

LiDAR Derived T2 Inventory for the Dog River-Matawin Forest

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| Plot level Model Validation | 4 |
| Stand level Model Validation | 4 |
| T2 Polygon updating | 5 |
| Objective | 6 |
| Study Site | 6 |
| Data | 6 |
| Airborne LIDAR data | 6 |
| LiDAR Model Calibration Data | 8 |
| Plot Compilation | 8 |
| Calibration Plot Spatial Positioning | 9 |
| Exclusion of Calibration Plots | 10 |
| LiDAR Data Processing | 10 |
| LiDAR Model Development..... | 11 |
| Gross Total Volume (GTV)..... | 11 |
| Gross Merchantable Volume (GMV) | 11 |
| LiDAR Model Results..... | 13 |
| Plot level Validation..... | 13 |
| LiDAR Prediction Raster Surface Adjustments | 19 |
| Stand Level Validation | 22 |
| Validation Sampling..... | 22 |
| Validation Results | 23 |
| T2 Inventory Updating | 24 |
| LiDAR Raster updating | 24 |
| Additional Attributes Calculated for T2 Inventory | 28 |
| Site Index..... | 29 |
| Stocking..... | 29 |
| Cull and Cull Fraction | 30 |
| Net Merchantable Volume..... | 32 |
| Constraint of T2 Inventory Updates | 32 |

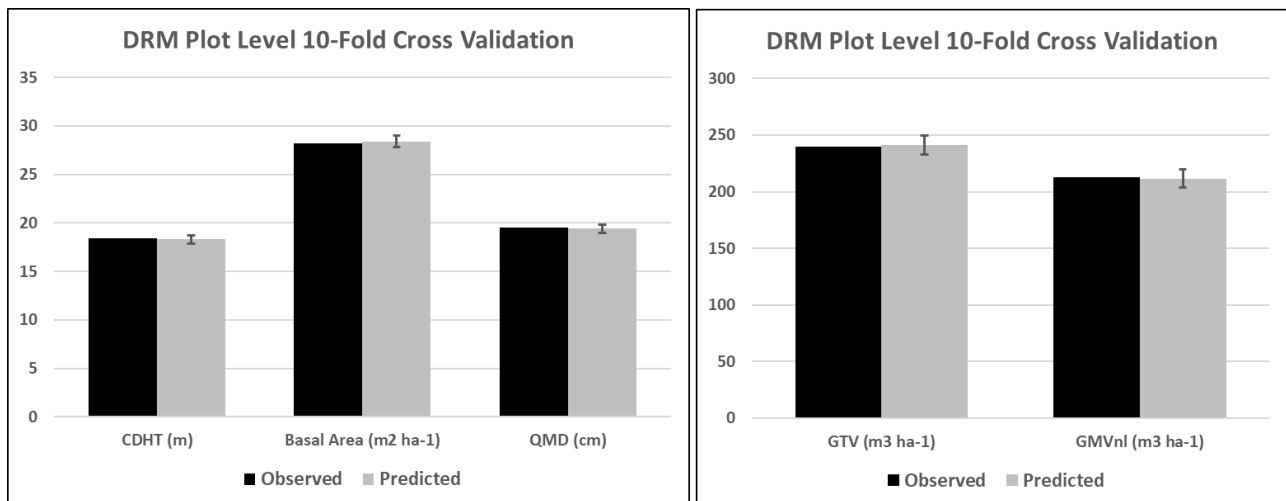
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|---|----|
| Discussion | 33 |
| Plot Level Model Validation (OOB and CV) | 33 |
| Stand/Block Level Model Validation..... | 34 |
| Challenges with aligning and summarizing vector data and raster data | 35 |
| Literature Cited | 38 |
| Appendix A: LiDAR predictors for DRM SPL–2018 | 41 |
| Appendix B – Requested Resolute Forest Products volume specifications for the DRM | 45 |
| DRM custom volumes log specifications | 45 |
| Appendix C – Plot level validation statistics by OOB and CV methods..... | 46 |
| Appendix D - Examples of LiDAR derived Raster Outputs | 48 |
| Appendix E – Site Index Curve Sources | 61 |
| Appendix F – Northwest Forest Unit SQL | 62 |

Executive Summary

Single Photon LiDAR (SPL) was acquired over the Dog River-Matawin (DRM) Forest during the summer of 2019 with small portions acquired in the summers of 2018 and 2020. A total of 238 LiDAR calibration plots (400m² – 11.28m radius) were established on the DRM and measured between August 2019 through to the onset of winter and completed by the end of June 2020. These plots were used to derive an inventory update (“T2”) based on LiDAR models for Height (Dominant/Codominant, Lorey, Top Height), Basal Area (BA), Volumes (Gross Total (GTV), Gross Merchantable (GMV_NL and GMV_WL)), Quadratic Mean Diameter (QMD), Total Above Ground Biomass (Biomass), Stems, and Basal Area and Gross Merchantable volume by four-size classes. Merchantable volume predictions used the provincial scaling specifications for upper diameter limits along with a 30cm stump height. An additional set of predicted volume rasters were produced for Resolute Forest Products range of varied mill requirements.

Plot level Model Validation

A 10-Fold Cross Validation (CV) of plot level (400m²) predictions were calculated as a measure of model performance. Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) of models for height varied from 8.4%, 6.6% for Dominant/Codominant and Top height respectively. BA had a 20.3% RMSE while volumes (GTV, GMV_NL, GMV_WL) had 21.8%, 26.3% and 27.3 % respectively. QMD reported an RMSE of 18% and Biomass 19.7%. Stems resulted in an RMSE of 34.8%. Examples of mean observed and model predictions (along with standard error) of inventory attributes from cross validation are provided below.



Stand level Model Validation

Additional validation of the LiDAR predictions for 9 cruised stands was conducted. A stand (or harvest block) represents the scale inventory estimates will be used to support management decisions. The majority of inventory attribute RMSE's declined at the stand level from that reported via CV at the plot scale by an average of 44%. Height attributes are not significantly impacted by scale. However, attributes such as ones expressed per area (i.e., volume) are. CDht RMSE for the validation stands was 7%. RMSE for BA, GTV, GMV, and Biomass were reduced to 11%, 11%, 18% and 10%. On the DRM Forest, the RMSE for QMD and Stems exceeded the RMSE reported at the plot scale (24% and 52% respectively) likely due to some of the validation stands having many small trees in the understorey while only trees greater than 7.0cm were measured on the calibration plots. Small trees were not in the

calibration data so the prediction models for QMD and STEMS are expected to be poor for conditions with a significant understory.

T2 Polygon updating

Raster (20 x 20m) surfaces of the LiDAR predictions were created for the forest polygons. Polygon layers were created from the raster surfaces using the T1 (OPI) polygon layer. The polygon attributes were calculated as the mean of the raster predictions within the polygon **where age \geq 20 years**. Stand level QMD calculated from polygon BA and Stems. These polygon-based estimates, were used in conjunction with T1 polygon age and species composition to calculate the following additional T2 inventory attributes:

- Site Index
- Stocking
- Cull Fraction
- Net Merchantable Volume (NMV).

Objective

The objective of this Forestry Futures Trust Knowledge, Transfer & Tool Development (KTTD) project is to develop open source (OS) software code for processing Ontario’s Single Photon (SPL) Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) and to produce a raster-based product suite and an update for a new T2 polygon Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) for the Dog River-Matawin (DRM) forest.

Study Site

The DRM Forest has a total area of 1,065,934 ha (of which 905,295 ha are managed crown land) (Figure 1) and is located on the boundary of the Boreal Forest Region and the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Forest Region and includes characteristics of each. There is a general species transition from north to south within the forest, with the northern portion being generally dominated by boreal coniferous species (e.g. Spruce and Jack Pine) and the southern portion is characterized by a higher component of hardwood species (e.g. Poplar and Birch), and Great Lakes - St. Lawrence conifer species such as Red and White Pine (DRM 2021-2031 FMP [Published Submission Detail \(gov.on.ca\)](#)). Figure 2 provides a detailed breakdown of the DRM by forest unit.

Data

Airborne LIDAR data

Single Photon LiDAR (SPL) was acquired over the DRM primarily during the summer of 2019. Small portions were also flown in the summers of 2018 and 2020. The SPL100 sensor was flown aboard a Piper-PA-31-350 at an average altitude of 3760m. More details of acquisition parameters are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 - LiDAR acquisition specifications for 2019-SPL mission

| Parameter | 2019 – SPL Description |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pulse repetition rate | 6000 KHz |
| Frequency | 21Hz |
| Scan Angle | +/- 15 Degrees |
| FOV | 30 Degrees |
| Swath Width | 2000m |

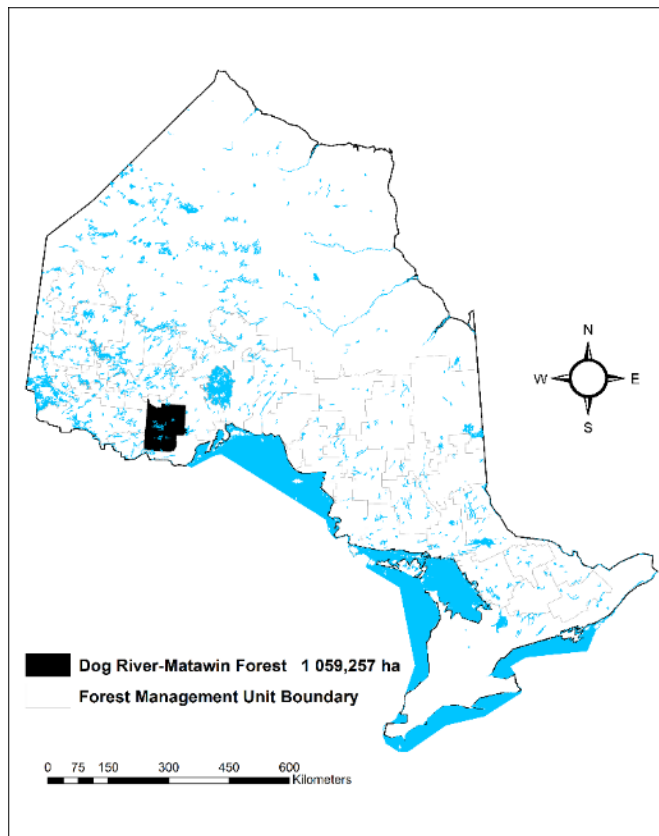


Figure 1 – Dog River-Matawin Forest Study Location

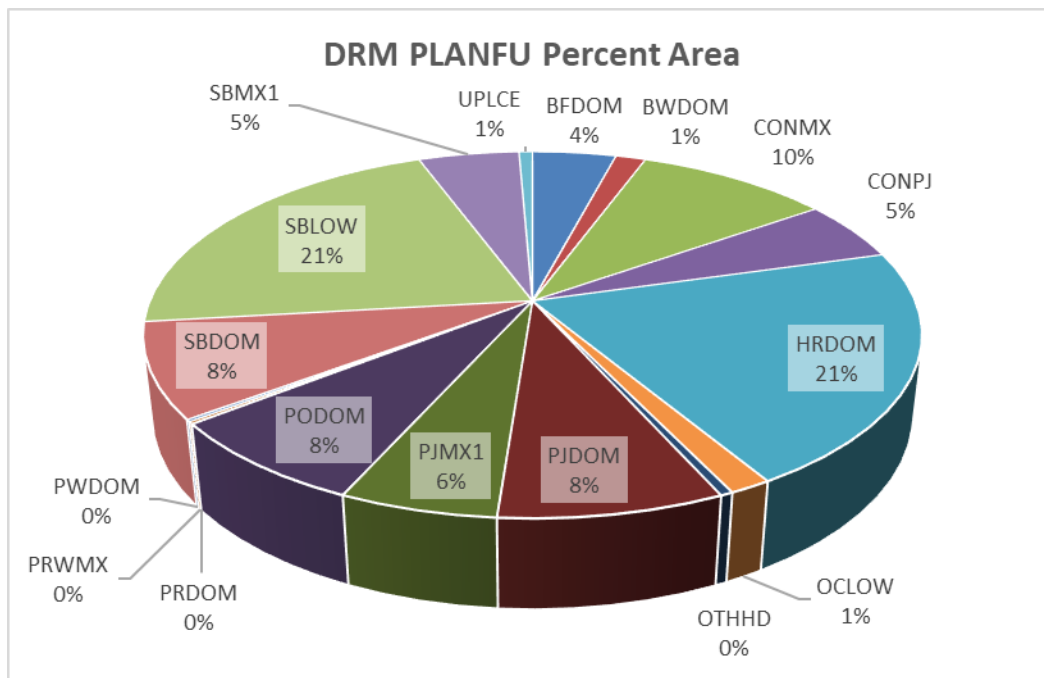


Figure 2 - Percent area by Plan Forest Unit for the DRM.

LiDAR Model Calibration Data

Calibration ground sample measurements followed the province of Ontario's Vegetation Sampling Network Protocol document (*Science and Research Technical Manual TM*). The Vegetation Sampling Network (VSN) protocol consists of 3 potential plot measurement methodologies. A modules provide a base set of attributes for all plots. They include a range of stand attributes, tree attributes, and site and substrate attributes. B modules add in protocols for stem mapping and crown delineations and for assessing a smaller tree and shrub subplot, both of which support LiDAR diagnostics and development. When applied to the permanent subset of VSN plots, the smaller tree and shrub subplot module also supports tracking recruitment and succession. C modules apply only to the permanent plot subset and add some focus on understory vegetation (understory vegetation subplot) and down woody debris, as well as tree deformities and evidence of wildlife use. The A plot measurement thresholds, common to all protocols, were used to include as many plots as possible in this project.

A total of 238 LiDAR calibration plots (400m² – 11.28m radius) were established and measured between August 2019 through to the onset of winter and completed by the end of June 2020 on the DRM forest. Calibration plots were selected using a “structurally guided” approach. LiDAR structure measurements for the population were used to determine the full range of structural conditions. Calibration plots were then selected to sample the range of conditions. Where possible, existing provincial permanent sample plots were incorporated into the sampling framework where they met required structural conditions. These plots become the link between ground attributes (i.e., heights, volumes, etc.) and the LiDAR point cloud.

Plot Compilation

For all live trees with DBH \geq 7.1cm (common minimum DBH threshold for all VSN plot types) species, origin, Dbh, height, vigour and crown class were recorded. On some plots ages were recorded for a sample of trees. For dead trees \geq 10cm (and > 2m), species, Dbh, height, vigour and decay class were recorded. Trees that had crowns leaning in or out of the plot were noted as were broken top trees.

Plots were summarized to per hectare values for all live trees \geq 7.1cm. Dead trees were also summarized for their informational value in explaining potential differences noted between modeling results and plot summaries. However, dead trees were not used to calibrate the LiDAR models.

An approved provincial standard set of inventory attributes were summarized for model prediction. In addition to these, staff managing the DRM requested some additional volume summarizations (based on destination mill requirements) of the calibration data and subsequent modeling products. Table 2

Table 2 lists the inventory attributes that were summarized for modeling (live trees with DBH \geq 7.1cm unless noted) on the DRM. Individual tree volumes were calculated using Zakrzewski and Penner (2014) taper models developed for Ontario. No height estimation was required for the DRM dataset as each tree had a measured height

Individual tree total above ground biomass was calculated by species using the equations published in Lambert et al. (2005). Individual species equations were used when available. When no species coefficients existed, broader “hardwood” or “softwood” model coefficients were used.

Table 2 - Inventory attributes summarized from calibration plots and predicted from LiDAR. Volume estimates came from Zakrzewski and Penner 1983. Biomass estimates came from Lambert et al. 2005.

| Inventory Attribute | Units | Description |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Stems | Stems ha ⁻¹ | Number of live trees |
| BA | m ² ha ⁻¹ | Basal Area |
| CDHt | m | Average CoDominant-Dominant height |
| LoreyHeight | m | Lorey Height. Mean height weighted by basal area |
| TopHt | m | Top Height defined as height of the 100 largest DBH trees per hectare (irrespective of species) |
| QMD | cm | Quadratic mean diameter |
| GTV | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Total Volume (includes stump and top) |
| GMV_NL | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Merchantable Volume with no minimum piece length requirement. Stump height 30cm and upper diameter as per Ontario Scaling Manual (Table 3) |
| GMV_WL | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Merchantable Volume in 2.54 m log lengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stump height 30cm and upper diameter as per Ontario Scaling Manual (Table 3) |
| BA_SmP [9 < Dbh ≤ 16 cm] | m ² ha ⁻¹ | Basal Area for the Small Pole size class. |
| BA_LgP [16 < Dbh ≤ 25 cm] | m ² ha ⁻¹ | Basal Area for the Large Pole size class. |
| BA_SmS [25 < Dbh ≤ 37 cm] | m ² ha ⁻¹ | Basal Area for the Small Sawlog size class. |
| BA_LgS [Dbh > 37 cm] | m ² ha ⁻¹ | Basal Area for the Large Sawlog size class. |
| GMV_SmP [9 < Dbh ≤ 16 cm] | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Merchantable Volume (_NL) with no minimum piece length requirement for the Small Pole size class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stump height 30cm and upper diameter as per Ontario Scaling Manual (Table 3) |
| GMV_LgP [16 < Dbh ≤ 25 cm] | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Merchantable Volume (_NL) with no minimum piece length requirement for the Large Pole size class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stump height 30cm and upper diameter as per Ontario Scaling Manual (Table 3) |
| GMV_SmS [25 < Dbh ≤ 37 cm] | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Merchantable Volume (_NL) with no minimum piece length requirement for the Small Sawlog size class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stump height 30cm and upper diameter as per Ontario Scaling Manual (Table 3) |
| GMV_LgS [Dbh > 37 cm] | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross Merchantable Volume (_NL) with no minimum piece length requirement for the Large Sawlog size class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stump height 30cm and upper diameter as per Ontario Scaling Manual (Table 3) |
| Biomass | Tonnes ha ⁻¹ | Total above ground biomass (wood + bark + branches + foliage) |
| GMV_TL_IGN_TBY (TLIGNTB) | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Tree Length Gross merchantable volume to Resolute Forest Products specifications for their Ignace & Thunder Bay mills (Appendix B) |
| GMV_CTL_ATK (CTL_ATK) | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Cut To Length Gross merchantable volume to Resolute Forest Products specifications for their Atikokan mill (Appendix B) |
| GMV_CTL_IGN_TBY (CTLIGNTB) | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Cut To Length Gross merchantable volume to Resolute Forest Products specifications for their Ignace & Thunder Bay mills (Appendix B) |
| GMV_Norbord_Hwd (Nbs_Hwd) | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross merchantable volume to Resolute Forest Products specifications for the Norbord Hardwood mill (Appendix B) |
| GMV_Kenora_Hwd (Ken_Hwd) | m ³ ha ⁻¹ | Gross merchantable volume to Resolute Forest Products specifications for the Kenora Hardwood mill (Appendix B) |

Table 3 - Minimum upper diameter limits for merchantable volume calculation by species group

| Species | Minimum Diameter Outside Bark (DOB) |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Hardwoods (except poplar/white birch) | 18cm class, 17.1 cm |
| Conifers (except White and Red Pine, Hemlock) | 10cm class, 9.1 cm |
| White & Red Pine Hemlock | 14cm class, 13.1 cm |
| Poplar, White Birch | 14cm class, 13.1 cm |

Source: OMNRF. 2020. Scaling Manual, Toronto. Queen's Printer for Ontario. 169 pp ISBN:978-1-4868-4495-1

Calibration Plot Spatial Positioning

All plots were spatially located with a survey grade GNSS system. Data was post-processed to meet required sub-metre positional requirements.

Exclusion of Calibration Plots

As noted earlier, LiDAR was acquired for the bulk of the DRM forest during the summer of 2019 and plot measurements were initiated in August 2019 through to the onset of winter and completed by the end of June 2020. The intent of the calibration plots is to capture vegetation conditions that match the LiDAR measurements. However, a range of natural and anthropogenic activities on the DRM occurred during the one-year period between acquisition and plot establishment/measurement and as a result some plots were excluded from the analysis. Table 4 identifies the 6 plots excluded from the calibration of the LiDAR and their reason for removal. A total of 232 calibration plots remained to produce the LiDAR inventory. Further filtering of calibration plots for model construction is discussed later.

Table 4 - DRM calibration plots excluded from analysis

| Plot Number | Reason for Exclusion |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| VSN177007 | Only Dead trees \geq 7.1cm |
| VSN177009 | Only Dead trees \geq 7.1cm |
| VSN177010 | Only Dead trees \geq 7.1cm |
| VSN177017 | No Live trees \geq 7.1cm |
| VSN177024 | No Live trees \geq 7.1cm |
| VSN177198 | No Live trees \geq 7.1cm |

A summary of the calibration plots by Northwest standard Forest Units (FUs) (Assignment SQL provided in Appendix F) is provided in Table 5. Of note is the number of calibration plots per FU. Some conditions seem under sampled while others appear oversampled. This disparity in sample size by FU is a function of the structural sampling approach adopted by the province of Ontario. Forest conditions with a wide range of vertical structures (i.e., mixedwoods) were sampled more than more “simple” structures often found in conditions like pure black spruce stands, or plantations.

LiDAR Data Processing

Raw classified LiDAR LAS datasets were provided to the province by the vendor. Standard American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) classification coding standards were used by the vendor. Classification codes (2) ground , (3) low vegetation , (4) medium vegetation and (5) high vegetation return data only were processed. LAStools (LAStools, 2021) was used to “normalize” the LiDAR returns to the terrain (converting “z” height from elevation to height above ground. An additional script was implemented to compress the LAS formatted files to a space efficient LAZ format.

A modeling predictor set on a 20m x 20m grid was created for the 2018 LiDAR data set using the lidR (Roussel and Auty 2020, Roussel et al. 2020) software package in R (R development Core Team 2020). A total of 112 potential LiDAR predictors were derived from structural statistical queries of all-return, normalized point cloud data. Following testing of predictive model performance from thresholding the returns at 0 m and 2.0 m, a decision was made to use all returns greater than 0 m for modeling inventory attributes on the DRM. This choice of threshold was also documented in other studies in Ontario (White *et al.* 2021, Woods *et al.* 2011). Data “z” spikes were removed by dropping any returns >

48m. A complete list and description of the LiDAR predictors created is provided in Appendix A. Predictors that were selected for predictive models are also indicated.

