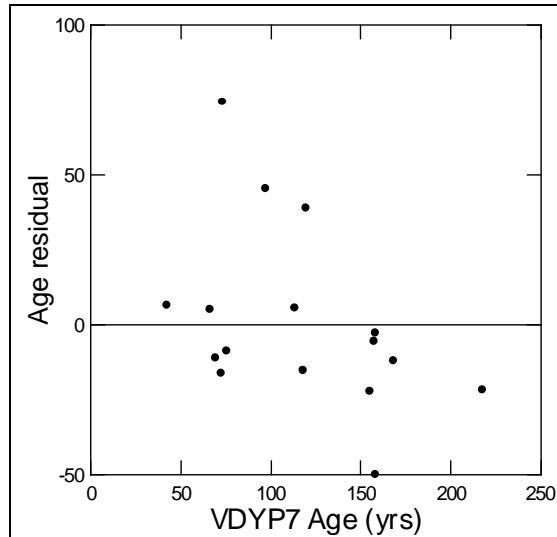


Fig. 1: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Age residuals (Phase 2 ground age – adjusted Phase 1 inventory age) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) age.

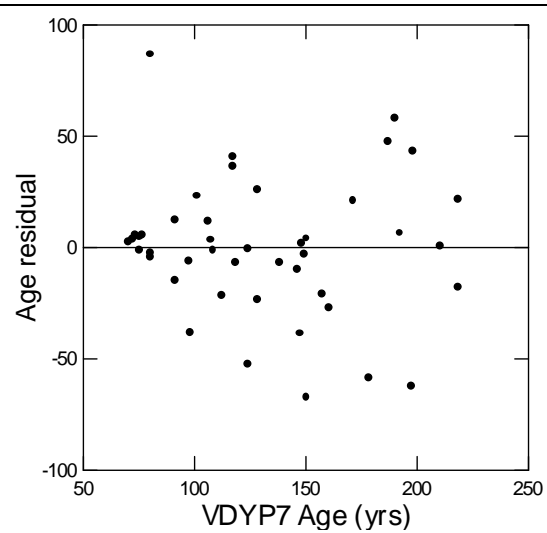


Fig. 2: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Age residuals (Phase 2 ground age – adjusted Phase 1 inventory age) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) age.

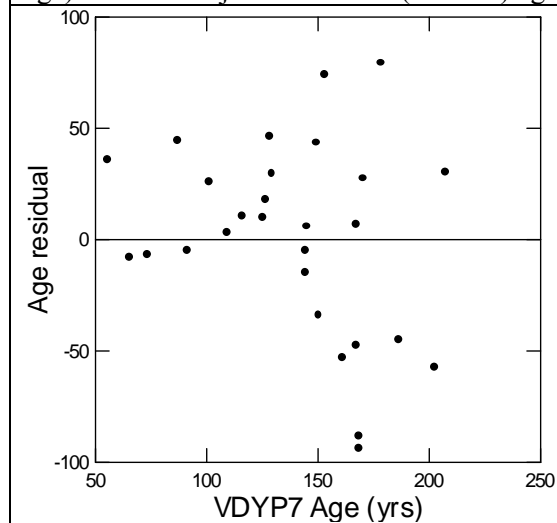


Fig. 3: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Age residuals (Phase 2 ground age – adjusted Phase 1 inventory age) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) age.

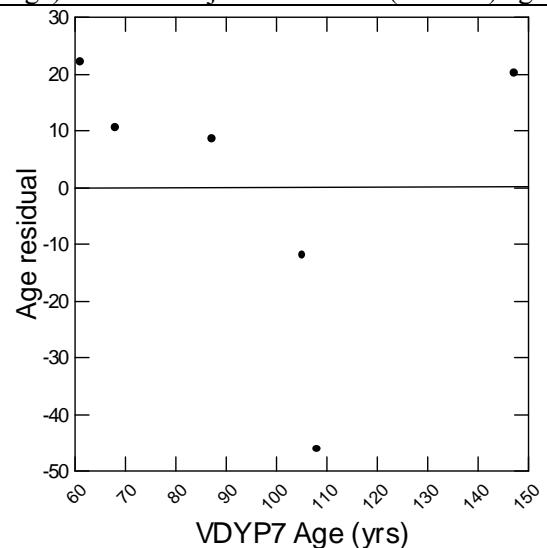


Fig. 4: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Age residuals (Phase 2 ground age – adjusted Phase 1 inventory age) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) age.

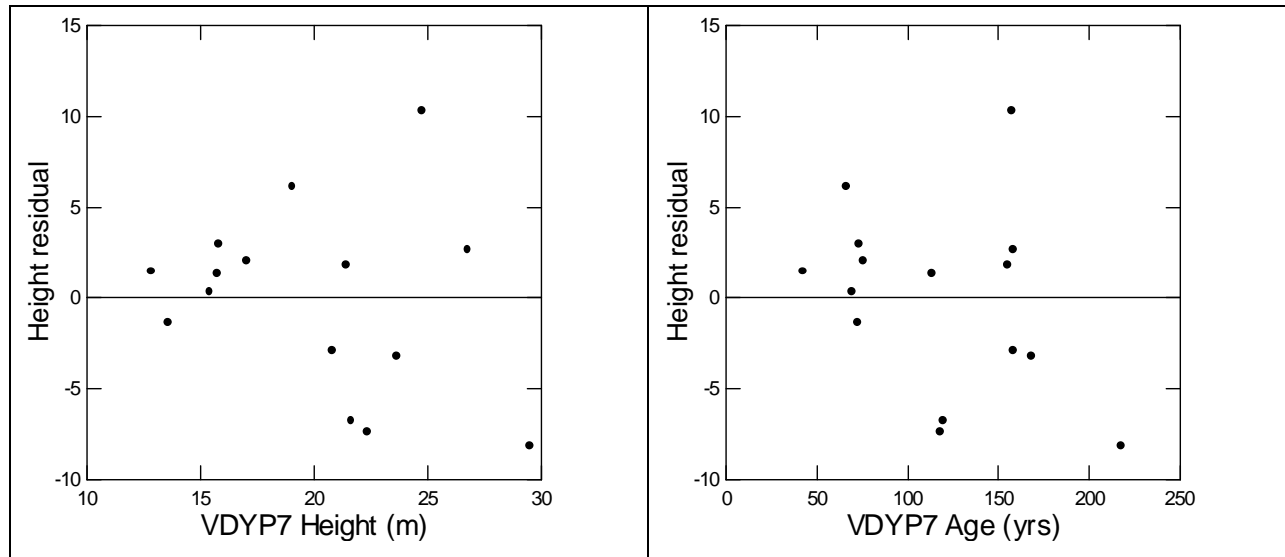


Fig. 5: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Height residuals (Phase 2 ground height – adjusted Phase 1 inventory height) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) height and age, respectively.

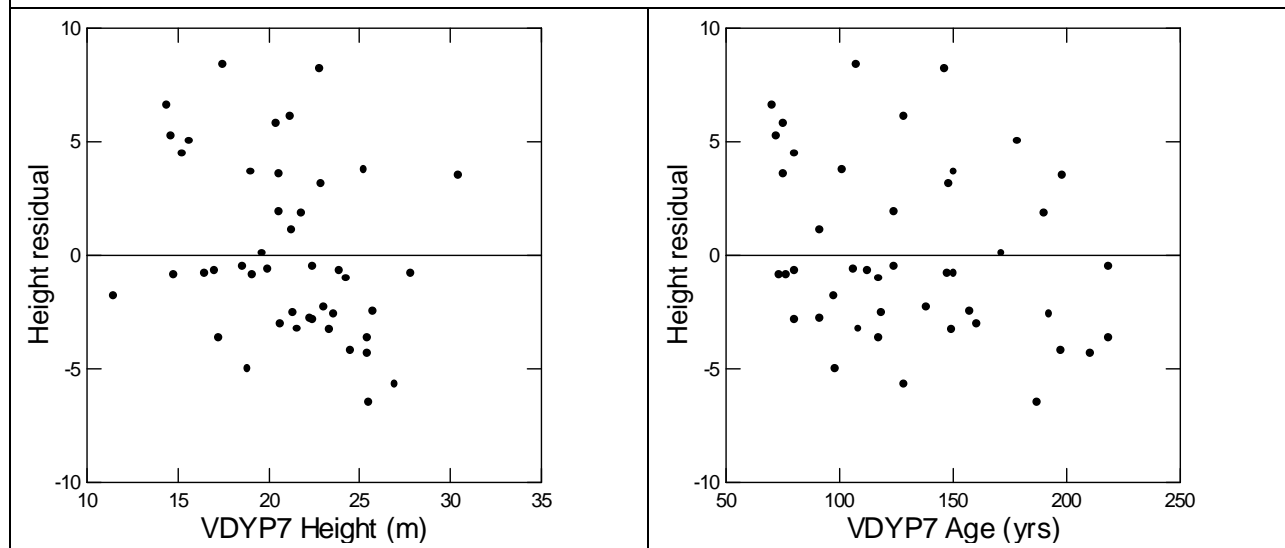


Fig. 6: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Height residuals (Phase 2 ground height – adjusted Phase 1 inventory height) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) height and age, respectively.

