

BC's Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic

Current Status and Projections

Presentation for Special Committee on Timber Supply



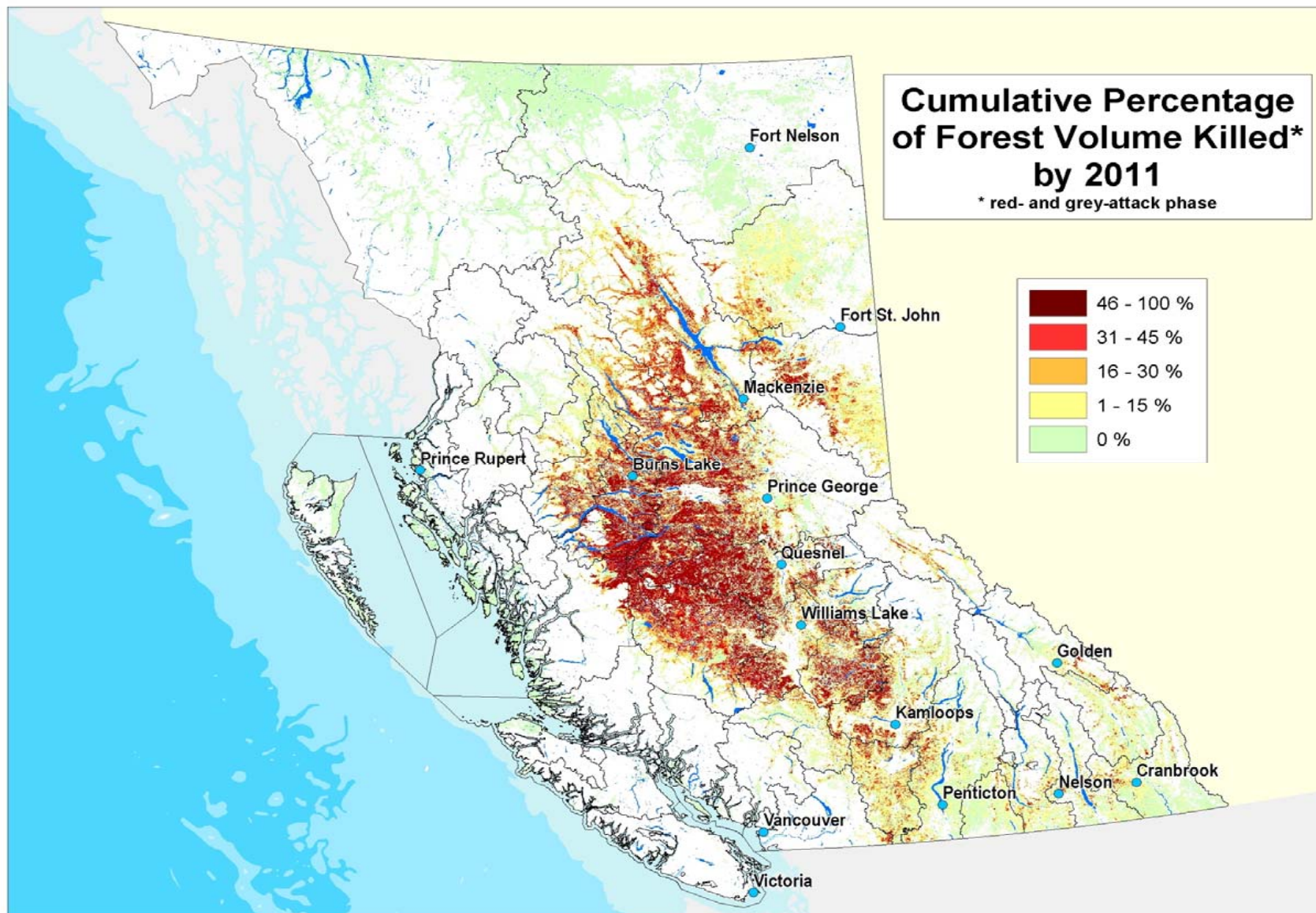
Albert Nussbaum
Director, Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
May 30th, 2012

Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation Update

Presentation Outline:

- Current Status.
- Projected vs. Observed Impacts 2005–2011.
- Latest AAC Determinations.
- Current Provincial Timber Supply Forecast.
- Conclusion.