LiDAR Model Development

A non-parametric Random Forest model (Liaw and Wiener 2002) solution via the statistical package R (R development Core Team 2020) was used for the prediction of inventory attributes. All model predictions were made at the plot scale and at a 20 m raster cell (matching the 400 m² plot size) with the model mtry parameter set to the default (number of predictors/3) and the parameter ntree (number of trees to construct) set to 1000. Only calibration plots with $zq99 > 5\text{m}$ were used in the prediction of stand level metrics to better align with the calibration plot minimum DBH of 7.1 cm. This filter resulted in the dropping of an additional 11 calibration plots from the modeling but ensured that only plots with predominantly merchantable sized trees were utilized in the models and the predictions made at the landscape level. In the prediction of merchantable volume attributes, calibration plots with $Zq99 > 9\text{m}$ were used as plots with $Zq99 \leq 9\text{m}$ had little or no merchantable volume.

LiDAR predictions for each attribute were made independently. In most cases (e.g., DomCodom height, Top Height, Lorey Height) this works well. However, to ensure some logic and biological consistency in predictions, some attributes were predicted as a fraction of other attributes. An example of such an attribute is gross merchantable volume (GMV). Actual GMV is never larger than gross total volume (GTV). To constrain the prediction of GMV, the fraction of GMV/GTV was predicted. Different constraining approaches were tested and the rationale for the method chosen for the various volume predictions is described below.

Gross Total Volume (GTV)

Rather than predicting GTV directly, it was predicted as a function of basal area (BA) and the volume to basal area ratio (vbar). Both options were tested and resulted in very similar RMSEs and biases. The vbar option to estimate GTV was chosen as it may help preserve a bit of the relationship between BA and GTV by ensuring the predicted vbar is always within the range observed in the calibration data.

1. BA is predicted directly.
2. $vbar_GTV = GTV/BA$ is predicted directly.
3. GTV is calculated as predicted BA x predicted vbar_GTV

Gross Merchantable Volume (GMV)

All merchantable volumes are constrained to be less than or equal to the predicted GTV. This is accomplished through predicting the ratio GMV/GTV.

1. Predict GTV using as above
2. Predict ratio $GMV = GMV/GTV$ directly
3. Calculate GMV as $GTV \times \text{ratio GMV}$

This is mathematically equivalent to constraining the $vbar_GMV$ to be less than or equal to $vbar_GTV$.

Table 5 – Statistics – Mean (range) of calibration plots by standard NW Forest Units on the DRM used for LiDAR modeling

| NW-Forest Unit | No Plots | Breast Height Age (yrs) ¹ | TopHt (m) | CDHT (m) | Lorey Ht (m) | Stems (ha) | Basal Area (m ² ha ⁻¹) | QMD (cm) | GTV (m ³ ha ⁻¹) | GMV_NL (m ³ ha ⁻¹) | GMV_WL (m ³ ha ⁻¹) | Biomass (Tonnes ha ⁻¹) |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| BfMx1 | 14 | 52 (N=6) (37 - 79) | 17.1 (12 - 22.6) | 15.7 (11.5 - 20.3) | 15.3 (11.2 - 18.6) | 1529 (775 - 2600) | 30.3 (18.4 - 49.1) | 16.5 (12.7 - 19.5) | 200 (112 - 315) | 160 (84 - 259) | 148 (73 - 241) | 117 (69 - 179) |
| BfPur | 4 | 38 (N=3) (18 - 67) | 13.4 (8.1 - 18.9) | 12.6 (7.3 - 18.6) | 12.6 (7.7 - 16.6) | 781 (150 - 1800) | 13 (1.4 - 19.6) | 15.3 (9.4 - 21.2) | 75 (6 - 125) | 57 (3 - 111) | 54 (3 - 106) | 51 (4 - 84) |
| BwDee | 13 | 62 (N=13) (16 - 114) | 19.8 (6.8 - 27.6) | 18.5 (6.8 - 26.7) | 18.1 (6.9 - 26.4) | 865 (25 - 1975) | 24.1 (0.5 - 34.8) | 19.6 (7.9 - 29) | 204 (1 - 380) | 156 (0 - 341) | 146 (0 - 331) | 135 (1 - 241) |
| ConMx | 25 | 63 (N=18) (15 - 111) | 18.8 (6.4 - 28.2) | 16.8 (6.4 - 27) | 16.7 (6.3 - 25.4) | 1374 (75 - 3800) | 27.3 (2.4 - 39.1) | 17.6 (9 - 34.8) | 205 (10 - 451) | 160 (1 - 419) | 150 (1 - 407) | 120 (8 - 230) |
| HrdMx | 8 | 65 (N=8) (47 - 84) | 20.1 (5.9 - 27) | 18.8 (5.9 - 24.9) | 17.5 (6.1 - 23.6) | 1009 (75 - 1825) | 26.7 (0.5 - 41.5) | 18.7 (9 - 29) | 229 (1 - 400) | 188 (0 - 372) | 177 (0 - 361) | 129 (2 - 216) |
| HrDom | 14 | 66 (N=11) (41 - 107) | 22.2 (17.1 - 29.2) | 19.6 (15.3 - 26.2) | 19.2 (14.5 - 24.7) | 1118 (175 - 2075) | 27.7 (6.9 - 38.2) | 18.7 (13.7 - 24.3) | 243 (63 - 427) | 186 (57 - 378) | 175 (55 - 367) | 139 (35 - 233) |
| OCLow | 2 | 54 (N=1) (54 - 54) | 9.8 (5.6 - 13.9) | 7.7 (5.6 - 9.8) | 7.9 (5.6 - 10.1) | 1350 (25 - 2675) | 21.6 (0.1 - 43.2) | 10.8 (7.3 - 14.3) | 100 (0 - 199) | 75 (0 - 150) | 69 (0 - 138) | 56 (0 - 112) |
| OthHd | 3 | 71 (N=2) (68 - 75) | 18.6 (16.6 - 21.2) | 15.7 (14.4 - 18.1) | 16 (14.8 - 17.1) | 892 (450 - 1125) | 27.4 (17 - 43.9) | 20 (15.7 - 22.3) | 181 (119 - 271) | 135 (97 - 199) | 122 (90 - 177) | 123 (77 - 191) |
| PjDee | 39 | 46 (N=24) (9 - 113) | 15.7 (4.9 - 25.7) | 14.8 (4.7 - 24.7) | 14.4 (4.8 - 24.2) | 1376 (125 - 3250) | 25.8 (0.8 - 43.2) | 16 (8.2 - 28.5) | 188 (1 - 420) | 156 (0 - 395) | 146 (0 - 386) | 106 (1 - 221) |
| PjMx2 | 8 | 33 (N=3) (17 - 49) | 17.9 (4 - 23.7) | 16.4 (4.1 - 21.3) | 15.6 (3.8 - 20.4) | 1291 (175 - 2550) | 29.5 (1 - 41.7) | 16.8 (8.5 - 22.9) | 233 (2 - 377) | 200 (0 - 340) | 190 (0 - 328) | 130 (3 - 200) |
| PoDee | 60 | 72 (N=49) (30 - 110) | 25 (17 - 33.6) | 23.8 (14.9 - 31.5) | 23 (14.3 - 29.3) | 831 (50 - 3400) | 32.1 (5.7 - 63.8) | 25.3 (11.8 - 43.1) | 345 (62 - 775) | 297 (59 - 742) | 286 (51 - 730) | 182 (33 - 403) |
| PrDom | 1 | NA | 20.4 (20.4 - 20.4) | 19 (19 - 19) | 18.8 (18.8 - 18.8) | 1750 (1750 - 1750) | 47.9 (47.9 - 47.9) | 18.7 (18.7 - 18.7) | 426 (426 - 426) | 338 (338 - 338) | 321 (321 - 321) | 209 (209 - 209) |
| PwDom | 3 | 98 (N=2) (91 - 106) | 26.4 (20.9 - 29.3) | 27.3 (27 - 27.5) | 25.9 (24 - 27.7) | 525 (300 - 700) | 47.2 (47.2 - 47.4) | 35.5 (29.3 - 44.9) | 517 (505 - 531) | 487 (477 - 502) | 479 (464 - 495) | 264 (260 - 270) |
| SbDee | 13 | 40 (N=13) (11 - 83) | 13.3 (6.4 - 24.4) | 12 (6 - 24) | 11.6 (6.1 - 21.5) | 1602 (575 - 2750) | 22.1 (3.9 - 35.6) | 13.3 (8.9 - 23.2) | 128 (12 - 237) | 92 (0 - 208) | 83 (0 - 202) | 83 (12 - 143) |
| SbLow | 15 | 63 (N=10) (13 - 130) | 12.1 (5.8 - 19.8) | 10.3 (5.6 - 19.1) | 10.6 (5.7 - 17.8) | 850 (25 - 2550) | 9.8 (0.2 - 28.1) | 11.9 (9 - 19.8) | 58 (0 - 223) | 39 (0 - 193) | 35 (0 - 180) | 37 (0 - 124) |
| SbMx1 | 10 | 52 (N=8) (34 - 81) | 16.9 (8.1 - 22.9) | 15.7 (9.7 - 20.5) | 15 (9.2 - 19.6) | 1188 (75 - 2125) | 26.8 (1.1 - 43.1) | 17.1 (13.6 - 23.2) | 182 (4 - 304) | 152 (3 - 249) | 143 (3 - 240) | 109 (3 - 177) |
| All | 232 | 60 (N=171) (9 - 130) | 19.2 (4 - 33.6) | 17.8 (4.1 - 31.5) | 17.3 (3.8 - 29.3) | 1129 (25 - 3800) | 27 (0.1 - 63.8) | 19 (7.3 - 44.9) | 229 (0 - 775) | 189 (0 - 742) | 179 (0 - 730) | 129 (0 - 403) |

¹ Breast height age is the average breast height age of dominant/codominant trees with measured ages. Trees were not measured for age on all plots and the sample sizes for age are less than the number of plots.

$$ratio_{GMV} = \frac{GMV}{GTV} = \frac{vbar_{GMV}}{vbar_{GTV}} = \frac{GMV/BA}{GTV/BA}$$

All merchantable volumes (GMV_NL, GMV_WL and GMV_SFL²) were constrained against GTV. Merchantable volumes (i.e., GMV_NL and GMV_WL) were not constrained to be greater or equal to each other.

Table 6 indicates which attributes were predicted directly from the statistical predictor summaries of the raw LiDAR point cloud.

Table 7 indicates which inventory attributes are calculated as a fraction of another one to help ensure logical predictions.

Size class estimates of merchantable volume and basal area were constrained to always sum to either predicted GMV_NL or Basal Area. To ensure this was the case, size class attributes were modeled as a fraction (refer to

Table 7 size class metrics and their method of calculation).

Table 6 Inventory attributes predicted directly from the point cloud predictors.

| Inventory Attribute |
|---------------------|
| TopHt |
| CDHt |
| LoreyHeight |
| BasalArea |
| QMD |
| Biomass |

LiDAR Model Results

Species/forest type and age were not used in the modeling. All LiDAR predictions are based on the LiDAR structure statistics and the field plot measurement summaries only³. Figure 3 illustrates the observed

² GMV_SFL refers to the additional summaries for Resolute specific volumes GMV_TL_IGN_TBY , GMV_CTL_ATK, GMV_CTL_IGN_TBY, GMV_Norbord_Hwd and GMV_Kenora_Hwd

³ The field measurement summaries include species composition and age. However, they were not used in modeling.

versus the predicted estimate for each LiDAR model. The diagonal dashed line indicates a perfect match between the measured plot summary and the prediction.

Plot level Validation

All calibration plots available were used in model training and prediction. As a result, no independent plots were available to test model prediction error with. Two methods, “Out of Bag” (OOB) and “Cross

Table 7 - Description of inventory attributes and their calculations predicted indirectly. All attributes are summarized from > 7cm unless noted (P_ = Predicted)

| Inventory Attribute | Calculation |
|---|--|
| Stems | $\text{Stems} = (\text{P_BasalArea} / \text{P_QMD}^2) / 0.00007854$ |
| GTV | $\text{GTV} = \text{P_BasalArea} * \text{P_VBAR_GTV}$ |
| GMV_NL | $\text{GMV_NL} = \text{P_GTV} * \text{P_GMV_NL_ratio}$ |
| GMV_WL | $\text{GMV_WL} = \text{P_GTV} * \text{P_GMV_WL_ratio}$ |
| BA_SmPoles [9 < Dbh ≤ 16 cm] | $\text{BA_SmPoles_frac} = \text{BA_SmPoles} / \text{BasalArea} (>9\text{cm})$ $\text{BA_SmPoles} = (\text{P_BasalArea} (>9\text{cm}) * \text{P_BA_SmPoles_frac})$ |
| BA_LgPoles [16 < Dbh ≤ 25 cm] | $\text{BA_LgPoles_frac} = \text{BA_LgPoles} / (\text{BasalArea} (>9\text{cm}) - \text{BA_SmPoles})$ $\text{BA_LgPoles} = \text{P_BA_LgPoles_frac} * ((\text{P_BasalArea} (>9\text{cm}) - \text{P_BA_SmPoles}))$ |
| BA_SmSaw [25 < Dbh ≤ 37 cm] | $\text{BA_SmSaw_frac} = \text{BA_SmSaw} / (\text{BasalArea} (>9\text{cm}) - \text{BA_SmPoles} - \text{BA_LgPoles})$ $\text{BA_SmSaw} = \text{P_BA_SmSaw_frac} * (\text{P_BasalArea} (>9\text{cm}) - \text{P_BA_SmPoles} - \text{P_BA_LgPoles})$ |
| BA_LgSaw [Dbh > 37 cm] | $\text{BA_LgSaw} = ((\text{P_BasalArea} (>9\text{cm}) - \text{P_BA_SmPoles} - \text{P_BA_LgPoles} - \text{P_BA_SmSaw}))$ |
| GMV_NL_SmPoles [9 < Dbh ≤ 16 cm] | $\text{GMV_NL_SmPoles_frac} = \text{GMV_NL_smPoles} / \text{GMV_NL}$ $\text{GMV_NL_SmPoles} = (\text{P_GMV_NL} * \text{P_GMV_NL_smPoles_frac})$ |
| GMV_NL_LgPoles [16 < Dbh ≤ 25 cm] | $\text{GMV_NL_LgPoles_frac} = \text{GMV_NL_LgPoles} / (\text{GMV_NL} - \text{GMV_NL_SmPoles})$ $\text{GMV_NL_LgPoles} = \text{P_GMV_NL_LgPoles_frac} * (\text{P_GMV_NL} - \text{P_GMV_NL_SmPoles})$ |
| GMV_NL_SmSaw [25 < Dbh ≤ 37 cm] | $\text{GMV_NL_SmSaw_frac} = \text{GMV_NL_SmSaw} / (\text{GMV_NL} - \text{GMV_NL_SmPoles} - \text{GMV_NL_LgPoles})$ $\text{GMV_NL_SmSaw} = \text{P_GMV_NL_SmSaw_frac} * (\text{P_GMV_NL} - \text{P_GMV_NL_SmPoles} - \text{P_GMV_NL_LgPoles})$ |
| GMV_NL_LgSaw [Dbh > 37 cm] | $\text{GMV_NL_LgSaw} = (\text{P_GMV_NL} - \text{P_GMV_NL_SmPoles} - \text{P_GMV_NL_LgPoles} - \text{P_GMV_NL_SmSaw})$ |
| GMV_TL_IGN_TBY | $\text{GMV_TL_IGN_TBY} = \text{TL_IGN_TBY_ratio} * \text{P_GTV}$ |
| GMV_CTL_ATK | $\text{GMV_CTL_ATK} = \text{CTL_ATK_ratio} * \text{P_GTV}$ |
| GMV_CTL_IGN_TBY | $\text{GMV_CTL_IGN_TBY} = \text{CTL_IGN_TBY_ratio} * \text{P_GTV}$ |
| GMV_Norbord_Hwd | $\text{GMV_Norbord_Hwd} = \text{Norbord_Hwd_ratio} * \text{P_GTV}$ |
| GMV_Kenora_Hwd | $\text{GMV_Kenora_Hwd} = \text{Kenora_Hwd_ratio} * \text{P_GTV}$ |

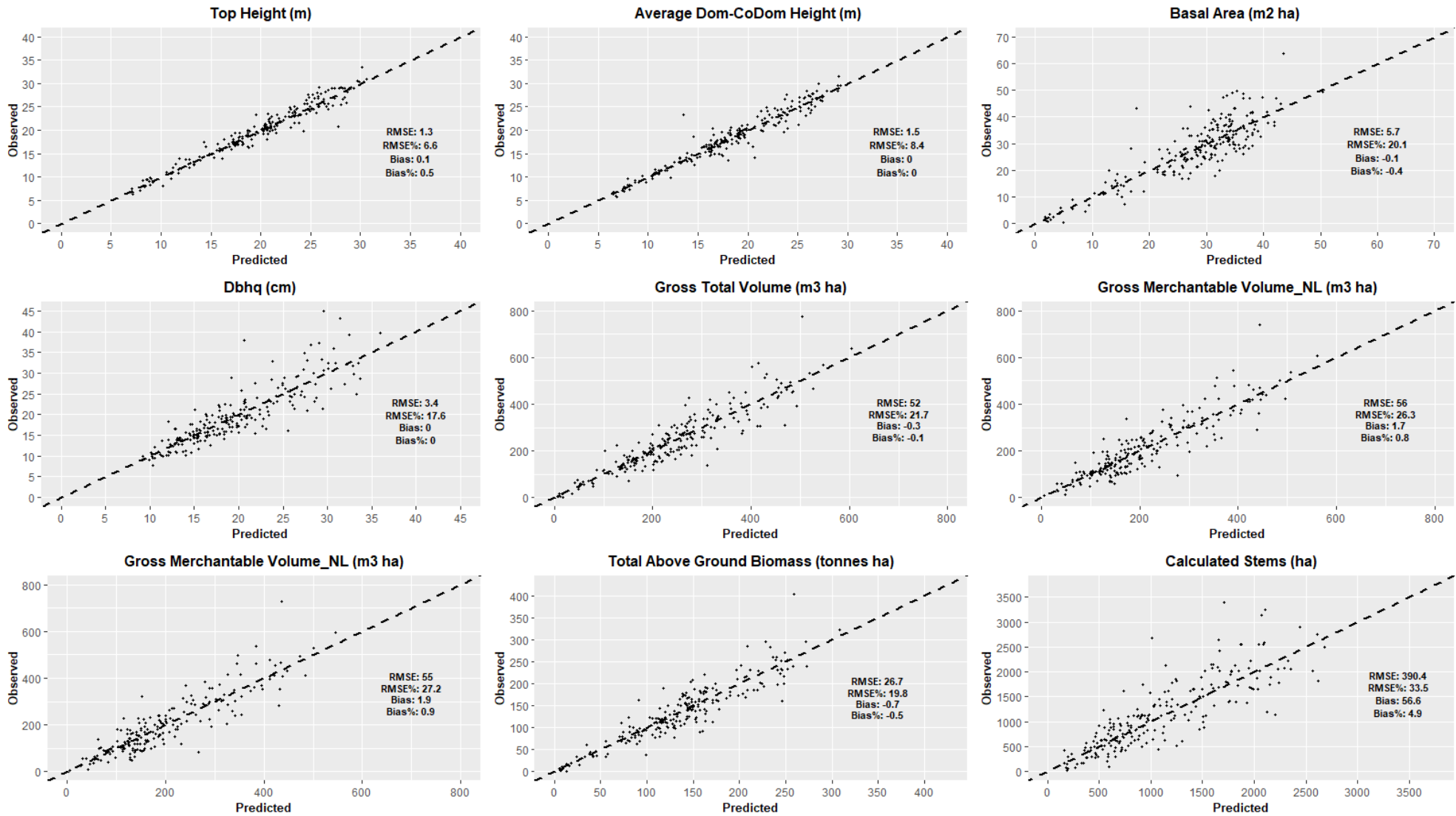


Figure 3 - Modeling results of Observed versus Predicted for selected inventory attributes on the DRM. Error statistics are based on OOB sample.

Validation" (CV) can be used to estimate prediction error at the plot scale (20m x 20m) in the absence of a validation data set. OOB error is generated by measuring the prediction error of random forest models utilizing bagging (bootstrap aggregation). Bagging uses subsampling with replacement of a subset of the data (the "in the bag" dataset) to create training samples for the model to learn from. The model is then used to predict the reserved or "out of bag" samples. OOB error is the mean prediction error on each training sample x_i , using only the trees that did not have x_i in their bootstrap sample. Since each out-of-bag set is not used to train the model, it is a good test for the performance of the model. A general calculation method is outlined below:

- Find all models (or trees, in the case of a random forest) that are not trained by the OOB instance.
- Take the majority vote of these models' result for the OOB instance, compared to the true value of the OOB instance.
- Compile the OOB error for all instances in the OOB dataset.

V-fold CV error is generated by dividing the data set randomly into V equal parts. Training for the model is done on one of the V parts and testing is done on the remaining part. This is repeated many times (10 times in this study) and the error rate estimate is an average of the results.

RMSE and Bias were calculated using the following equations:

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{Y}_i - Y_i)^2}{n}},$$

$$\text{RELATIVE RMSE} = \frac{\text{RMSE}}{\bar{Y}},$$

$$\text{BIAS} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{Y}_i - Y_i)}{n},$$

$$\text{RELATIVE BIAS} = \frac{\text{BIAS}}{\bar{Y}}.$$

Plot level OOB and a 10-fold CV comparisons of root mean square error (RMSE) and bias are presented by inventory attributes in Table 8. OOB and CV RMSE (%) AND bias (%) are graphically presented in Figure 4. These results reflect modeling of all species/silviculture/origin based solely on LiDAR point cloud structure and at the plot or 20 x 20m pixel scale. The RMSE is a measure of how well the model performed. It is the square root of the average squared distance between the predicted values and the observed values in the dataset. The lower the RMSE, the better the modeling results. Bias is the difference between the average prediction and the correct value. Similarly, a lower bias is always preferred.