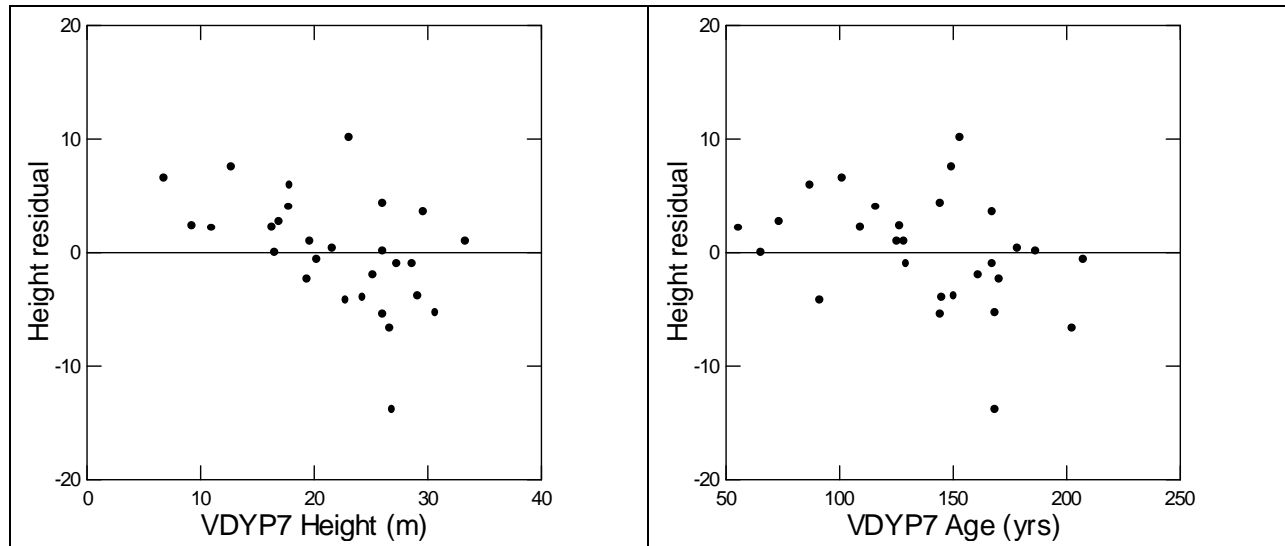


Fig. 7: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Height residuals (Phase 2 ground height – adjusted Phase 1 inventory height) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) height and age, respectively.

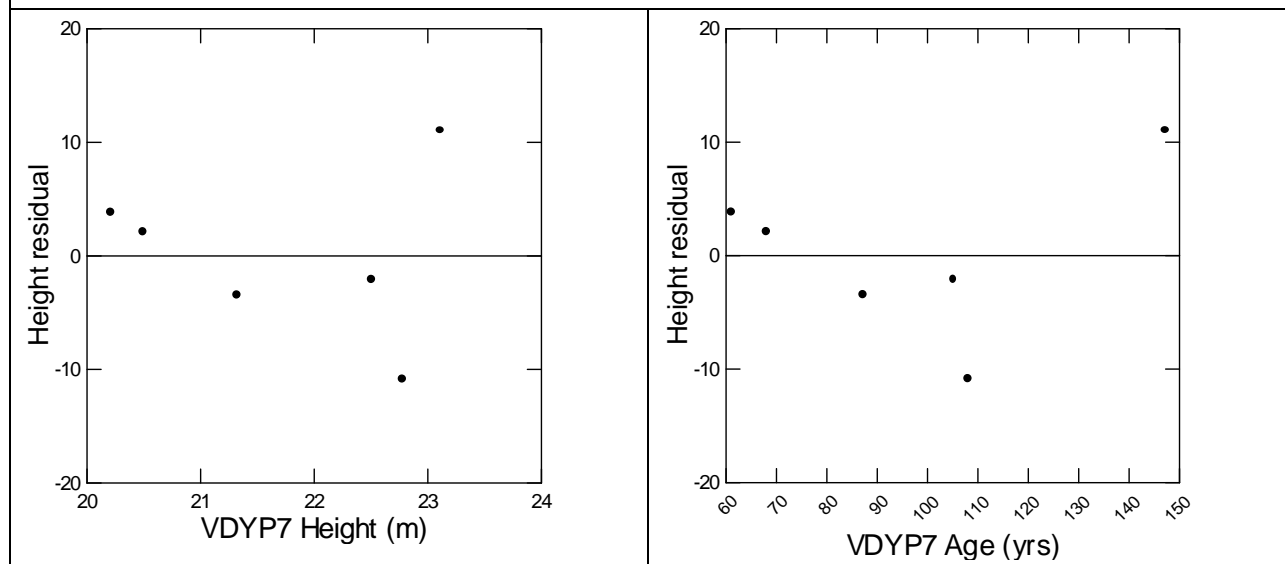


Fig. 8: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Height residuals (Phase 2 ground height – adjusted Phase 1 inventory height) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) height and age, respectively.

9. APPENDIX E: VDYP7 BA AND TPH SCATTERPLOTS (STAGE 1 ADJUSTMENT)

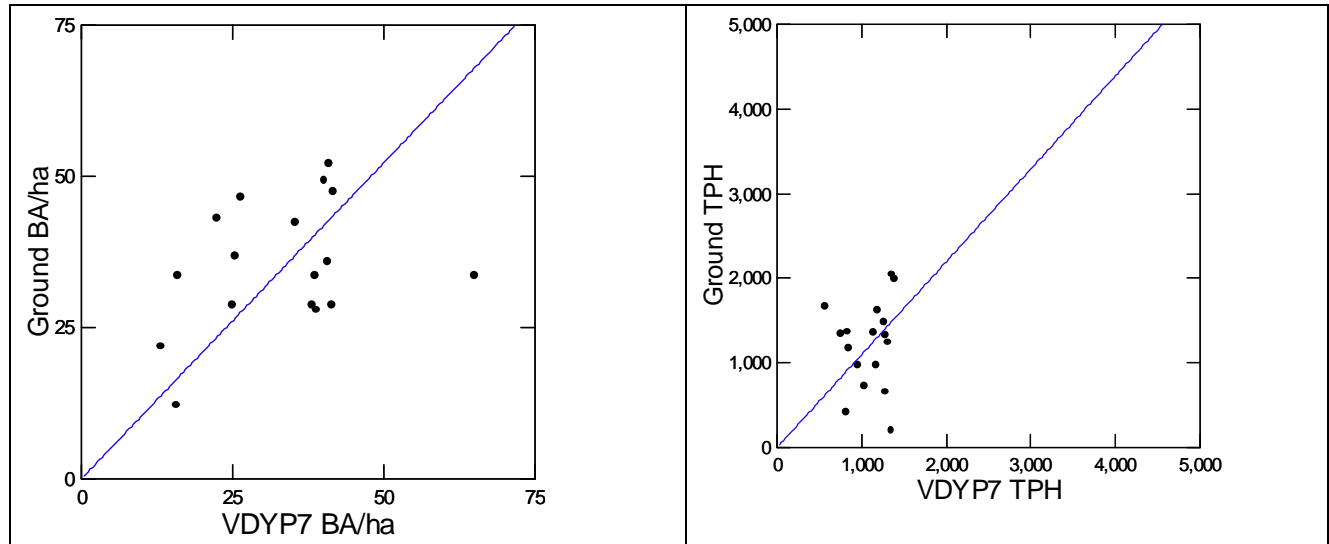


Fig. 1: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Basal area/ha and trees/ha (@7.5cm+dbh) relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

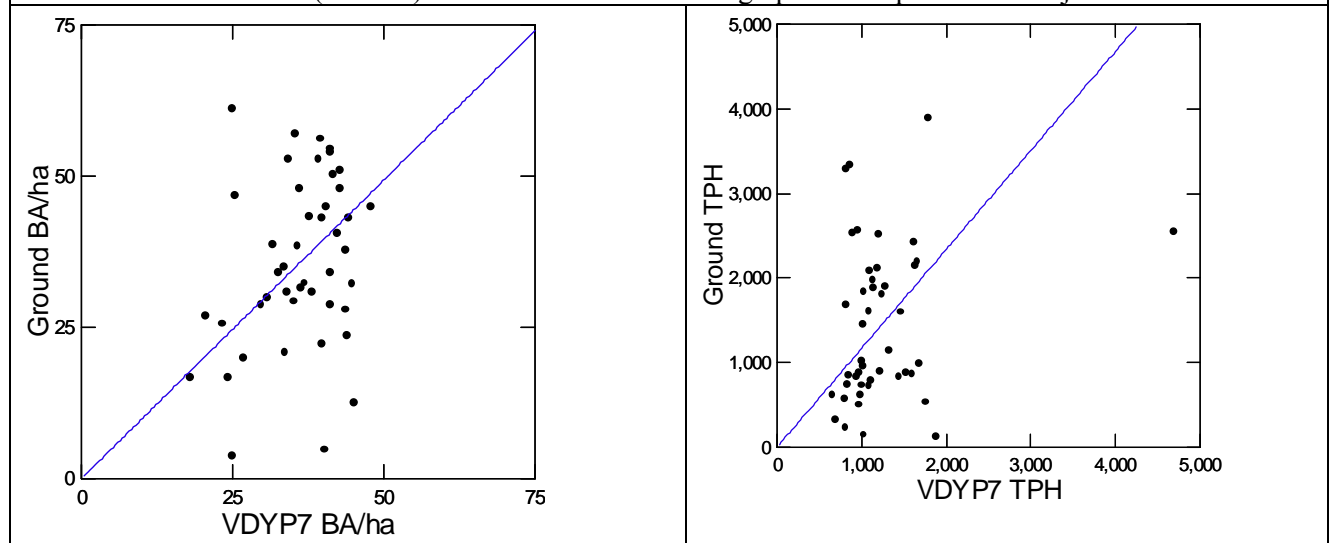


Fig. 2: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Basal area/ha and trees/ha (@7.5cm+dbh) relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