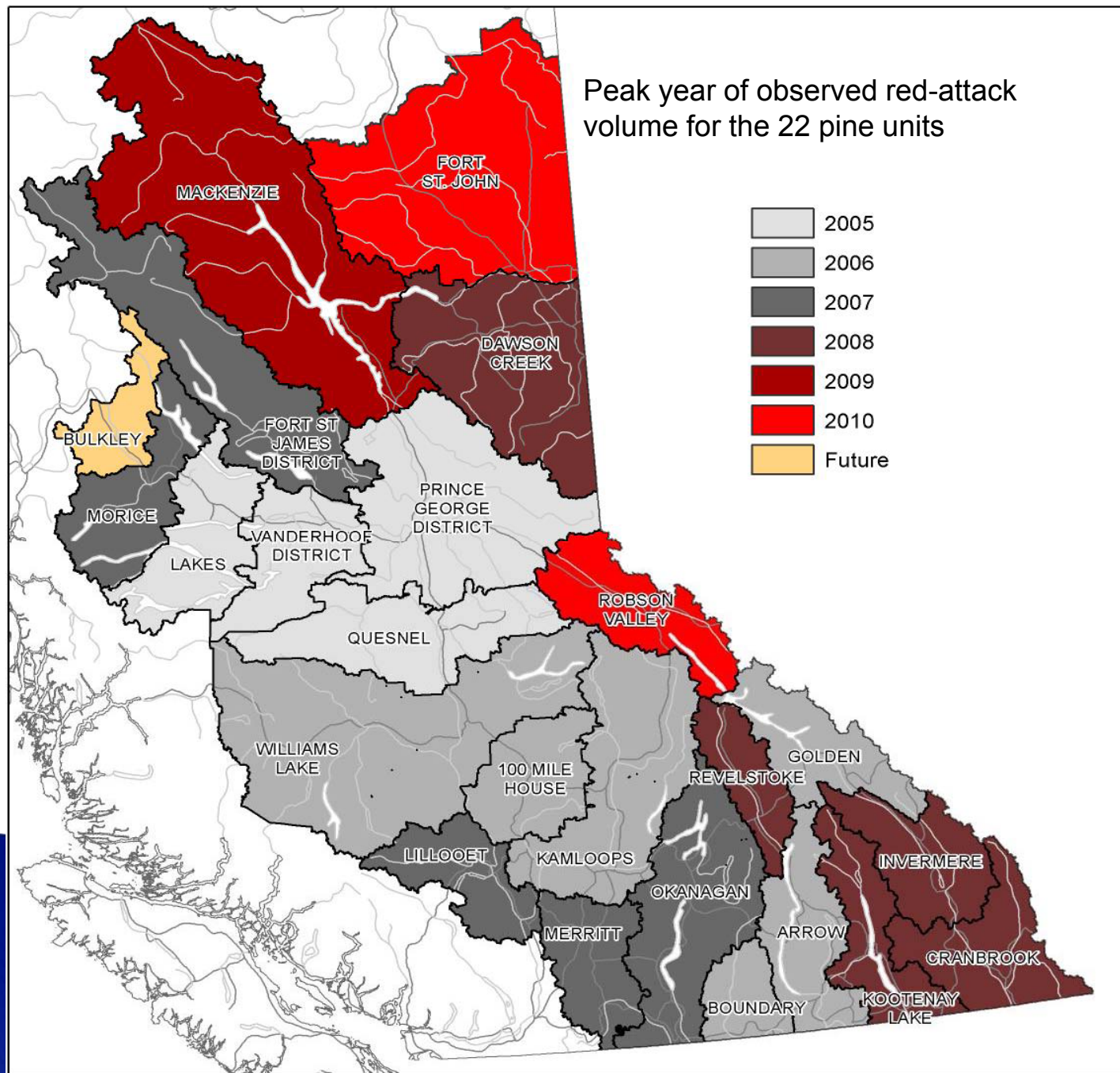
Current Status



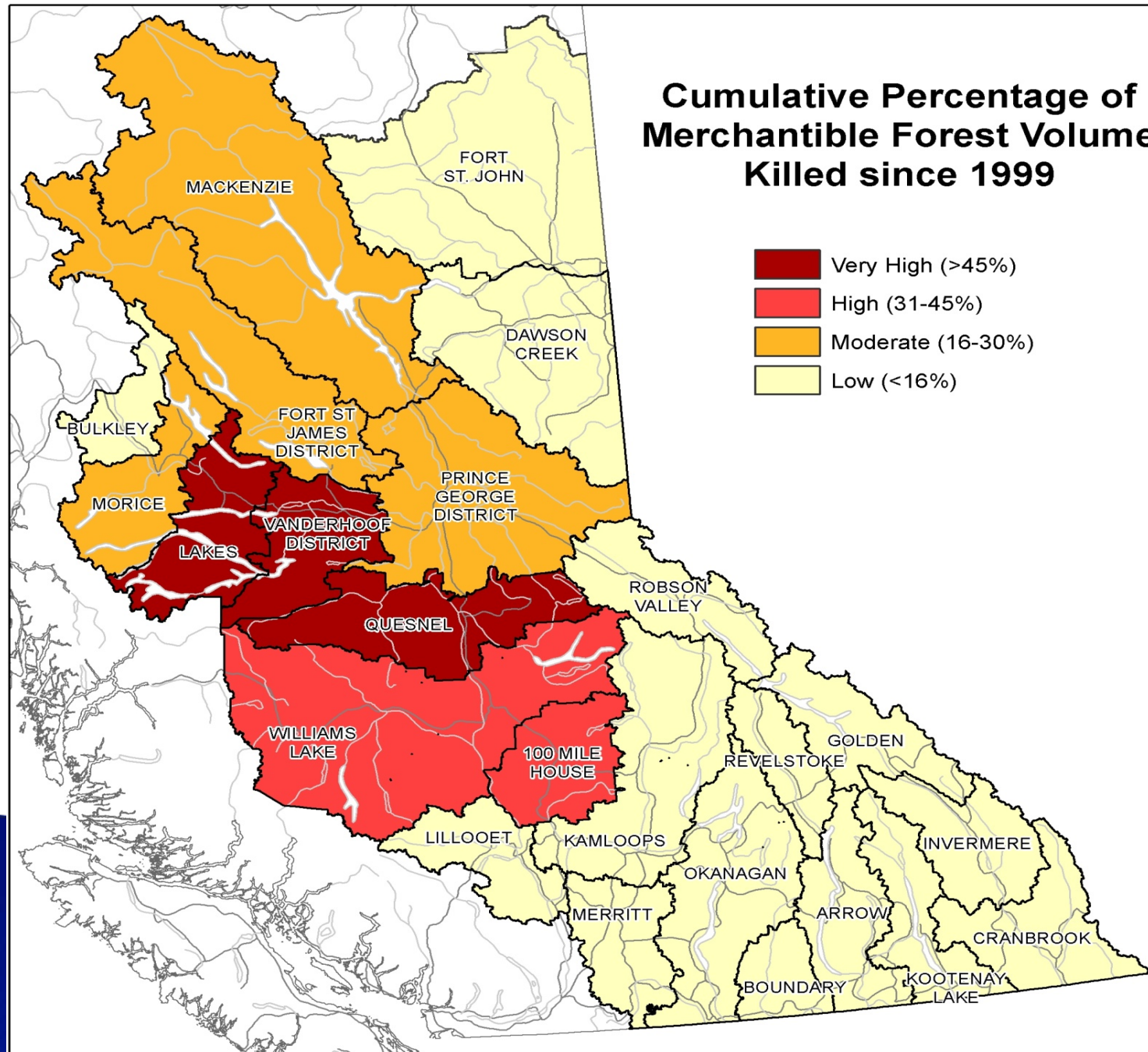
Current Status

- Ministry annually updates outbreak projections using computer model.
- Outlook has changed significantly.
- Projected Provincial pine kill has decreased each of the last six years:
 - 2006 model – 80% kill by 2013
 - 2007 model – 77% kill by 2014
 - 2008 model – 76% kill by 2015
 - 2009 model – 70% kill by 2017
 - 2010 model – 67% kill by 2020
 - 2011 model – 61% kill by 2020
 - 2012 model – 58% kill by 2021