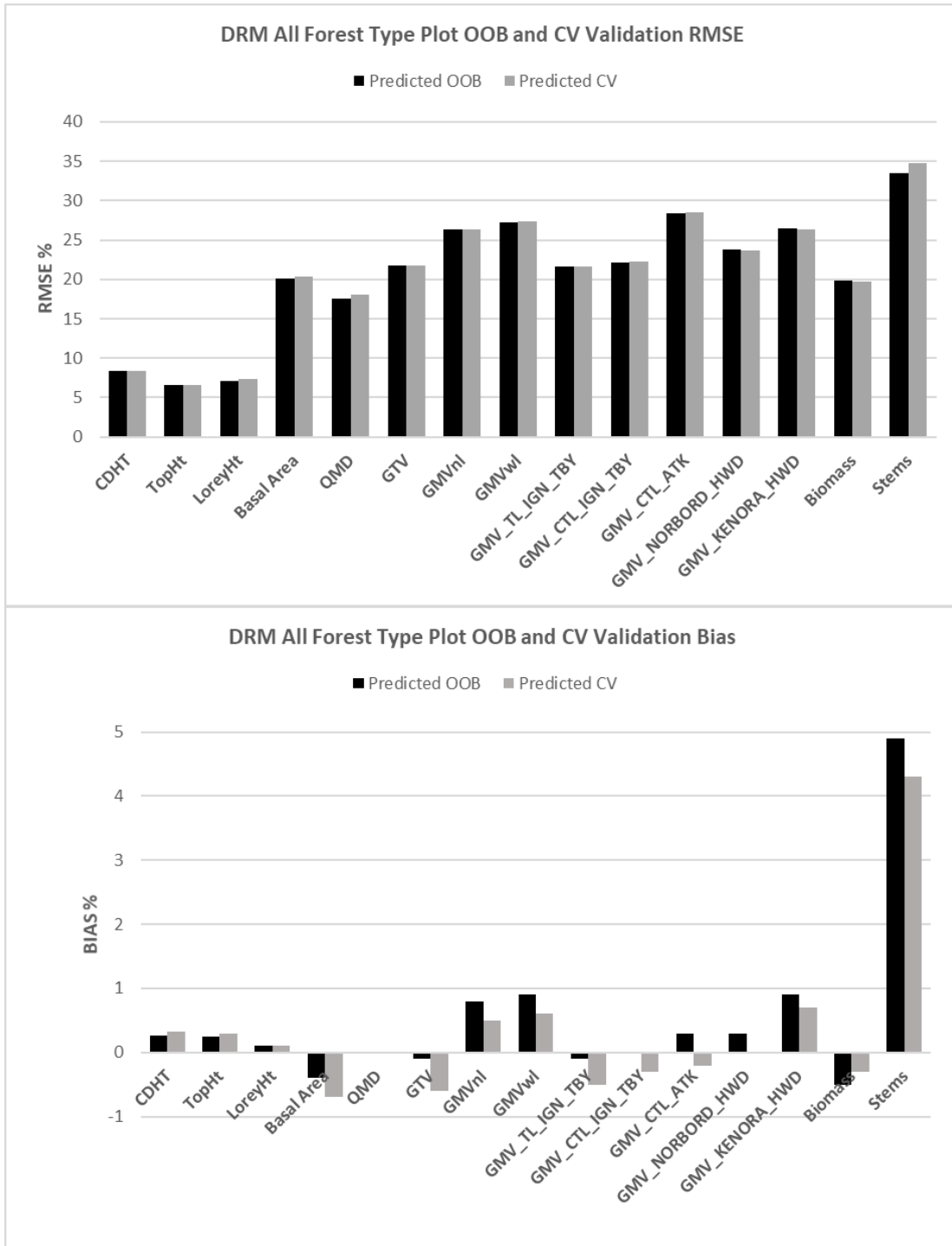


Figure 4 - RMSE (%) and Bias (%) for inventory attribute validation using OOB and a 10-fold Cross Validation.

Table 8 - Plot level validation statistics using OOB and 10-fold Cross Validation methods

| Inventory Metric | Observed | | | | Out Of Bag (OOB) Validation | | | | | | 10-Fold Cross Validation (CV) | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------|------|-------|-----------------------------|------|-------|--------|------|--------|-------------------------------|------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | N | Mean | Min | Max | P_Mean | P_SE | RMSE | % RMSE | BIAS | % BIAS | P_Mean | P_SE | RMSE | % RMSE | BIAS | % BIAS |
| CDHT m | 221 | 18.4 | 5.8 | 31.5 | 18.3 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 8.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 18.3 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 8.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| TOPHT m | 221 | 19.8 | 6.3 | 33.5 | 19.8 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 19.8 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| LoreyHt m | 221 | 17.9 | 6.1 | 29.3 | 17.8 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 7.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 17.8 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 7.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| BA m ² ha ⁻¹ | 221 | 28.2 | 0.5 | 63.8 | 28.3 | 0.6 | 5.7 | 20.1 | -0.1 | -0.4 | 28.4 | 0.6 | 5.7 | 20.3 | -0.2 | -0.7 |
| QMD cm | 221 | 19.5 | 7.9 | 44.9 | 19.4 | 0.4 | 3.4 | 17.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 19.4 | 0.4 | 3.5 | 18.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| GTV m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 221 | 239.8 | 1.4 | 775.3 | 240.2 | 8.2 | 52.0 | 21.7 | -0.3 | -0.1 | 241.2 | 8.3 | 52.3 | 21.8 | -1.4 | -0.6 |
| GMV_NL m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 212.8 | 7.7 | 741.6 | 211.1 | 7.7 | 56.0 | 26.3 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 211.6 | 7.8 | 55.9 | 26.3 | 1.1 | 0.5 |
| GMV_WL m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 201.9 | 6.2 | 730.4 | 200 | 7.8 | 55.0 | 27.2 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 200.6 | 7.8 | 55.1 | 27.3 | 1.3 | 0.6 |
| GMV_TL_IGN_TBY m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 228.5 | 10.6 | 691.6 | 228.7 | 7.3 | 49.3 | 21.6 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 229.7 | 7.3 | 49.3 | 21.6 | -1.2 | -0.5 |
| GMV_CTL_IGN_TBY m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 228 | 9.7 | 747.5 | 227.9 | 7.9 | 50.5 | 22.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 228.6 | 7.9 | 50.8 | 22.3 | -0.6 | -0.3 |
| GMV_CTL_ATK m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 177.3 | 0 | 728.3 | 176.7 | 8.7 | 50.4 | 28.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 177.7 | 8.8 | 50.5 | 28.5 | -0.4 | -0.2 |
| GMV_Norbord_Hwd m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 214.6 | 6.4 | 740.9 | 213.9 | 7.9 | 51.0 | 23.8 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 214.4 | 7.9 | 50.9 | 23.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| GMV_Kenora_Hwd m ³ ha ⁻¹ | 205 | 213.2 | 7 | 740.4 | 211.3 | 7.7 | 56.5 | 26.5 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 211.8 | 7.7 | 56.1 | 26.3 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Biomass T ha ⁻¹ | 221 | 134.9 | 1.4 | 403 | 135.6 | 4.2 | 26.7 | 19.8 | -0.7 | -0.5 | 135.4 | 4.1 | 26.6 | 19.7 | -0.4 | -0.3 |
| Stems ha ⁻¹ | 221 | 1167 | 25 | 3800 | 1110.3 | 41.0 | 390.4 | 33.5 | 56.6 | 4.9 | 1116.9 | 41 | 406 | 34.8 | 50.1 | 4.3 |

Note- "P_Mean" indicates Predicted Mean "P_SE" indicates Predicted Standard Error

Although the LiDAR models were not fit by forest type, the results can be presented in that manner to get a sense at the pixel scale how a model is performing overall. Figure 5 provides CV comparisons of RMSE (%) by FU and by inventory attribute. **Note, the number of plots by forest type varies and the results should be viewed in that light.** Appendix C provides a tabular summary of OOB and CV plot level predictions by forest types on the DRM forest.

LiDAR Prediction Raster Surface Adjustments

Predicted raster products were modified to align pixel predictions with the limitations of the calibration plot network (DBH > 7.1 cm). Table 9 identifies the 99th percentile LiDAR height that was used as a threshold. Pixels with a Zq99 < 5m were not expected to have trees with DBH ≥ 7.1 cm. Pixels with a Zq99 < 9m were not expected to have merchantable sized trees.

Table 9 - Adjustments to LiDAR raster predictions based on zq99 thresholds.

| Raster Surface | Zq99 Threshold | Adjustment of Raster Predictions |
|----------------------|----------------|--|
| CDHT | 5 m | CDHT predictions replaced with zq99 value where zq99 < 5 m |
| TOPHT | 5 m | TopHt predictions set to NULL where zq99 < 5 m |
| LoreyHt | 5 m | LoreyHt predictions set to NULL where zq99 < 5 m |
| Basal Area | 5 m | Basal Area predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 5 m |
| QMD | 5 m | QMD predictions set to NULL where zq99 < 5 m |
| GTV | 5 m | GTV predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 5 m |
| Biomass | 5 m | Biomass predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 5 m |
| Stems | 5 m | Stems calculation set to 0 where zq99 < 5 m |
| BA_SmPoles | 9 m | BA_SmPoles predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9m |
| BA_LgPoles | 9 m | BA_LgPoles predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| BA_SmSaw | 9 m | BA_SmSaw predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| BA_LgSaw | 9 m | BA_LgSaw predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_NL | 9 m | GMV_NL predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_WL | 9 m | GMV_WL predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_SFL ¹ | 9 m | GMV_SFL predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_SmPoles | 9 m | GMV_NL_SmPoles predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_LgPoles | 9 m | GMV_NL_LgPoles predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_SmSaw | 9 m | GMV_NL_SmSaw predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |
| GMV_LgSaw | 9 m | GMV_NL_LgSaw predictions set to 0 where zq99 < 9 m |

The LiDAR derived CDHT raster for the DRM is provided in (Figure 6). Additional examples of derived inventory raster outputs are provided in Appendix D.

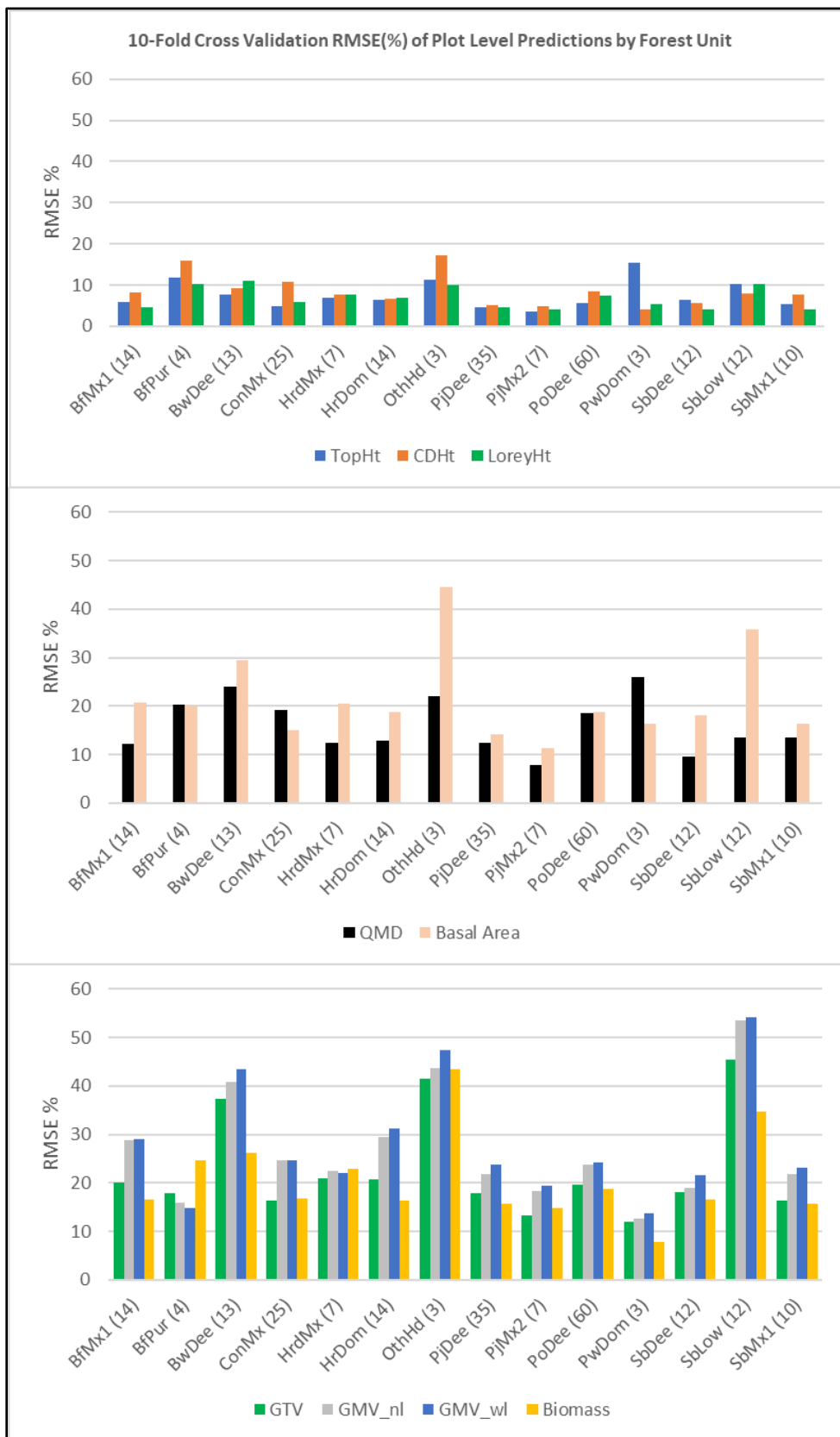


Figure 5 - 10-Fold cross validation RMSE (%) results of plot level predictions by Northwest Forest Unit. The OCLow and PrDom single plots were excluded as they each only had one plot

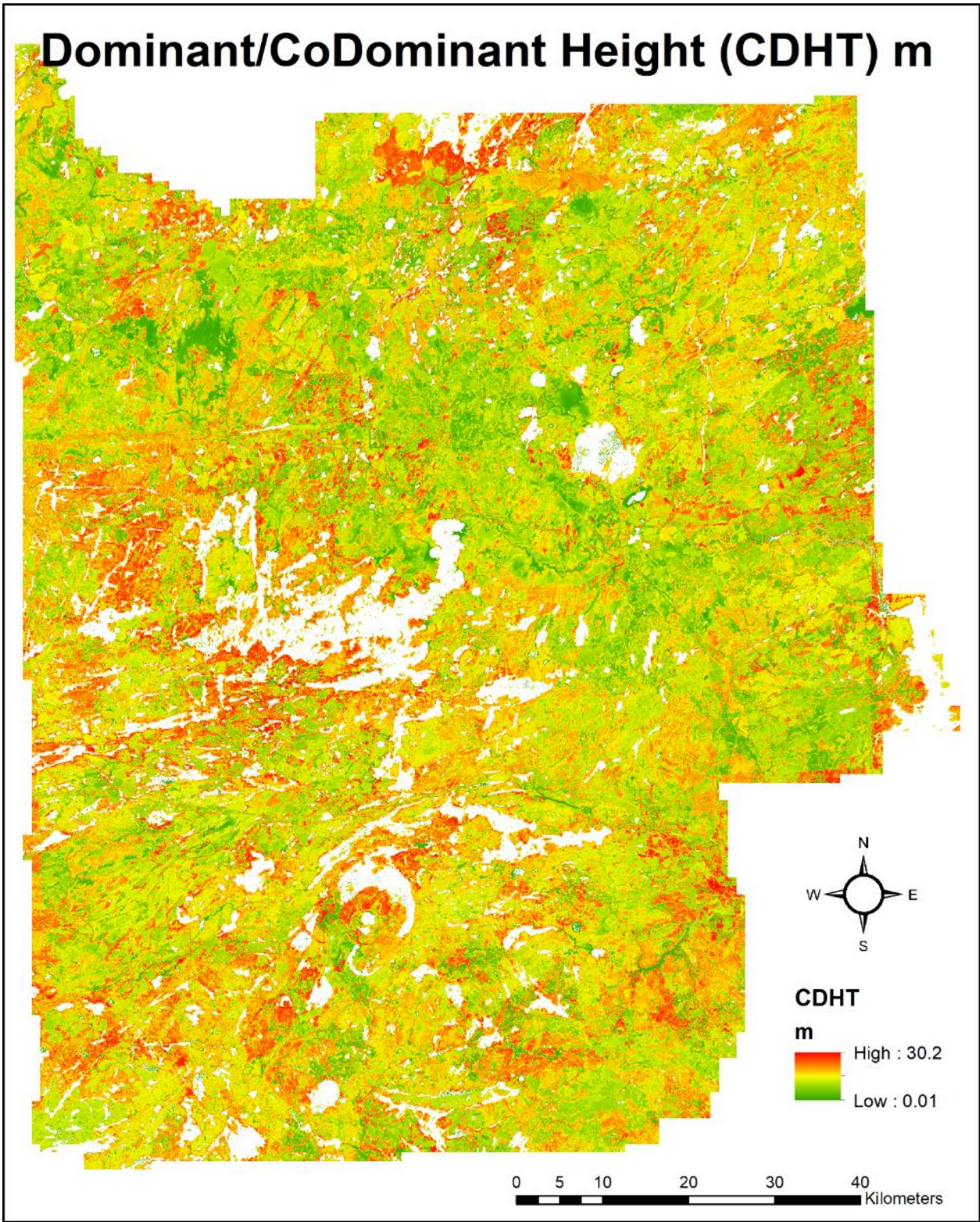


Figure 6 - LiDAR derived DRM Dominant/CoDominant Height raster

Stand Level Validation

Most forest management decisions are not made at a raster pixel (20 m x 20 m) scale. Usually, decisions are made on an aggregation of pixels within a forest stand or harvest block. Nine forest stands were cruised by Sumac ([GIS & Geomatics Services Projects - Sumac Geomatics Inc.](#)) staff under contract from Resolute Forest Products to provide a better measure of model performance at the scale decisions are usually made. The nine stands were linked to another ongoing KKT study looking at the automation of vertical structure characterization and as such, were chosen to represent a range for forest types and vertical structures. As a result, these validation stands may not represent common conditions on the DRM forest.

Validation Sampling

A minimum of 20 stations spaced on a 75m or 100m grid covering the entire polygon was targeted depending on the stand size and shape. Ideally this would be about 1 plot/ha or sample on a 100m x 100m grid. The stand polygons were also buffered by -20m to ensure that plot centres are at least 20m from a stand boundary (Figure 7). At each station, a BAF2 prism was used to determine “in” trees > 7cm. Each “in” tree was assessed for species, dbh, crown status (superstory, overstory, understory) and measured for height. Some stations had only every other tree measured for height if the prism identified a high number of trees. Table 10 provides a description of the 9 stands cruised.

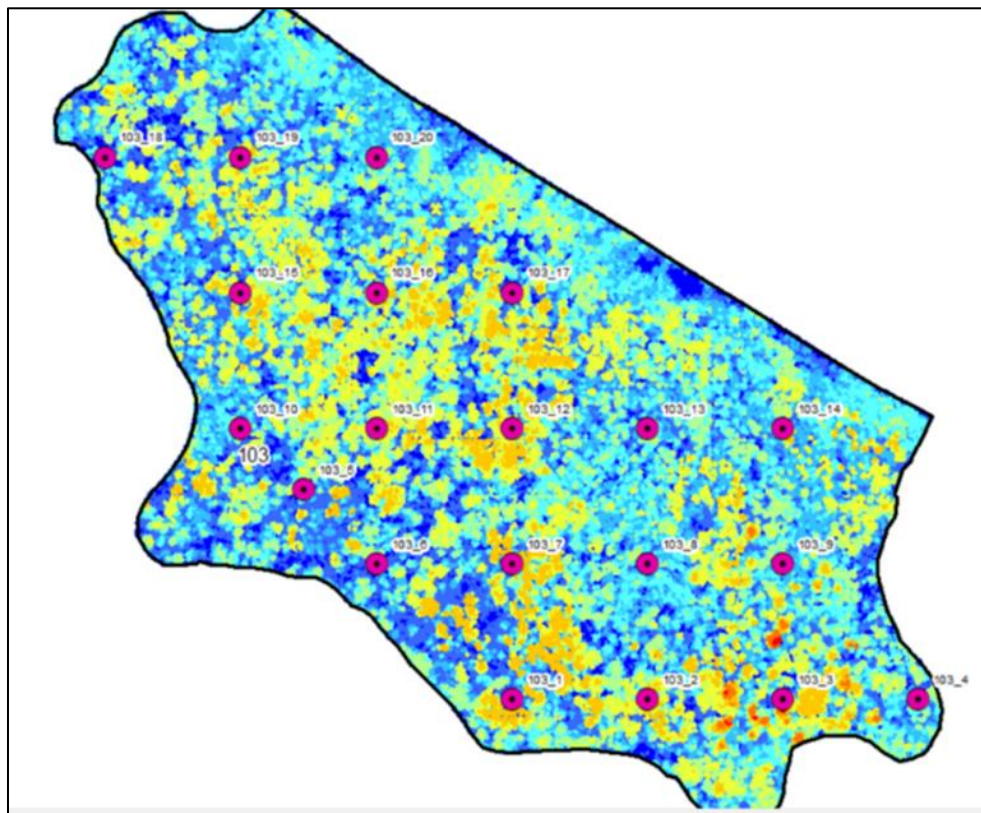


Figure 7 - Example of sampling stations established in Polygon 103.

Table 10 - Description of validation stands and number of BAF2 stations sampled

| Polygon | Cruised Species Composition | Stations |
|---------|---|----------|
| 103 | Pt 29 Bf28 Bw21 Mr9 Pw4 Sw3 Sb3 Pb2 Ab1 | 20 |
| 107 | Sb 46 Pj41 Bf8 Pt4 La1 Sw0 | 20 |
| 114 | Pt 40 Bf31 Sb23 Bw3 121 Pj1 Sw1 | 20 |
| 116 | Bf 58 Pt29 Sb8 Bw3 Sw2 Pb0 | 20 |
| 117 | Pt 92 Sw5 Bw2 Cp1 | 20 |
| 119 | Sb 67 La18 Cw14 121 | 20 |
| 121 | Bf 33 Pw32 Pt16 Bw12 Sb4 Cw2 Sw1 Am0 | 20 |
| 127 | Pj 75 Pt11 Sb6 Bf4 Sw3 Bw1 120 | 20 |
| 150 | Sw 53 Sb31 Bf15 Pt1 Bw0 Pj0 | 20 |

Validation Results

Results for the 9 cruised polygons are presented in Table 11. Seven key inventory attributes were compared. Figure 8 provides a comparison of measured polygon mean observed and predicted attributes. An additional comparison of predicted BA and GMV by four size classes are presented in Figure 9.

Table 11 - Validation RMSE and Bias results for the 9 cruised polygons.

| | CDHT | BA | QMD ⁴ | GTV | GMVnl | Biomass | Stems |
|-----------------|------|------|------------------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| RMSE | 1.37 | 2.58 | 4.37 | 19.83 | 26.89 | 9.79 | 659.47 |
| RMSE % | 7% | 11% | 24% | 11% | 18% | 10% | 52% |
| MeanBias | 0.99 | 0.66 | -0.67 | -2.97 | -4.42 | 0.78 | 308.16 |
| Bias % | 5% | 3% | -4% | -2% | -3% | 1% | 24% |
| N | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |

⁴ QMD = Calculated QMD from predicted stand basal area and predicted stems.