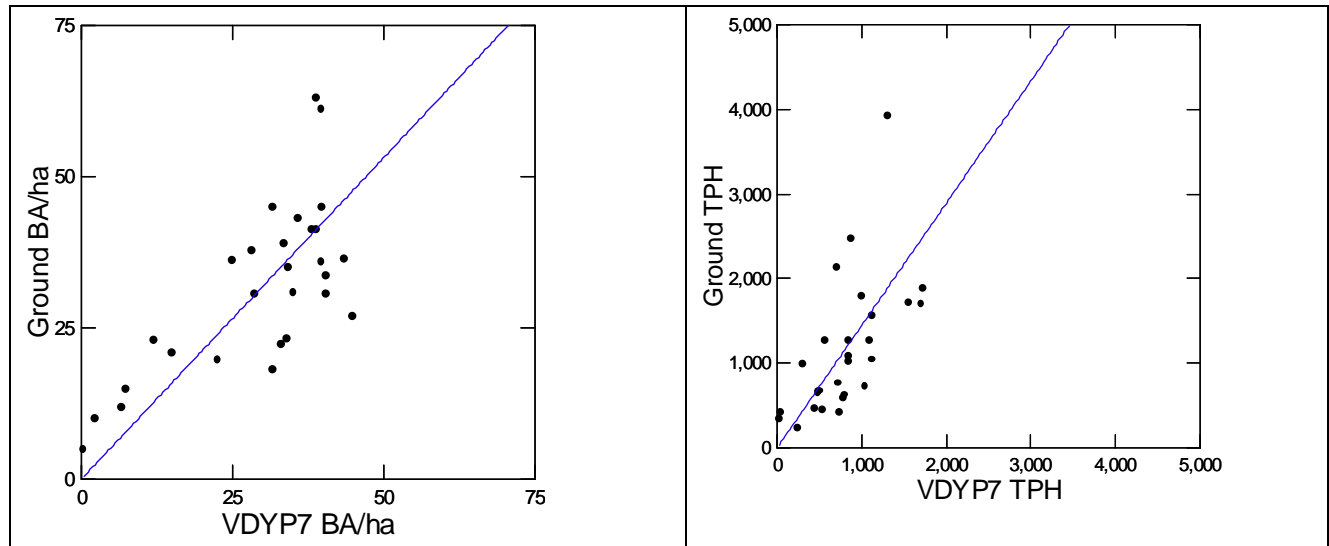


Fig. 3: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Basal area/ha and trees/ha (@7.5cm+dbh) relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

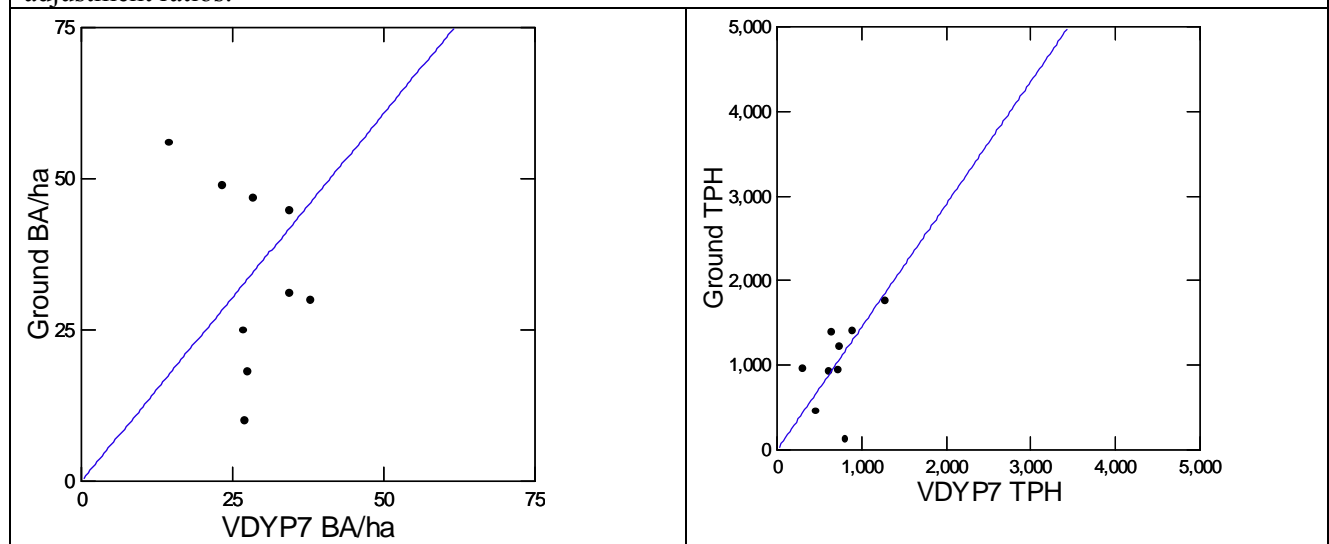


Fig. 4: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Basal area/ha and trees/ha (@7.5cm+dbh) relationships: ground (Phase 2) attribute versus VDYP7 (Phase 1) attribute. The lines on the graphs correspond to the adjustment ratios.

10. APPENDIX F: VDYP7 BA AND TPH RESIDUALS (STAGE 1 ADJUSTMENT)

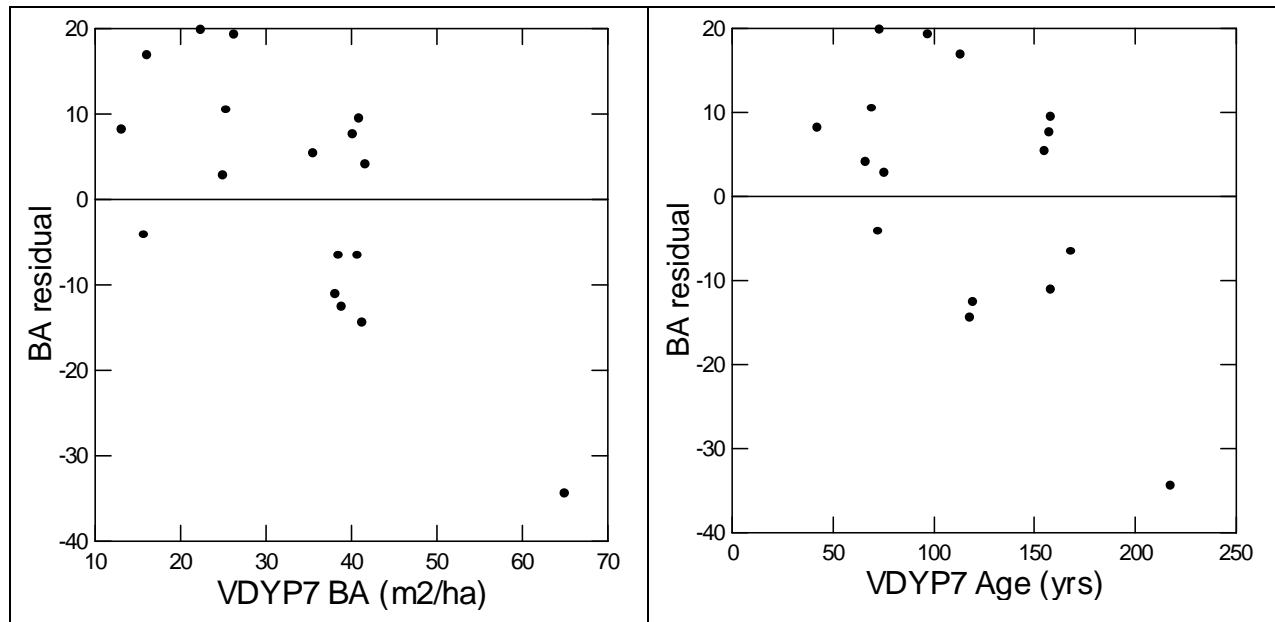


Fig. 1: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Basal area/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground BA – adjusted Phase 1 inventory BA) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) BA and age, respectively.

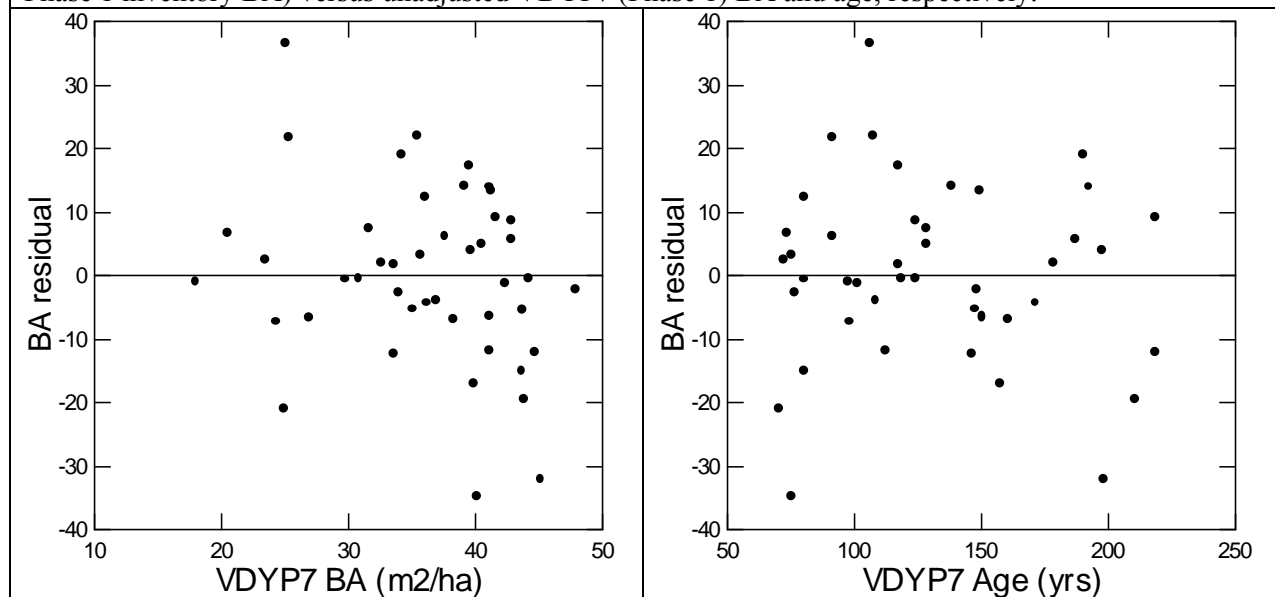


Fig. 2: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Basal area/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground BA – adjusted Phase 1 inventory BA) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) BA and age, respectively.