Peak year of observed red-attack volume for the 22 pine units



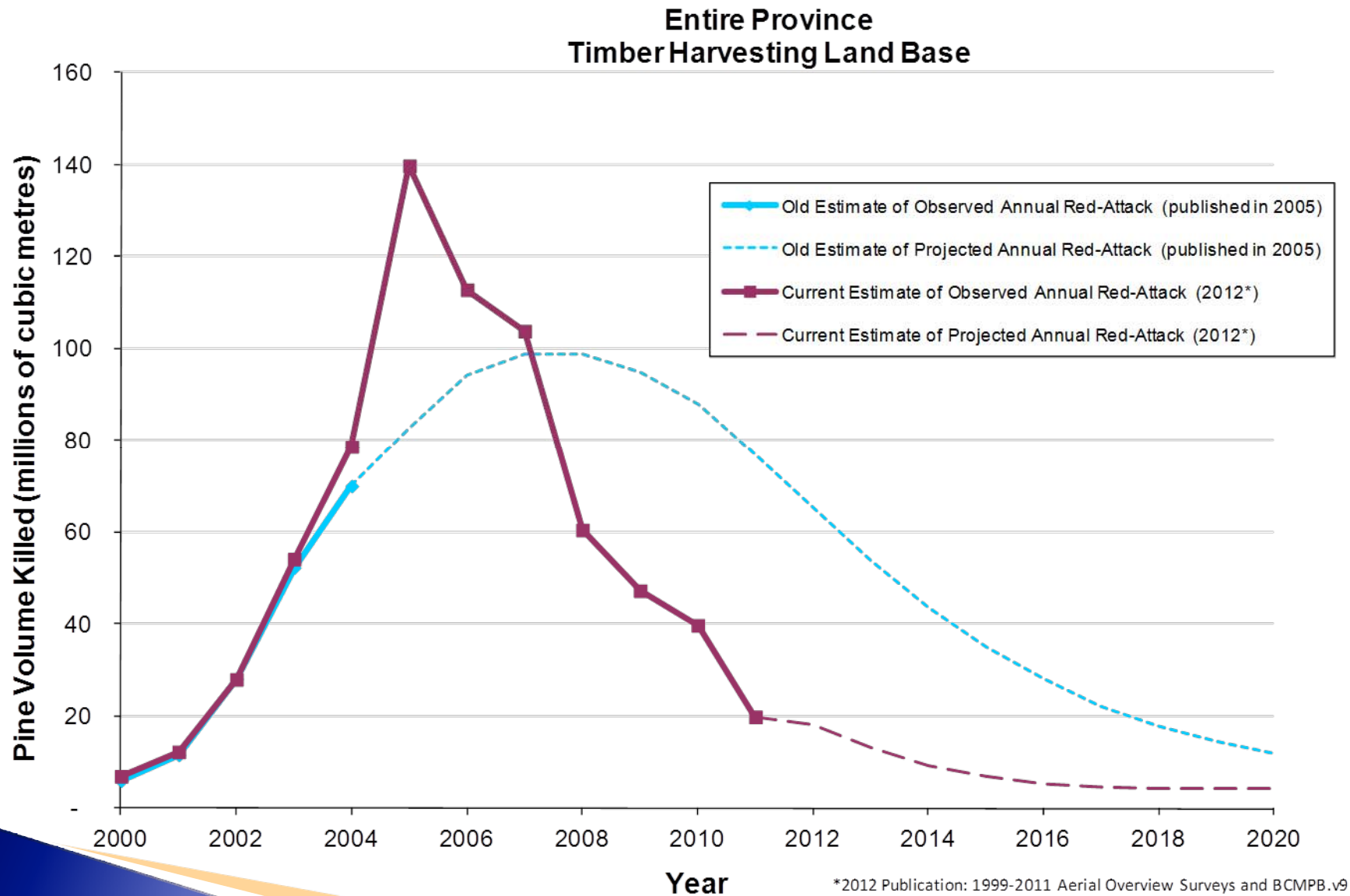
Cumulative Percentage of Merchantable Forest Volume Killed since 1999



