

Indigenous Ways of Knowing: Mapping Resource Use in the Central Interior of British Columbia

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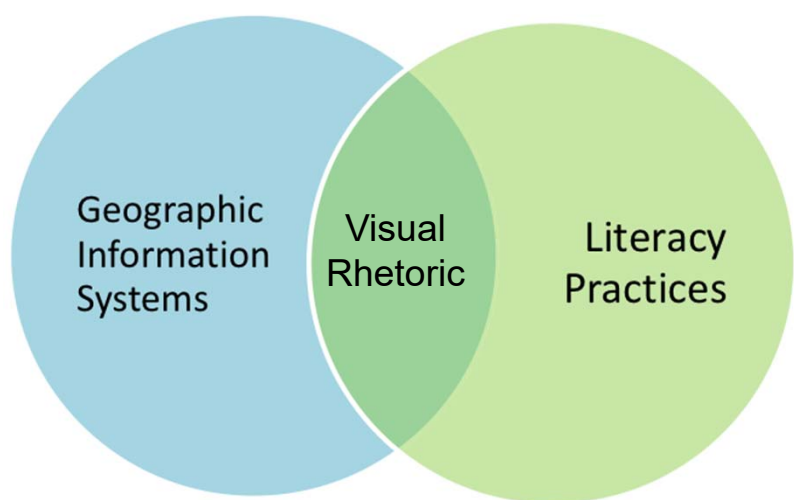


Figure 1. Two disciplines of Academia help explain historical impact through mapping

Introduction

This project uses an **interdisciplinary framework** to analyze the **visual rhetoric of archival maps** in documents impacting First Nations communities. The purpose of this investigation is to investigate the rhetoric of their hand-drawn maps in historic documents as well as demonstrate their resulting impact.

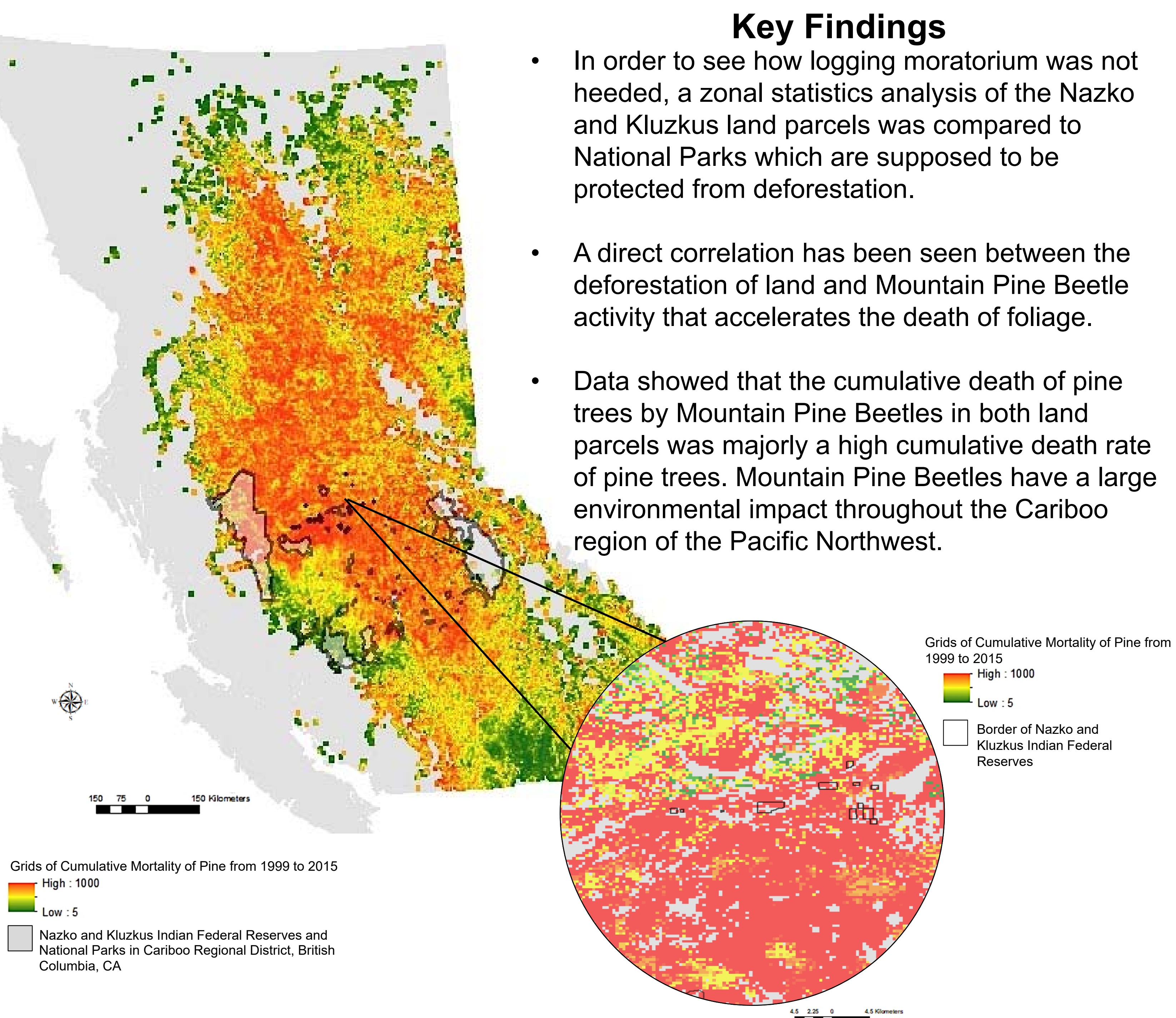


Figure 2. Photograph of "Six Mile Mary", Mary Quaw, who is a well known Nazko tribe member and advocate for cultural preservation

Cumulative Death of Pine Trees by Mountain Pine Beetle from 1999 to 2015 within Targeted Land Parcels

Explanation/Conceptual Framework

- The Nazko and Kluzkus tribes in British Columbia, Canada corresponded with the BC government through letters and reports throughout 1974 to discuss logging land claims.
- Multiple maps, drawn by Nazko First Nations of this Cariboo Region, were **georeferenced** by assigning real world coordinates to the sketched areas.
- Each of the three maps had RMS factors of 1104.5, 9794.05, and 8169.42 that indicate a lack of mapping accuracy. Using their own maps, from memory, First Nations employed a **visual rhetoric** that served to contest regional deforestation practices, yet lacked credibility among the Western culture and effect in logging moratorium.



Key Findings

- In order to see how logging moratorium was not heeded, a zonal statistics analysis of the Nazko and Kluzkus land parcels was compared to National Parks which are supposed to be protected from deforestation.
- A direct correlation has been seen between the deforestation of land and Mountain Pine Beetle activity that accelerates the death of foliage.
- Data showed that the cumulative death of pine trees by Mountain Pine Beetles in both land parcels was majorly a high cumulative death rate of pine trees. Mountain Pine Beetles have a large environmental impact throughout the Cariboo region of the Pacific Northwest.

Impact/Conclusions

The visual rhetoric of the native hand drawn maps lends credence to the idea that the natives perceived their environment and livelihood as invaded and exploited. Their lack of knowledge in mapping may show a **gap in cultural knowledge** with a Eurocentric government. Present day maps bring to question the impact of the logging monopoly in the Cariboo district having severely depleted land viability and enabling the destruction from Mountain Pine Beetle infestation on long term effects for pine regrowth. Future research can be done to discuss possibly existing correlations and causations.

References

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- "Six Mile Mary, 114 Years of Age" 30 July 1914. Royal BC Museum, Victoria. BC Archives Collection Search.

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