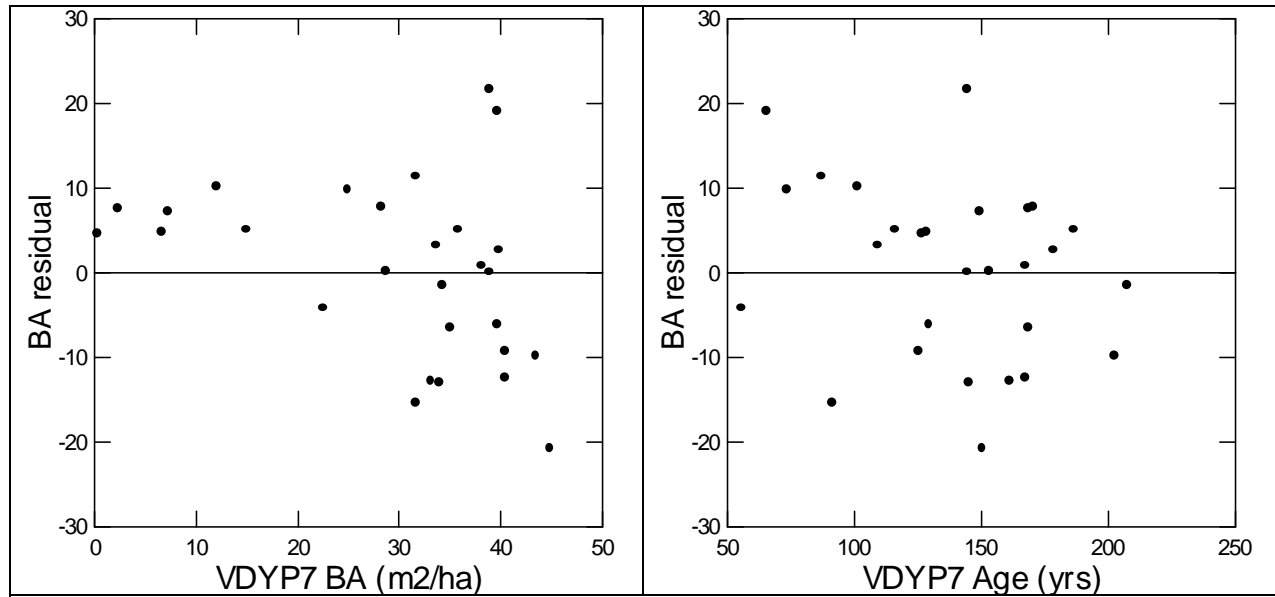


Fig. 3: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Basal area/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground BA – adjusted Phase 1 inventory BA) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) BA and age, respectively.

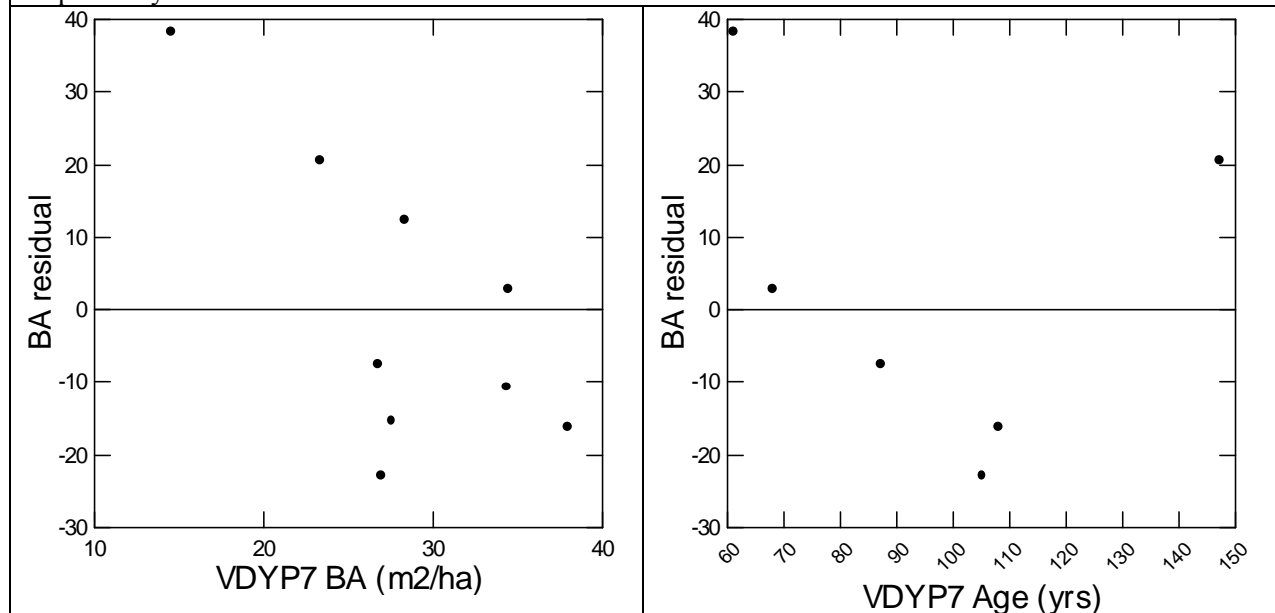


Fig. 4: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Basal area/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground BA – adjusted Phase 1 inventory BA) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) BA and age, respectively.

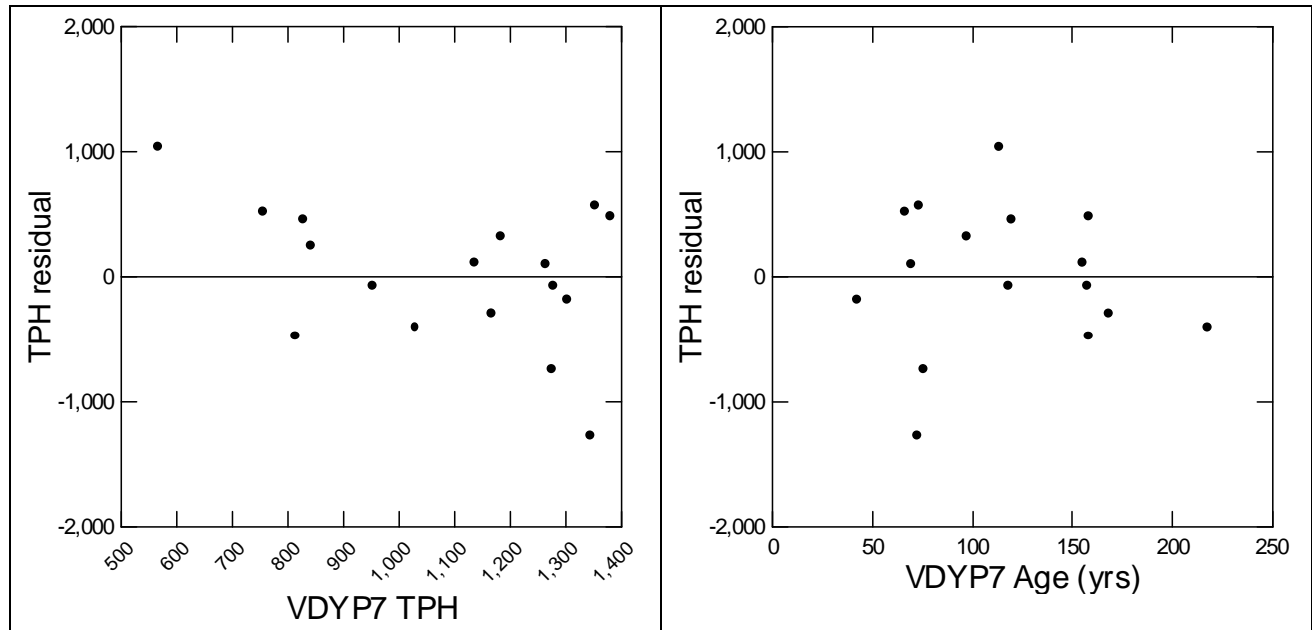


Fig. 5: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Trees/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground TPH – adjusted Phase 1 inventory TPH) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) TPH and age, respectively.

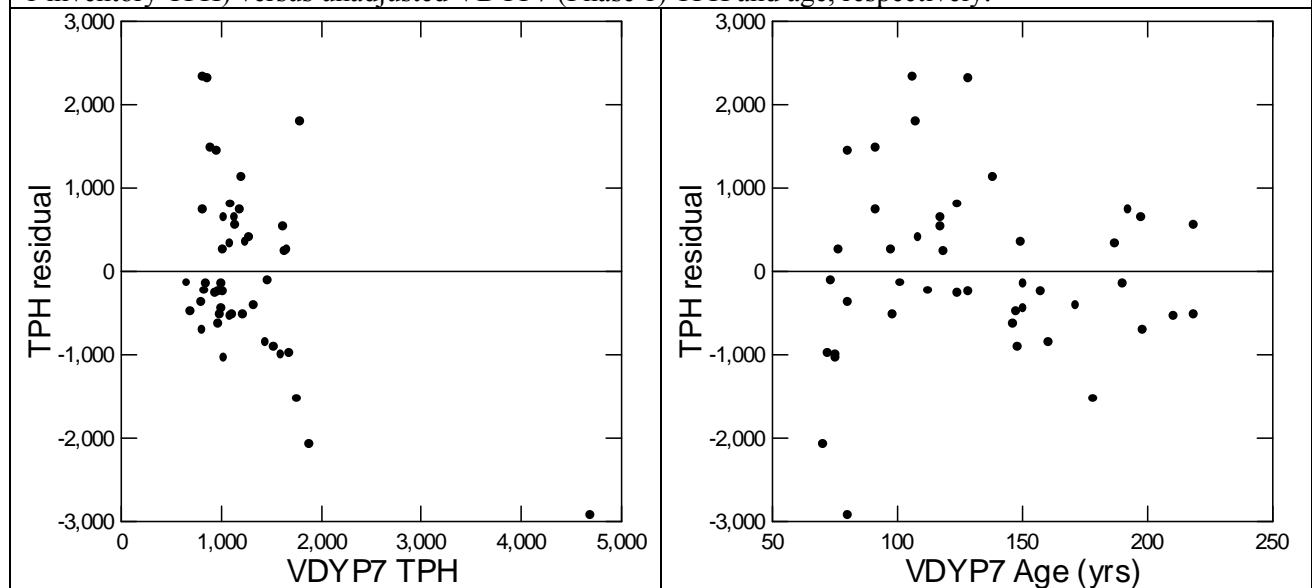


Fig. 6: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Trees/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground TPH – adjusted Phase 1 inventory TPH) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) TPH and age, respectively.