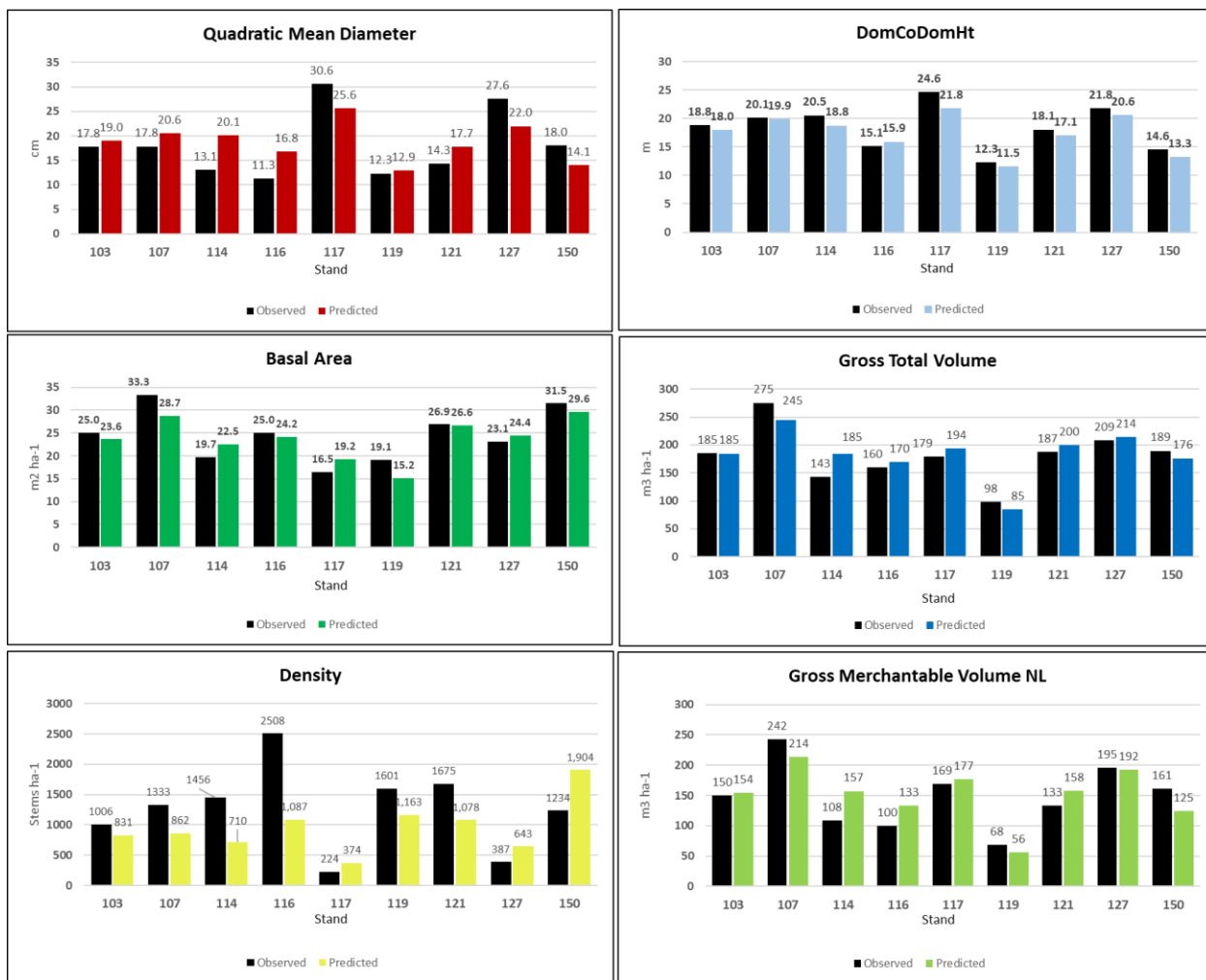


Figure 8 - Validation comparison by stand of inventory observed and predicted attributes.

T2 Inventory Updating

LiDAR Raster updating

The T2 inventory polygon update began with the Operational Planning Inventory (OPI) provided by Resolute. This was updated to 2021. The T1 polygon boundaries were used and mean raster values by T1 polygon are calculated and provided for the following attributes:

- **Heights** - TopHt, CDHT, LoreyHt
- Basal Area,
- Stems
- **Volumes** – GMV_NL, GMV_WL, GMV_NL
- **By Size Class** – Basal Area, GMV_NL
- QMD is calculated for each polygon based on mean stand Basal Area and Stems

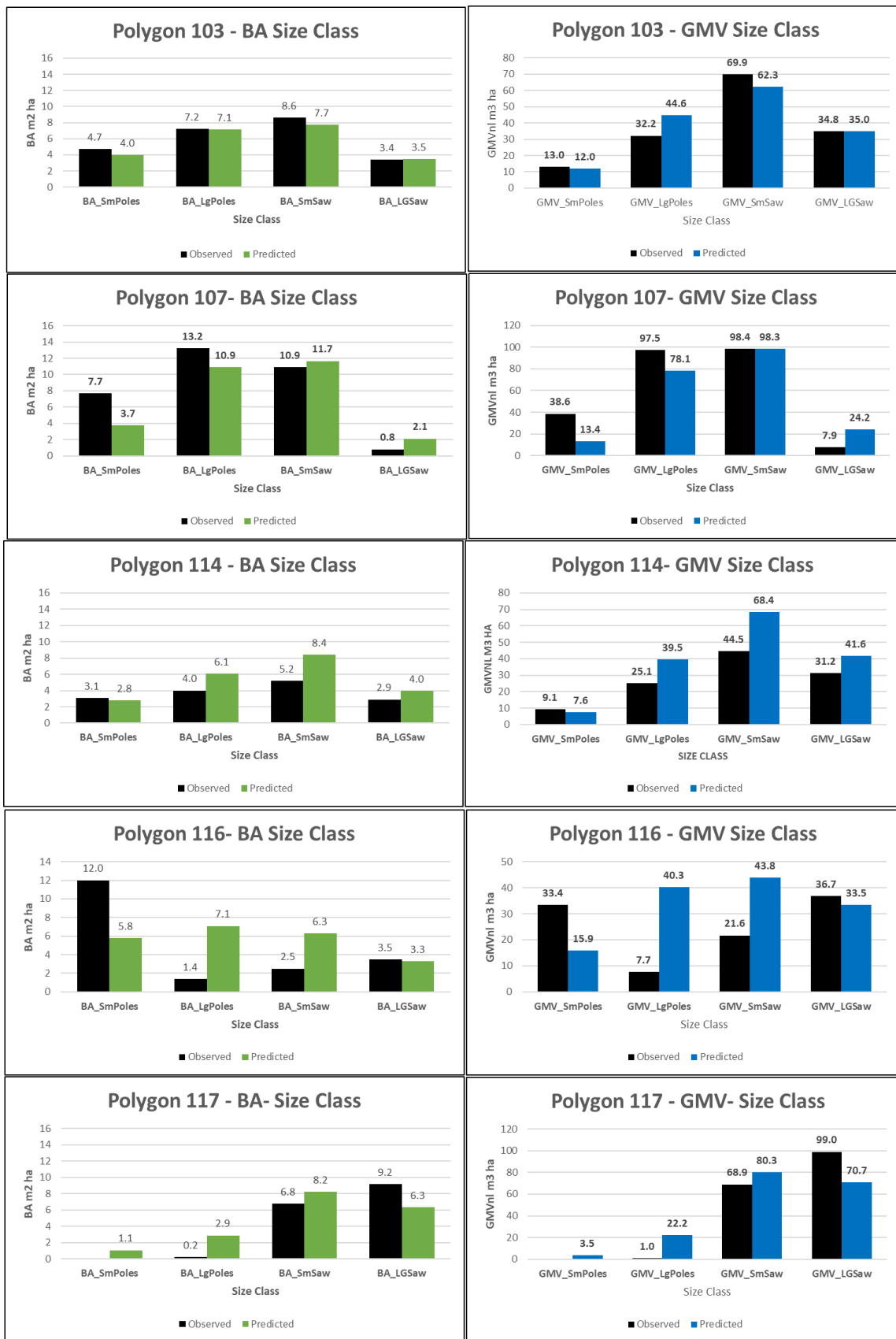


Figure 9 - Observed and predicted basal area and gross merchantable volume by size class.

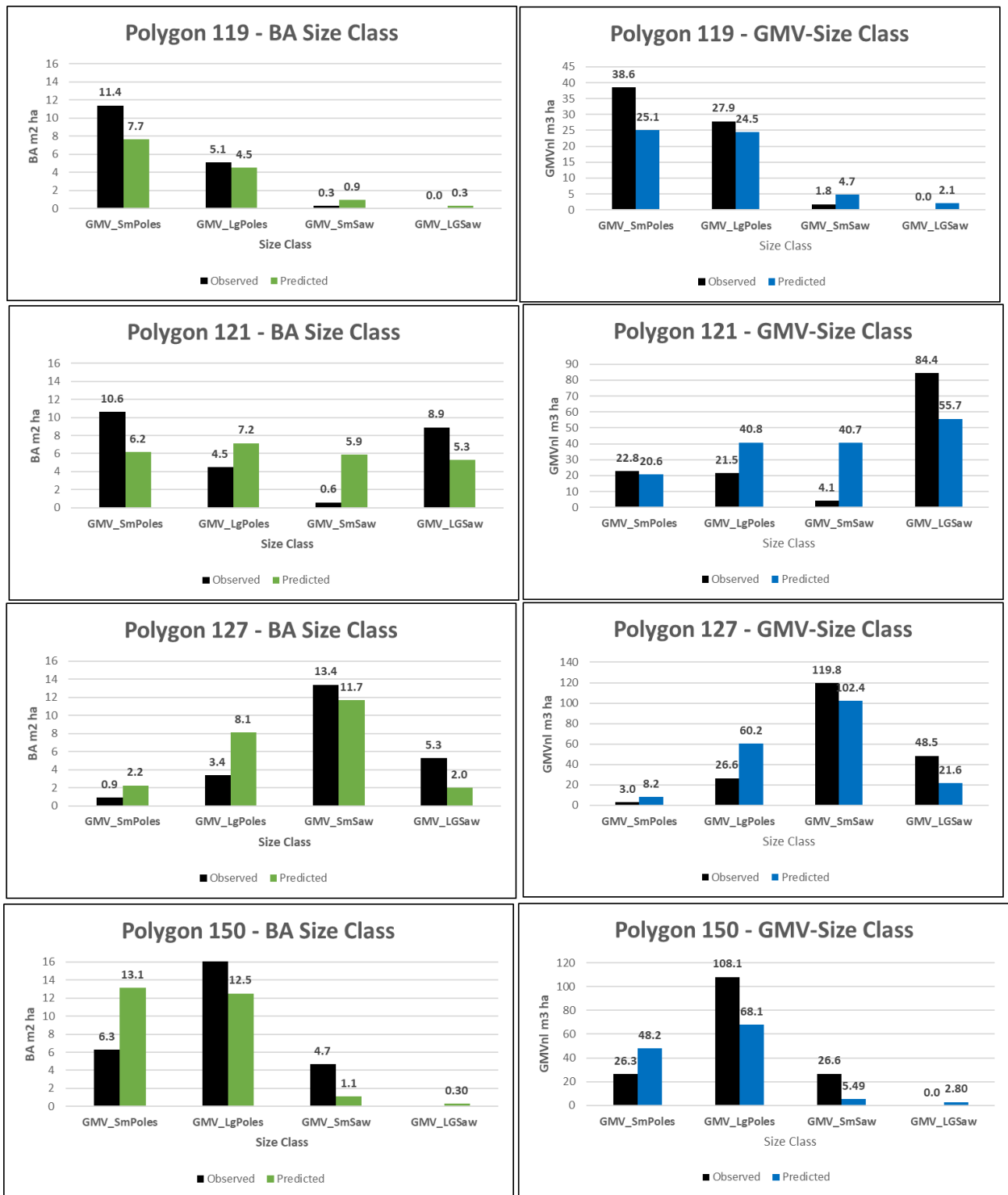


Figure 9 continued - Observed and predicted basal area and gross merchantable volume by size class.

To provide a measure of stand level volume variation, the 15th and 85th quantiles of gross merchantable (NL) volume were also provided. They are provided as:

- GMV_NL_15 and GMV_NL_85.

An Example of a raster prediction for GMV_NL and the corresponding mean polygon information are presented in Figure 10. Note how within stand variation of GMV_NL predictions are lost when the rasters are summarized for their mean value by polygon. The addition of Q15 and Q85 values allows the users of the inventory to also know that 70% of the GMV_NL pixels are between the Q15 and Q85 values for the polygon .

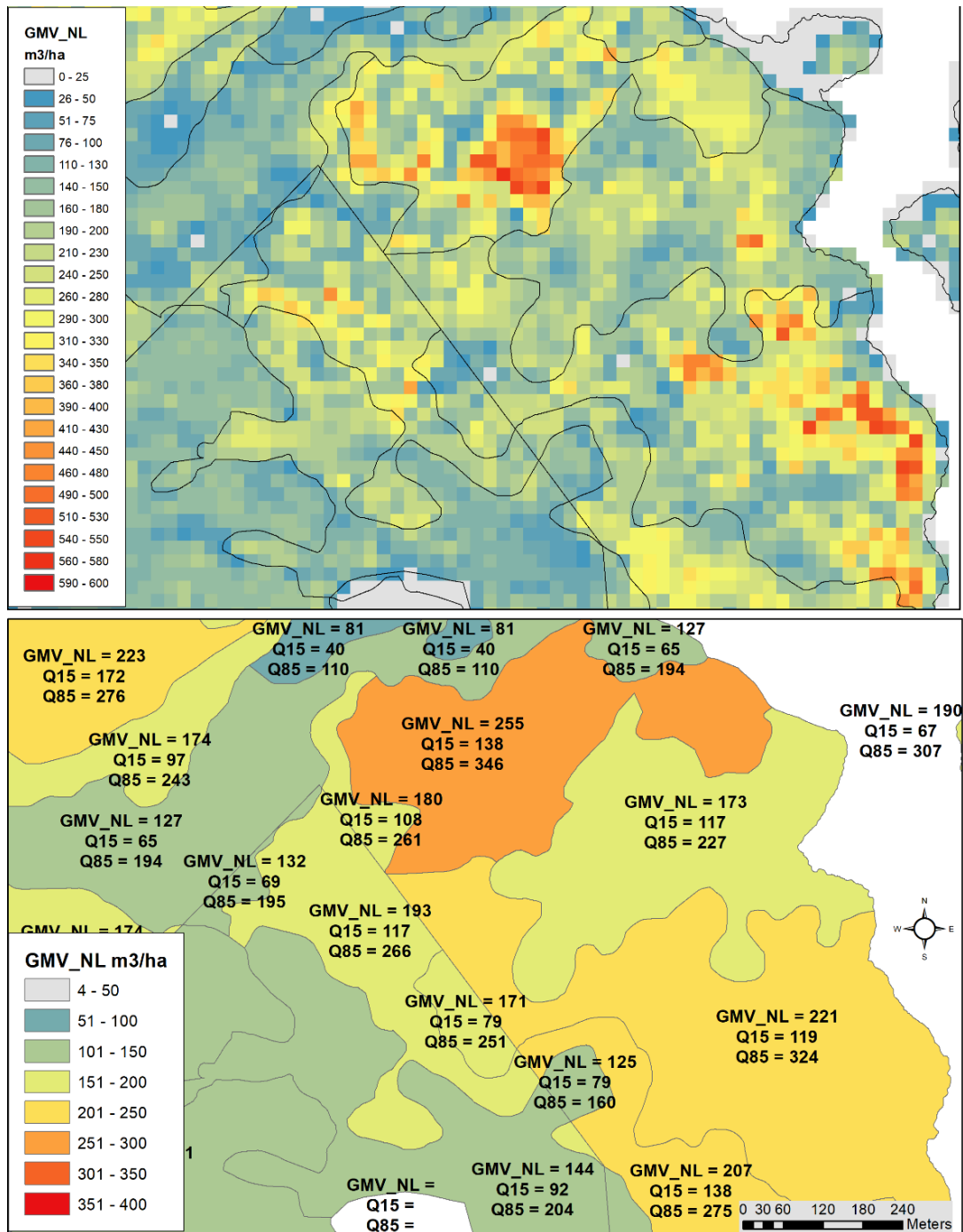


Figure 10 - Example of a GMV_NL raster prediction and mean T2 Polygon summary. Mean GMV_NL is labeled in each polygon along with the 15th and 85th quantile value.

DRM requested SFL volumes were adjusted for combinations of T1 polygon Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) or Poplar-White Birch stand content based on T1 species information (Table 12). Refer to Appendix B for all specific log size specifications.

Table 12 - DRM specific volumes adjustments by T1 polygon species composition

| Volume | Stump height | Species | Multiply by |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| GMV_NL | 30 cm | All | |
| GMV_WL | 30 cm | All | |
| GMV_DRM_TL_IGN_TBY | 30 cm | Applied to SPF | SPF_pct/100 |
| GMV_DRM_CTL_ATK | 30 cm | Applied to SPF | SPF_pct/100 |
| GMV_DRM_CTL_IGN_TBY | 30 cm | Applied to SPF | SPF_pct/100 |
| GMV_DRM_Norbord_Hwd | 30 cm | Applied to Po/Bw | PoBw_pct/100 |
| GMV_DRM_Kenora_Hwd | 30 cm | Applied to Po/Bw | PoBw_pct/100 |

Additional Attributes Calculated for T2 Inventory

To provide further value to the T2 update of the inventory, polygon-based summation (mean) of LiDAR attributes, were used in conjunction with T1 polygon age and species composition to calculate the following additional T2 inventory attributes:

- Site Index
- Stocking
- Cull Fraction
- Net Merchantable Volume (NMV).

Refer to Table 13 for a list of attributes and their source.

Table 13 - Additional T2 calculated inventory attributes and their source.

| Attribute | LiDAR Derived | Calculated | T1 Polygon Information | Literature Source |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Site Index | CDHt | | Age, Leading Species | Various (refer to Appendix E) |
| Stocking | Basal Area | Site Index | Age, Leading Species | Plonski 1974 |
| Cull Fraction | GMV | | Age, Species Composition | Basham 1991 |
| Net Merchantable Volume | Basal Area , GMV_NL | Cull Fraction Species VBAR ⁵ | Age, species composition | |

⁵ Species vbar are calculated from a combination of calibration plots for the SFL and provincial monitoring plots

Site Index

Site index is calculated using the leading species from the T1 species composition and the age from the T1 inventory updated to 2021 and the predicted LiDAR CDHt. **For polygons with p99 < 5m, SI and stocking are not estimated.**

Most SI equations use breast height age. For young stands, small change in age result in large changes in SI. The SI estimates for young ages are unstable (Figure 11). The inventory age, particularly for young stands, may come from supplementary information and may not correspond to the LiDAR heights. This issue is illustrated for the DRM Forest.

Based on Figure 11, the SI for ages < 20 was set to missing and the SI for ages ≥ 20 was capped at 35m. Figure 11 identifies issues with the available set of SI curves. The trend of SI with age is likely partly an artefact of the SI curves and partly an issue of the ages for older polygons not corresponding to the height. For older stands, the age is likely the age since disturbance and the heights are likely from younger trees.

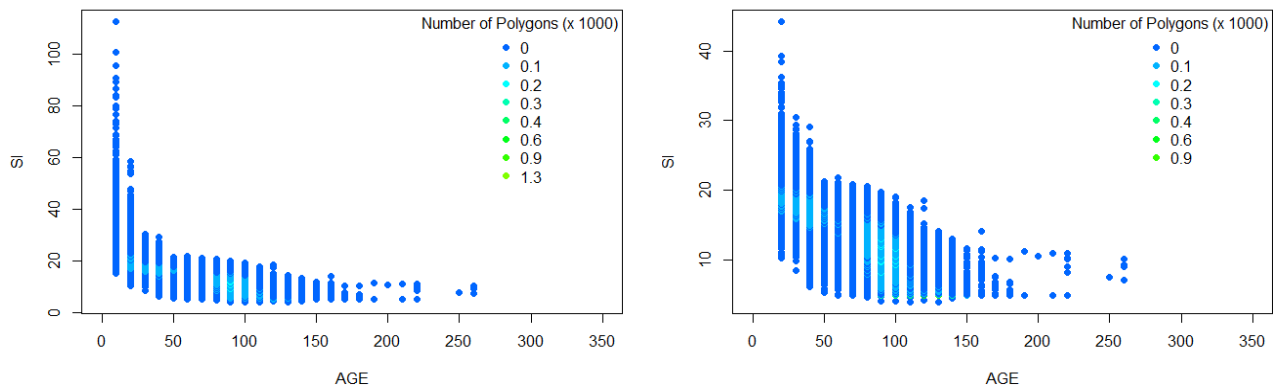


Figure 11 - Site index is plotted against age for ages 10+ and for ages 20+ for the DRM. Note the minimum SI is set to 5m

Stocking

Stocking was calculated from predicted LiDAR basal area and the T1 polygon age and leading species. Stocking is in reference to Plonski's Normal Yield Table (Plonski 1974). Stocking is also a challenge for young stands. Stocking requires SI and SI was set to missing for stands < 20 years old so stocking is also not calculated when age is < 20. Stocking was capped at 2. Figure 12 provides a graphic of the number of DRM polygons by Stocking and age. Note that stands less than 20 years old are not presented.

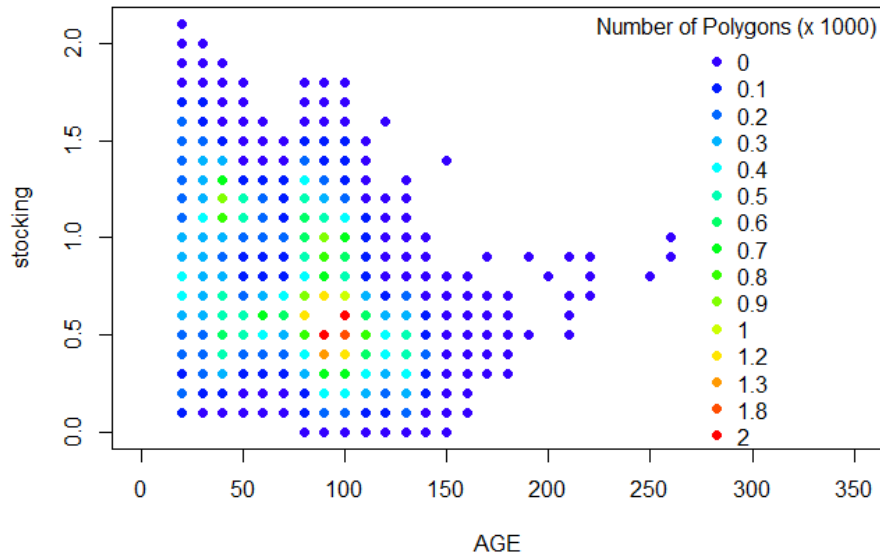


Figure 12 - Calculated Plonski stocking by polygon for the DRM. Note: no stocking estimates for stands < 20 years old.

