City of St Helens
Milton Creek Watershed
Annual Forest Management Review
March 18, 2026

2025 REVIEW & 2026 ACTIVITIES

2025 Review

- **'Section-20' Timber Sale** (See Map on Page-6)
    - Sold to Interfor on October 29, 2024
        - Contract expires July 31, 2026
        - 1.2 million board feet harvested to date
        - $629,000 income to date
        - Operations set to resume in late winter/early spring
    - 88-acres
    - 2.5 million board feet
    - $1.47 million estimated income
    - $608.76 per thousand-board-feet Douglas-fir bid price (stumpage)
        - See graph on Page-3 of St Helens Bid History

- **Reforestation**
    - 'Pinkney Road' Harvest Unit (See Map on Page-6)
        - 83-acres *(23-acre Full Plant, Partial Unit)*
        - 8,500 seedlings
    - 'Smith' Harvest Unit (See Map on Page-6)
        - 69-acres *(Interplant)*
        - 5,200 seedlings
- **Invasive Species Treatment**
    - 195-acres
        - Targeted herbicide treatment of Scotch Broom (3-units)

2026 Activities

- **'Section-20' Timber Sale**
    - Interfor plans to resume harvest operations in March or April
- **Pre-Commercial Thinning**
    - 45-acres (See Map on Page-5)
        - Age 23-years
        - Overstocked: 350+ Trees Per Acre
        - 200-250 Trees Per Acre following thinning
- **Invasive Species Treatment**
    - 155-acres (See Map on Page-5)
        - Targeted herbicide treatment of Scotch Broom (2-units)

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2026 Activities

- **Finalize Management Plan**
  - Document management history
  - Outline current management policies and guidelines
  - Outline management goals and objectives
  - Present to City Council at a spring Council meeting

TIMBER MARKET ANALYSIS

Current Sawlog Market

Current Prices

In March 2026, *small Douglas-fir saw log* (5 to 15-inch diameter) delivered prices in the local area range from **$650-$800** per MBF. This price range is the same as this time last year.

Current Trend

Log prices remain below the five-year average but seem to be trending up as the housing market appears to be improving. There is a limited supply of logs, which props prices up, even in a basic housing market and a tough overall economy. Mills interested in St Helens timber mostly produce dimension lumber (2x4, 2x6, etc) that is widely used in the construction industry and driven by the housing market.

It is important to understand log supply challenges in the Pacific Northwest when looking at future log markets. As a net importer of lumber, the United States is not getting the supply from Canada it has historically, so there is more pressure on domestic producers to fill this gap. Billions of board feet of timber were lost in the Labor Day fires of 2020 and most of the salvageable logs have been processed. In 2024, additional harvest regulations were imposed on Oregon forests, further reducing the amount of timberland available for harvest. All that being said, with a limited supply of logs available, prices should remain solid even in a lumber economy that features basic demands.

The current inventory of City of St Helens timber features mostly small Douglas-fir saw logs. In the current market, Douglas-fir stumpage prices for City of St Helens timber would range from **$400-$550** per MBF.