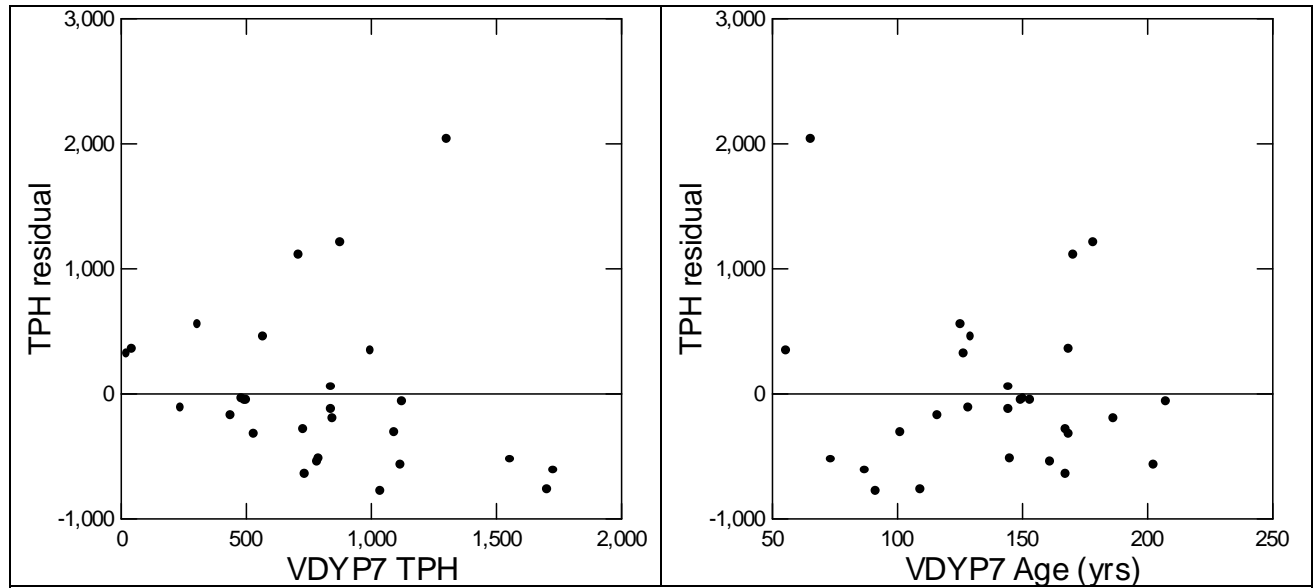


Fig. 7: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Trees/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground TPH – adjusted Phase 1 inventory TPH) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) TPH and age, respectively.

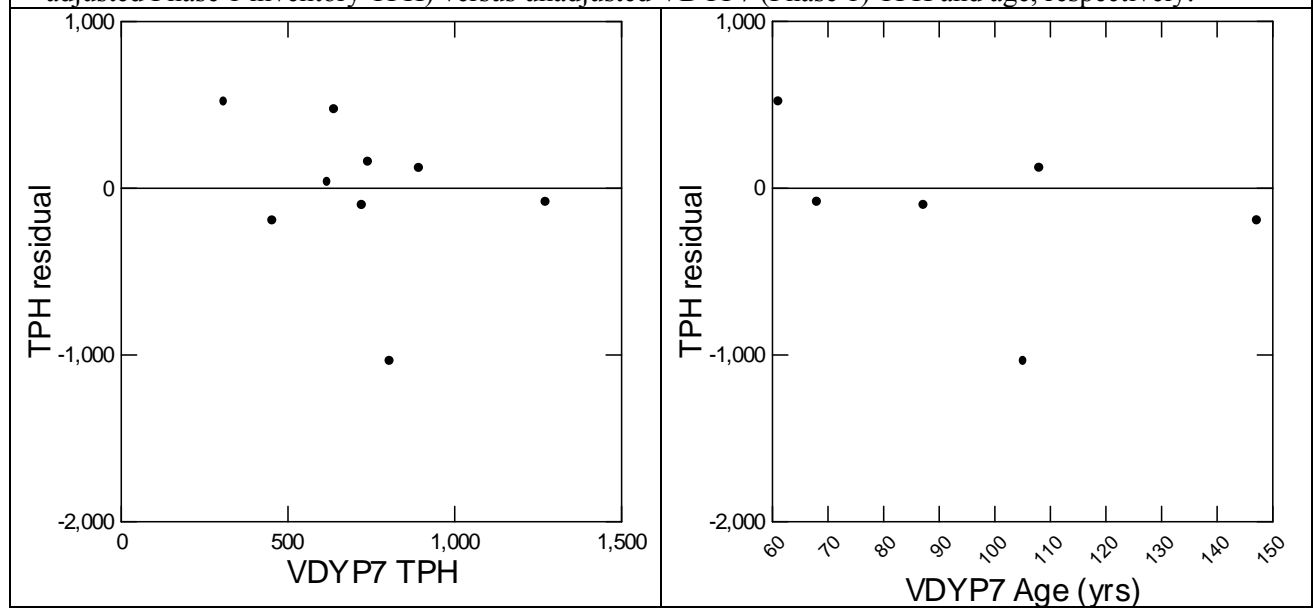
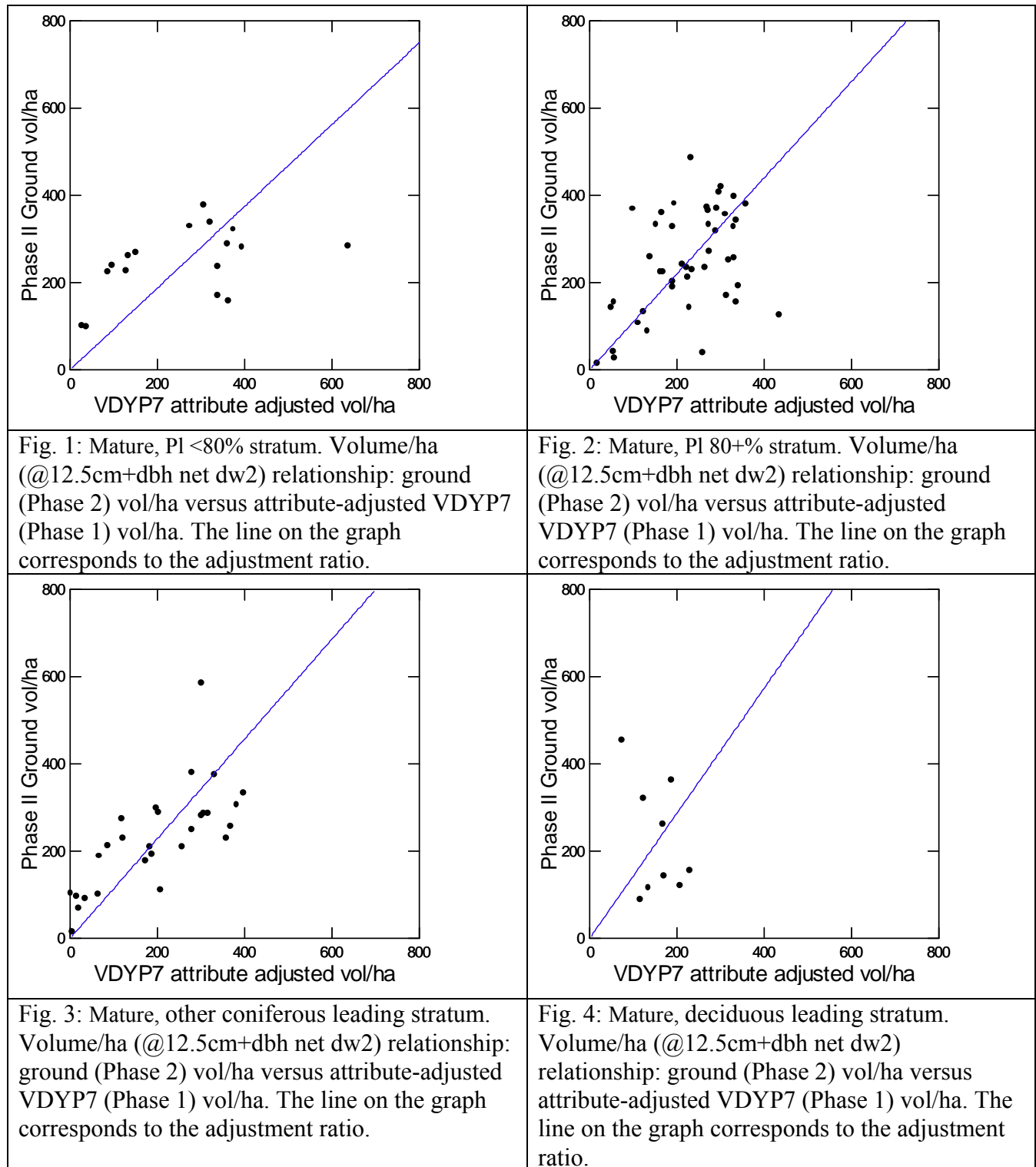


Fig. 8: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Trees/ha @ 7.5cm+ dbh residuals (Phase 2 ground TPH – adjusted Phase 1 inventory TPH) versus unadjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) TPH and age, respectively.