Cull and Cull Fraction

Cull as estimated following the procedure implemented in MIST. Gross merchantable volume is estimated without respect to species. However, Net merchantable volume (NMV) requires estimates of cull. Basham (1991) provides estimates of cull by species and age.

First, a cull model ((1)) was fit, by species, using published data (see Table 14). The model predicts the cull fraction increases as a sigmoidal function of age.

$$(1) \quad \widehat{cull} = (1 - e^{-d_0 \cdot age})^{d_1}$$

Where, \widehat{cull} is the estimate of cull as a percentage of tree volume at a given age.

To apply this to GMV, the GMV by species was estimated by fitting a volume to basal area ratio ($vbar$) prediction model ((2)) by species using the provincial PSP/PGP database (gyPSPPGP_2021_10_04.bak).

$$(2) \quad vbar = (v_0 + v_1 \cdot SI) \cdot (1 - e^{-v_2 \cdot age^{v_3}})$$

Where, $vbar$ is the volume to basal area ratio for a species, SI is the site index, age is the Plot age and v_0 , v_1 , v_2 , and v_3 are coefficients.

The $vbar$ estimate was used to estimate the relative GMV by species.

$$(3) \quad mvol\ frac_i = \frac{species\ fraction_i \cdot vbar_i}{\sum species\ fraction_i \cdot vbar_i}$$

Table 14 - The sources for the cull estimates are given. The table references are from Basham (1991) except for red pine.

| Species | Table | Comment |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Hemlock | Table 7 | |
| Sugar Maple | Table 13 | |
| Yellow birch | Table 12 | |
| Red pine | | Source unknown. Basham (1991) reports an average of 1% for the 141-160 age class. |
| White pine | Table 1 | |
| Cedar | Table 8 | |
| White birch | Table 11 | |
| Trembling aspen | Table 9 | |
| Ironwood | Table 20 | |
| Basswood | Table 16 | |
| Balsam fir | Table 6 | |
| White elm | Table 19 | |
| Red oak | Table 18 | |
| Black ash | Table 17 | |
| Beech | Table 15 | |
| Red maple | Table 14 | |
| White spruce | Table 5 | Note that the data for age 170 was taken from Table 6 of OMNR (1978) |
| Jack pine | Table 2 | |
| Black spruce | Table 4 | Note that data from ages 200+ were not used |

Then the weighted cull estimate, all species combined, is estimated as follows.

$$(4) \quad cull = \sum mvol \frac{frac_i}{spp} \cdot cull \ est_i$$

Sample calculations are given in Table 15. An example of vbar estimates by age and species is presented in Figure 13.

Table 15 - Vbar and cull calculations are given for sample conditions. The age = 100 and SI = 20m. Poplar has a slightly higher vbar, giving slightly more weight to the poplar cull estimate.

| Spp | Spp frac | Vbar coefficient | | | | Vbar | Cull coefficient | | cull | Mvol frac | weighted cull |
|-----|----------|------------------|---------|----------|---------|------|------------------|--------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| | | V0 | V1 | V2 | V3 | | D0 | D1 | | | |
| Pj | 0.8 | 2.36509 | 0.54016 | 0.018021 | 1.01063 | 11.2 | -0.01264 | 8.3752 | 0.062 | 0.79 | 0.049 |
| Po | 0.2 | 2.99849 | 0.50008 | 0.006109 | 1.30665 | 11.9 | -0.00521 | 1.4052 | 0.282 | 0.21 | 0.059 |
| All | | | | | | | | | | | 0.108 |

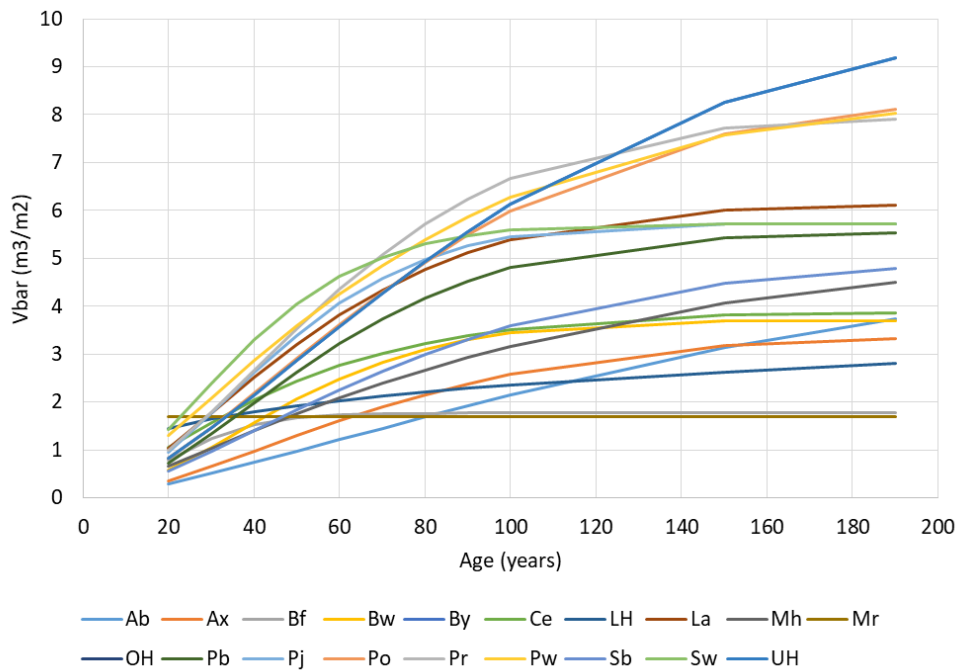


Figure 13 - The vbar estimates are given by age and species, for SI = 20

Net Merchantable Volume

For the T1 polygons, cull was estimated at using the T1 age and species composition.

Net merchantable volume (NMV) is calculated as the GMV minus cull.

$$(5) \quad NMV = GMV \cdot (1 - cull)$$

Constraint of T2 Inventory Updates

Only trees ≥ 7.1 cm were measured on all the calibration plots. As a result, shorter (and young) stands do not have any measured trees to support defensible LiDAR predictions. **Stands < 20 years are not being updated with LiDAR derived predictions.** In addition, different polygon CDHT thresholds were used to constrain provided inventory attributes (Table 16). Crown Closure (CC2m) was retained all stands.

Table 16 - T2 polygon inventory attributes and instituted constraints for all stands with age \geq 20 years

| Inventory Attribute | Polygon CDHT <5m | Polygon 5m > CDHT <9m | Polygon CDHT >9m |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| CC2m | | | |
| TOPHT | NULL | | |
| CDHT | | | |
| LoreyHT | NULL | | |
| BA | NULL | | |
| Stems | NULL | | |
| QMD | NULL | | |
| GTV | NULL | NULL | |
| GMV_NL | NULL | NULL | |
| GMV_WL | NULL | NULL | |
| NMV_NL | NULL | NULL | |
| NMV_WL | NULL | NULL | |
| Biomass | NULL | NULL | |
| BA_SmPoles | NULL | NULL | |
| BA_LgPoles | NULL | NULL | |
| BA_SmSaw | NULL | NULL | |
| BA_LgSaw | NULL | NULL | |
| GMV_SmPoles | NULL | NULL | |
| GMV_LgPoles | NULL | NULL | |
| GMV_SmSaw | NULL | NULL | |
| GMV_LgSaw | NULL | NULL | |
| Site Index ⁶ | NULL | | |
| Stocking | NULL | | |
| Cull Fraction | NULL | NULL | |

Discussion

Plot Level Model Validation (OOB and CV)

Overall, the DRM pixel level predictions are similar whether using the OOB or CV validation methods and the results are similar to those reported in other studies in Ontario.

Woods et al. 2011, on an earlier project with more traditional NIR LiDAR on the Romeo Malette Forest (RMF) reported GTV RMSEs ranging from 17–24% for a range of forest types. This study reports an OOB RMSE of 21.7% and a CV RMSE of 21.8%. Similarly, GMV RMSE was reported in Woods et al. 2011 to range from 19–24% by forest conditions. This study reported a slightly higher values at 26.3% for all forest types (an expanded list of forest types sampled in this study). Woods et al (2011) reported a

⁶ Maximum capped at SI 35

range of basal area RMSEs from 16 –19% by forest type and this study found 20.1% (OOB) and 20.3% (CV) for all forest types. In work conducted on the Hearst Forest using Seemingly Unrelated Regression (Penner et al. 2013), RMSEs for basal area were reported at 27.6% for all forest types.

Although the RMF and the DRM are both considered to be boreal forests, their management histories are quite different. The DRM forest (partially likely due to its proximity to Thunder Bay, Ontario) has had an extensive history of industrial harvesting. As a result, the DRM has a higher degree of vertical and horizontal structure present. When comparing the plot level results of SPL predictions on the DRM to the RMF, the predictions are similar. OOB/CV Basal Area RMSE was reported on the RMF at 18.6/18.7% and the DRM at 20.1/20.3%. GTV RMSE was similar too with the RMF at 20.1/20.4% and the DRM at 21.7/21.8%. An increase in plot level GMV_NL RMSE was noted on the DRM compared to the RMF. The RMF reported 22.6/23.0% while the DRM reported 26.3/26.3%.

Stand/Block Level Model Validation

As has been demonstrated in other published LiDAR inventory projects (White et al. 2021), validation of LiDAR predictions is more appropriately evaluated at the scale at which most management decisions are based. In Ontario, this is generally the harvest block or stand level.

Although a validation sample of 9 stands is small, it provides a sense of expected model performance for an inventory at that scale. Overall, RMSEs for the stand level predictions were less than reported through the OOB or CV plot level testing (Figure 14) for most inventory attributes. As expected, CDHt error is not impacted greatly by scale. However, Basal Area, GTV, GMV_NL and Biomass exhibit the expected trend in less error as noted in the study of (White et al. 2021). GMV_NL was slightly better for the nine stands involved in the validation versus that reported by plot level OOB/CV. QMD and Basal Area did not show the same trend on the DRM as was witnessed by (White et al. 2021) and on the SPL results of the RMF. A potential reason for this is proposed.

The majority of the 9 validation stands have a mixture of species including both conifer and hardwood species. In addition, these stands do not exhibit a single canopy layer; often used to characterize these natural fire-origin derived boreal stands. The more complex canopy structure of the validation stands is likely as a result of multiple harvests conducted on this forest over time and with different management rules and objectives.

Even with the range of species and structure found in these validation stands (Figure 15), the inventory models performed well; with the exception of QMD and Stems (Figure 14). Stems per polygon is calculated from mean LiDAR predicted QMD and Basal Area. QMD for the polygon is calculated based on the calculated Stems and Basal Area.

In validation polygons 114 and 116, the calculated polygon level QMD estimates are much greater than what was measured by the field crew. Both of these polygons have a very dense understory layer of small trees (Figure 15). The calibration plot minimum diameter threshold of 7.1cm means many, if not all, these trees present in the point cloud, are not measured by the field crew. Because QMD is being overestimated by the LiDAR model, fewer trees (Stems) are being calculated from QMD and Basal Area.

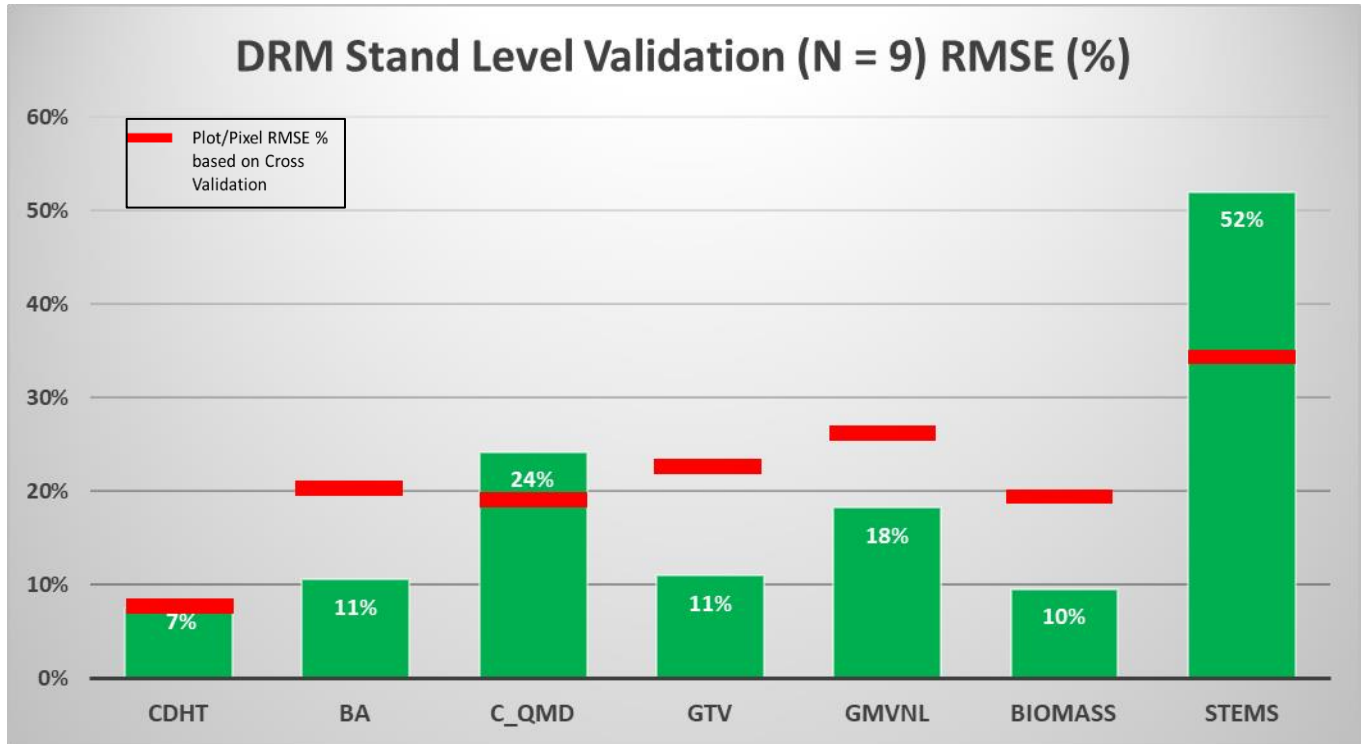


Figure 14 - Comparison of Stand level validation RMSE with Cross Validation at the plot/pixel scale.

Vertical structure can make it much more of a challenge to predict size class attributes (Figure 9) from LiDAR point clouds. Polygon 127 has a purer species composition (Table 10) and generally a single tier structure (Figure 15). Not surprisingly, it also resulted in a very acceptable modeling result of BA and GMV by size class (Figure 9).

Overall, the LiDAR estimates of the stand level inventory metrics performed well for all attributes except QMD and Stems in some cases when comparing the results to the summary derived from 20 cruised locations per stand. However, It should be noted that the crusing was a sample, not a complete enumeration. LiDAR measrued 100% of the area wtihn the polygon to provide its estimate. In some cases the LiDAR estimates may be closer to reality than the cruise summary.

Challenges with aligning and summarizing vector data and raster data

T1 information in the inventory is polygon based, including species composition and forest classification (forest vs. non forest). LiDAR derived information in pixel based. An issue arises when aligning the two sources of information. T1 polygon boundaries do not follow raster edges and, as a result, bisect pixels. Since, currently in Ontario, forests are managed at the polygon level, approaches to summarizing raster values within polygons was explored.

Two main approaches investigated for operational inventory production are discussed here.

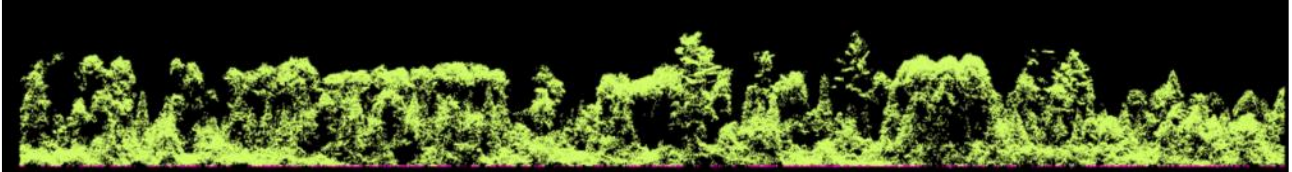
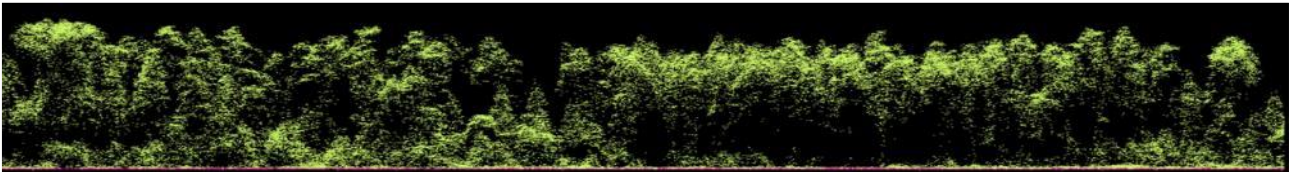
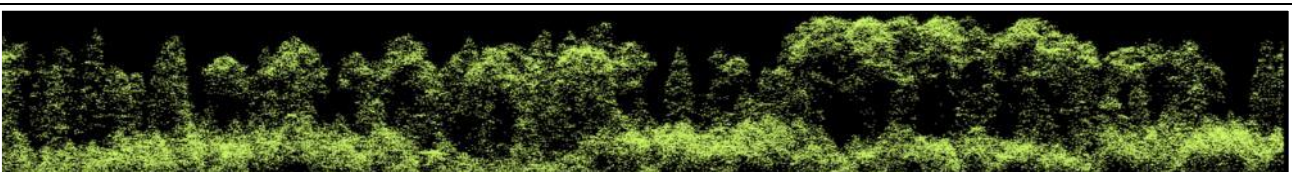
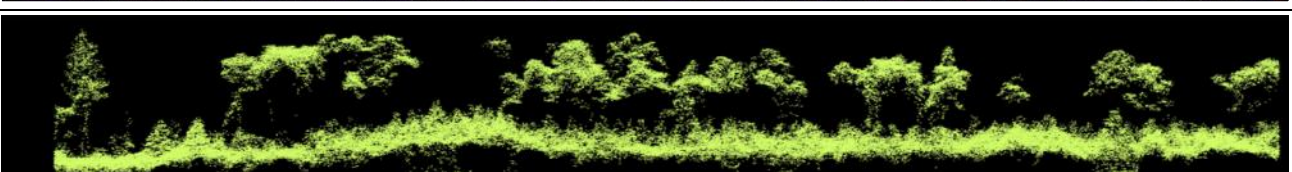

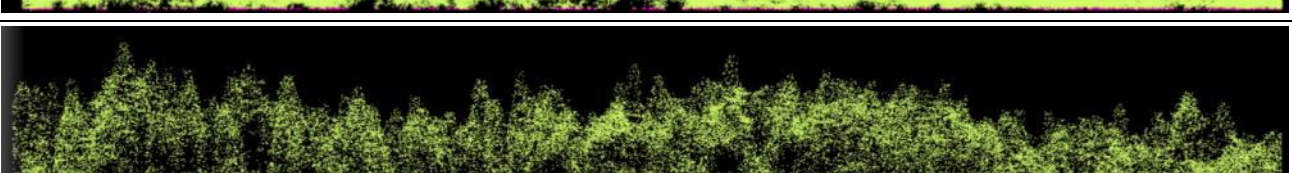

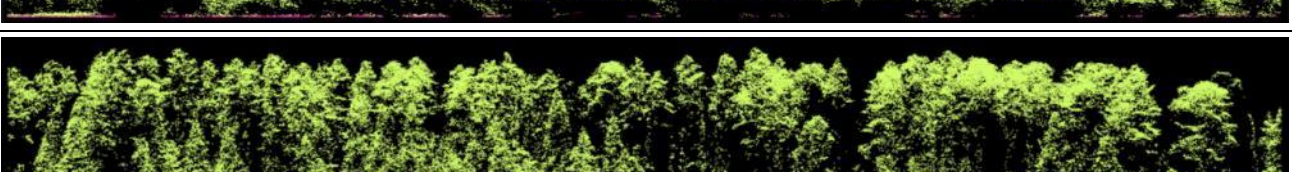
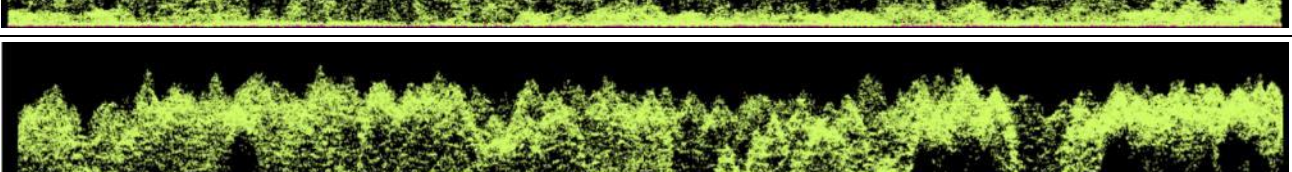
| Polygon | LiDAR Profile |
|---------|--|
| 103 |  |
| 107 |  |
| 114 |  |
| 116 |  |
| 117 |  |
| 119 |  |
| 121 |  |
| 127 |  |
| 150 |  |

Figure 15 -Profile sample of the 6 validation blocks/stands.

1. Centroid based zonal summation
2. Area-weighted based summation

Some tools provide polygon summaries from raster layers by only selecting raster pixels with centroids within the polygon. This can result in edge raster pixels being excluded if they border linear features such as roads/rivers, water bodies (

Figure 16) and the centroid is in that feature. In addition, where polygons bisect raster pixels, only one polygon is assigned the value of the raster pixel (Figure 17). The issue is particularly problematic for small polygons (< 1 ha). In the DRM OPI, there were approximately 6,854, polygons with area < 0.5 ha, accounting for about 1,885 ha (out of a forested area of approximately 856,131 ha with approximately 73,600 polygons). There were about 778 polygons with area < 0.1 ha (covering a total of 48 ha).

In an area-weighted approach, the pixel's contribution to a polygon is weighted by the portion of the pixel falling within a polygon. This means a pixel can potentially be part of more than one polygon.

Pixels that fall entirely within the polygon will have a weight of one. If half of a pixels falls within a polygon, the pixel will be given a weight of 0.5.

The decision to implement the area-weighted approach to generating T2 polygon raster summaries was selected. This method ensured that each polygon benefits from an appropriately weighted proportion of each raster pixel covered by the polygon.