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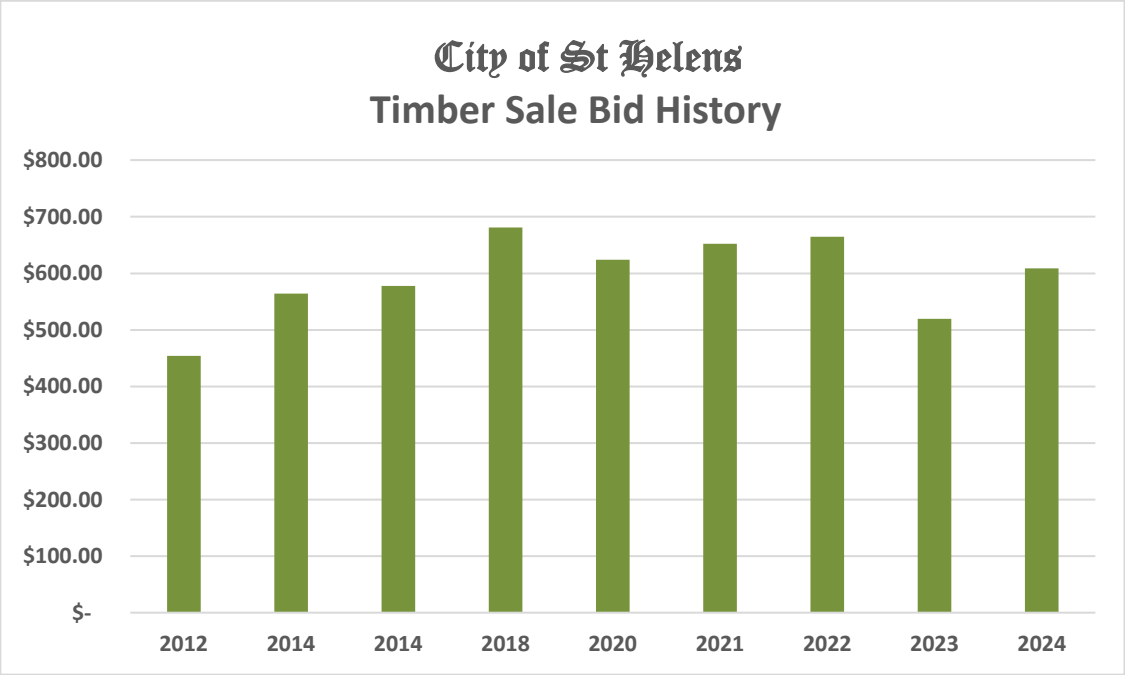
Timber Sale Bid History of City of St Helens Stumpage Sales ($ per MBF for Douglas-fir)



MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Recent Harvest History

2018-2026 *(Includes current 'Section-20' timber sale)*

After a four-year break following the harvest of the majority of the remaining merchantable timber in 2014; from 2018-2026 we harvested 450-acres from six timber sales – an average of 50-acres per year, which is just over our sustainable goal of 46-acres per year (based on a 45-year rotation in which 1/45th of the available forestland is harvested annually). The sustainable harvest level is a rolling average over time, and considerable added value has been captured during this period by harvesting greater than 50-acres during years that featured historic peaks in the log market.

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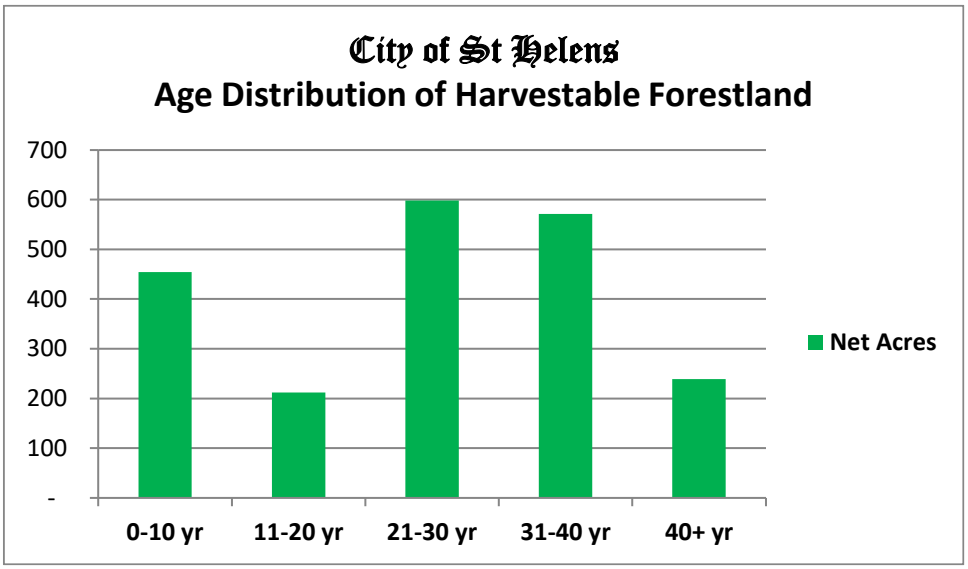
Future Outlook

City of St Helens Forest Composition

The Milton Creek Watershed contains 2,075-acres of Commercial Forestland. The oldest available stands of timber are now 40 to 50 years of age. There are roughly 240-acres of timber greater than age 40. Within 5 to 10 years, roughly 700-acres will move into the 40+ year category.