11. APPENDIX G: VDYP7 SCATTERPLOTS & RESIDUALS FOR VOLUME (STAGE 2 ADJUSTMENT)



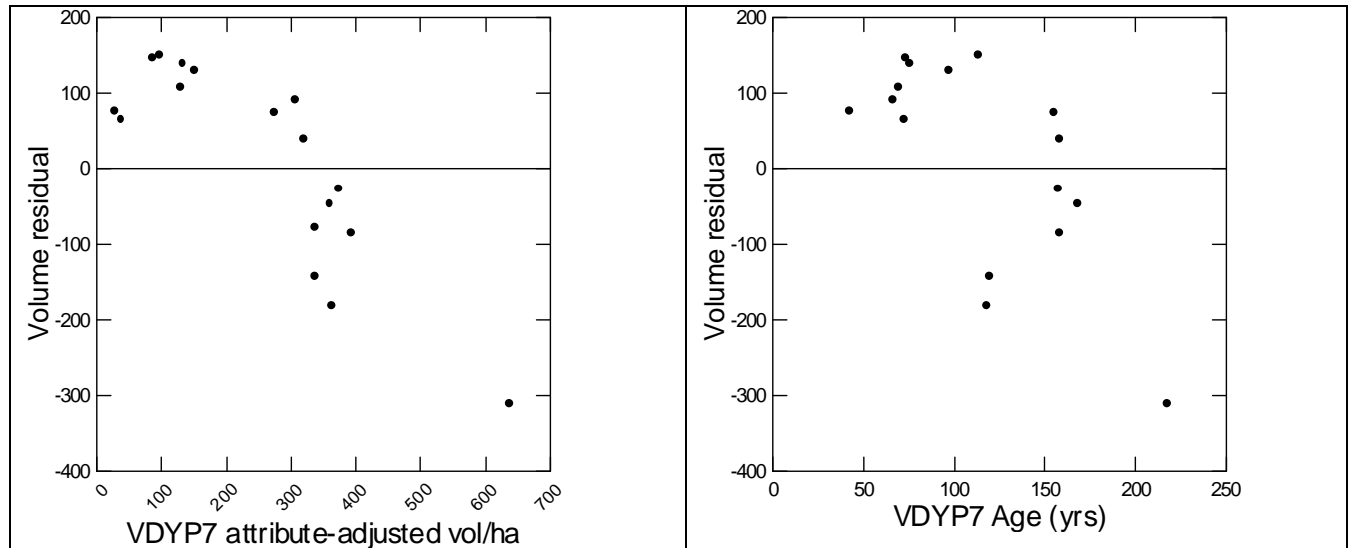


Fig. 5: Mature, PI <80% stratum. Volume/ha @ 12.5cm+ dbh net dw2 residuals (Phase 2 ground vol/ha – adjusted Phase 1 inventory vol/ha) versus attribute-adjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) vol/ha and Phase 1 inventory age, respectively.

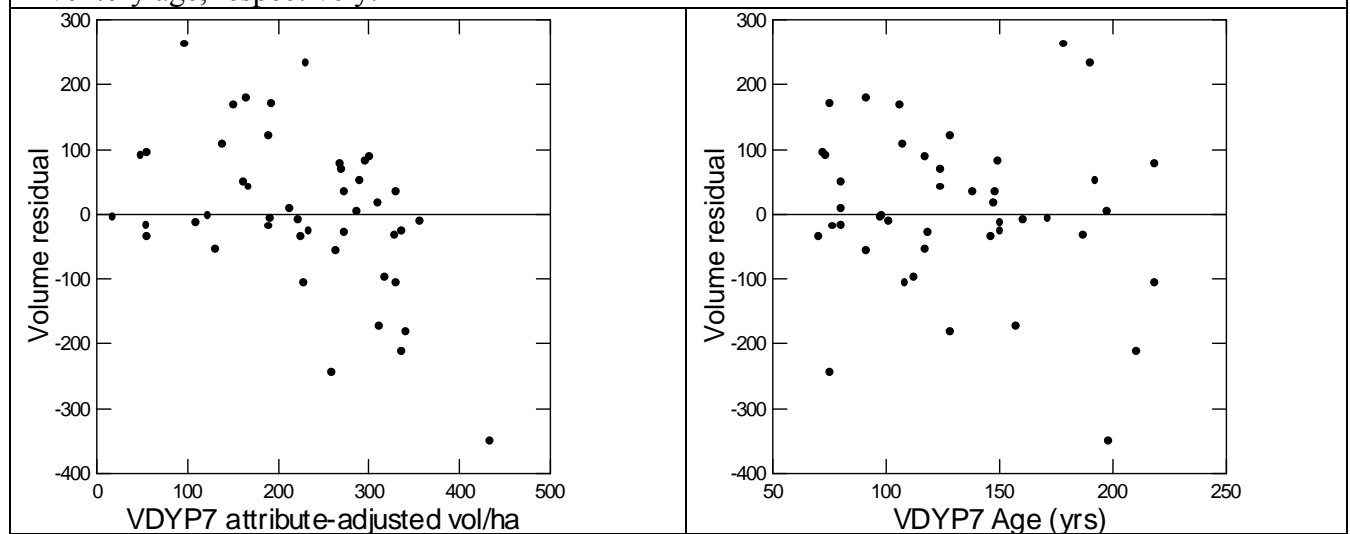


Fig. 6: Mature, PI 80+% stratum. Volume/ha @ 12.5cm+ dbh net dw2 residuals (Phase 2 ground vol/ha – adjusted Phase 1 inventory vol/ha) versus attribute-adjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) vol/ha and Phase 1 inventory age, respectively.

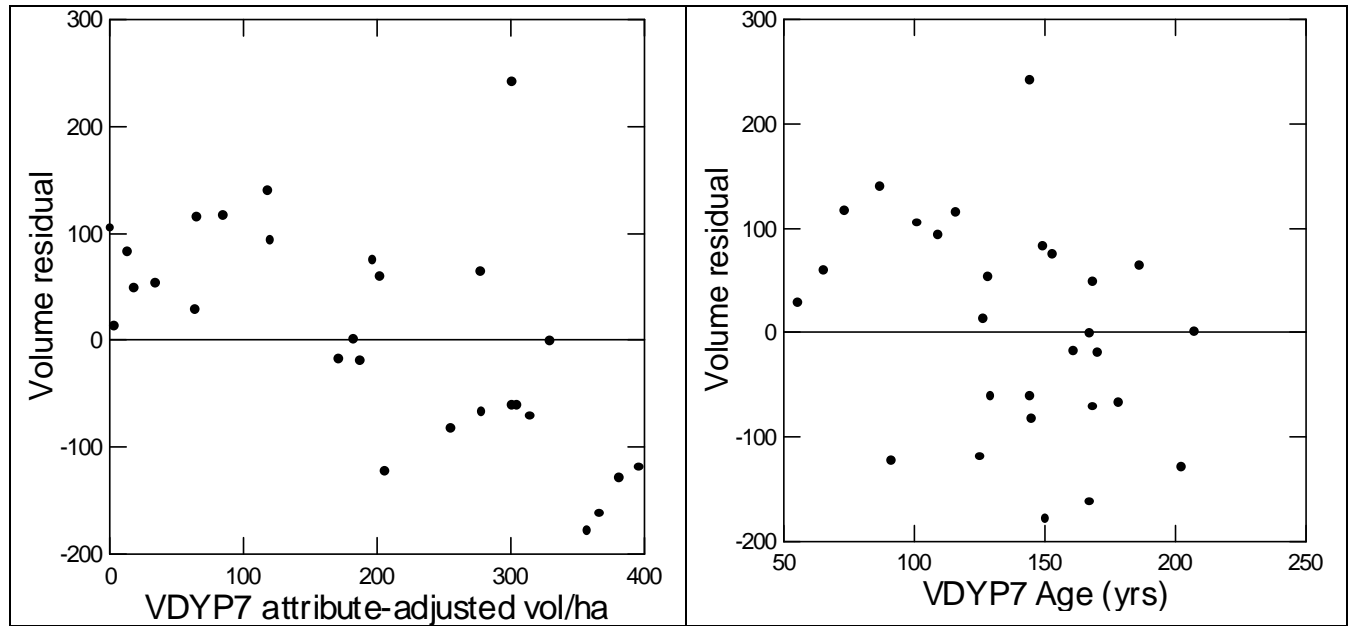


Fig. 7: Mature, other coniferous leading stratum. Volume/ha @ 12.5cm+ dbh net dw2 residuals (Phase 2 ground vol/ha – adjusted Phase 1 inventory vol/ha) versus attribute-adjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) vol/ha and Phase 1 inventory age, respectively.