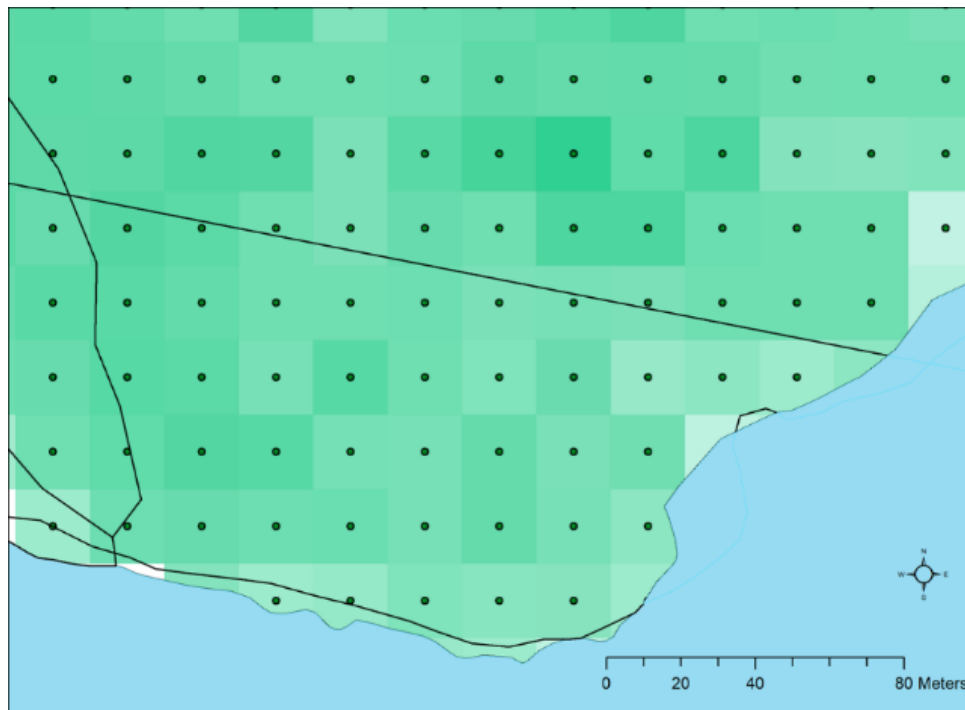


Figure 16 - Example of centroid selection or raster cells excluding raster values for narrow polygons along waterbodies.



Figure 17 - Example of a raster pixel being bisected into 4 by polygon boundaries with only one polygon including the centroid value.

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Appendix A: LiDAR predictors for DRM SPL–2018

Full point cloud predictor suite derived from LidR software scripts from a threshold height > 0 m unless specified. Predictors selected for use in Random Forest modeling of inventory attributes are indicated.

| Attribute | Threshold | Description | Model Predictor |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------------|
| zmax | >0m | max height of z | |
| zmean | >0m | mean height of z | |
| zsd | >0m | standard deviation of z | |
| zskew | >0m | skewness of z | |
| zkurt | >0m | kurtosis of z | |
| zentropy | >0m | entropy of height distribution (z) | |
| pzabovezmean | >0m | percentage of returns above zmean | |
| pzabove0 | >0m | percentage of returns above threshold | |
| zq5 | >0m | height of the 5th percentile of z | |
| zq10 | >0m | height of the 10th percentile of z | |
| zq15 | >0m | height of the 15th percentile of z | |
| zq20 | >0m | height of the 20th percentile of z | |
| zq25 | >0m | height of the 25th percentile of z | |
| zq30 | >0m | height of the 30th percentile of z | |
| zq35 | >0m | height of the 35th percentile of z | |
| zq40 | >0m | height of the 40th percentile of z | |
| zq45 | >0m | height of the 45th percentile of z | |
| zq50 | >0m | height of the 50th percentile of z | |
| zq55 | >0m | height of the 55th percentile of z | |
| zq60 | >0m | height of the 60th percentile of z | |
| zq65 | >0m | height of the 65th percentile of z | |
| zq70 | >0m | height of the 70th percentile of z | |
| zq75 | >0m | height of the 75th percentile of z | |
| zq80 | >0m | height of the 80th percentile of z | |
| zq85 | >0m | height of the 85th percentile of z | |
| zq90 | >0m | height of the 90th percentile of z | |
| zq95 | >0m | height of the 95th percentile of z | |
| zq99 | >0m | height of the 99th percentile of z | |
| zpcum1 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 1st decile | |
| zpcum2 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 2nd decile | |
| zpcum3 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 3rd decile | |
| zpcum4 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 4th decile | |
| zpcum5 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 5th decile | |
| zpcum6 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 6th decile | |
| zpcum7 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 7th decile | |
| zpcum8 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 8th decile | |
| zpcum9 | >0m | percent of z returns below the 9th decile | |
| zsd95 | >0m | standard deviation of z trimmed to 95% | |
| zskew95 | >0m | skewness of z trimmed to 95% | |
| zkurt95 | >0m | kurtosis of z trimmed to 95% | |
| zmin | >0m | minimum height of z returns | |
| allpts | >=0m | count of all points > Threshold (2,3,4,5) | |
| allptsAT | >0m | count of all points (2,3,4,5) | |
| vegcnt | >=0m | count of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| firstveg | >=0m | count of first return points of vegetation (3,4,5) | |
| firstcnt | >=0m | count of first returns | |
| firstonlycnt | >=0m | count of first and ONLY return points of vegetation (3,4,5) | |
| groundcnt | >=0m | count of f=ground returns (2) | |
| vegratio | >=0m | vegetation ratio (vegetation points (vegcnt) / all points (allpts)) | |
| da | >=0m | percentage of First Returns / all returns (firstcnt / allpts) *100 | |
| db | >=0m | percentage of "First & Only" Returns / all returns (firstonlycnt | |
| dv | >=0m | percentage of "Vegetation & Only" Returns / all returns | |
| vdr | >0m | Vertical Distribution Ratio (max-median)/max | |
| cv | >0m | coefficient of variation of z returns | |
| vci_1m | >0m | vegetation complexity index - 1m bins (Van Ewijk 2011) | |

| | | | |
|---------|----|--|--|
| cov_2m | NA | canopy cover % above 2m (number of first returns above 2m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_4m | NA | canopy cover % above 4m (number of first returns above 4m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_6m | NA | canopy cover % above 6m (number of first returns above 6m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_8m | NA | canopy cover % above 8m (number of first returns above 8m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_10m | NA | canopy cover % above 10m (number of first returns above 10m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_12m | NA | canopy cover % above 12m (number of first returns above 12m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_14m | NA | canopy cover % above 14m (number of first returns above 14m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_16m | NA | canopy cover % above 16m (number of first returns above 16m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_18m | NA | canopy cover % above 18m (number of first returns above 18m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_20m | NA | canopy cover % above 20m (number of first returns above 20m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_22m | NA | canopy cover % above 22m (number of first returns above 22m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_24m | NA | canopy cover % above 24m (number of first returns above 24m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_26m | NA | canopy cover % above 26m (number of first returns above 26m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_28m | NA | canopy cover % above 28m (number of first returns above 28m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| cov_30m | NA | canopy cover % above 30m (number of first returns above 30m / number of first returns) * 100 | |
| dns_2m | NA | canopy cover % above 2m (number of all returns above 2m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_4m | NA | canopy cover % above 4m (number of all returns above 4m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_6m | NA | canopy cover % above 6m (number of all returns above 6m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_8m | NA | canopy cover % above 8m (number of all returns above 8m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_10m | NA | canopy cover % above 10m (number of all returns above 10m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_12m | NA | canopy cover % above 12m (number of all returns above 12m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_14m | NA | canopy cover % above 14m (number of all returns above 14m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_16m | NA | canopy cover % above 16m (number of all returns above 16m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_18m | NA | canopy cover % above 18m (number of all returns above 18m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_20m | NA | canopy cover % above 20m (number of all returns above 18m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_22m | NA | canopy cover % above 22m (number of all returns above 18m / number of all returns) * 100 | |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|---|--|
| dns_24m | NA | canopy cover % above 24m (number of all returns above 24m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_26m | NA | canopy cover % above 26m (number of all returns above 26m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_28m | NA | canopy cover % above 28m (number of all returns above 28m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| dns_30m | NA | canopy cover % above 30m (number of all returns above 30m / number of all returns) * 100 | |
| vegden 0 2 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 0 and 2m | |
| vegden 2 4 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 2 and 4m | |
| vegden 4 6 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 4 and 6m | |
| vegden 6 8 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 6 and 8m | |
| vegden 8 10 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 10 and 10m | |
| vegden 10 12 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 10 and 12m | |
| vegden 12 14 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 12 and 14m | |
| vegden 14 16 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 14 and 16m | |
| vegden 16 18 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 16 and 18m | |
| vegden 18 20 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 18 and 20m | |
| vegden 20 22 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 20 and 22m | |
| vegden 22 24 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 22 and 24m | |
| vegden 24 26 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 24 and 26m | |
| vegden 26 28 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 26 and 28m | |
| vegden 28 30 | >=0m | Percent vegetation returns between 28 and 30m | |
| L1 | NA | L1 moment of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| L2 | NA | L2 moment of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| L3 | NA | L3 moment of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| L4 | NA | L4 moment of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| Lskew | NA | L Skewness of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| Lkurt | NA | L Kurtosis of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| Lcoefvar | NA | L Coeficient of Variation of vegetation points (3,4,5) | |
| ngrcnt | -0.15 | count of all points (2,3,4,5) between -0.15 and 0.15 for LPI | |
| allptscnt ngr | -0.15 | Count of all points (2,3,4,5) between -0.15 and 48m for LPI | |
| lpi | -0.15 | LiDAR penetration index - count of returns between (-0.15 - 0.15)/all points (-.15 to 30m) * 100 [Uses Class 2,3,4,5] | |
| ri pts | NA | rumple index based on LiDAR points - 1m DSM | |

Appendix B – Requested Resolute Forest Products volume specifications for the DRM

Species Percentage Calculation for Requested DRM Volume Rasters

SPF is the percent of basal area in black spruce, white spruce, red spruce, jack pine and balsam fir. PoBw is the percent of basal area in white birch and any poplar (tree_spec = 70 – 75). If SPF + PoBw > 100 (due to round), PoBw was set to 100 - SPF

Only GMV_NL and GMV_WL are delivered as a raster product. The other volumes are provided as a polygon product as they require T1 species composition information to calculate the appropriate volume.

DRM custom volumes log specifications

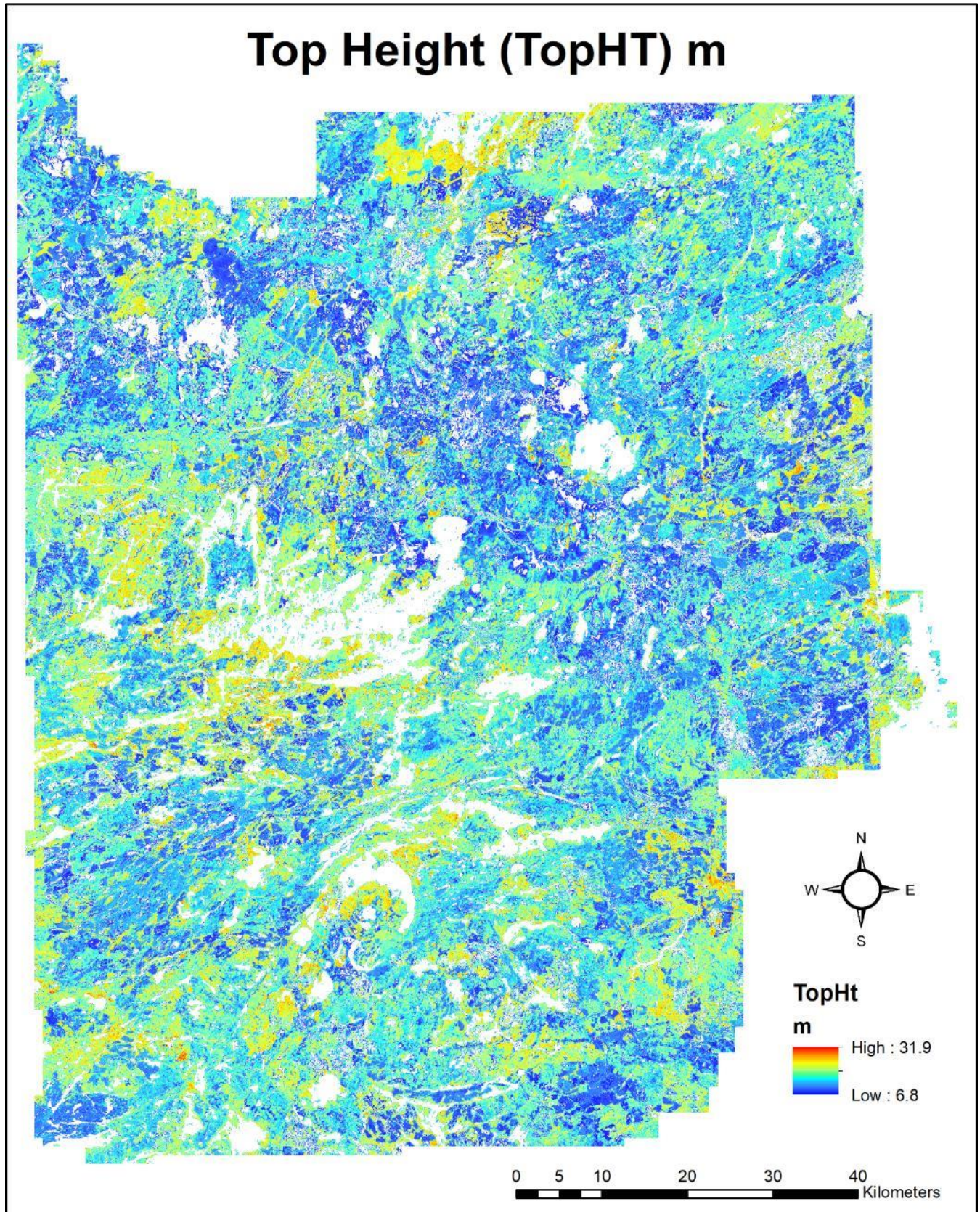
SPF = white & black spruce, jack pine and balsam fir

Tamarack, white and red pine are ignored are not included in SPF

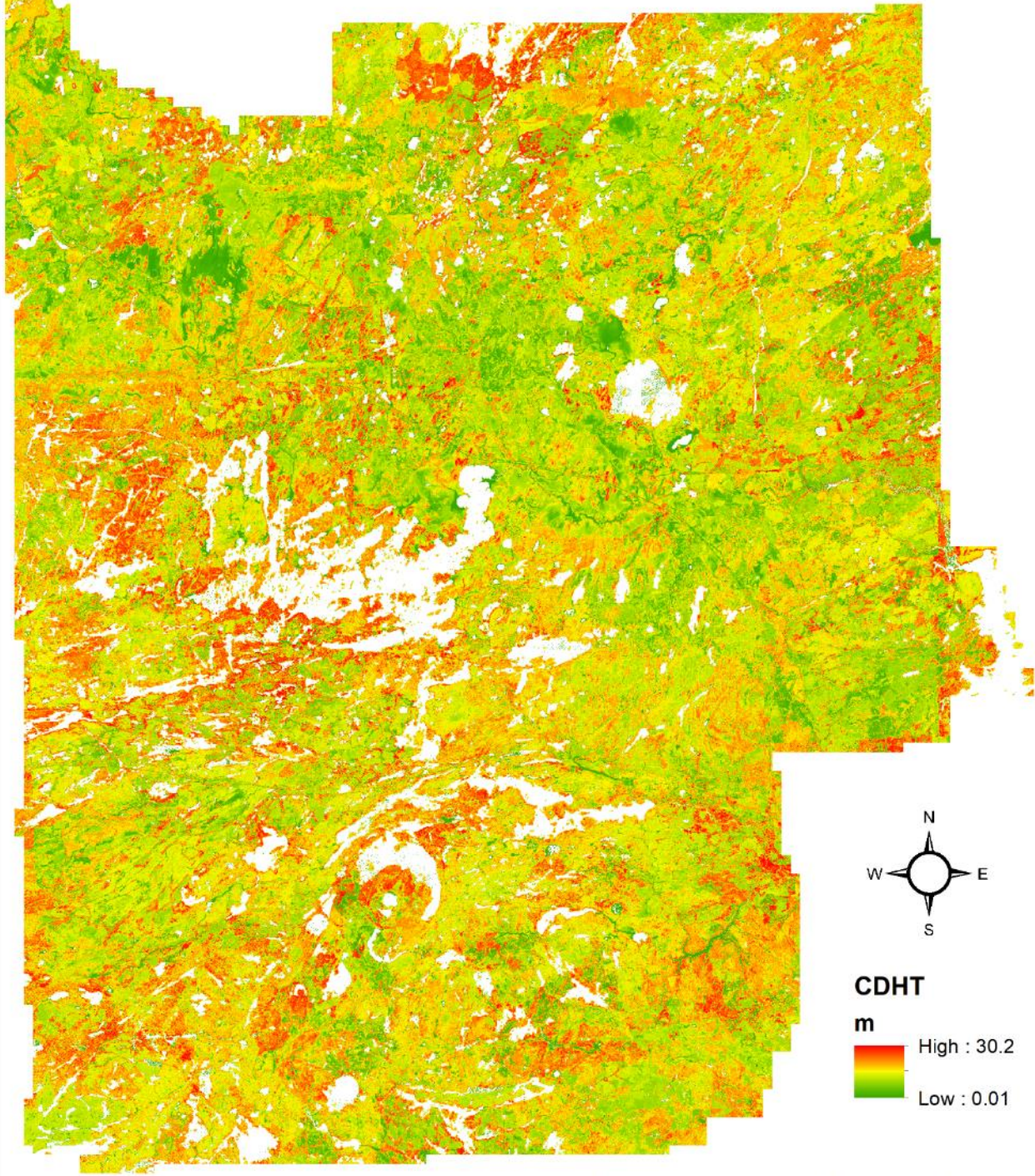
| Volume | Stump height | Maximum butt diameter (inside bark) | Minimum top diameter (inside bark) | Minimum length | Maximum length | Species |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| GMV_NL (GMB_NL)* | 30 cm | NA | Table 1 | None | None | All |
| GMV_WL (GMV_WL) | 30 cm | NA | Table 1 | 8' 4" (2.54 m) | 8' 4" (2.54 m) | All |
| DRM_TL_IGN_TBY (TLIGNTB) | 30 cm | 23" (58.5 cm) | 7 cm (Sw & Sb) 9 cm (Pj & Bf) | 12' (3.6 m) | 64' (19.5 m) | Applied to SPF |
| CTL_ATK (CTL_ATK) | 30 cm | 19" (48.3 cm) | 5" (12.7 cm Sw & Sb) 5.5" (14.0 cm Pj & Bf) | 3.73 m | 5.005 m | Applied to SPF |
| CTL_IGN_TBY (CTLIGNTB) | 30 cm | NA (ignoring oversize) | 7 cm (Sw & Sb) 9 cm (Pj & Bf) | 98" (2.49 m) | 27' (8.23 m) | Applied to SPF |
| Norbord_Hwd (Nbd_Hwd) | 30 cm | 24" | 4" | 102" (2.59m) | 106" (2.69m) | Applied to Po/Bw |
| Kenora_Hwd (Ken_Hwd) | 30 cm | 30" | 4" (10cm) poplar 6" (15cm) birch | 80" (2.03m) | 115" (2.92m) | Applied to Po/Bw |

*Polygon Attribute name in brackets

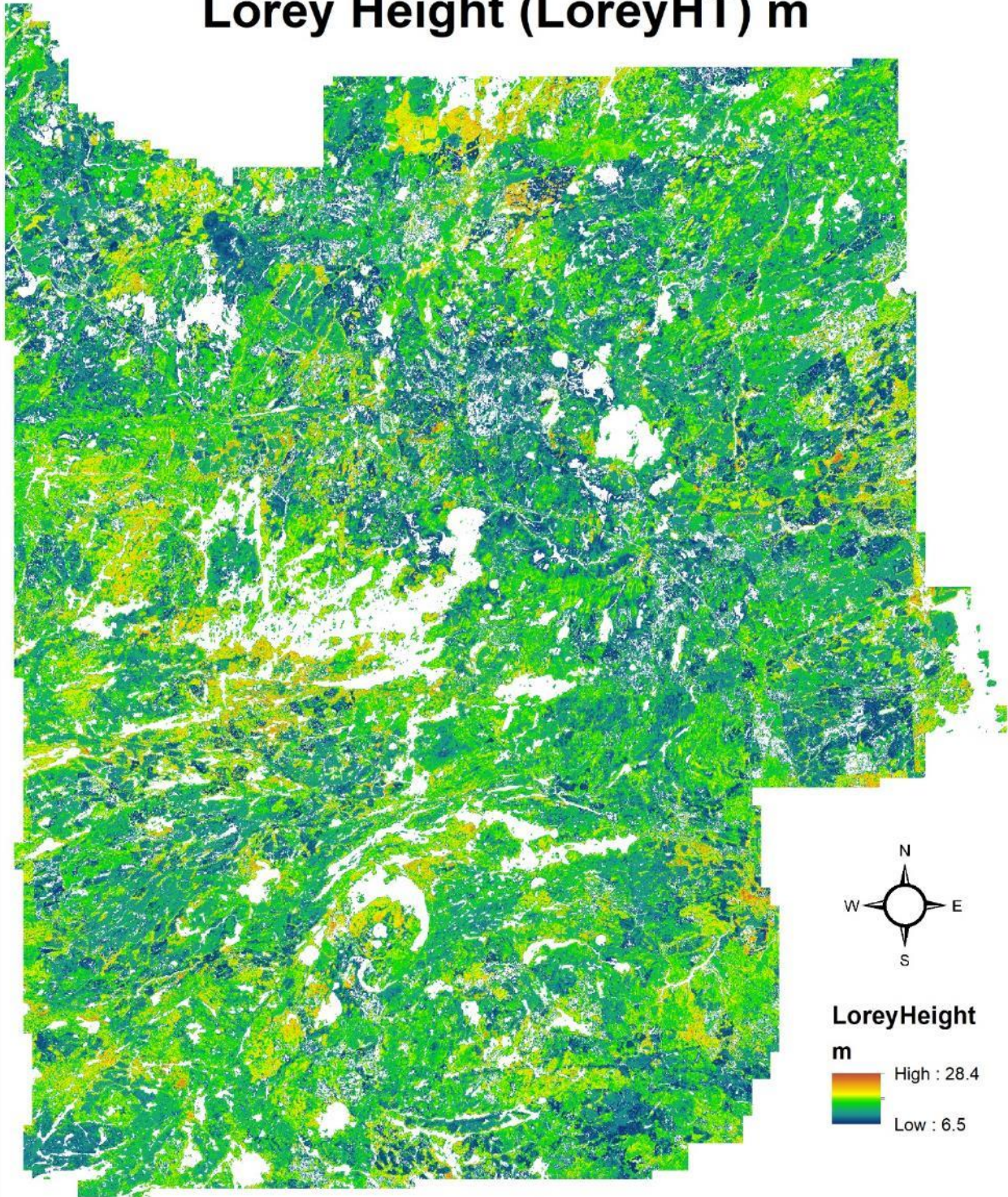
Appendix D - Examples of LiDAR derived Raster Outputs



