

Thinning

(It was supposed to be easy)

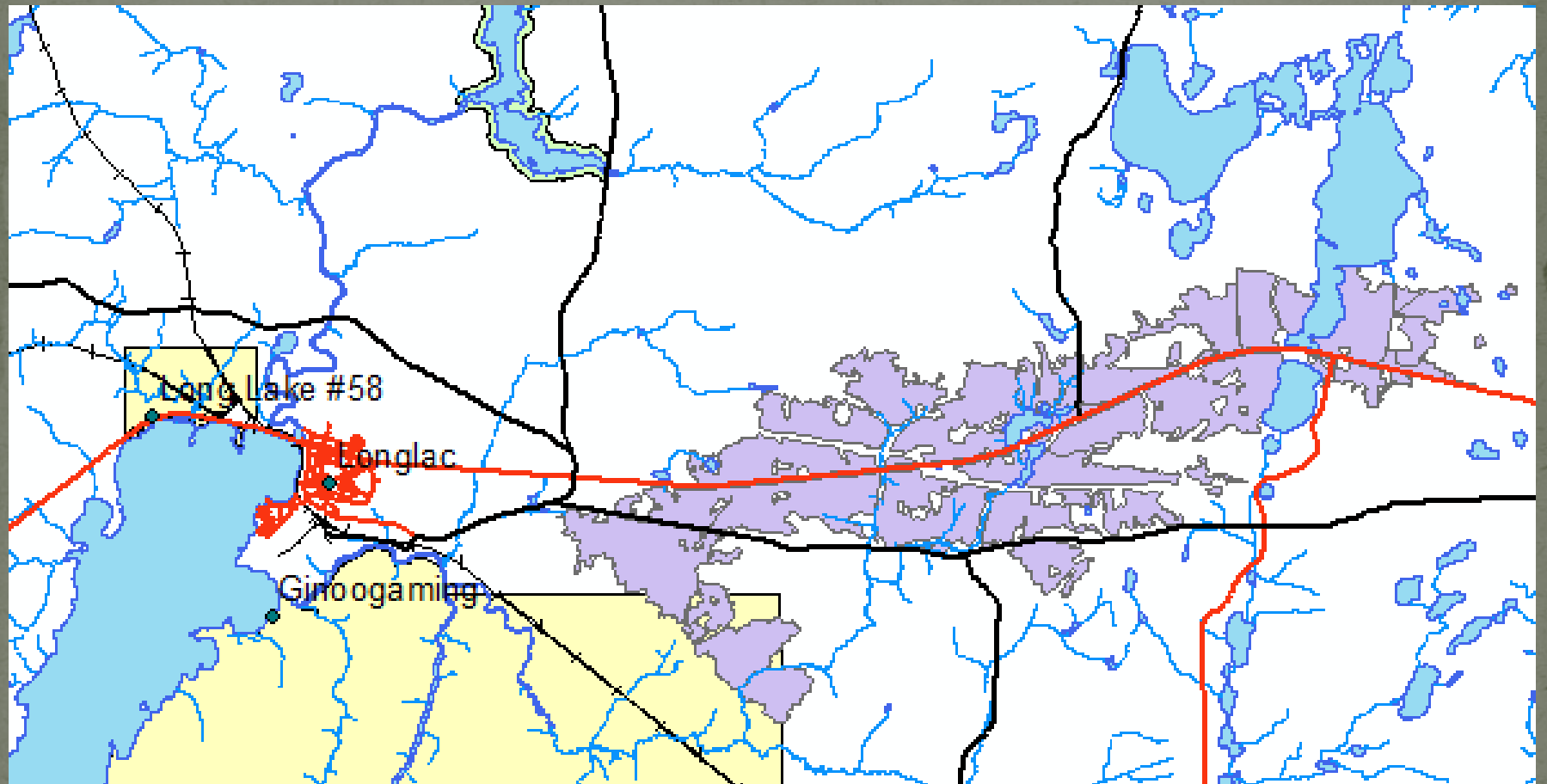
Forestry Futures Project 876-1-R38, Longlac
Wildfire

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The project

- Wildfire from 1995
- Started in wood waste dump 3.5 km from Longlac
- Perfect conditions
 - Dry
 - High winds
 - Week-end
- It ran, and ran, and then everyone ran
- Ended up at 2,471 ha (14 km x 3 km)



Why – almost 20 years later?

- Close to Longlac sawmill
- 50,000 stems/ha +
- Pj growth starting to slow
- Fairly productive sites
- Enthusiasm from local Communities
- So...Nedaak took it on

Initial Plan

- 850 ha in one year
- Modified to:
 - 850 ha over 2 years
 - 425 ha per year – seemed achievable
 - Could do it with smaller workforce
 - Longer employment opportunity

Best laid plans of Mice and Men (or women)

- Delay of 1 year
- Pricing higher than anticipated
 - Abundance of blow down
 - Number of stems





Year 1

- Partnership
- Trained locals plus experienced people
- Nedaak employees
- Training blocks – no issues
- Further along.....
 - Blowdown issue
 - Number of stems
 - Lots of complaints
- 155.1 ha completed



Year 1.5

- June 'retirement tour'
- Stopped at thinned area
 - No concrete ideas on how to proceed
 - Leader snapping
 - Machine
 - Leaving more stems
 - Snowshoes
 - Acknowledged tough area

Year 2

- Yes, we continued on
- Smaller area
- New partnership
- New people, some previous
- New ideas
 - Tried machine
 - Did not work – made more windrows
 - Turtle mode
 - Increased stems



- Then – snowshoes!



- Started in November
 - Issues with throttles freezing
 - Snow came, covered blowdown
 - Went to snowshoes
 - (yes, some were harmed)
 - Could maneuver over the blowdown
 - Just when too deep, thaw came
 - More snow, another thaw



End result

- 150 ha will be completed in year 2
- Total area thinned 305.1 ha
- Not close to the 850 ha
- Optimistic ?
- Encouraged?
 - No major snow damage, no major shock, looks good
- Do it again?



Questions?