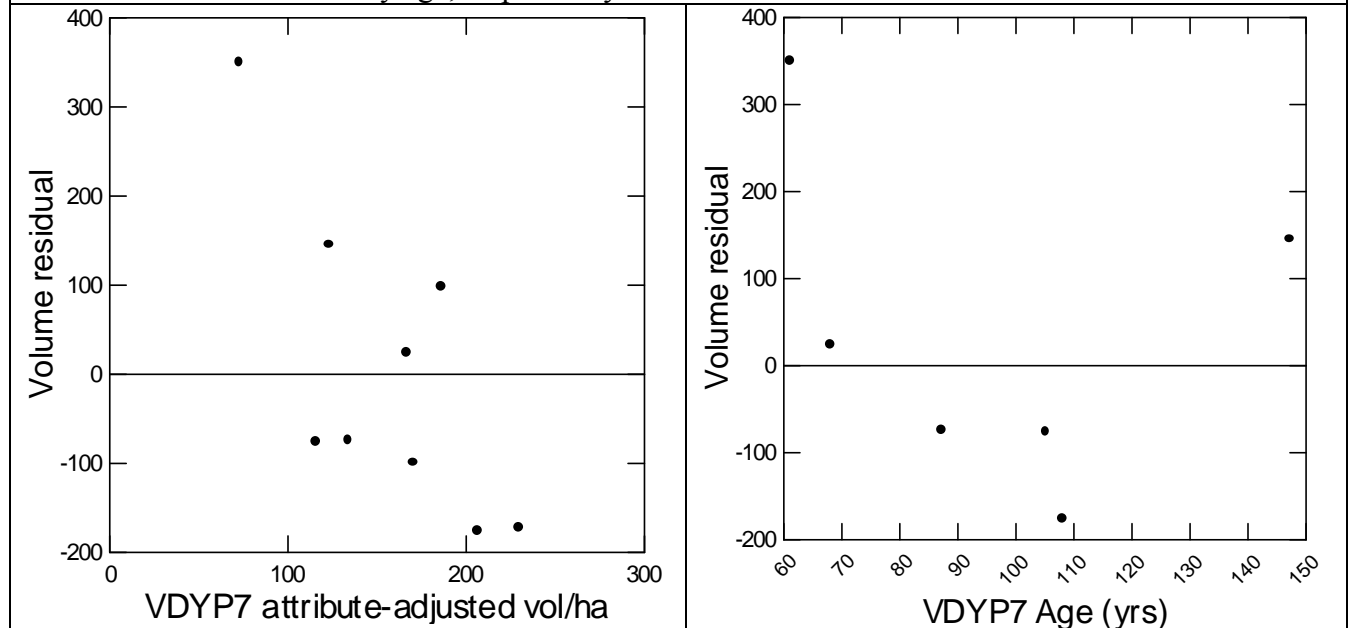


Fig. 8: Mature, deciduous leading stratum. Volume/ha @ 12.5cm+ dbh net dw2 residuals (Phase 2 ground vol/ha – adjusted Phase 1 inventory vol/ha) versus attribute-adjusted VDYP7 (Phase 1) vol/ha and Phase 1 inventory age, respectively.

12. APPENDIX H: POPULATION DISTRIBUTIONS PRE- AND POST-ADJUSTMENT

The population was projected to 2007 and the VDYP7 adjustment factors were applied in two stages. The adjusted population inventory files were then compared with the original (unadjusted) population inventory files. The pre & post-adjustment comparison excluded polygons where VDYP7 did not generate either a pre- or a post-adjustment volume (i.e. both volumes had to have been generated to be included in the comparison). This is typically for stands that do not meet VDYP7's minimum QMD threshold. As a result, the comparison is based on an area that is 0.9% smaller than the population total area.

Figure 1: VDYP7 average vol/ha by age class, pre- and post-adjustment.

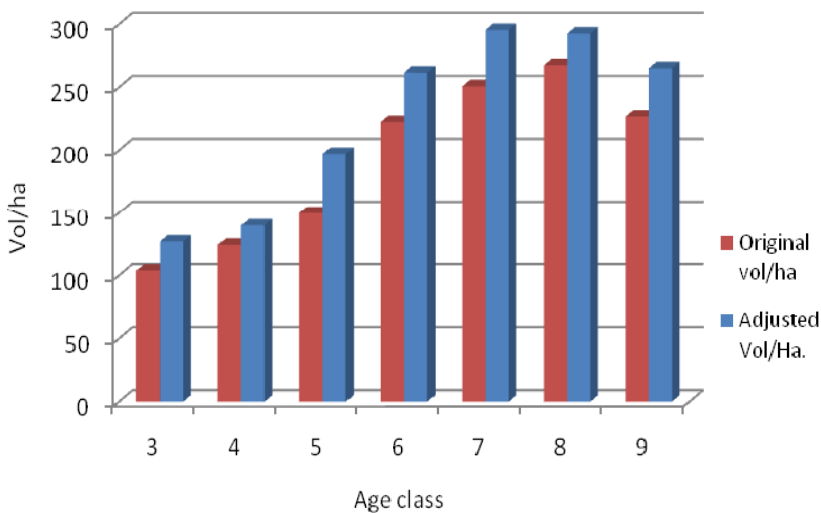
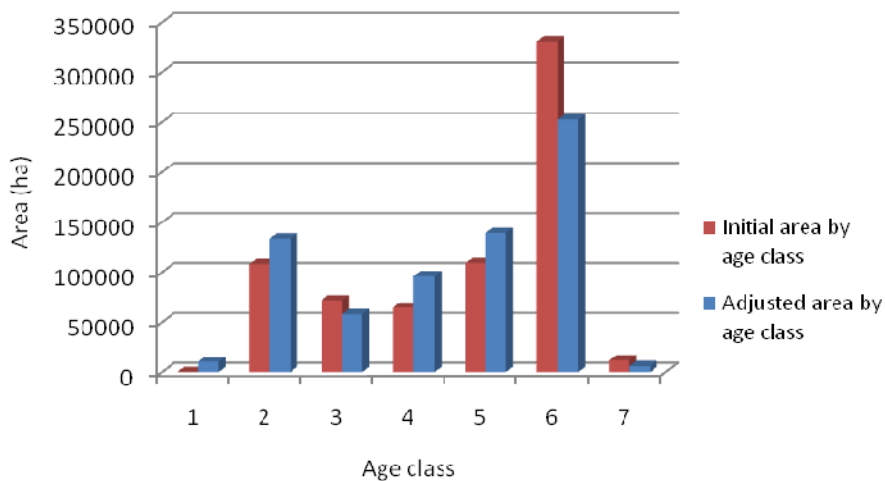


Figure 2: VDYP7 area by age class pre- and post-adjustment.



13. APPENDIX I: NVAF ANALYSIS REPORT

Lakes TSA NVAF Analysis
Will Smith, RPF
Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch

Executive Summary:

Two Net Volume Adjustment Factor, NVAF, sampling projects were conducted in the Lakes TSA: the Babine EFFMPP in 2001 and the Lakes TSA in 2007. The NVAF is a statistically based volume correction based on the difference between actual net close utilization tree volume determined from destructive sampling and the estimated net close utilization volume based on the BEC based taper equation and net factoring. The determination of net volume in this analysis and for NVAF in general is based on deductions for decay and waste. NVAFs were calculated using the pooled data from both datasets and used to correct the VRI ground sample volumes as per the following table.

Net Volume Adjustment Factors for the Lakes TSA

Stratum	NVAF Value	Sample Size in trees	Sampling Error in %
All Deciduous	0.97315	7	30.4
Lodgepole Pine	1.00268	21	4.5
All Conifers other than pine and balsam	1.02453	36	5.0
Balsam	1.03168	19	12.3
All dead	1.00484	18	9.4

The live NVAF corrections are typical for spruce and pine and indicate that the taper equations and VRI net factoring process are performing adequately. The NVAF corrections for deciduous and balsam species are uncertain as evidenced by their high sampling errors; the uncertainties around their NVAFS can be reduced with additional sampling.

A new sampling procedure to measure unmerchantable wood was tested in the Lakes NVAF sample project. The new process measured the combined area of decay and sound wood considered to be uneconomic for sawmilling using scaling procedures for grade reduction and trim allowance. The results of the test were positive in terms of ease and the costs of the additional sampling. The results

should be of interest for timber supply and valuation applications and are summarized in the analysis section.

A detailed analysis comparing the different taper equations and decay estimation processes by tree species and risk group is included in this analysis.

NVAF Calculation Process:

1. Sample selection probability weights using the 'Design' method were calculated for each sample tree.
2. The NVAF, which is the ratio of the sum of the weighted actual to estimated net close utilization volumes (less decay, waste, 30 cm stump and 10 cm top), was calculated for each species and broad age group.
3. Depending on sample size, tree species were grouped or separated into strata. In this case, the sample sizes for live lodgepole pine, balsam and spruce were abundant enough to warrant stand alone species strata. Because all tree species must have an NVAF adjustment, uncommon species such as Douglas-fir and birch were assigned to a like stratum: uncommon conifers to the spruce stratum and uncommon deciduous to the deciduous stratum.
4. Broad age group was used in the selection of sample trees using a cut-off age of 120 years and was used to allocate the majority of the sample to mature trees. Age grouping was not found to be a useful stratification criterion for the calculation of the NVAF.
5. Due to the active MPB infestation, the Lodgepole pine became a special case. The Babine sample trees were sampled prior to the infestation and therefore represented a population that does not exist today and were eliminated from the calculation.
6. Sampling statistics are based on the error in corrected volume to actual volume were calculated to arrive at the sampling error for a 95% probability 19 times out of 20.

Analysis Process:

Four different estimates of net close utilization volume were calculated for the NVAF sample trees and include:

- The VRI method based on gross volume using the BEC based taper equation and net volume using net factoring.
- The appraisal cruise method based on gross volume using the FIZ based taper equation and net volume using the 1976 loss factors.
- An estimate based on gross volume using the FIZ based taper equation and net volume using net factoring.
- An estimate based on gross volume using the BEC based taper equation and net volume using the BEC based loss factors.

Risk group was chosen as a stratification criterion because recent unbiased destructive sampling has shown that the error in the estimates of decay differ by the external characteristics of the tree; risk group serves to separate the trees likely to have errors in decay estimation.

Two NVAFs were calculated for each analysis stratum, one based on net close utilization (CU) volume and the other on close utilization volume. The NVAFs were transformed into percentage errors and the gross CU error was subtracted from the net CU error to obtain error in the decay and waste estimate.