Current Status and Projections

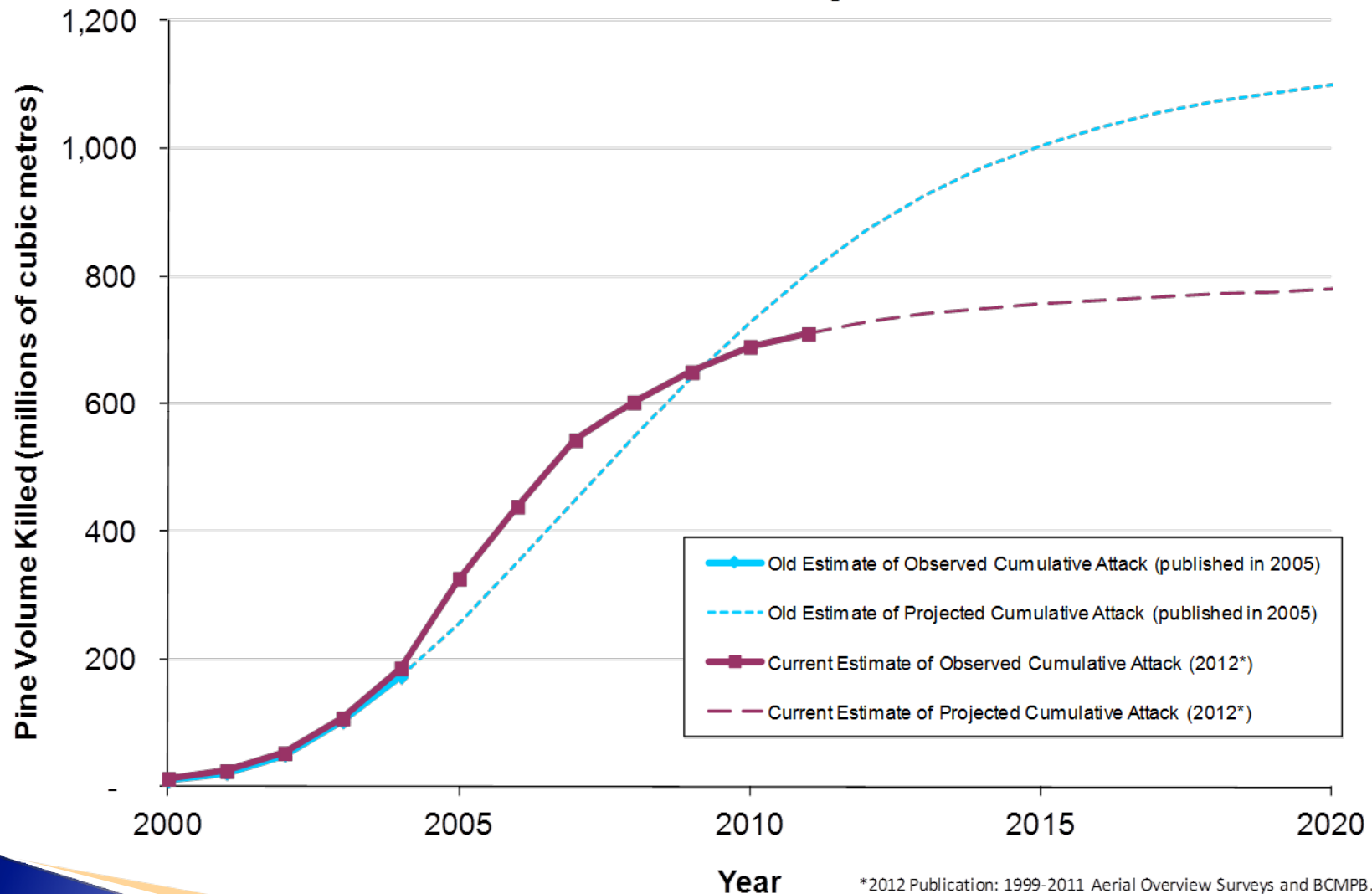
- 53% of merchantable pine now killed.
- Worst year of infestation was 2004
 - 140 million m³ killed that year alone (green-attack).
- Annual kill declined rapidly since then
 - Down to 20 million m³ in 2011 (red-attack).
- Projected to continue to decline
 - Less than 5 million m³ will be killed annually by 2015.