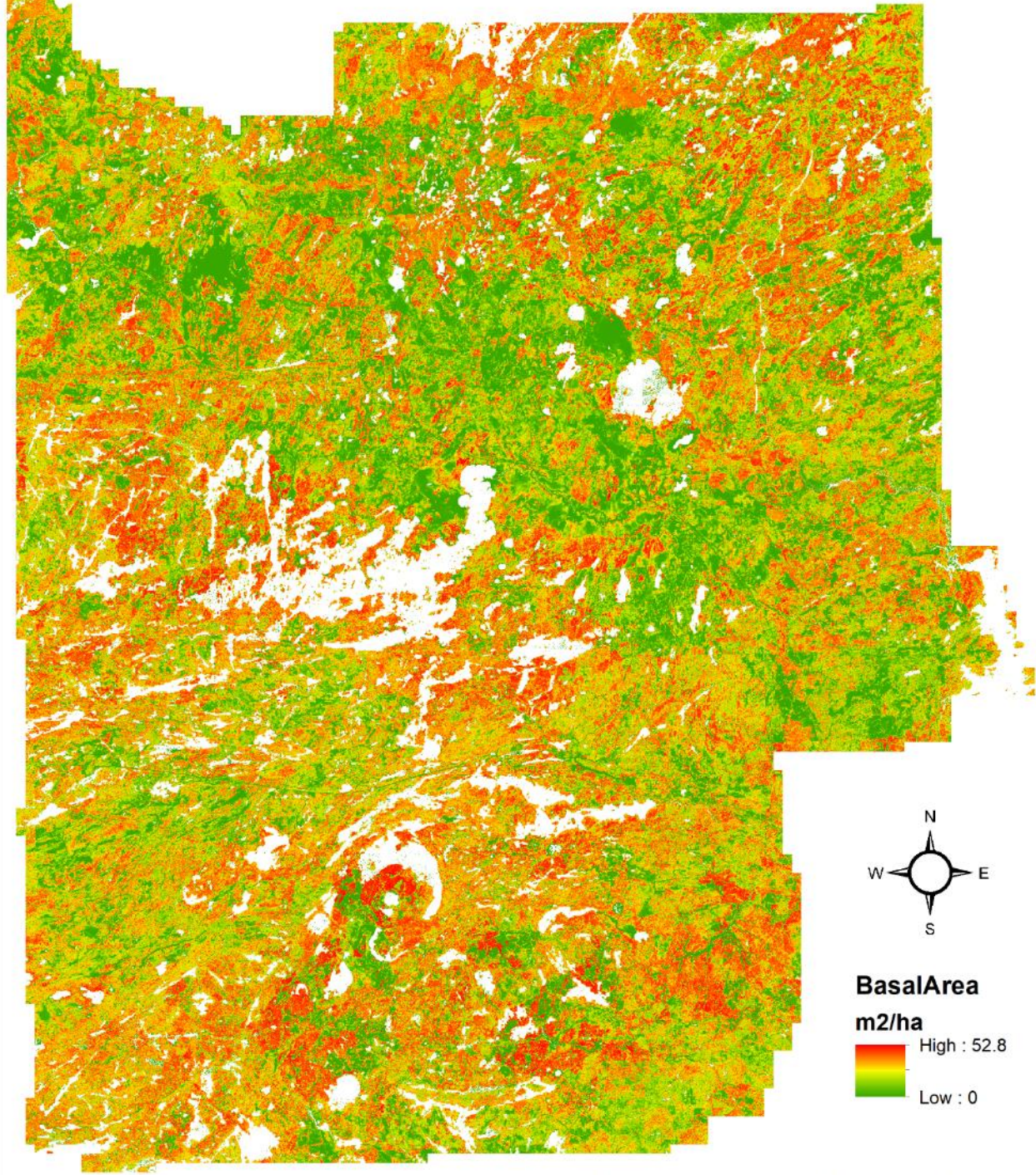
Dominant/CoDominant Height (CDHT) m



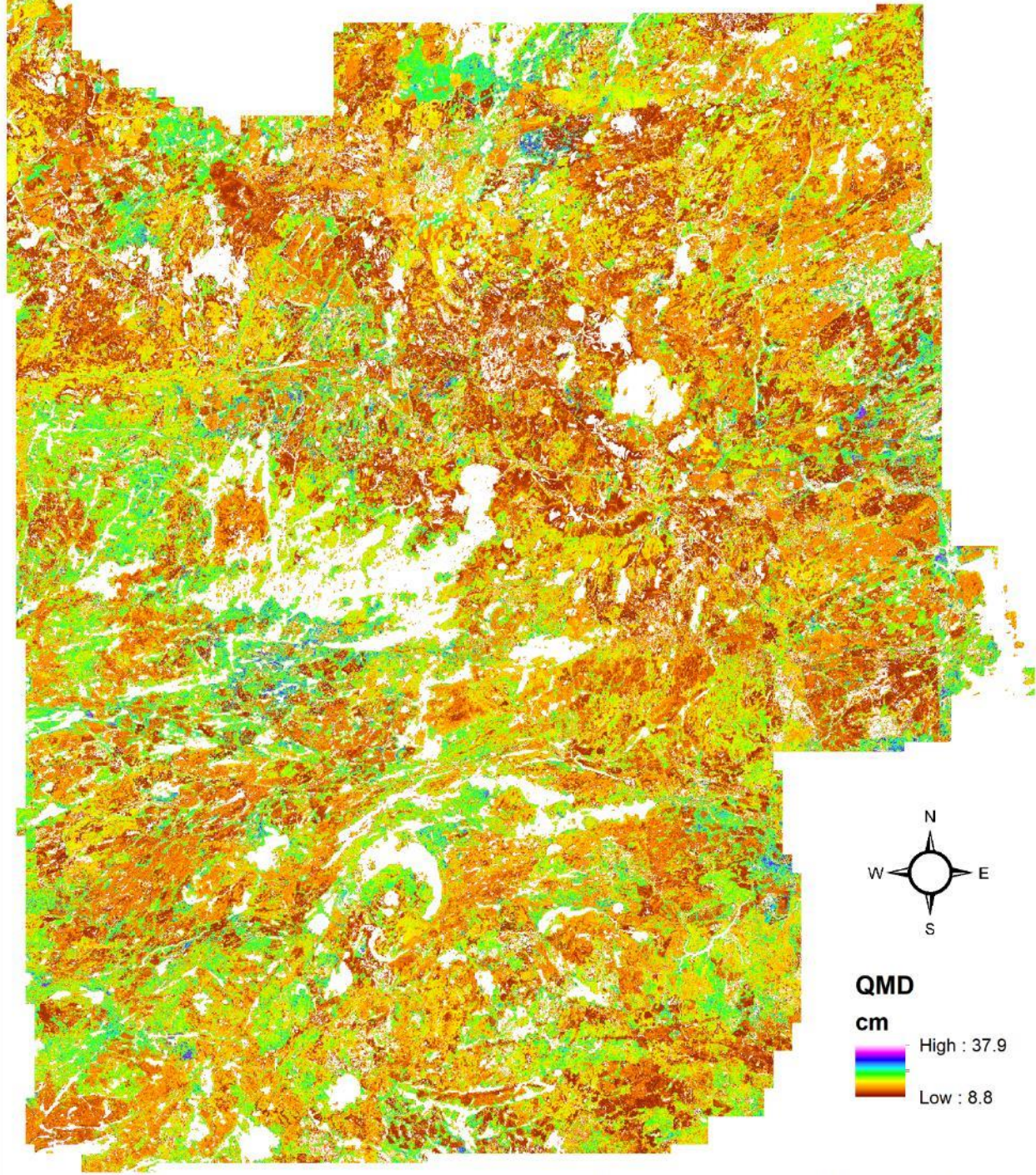
Lorey Height (LoreyHT) m



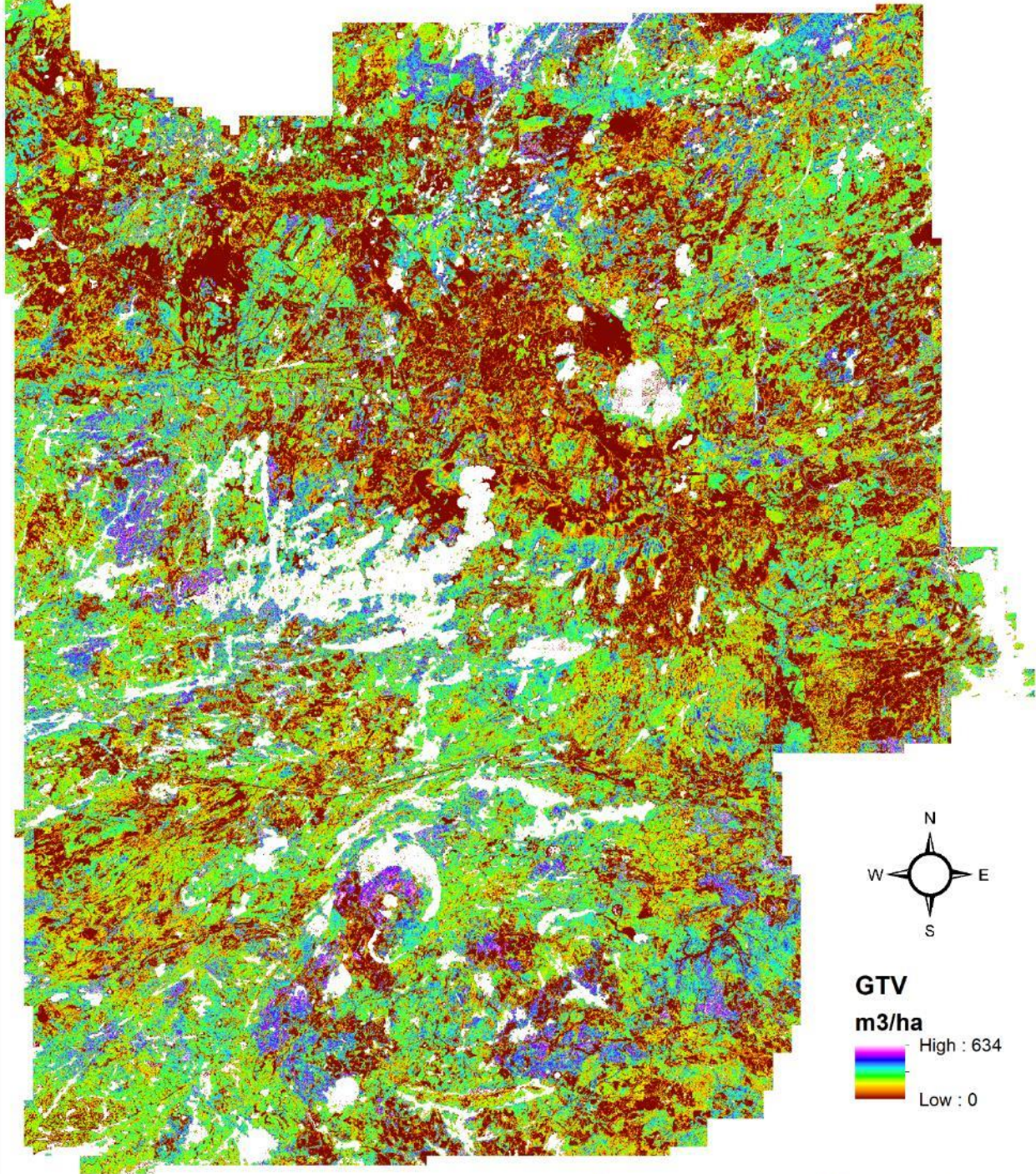
Basal Area (BasalArea) m2/ha



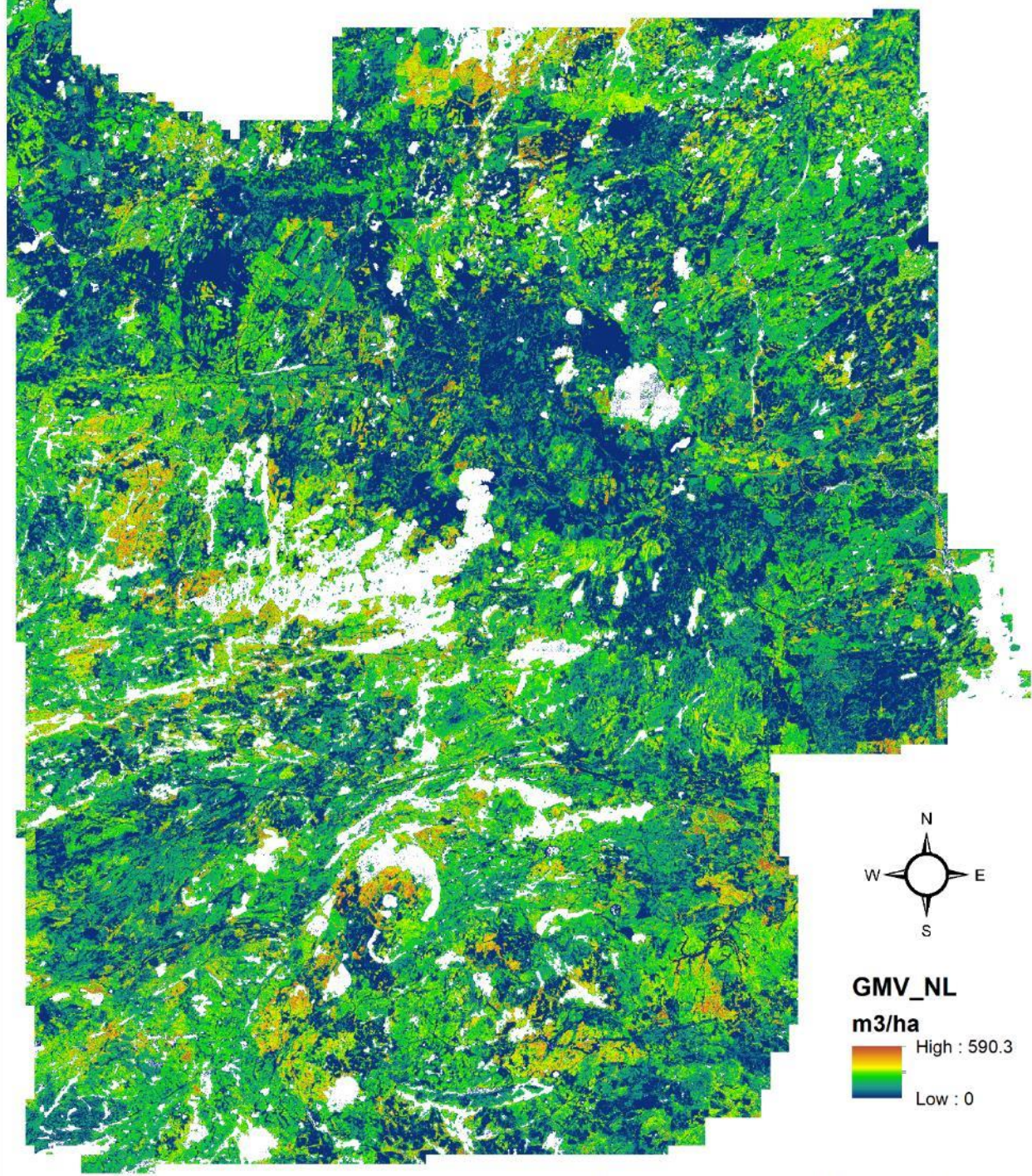
Quadratic Mean Diameter (QMD) cm



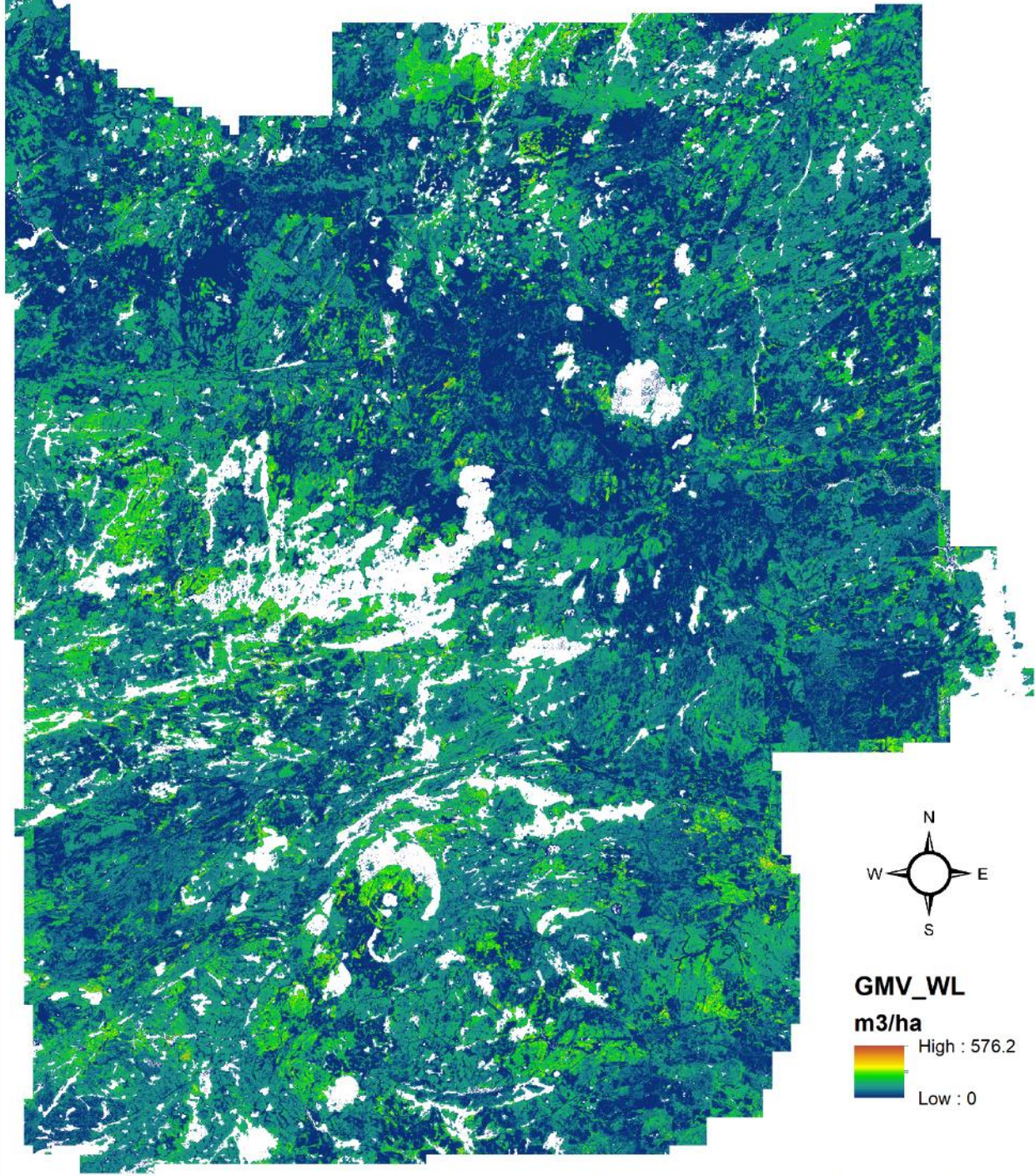
Gross Total Volume (GTV) m3/ha



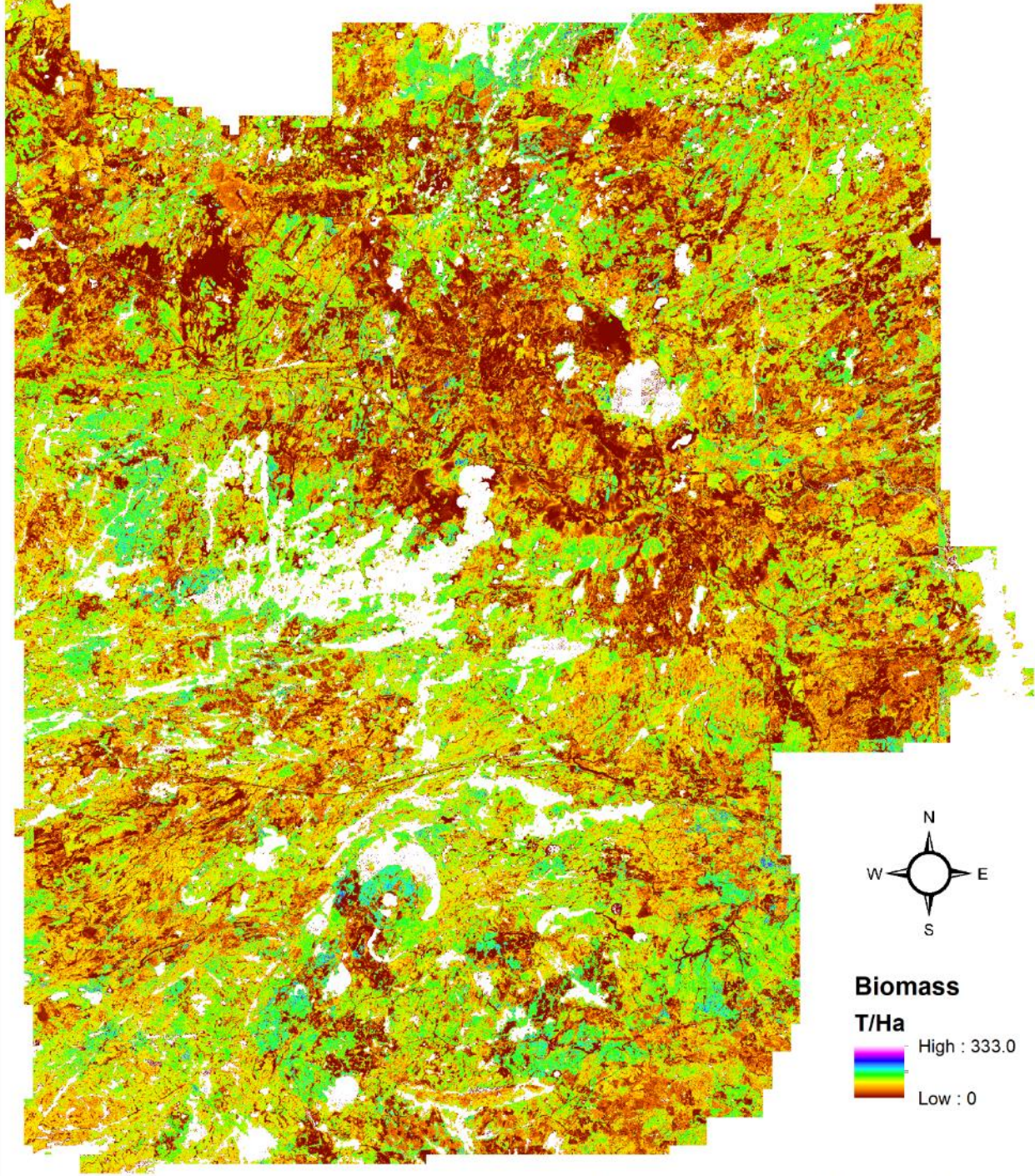
Gross Merchantable Volume (GMV_NL) m3/ha