To give one example using the 'all balsam stratum' and estimates of tree volume using the BEC based taper equation and net factoring:

- The NVAF for net CU volume is 1.0317 which amounts to an underestimate of volume of approximately 3.2%. The error in the estimate comes from two sources: the taper equation and net factoring.
- The NVAF for gross CU volume is 1.0098 which amounts to an underestimate of volume of approximately 1%. This error is due solely to the taper equation.
- The difference between these two errors is 2.2% and this amounts to the error that is attributable to the estimation of decay and waste using the net factoring system. The error indicates that net factoring is underestimating the amount of sound wood in some of the sample trees.

Using the same balsam stratum but estimates of tree volume using the FIZ based taper equation and the 1976 Loss Factors for decay and waste:

- The NVAF for net CU volume is 1.2571 which amounts to an underestimate of volume of approximately 25.7%. The error in the estimate comes from two sources: the taper equation and loss factors.
- The NVAF for gross CU volume is 1.016 which amounts to an underestimate of volume of approximately 1.6%. This error is due solely to the taper equation.
- The difference between these two errors is 24.1% and this amounts to the error that is attributable to the estimation of decay and waste using the 1976 loss factors. The error indicates that the loss factors are overestimating the amount of decay and waste in some of the sample trees.

Analysis of the Results:

Taper Equations: Both versions of the taper equation are performing well with the BEC based taper providing a slightly more accurate estimate of close utilization volume. The improvements are likely due to shift to a biological basis to the stratification and to the inclusion of thousands of additional sample trees, particularly deciduous and balsam, for the fitting of the BEC equation.

% Error in Gross Close Utilization Volume					
species	Ac	At	B	PI	S
risk group	All	All	All	All	All
N	3	4	19	45	36
FIZ taper error	-12%	-3%	2%	1%	-3%
BEC taper error	-1%	-2%	1%	1%	0%

A positive % error indicates an underestimate of volume.

Decay Estimation System: Net factoring provided a more accurate estimate of decay and waste than the loss factors, particularly for dead trees. Loss factors were found to consistently overestimate the levels of decay and waste for mature trees. One apparent reason for the better accuracy of net factors is that trees with no apparent visible decay were assumed to be 100% sound; this amounted to 78% of the sample trees, of which most (83%) of these trees had no actual decay as determined by the destructive sampling. Loss factors, however, assign trees with no visible decay, (risk group 1), loss factor deductions ranging from 4% to 55% depending on species and risk group amounting to a consistent and often substantial under estimation of sound wood volume.

The following table shows the error in the estimate of net volume attributed to over or under estimation of decay and waste.

% Error in Decay and Waste Estimation

species risk group N	Ac All 3	At All 4	B All 19	B 1 5	B 2 13	PI All 45	PI 1 13	PI 2 32	S All 36	S 1 24	S 2 10	All Dead 18	B Dead 5	PI Dead 9
net factor error (% sound wood)	5%	-8%	3%	0%	0%	-3%	-1%	-3%	2%	0%	0%	-10%	-5%	-2%
1976 loss factor error (% decay and waste)	-163%	-97%	-24%	-16%	-26%	-8%	-4%	-8%	-10%	-6%	-11%	-50%	-65%	-53%
N	3	4	19	4	14	45	10	35	36	21	13	18	5	9
BEC loss factor error (% decay and waste)	-2%	-41%	-11%	-8%	-9%	-1%	-3%	-1%	-8%	-2%	-6%	-116%	-51%	-141%

net factor error: a positive value indicates an underestimate of sound wood; a negative value indicates hidden decay
loss factor error: a positive value indicates an underestimate of decay and waste loss

Merchantable Wood: This is a new concept for VRI and NVAF because merchantable volume is only indirectly measured in VRI ground samples via log grade predictions and is not a standard measurement in NVAF nor its predecessor, the historic decay sampling. NVAF sampling is a classic strategic inventory tool in that its primary objective is to provide a stable measurement of total sound wood fibre and not one for an ever shifting definition of merchantability that is dependent on current market conditions. However, the interest around shelf life due to the MPB infestation and the collapse of the pulp market in the northwest has provided a renewed interest in merchantable wood and the testing of a possible new tool in the VRI toolkit. The results must be cautiously interpreted due to a small sample size and this measurement of unmerchantable wood represents an underestimate of mill recovery as it was captured for 2 meter long logs from the destructive sample in the absence of yarding, loading, hauling and milling. The following table shows values that would correct the net close

utilization estimate of volume to obtain an estimate of sawable merchantable volume. One caveat: the sample size for all but the live pine and spruce strata is too small to place any certainty in the results.

% Difference between Estimates of net CU Volume and Sawable Volume from the NVAF Sample

species risk group N	Ac All 3	At All 2	B All 15	PI All 21	S All 16	All Dead 10	PI Dead 6
BEC taper & net factor merchantability correction	-40.1%	-67.9%	-7.9%	0.0%	0.7%	-13.5%	-11.8%
FIZ taper & 1976 Loss Factor merchantability correction	47.5%	-30.8%	17.5%	9.9%	6.2%	40.0%	38.1%

A negative value indicates a volumes reduction, a positive value indicates a volume increase

* The non merch measure was captured for Lakes NVAF sample trees only.

Sampling error is > 10%

Lakes NVAF Recommendations:

1. Continue to test and refine the estimates of merchantability in other management units with decay prone species, such as cedar and hemlock.
2. Regrade the NVAF sample trees using the destructive sample merchantability information, quantify the differences in volume by grade and relate to the overall VRI results.
3. Conduct additional sampling in the Lakes unit in the strata with high sampling errors, particularly dead pine. Consider an overall sample size of 50 trees as per the original plan for the 2007 Lakes NVAF sample.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Unmerchantable wood data collection in NVAF Sampling Projects

Overview

The Ministry of Forests and Range has been investigating the quantity of unmerchantable wood in order to better predict shelf life of MPB killed Lodgepole pine stands and to verify the estimates of sawlog volumes made from call grading of trees in VRI ground samples. The MOFR has tested the procedures in two NVAF sampling projects in 2007 and is recommending that the process become a standard procedure for NVAF sampling for the 2008 field season. The new process is based on MOFR scaling procedures for grade reduction. This document describes how the area of unmerchantable sound wood can be collected at each section of every NVAF sample tree.

Tree & Section Requirements

All sections for all trees will have an area of unmerchantable wood and defect and twist recorded.

Unmerchantable Wood Definition

MOFR scaling procedures capture the area of sound wood and associated defect that are considered to be uneconomic for milling; known as grade reduction. Grade reduction is composed of two parts: a 10 cm spacing between defects is too small to mill and a 2 cm wide trim allowance adjacent to defects which is lost to lumber recovery when squaring up the areas adjacent to the defect (see pages 6-17 to 6-23 of the April 1, 2006 Scaling Manual). Twist and knots which are normally considered in the scaling determination of merchantable wood will not be considered. Details are:

- Trim allowance:
 - 2 cm on each side of check (excluding inner point of check)
 - 2 cm around all sides of shake, bark seam, decay or hole (excluding sap rot and shallow scars)
- Unmerchantable sound wood size:
 - A 10 cm spacing between defects measured from defect to defect (not trim allowance to trim allowance).
 - Where all or portions of the soundwood collar are less than 15 cm thick for heart centered defects, rots or holes,
 - Otherwise where the soundwood collar (or portions) is less than 10 cm thick.
 - Sound hearts with a diameter less than 10 cm.

Attribute Definition: Weather Checks

A weather check is defined as a radial split from the outside of the bole of the tree that is at least 2 cm deep.

Measurement of Unmerchantable Wood

The area of the unmerchantable wood (trim and grade allowance) and the associated defects will be coalesced into one ellipse and captured as a stain using the DVHand software. Do not attempt to record each cause of unmerchantable wood separately, instead combine into one measure. Use a compound decay description to identify the principle cause of the degrade, use: CHK for checking, SHK for shake and DKY for decay. The length of the stain within a section would match that of the check as evidenced by the outside of the section or that of the existing decay – there will be no intermediate bucks required for unmerchantable wood.

Figure 1. Unmerchantable wood due to checks.

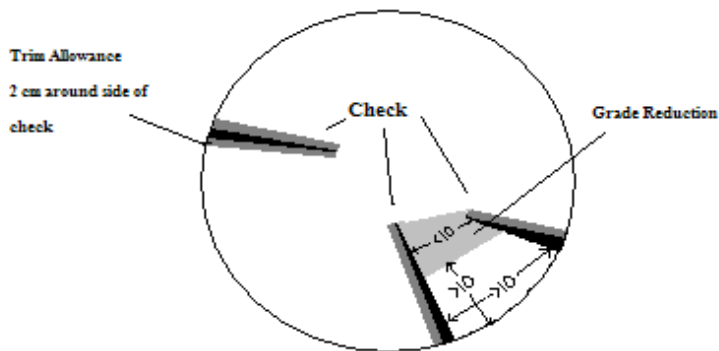
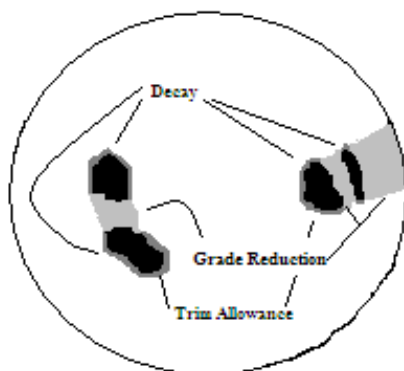


Figure 2. Unmerchantable wood due to decay.



Measurement of Twist

The maximum twist found in each section will be measured as the displacement over a 30 cm length. The displacement will be measured to the nearest millimeter and will be recorded for all sections above 1.3 m with a twist displacement ≥ 2 cm. The portion of the tree between 0.3 and 1.3 m will be considered as one log. Capture section twist using DVHand by creating a stain with a compound decay description of 'FPD', a separate solid shape and record the displacement as width and breadth. For example: the width and breadth of a spiral for a section with a displacement of 2.3 cm would be recorded as 2.3 by 2.3; the top and bottom lengths would be recorded as 0.