Projected and Observed Impacts



Projected and Observed Impacts

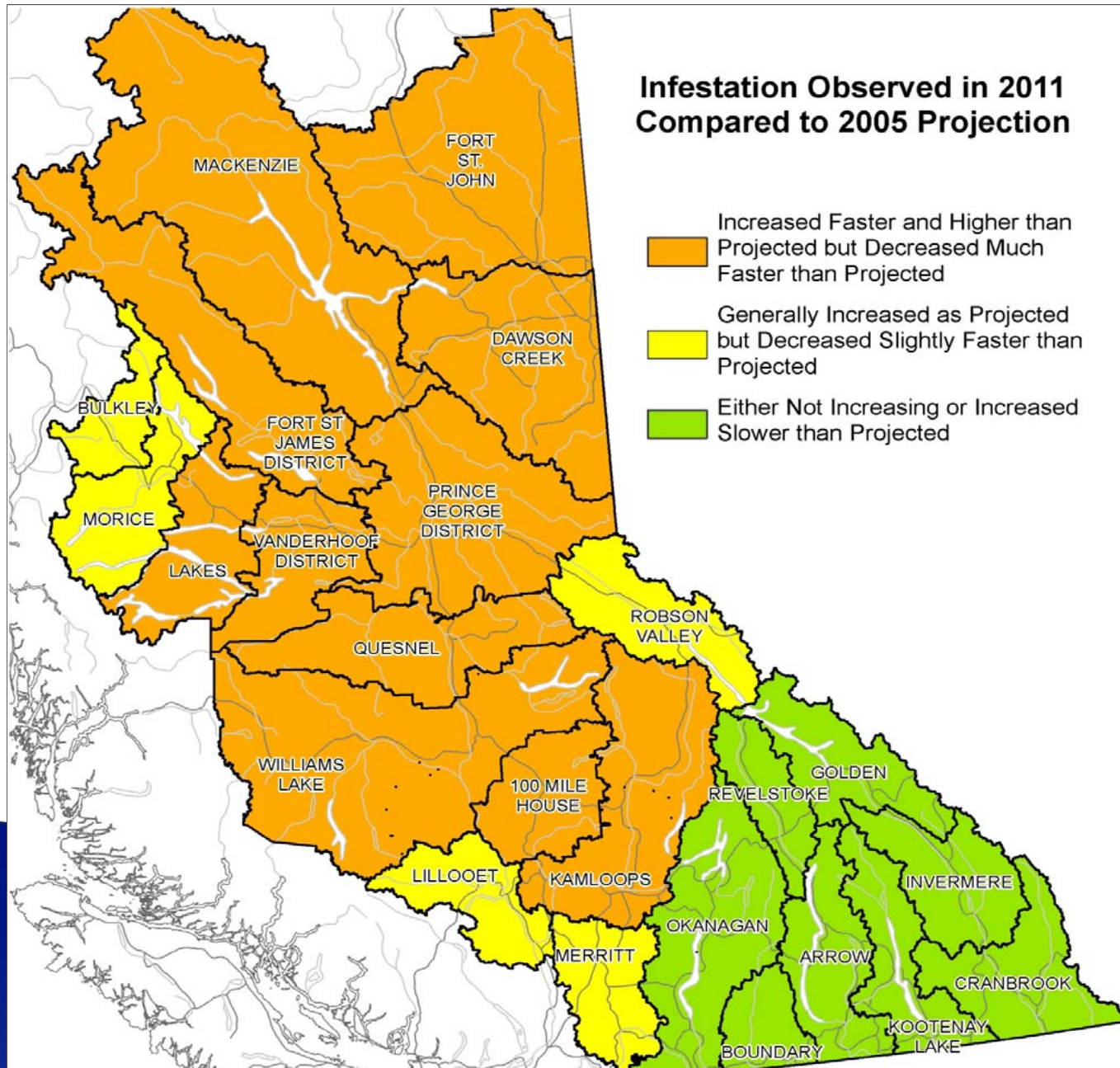
Entire Province Timber Harvesting Land Base



Projected and Observed Impacts

- **Outbreak behaviour for the 22 hardest hit timber supply areas can be divided into three distinct categories:**
 - 1. Increased faster and higher than projected but decreased much faster than projected.**
 - 2. Generally increased as projected but decreased slightly faster than projected.**
 - 3. Either not increasing or increased slower than projected.**