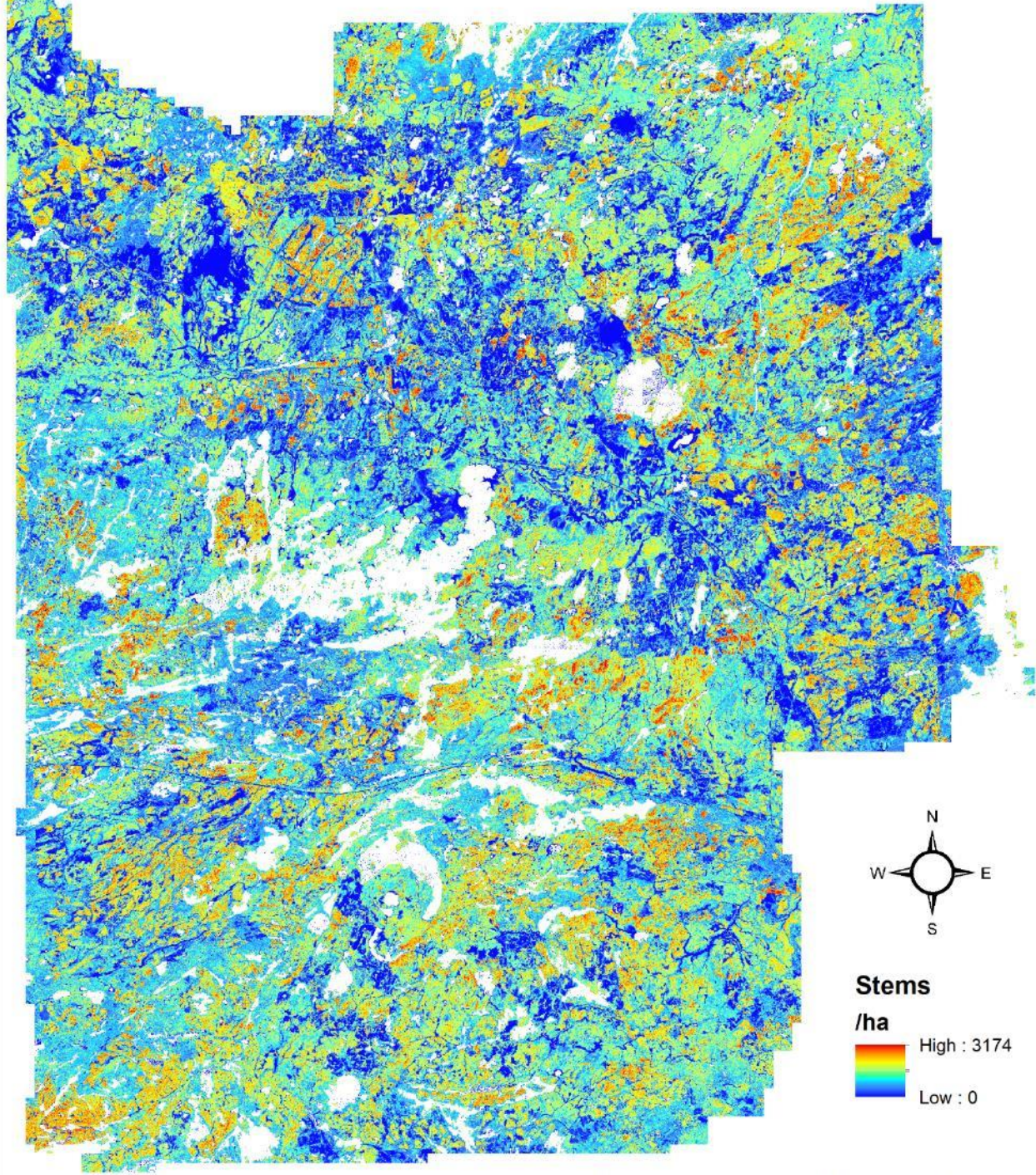
Gross Merchantable Volume (GMV_WL) m3/ha



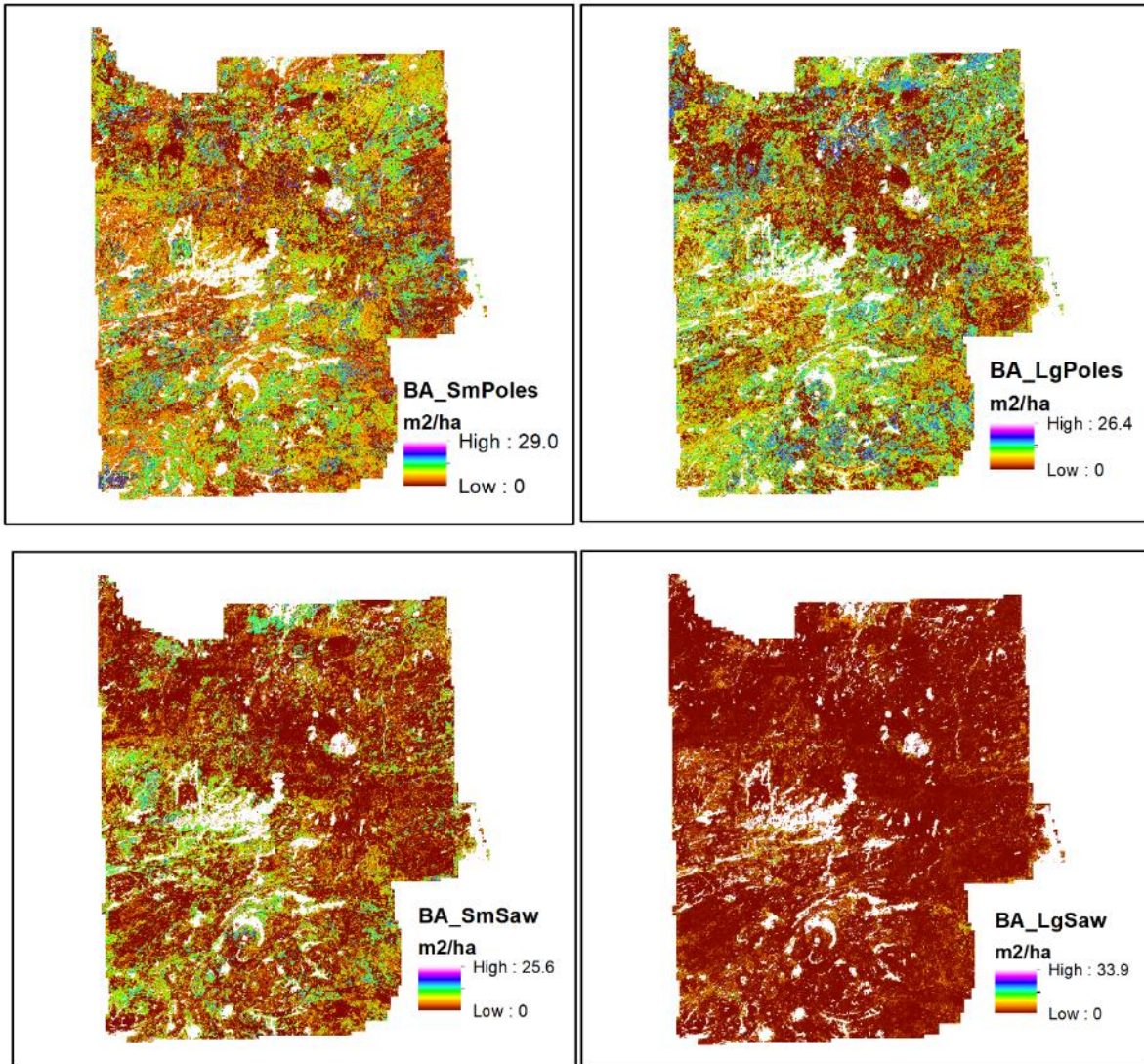
Total Above Ground Biomass (Biomass) T/ha



Tree Density (Stems) /ha

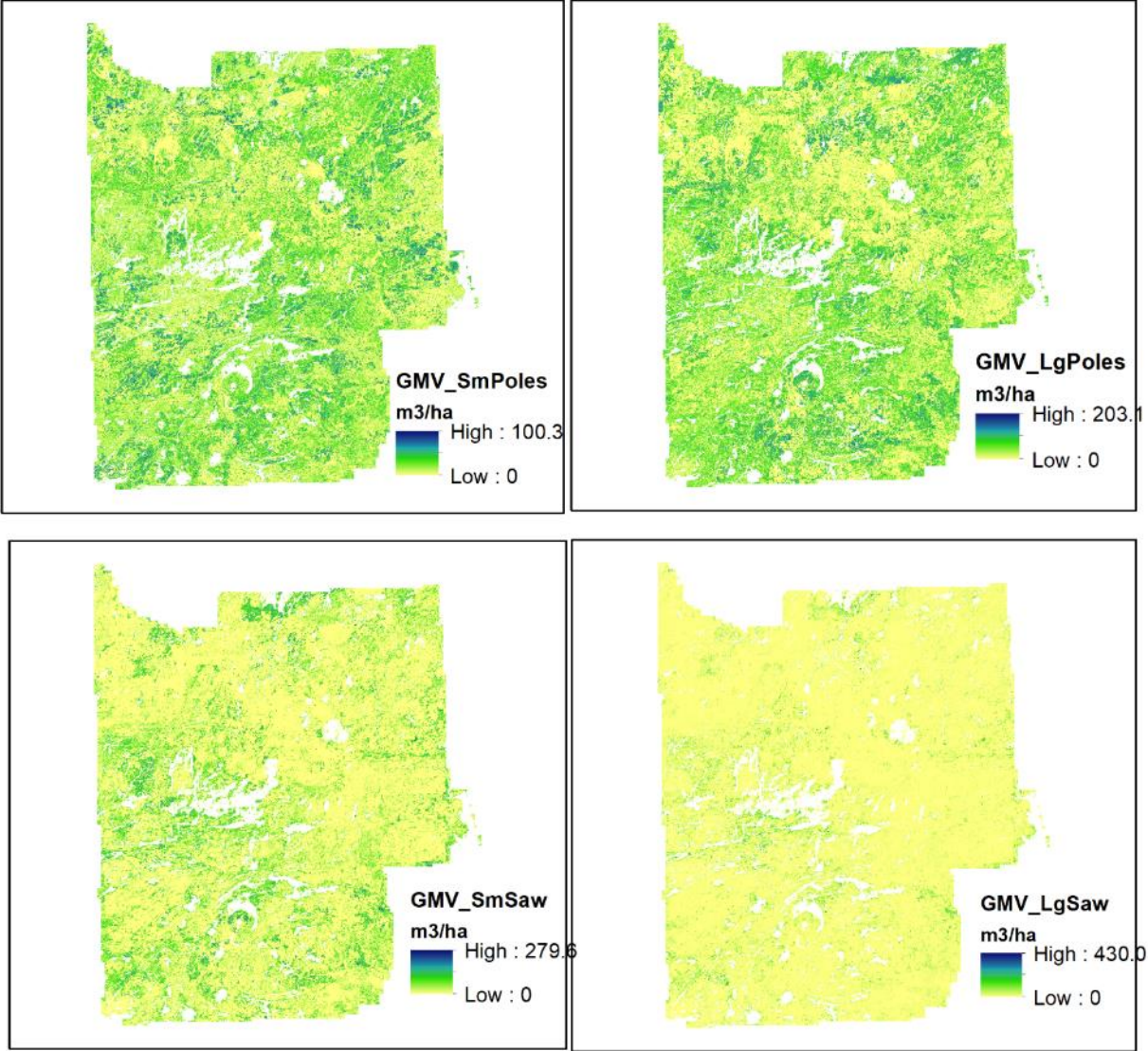


Basal Area by Size Class m2/ha

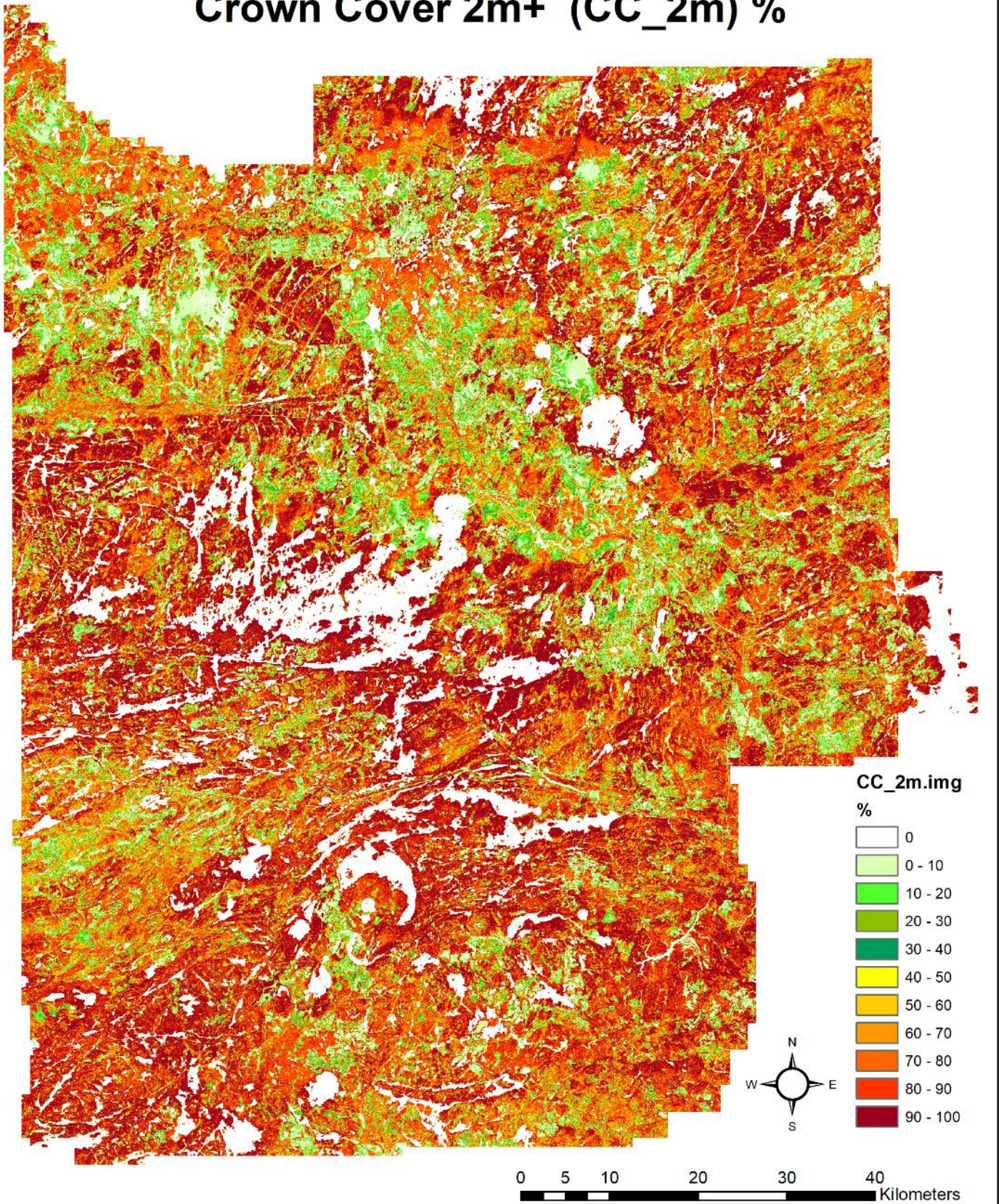


0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometers

Gross Merchantable Volume (NL) by Size Class m3/ha



Crown Cover 2m+ (CC_2m) %



Appendix E – Site Index Curve Sources

Sharma and Reid (2018) recommend that height and age be estimated from at least five independent sample within a stand and for trees that have at least 6 years of growth beyond breast height age.

Table 1. The available site index curves are listed by species and origin. The recommended equations are **bolded**. If there is only one reference, it is the curve used.

| Species | Planted | Natural |
|--|---|--|
| White pine | Sharma & Parton (2019) equation 1, table 2 no climate | Parresol & Vissage (1998) |
| Red pine | Sharma & Parton (2018b) equation 1, table 4 (no climate), Carmean & Thrower (1995) | Buckmann et al. (2006) |
| Jack pine | Sharma et al. (2015) equation 1 (no climate), Guo and Wang (2006), Subedi & Sharma (2010) | Sharma & Reid (2018), equation 3, table 4 Sharma (2021), Carmean et al. (2001) Goelz and Burk. (1998), Guo and Wang (2006) |
| White spruce | Sharma & Parton (2018a) equation 1, table 2 (no climate) | |
| Black spruce | Sharma et al. (2015) equation 1 (no climate), Subedi & Sharma (2010) | Sharma & Reid (2018), equation 3, table 4 Sharma (2021), Carmean et al. (2006) |
| Hemlock | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 127 |
| Balsam fir | | Carmean (1996) figure 18 |
| Tamarack | | Carmean (1996) figure 16 |
| cedar | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 57 |
| Sugar maple | | Buda & Wang (2006) |
| Red maple | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 1 |
| Yellow birch | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 6 |
| White birch | | Carmean (1996) figure 14 |
| Poplar (all including Aspen, largetooth and balsam poplar) | | Carmean et al. (2006), Sharma working on Po/Pj for Dec. 2021 |
| White ash | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 13 |
| Black ash | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 14 |
| Red oak | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 48 |
| Elm | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 53 |
| Basswood | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 51 |
| Beech | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 11 |
| Black cherry | | Carmean et al. (1989) figure 34 |
| | | |
| SI conversion | Carmean et al. (2013), Sharma (2021), working on Po,Pj for Dec 2021 | |
| Northeastern US | Westfall et al. (2017) | |
| | | |

Appendix F – Northwest Forest Unit SQL

| Order | FU | SQL Query |
|-------|-------|--|
| 1 | PwDom | (Pw >= 40) |
| 2 | PrDom | (Pr >= 70) |
| 3 | PrwMx | (Pw + Pr >= 40) |
| 4 | UplCe | (Ce >= 20 And Ecosite In ('B013', 'B036', 'B051', 'B066', 'B084', 'B100', 'B115')) Or ((Ce >= 40 And Bf <= 10 And (Pr + Pw + Pj + Sw + Bf + Po >= 20) And (Pw + Pr + SPF + Cw + Ce + La + He >= 70)) And (Ecosite Not In ('B126', 'B127', 'B128', 'B129', 'B134', 'B135', 'B136', 'B137', 'B222', 'B223', 'B224') And Ecosite Not In ('B130', 'B131', 'B132', 'B133')) |
| 5 | OCLow | ((Ce + La >= 50) And (Ecosite In ('B126', 'B127', 'B128', 'B129', 'B134', 'B135', 'B136', 'B137', 'B222', 'B223', 'B224'))) |
| 6 | SbLow | (Ecosite In ('B126', 'B127', 'B128', 'B129', 'B134', 'B135', 'B136', 'B137', 'B222', 'B223', 'B224')) Or (Ecosite In ('B130', 'B131', 'B132', 'B133') And (Pw + Pr + SPF + Cw + Ce + La + He > Po + Pb + Pt + Bw + (Ab + Ew + Pb) + (By + Mr))) |
| 7 | SbSha | (Sb >= 70 And Po + Bw <= 20 And Ecosite In ('B011', 'B012', 'B014', 'B015', 'B016', 'B017', 'B018', 'B019', 'B023', 'B024', 'B025', 'B026', 'B027', 'B028')) |
| 8 | SbDee | (Sb >= 70 And Po + Bw <= 20) |
| 9 | PjSha | ((Pj >= 70 And Po + Bw <= 20) Or (Pj >= 50 And Po + Bw <= 20 And AGE >= 120)) And (Ecosite In ('B011', 'B012', 'B014', 'B015', 'B016', 'B017', 'B018', 'B019', 'B023', 'B024', 'B025', 'B026', 'B027', 'B028')) |
| 10 | PjDee | (Pj >= 70 And Po + Bw <= 20) Or (Pj >= 50 And Po + Bw <= 20 And AGE >= 120) Or (Pj >= 70 And Ecosite In ('B034', 'B035')) |
| 11 | PoSha | (Po >= 70 And Ecosite In ('B011', 'B012', 'B014', 'B015', 'B016', 'B017', 'B018', 'B019', 'B023', 'B024', 'B025', 'B026', 'B027', 'B028')) |
| 12 | PoDee | (Po >= 70) |
| 13 | BwSha | (Bw >= 60 And Po + Bw >= 70 And Ecosite In ('B011', 'B012', 'B014', 'B015', 'B016', 'B017', 'B018', 'B019', 'B023', 'B024', 'B025', 'B026', 'B027', 'B028')) |
| 14 | BwDee | (Bw >= 60 And Po + Bw >= 70) |
| 15 | OthHd | ((By + Mr) + (Ab + Ew + Pb) >= 30) |
| 16 | SbMx1 | (Pw + Pr + (Pj + Sb + Sw + Bf) + Cw + Ce + La + He >= 70 And Bf <= 10 And Po + Bw <= 20 And Sb + Sw > Pj And Sb + Sw + Pj >= 40) |
| 17 | PjMx1 | (Pw + Pr + (Pj + Sb + Sw + Bf) + Cw + Ce + La + He >= 70 And Bf <= 10 And Po + Bw <= 20 And Sb + Sw <= Pj And Sb + Sw + Pj >= 40) |
| 18 | BfPur | (Bf >= 70) |
| 19 | BfMx1 | (Pw + Pr + (Pj + Sb + Sw + Bf) + Cw + Ce + La + He >= 70 And Bf > 10 And Bf + Sw >= 30) |
| 20 | HrDom | (Po + Pb + Pt + Bw + (Ab + Ew + Pb) + (By + Mr) >= 70) |
| 21 | HrdMw | (Po + Pb + Pt + Bw + (Ab + Ew + Pb) + (By + Mr) >= 50) |
| 22 | ConMx | (Pw + Pr + (Pj + Sb + Sw + Bf) + Cw + Ce + La + He >= 50) |
| 23 | Other | FU = " |