Infestation Observed in 2011 Compared to 2005 Projection

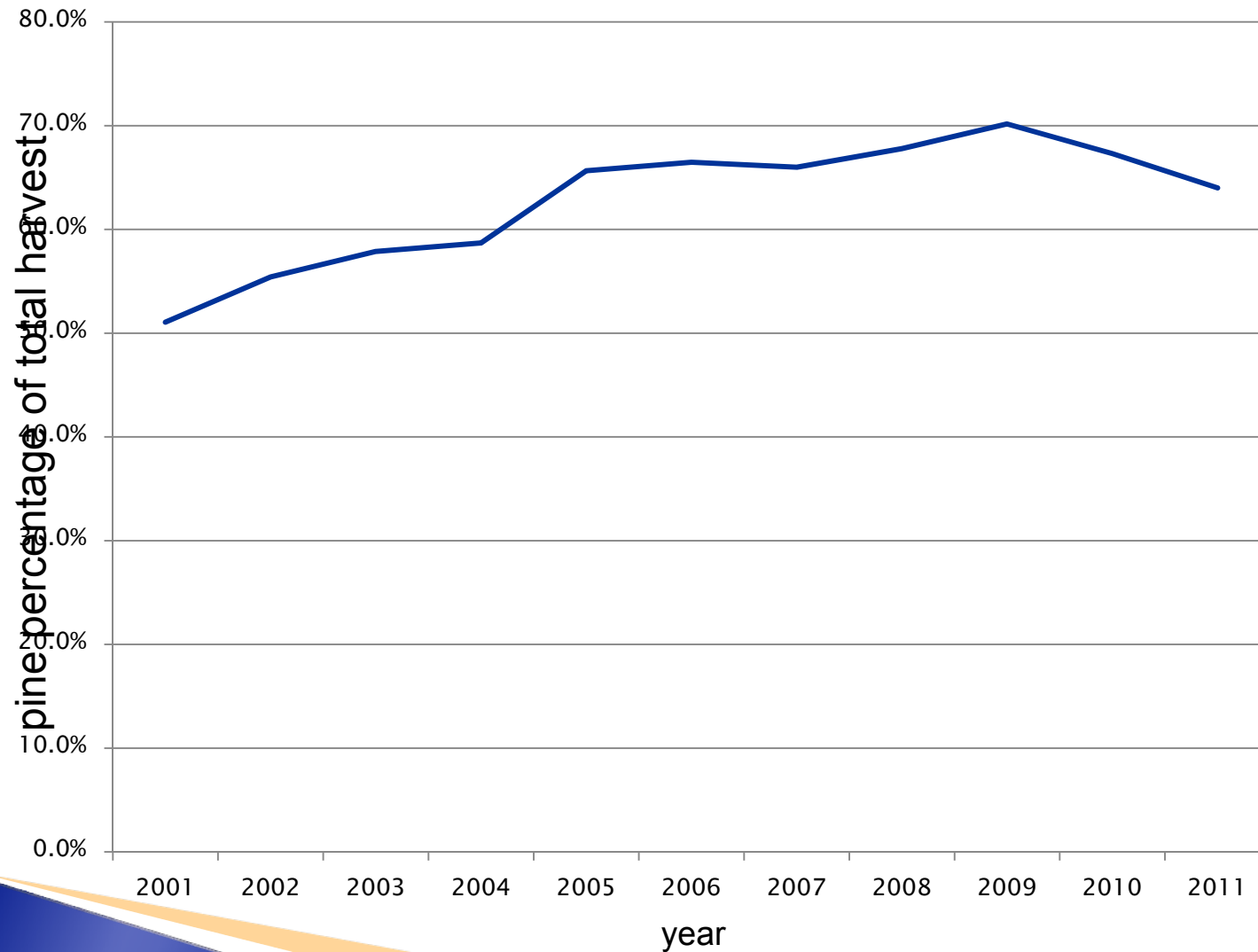


Recent AAC Determinations

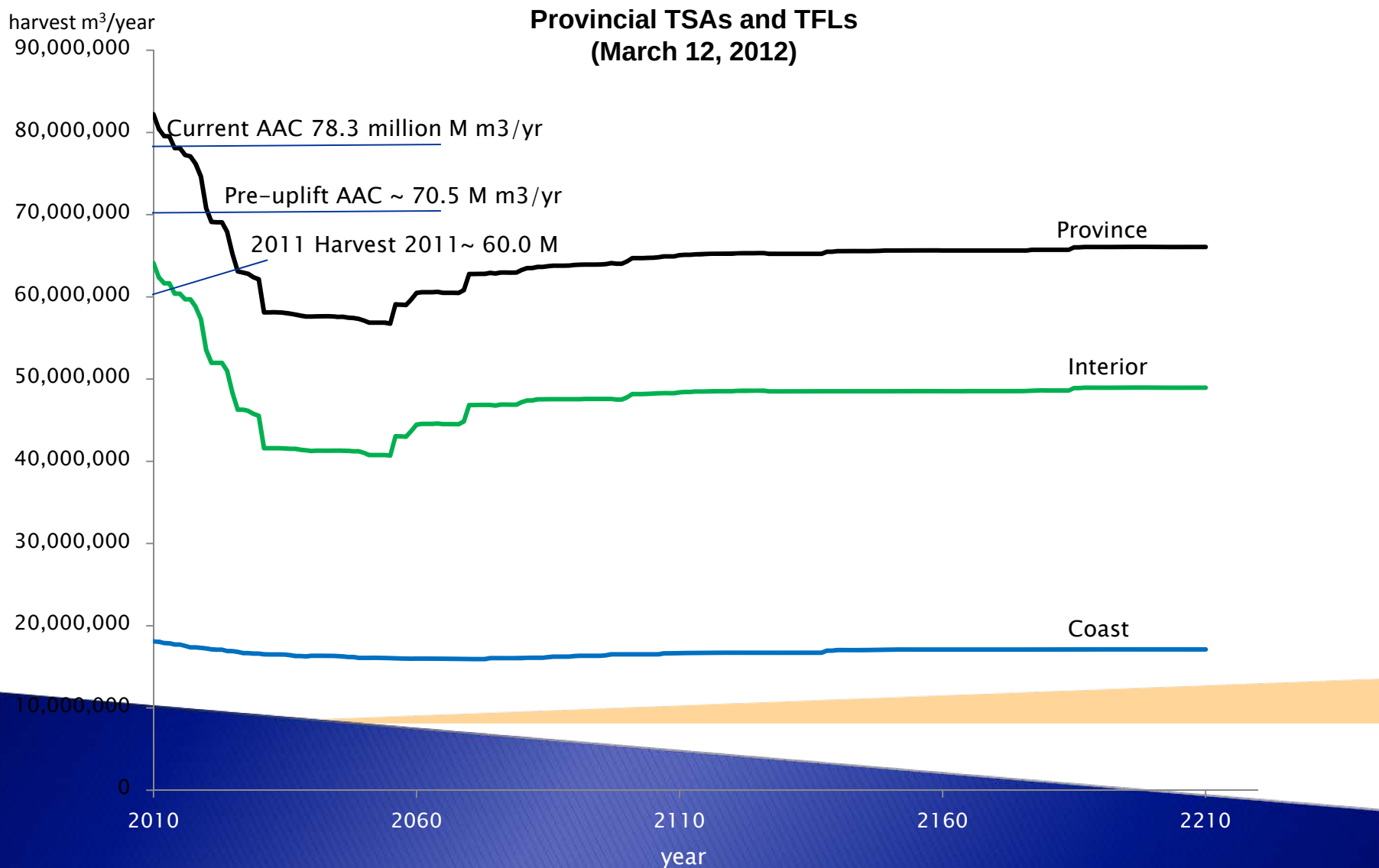
- Recent Beetle Unit AACs:
 - Prince George 2010 12.5 million m³ (16% decrease)
3.683 million non-pine
 - Quesnel 2010 4.0 million m³ (24% decrease)
0.650 million non-pine
 - Lakes 2011 2.0 million m³ (38% decrease)
0.350 million non-pine
- Upcoming Beetle Unit Determinations:
 - Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Mackenzie TSAs.

Recent AAC Determinations

Licensee Performance in Pine



Provincial Timber Supply Forecasts



Conclusions

- **It appears that the ultimate impact of the infestation will be less than initially forecast.**
- **The infestation has progressed differently relative to initial projections in different parts of the province.**
- **Ministry is actively seeking new opportunities to utilize dead pine stands and preserve mid-term timber supply.**
- **AACs have started to come down.**

Questions?