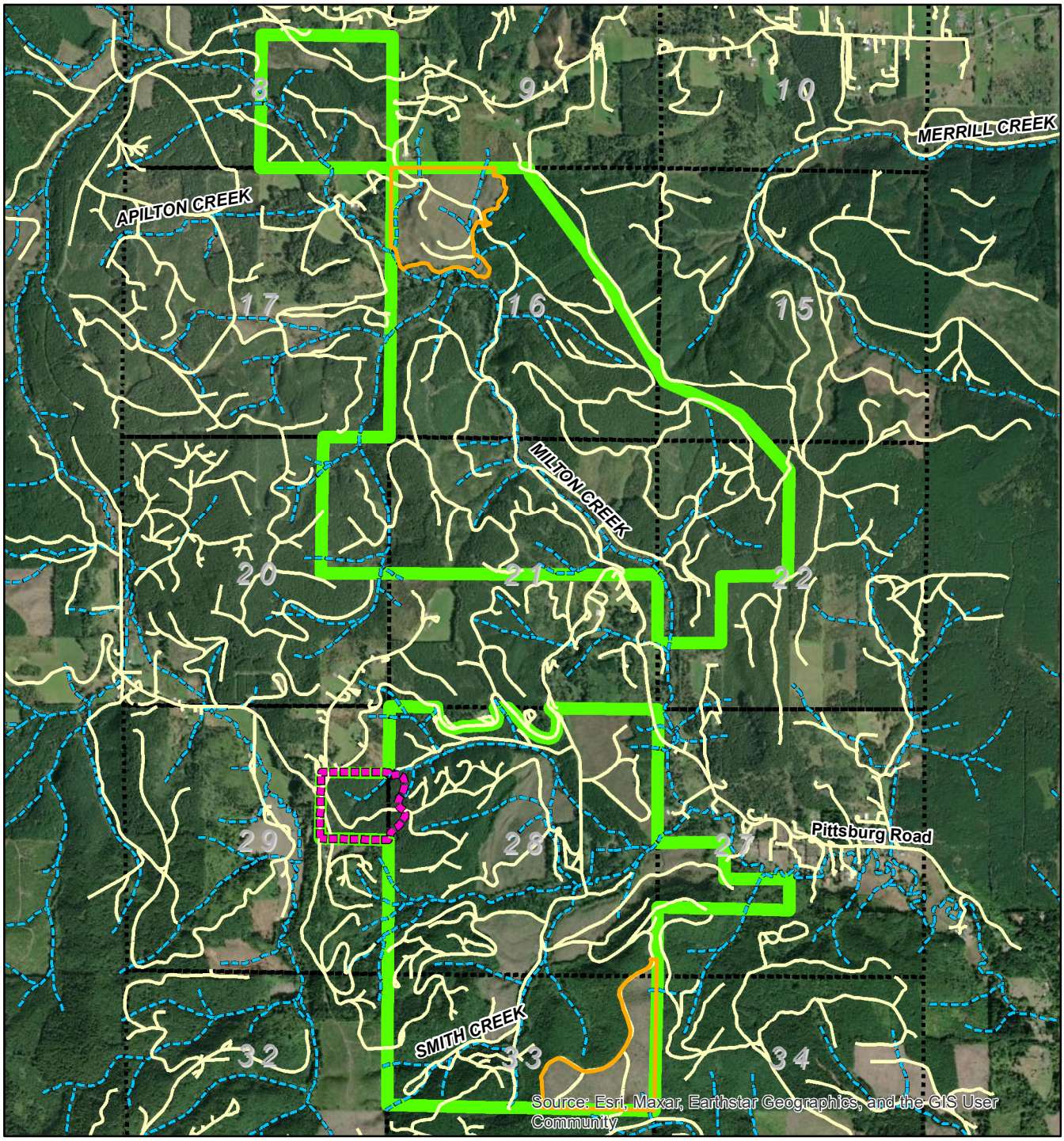
Age Distribution of City of St Helens Forestland That is Available for Harvest



Current Harvesting Options

The City currently has roughly 100-acres of readily available merchantable timber. (See Map on Page-6) Given the current market and our sustainability goals, I recommend deferring harvest for a year or two and timing the next harvest with a peak in the log market.

City of St Helens
2026 Projects Overview



Township 5 North - Range 2 West

- 2026 PCT Unit (45-acres)
- 2026 Scotch Broom Treatment
- St Helens Ownership
- Sections
- Roads
- Streams

N

1 inch = 3,000 feet

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Natural Resource Consultants

City of St. Helens
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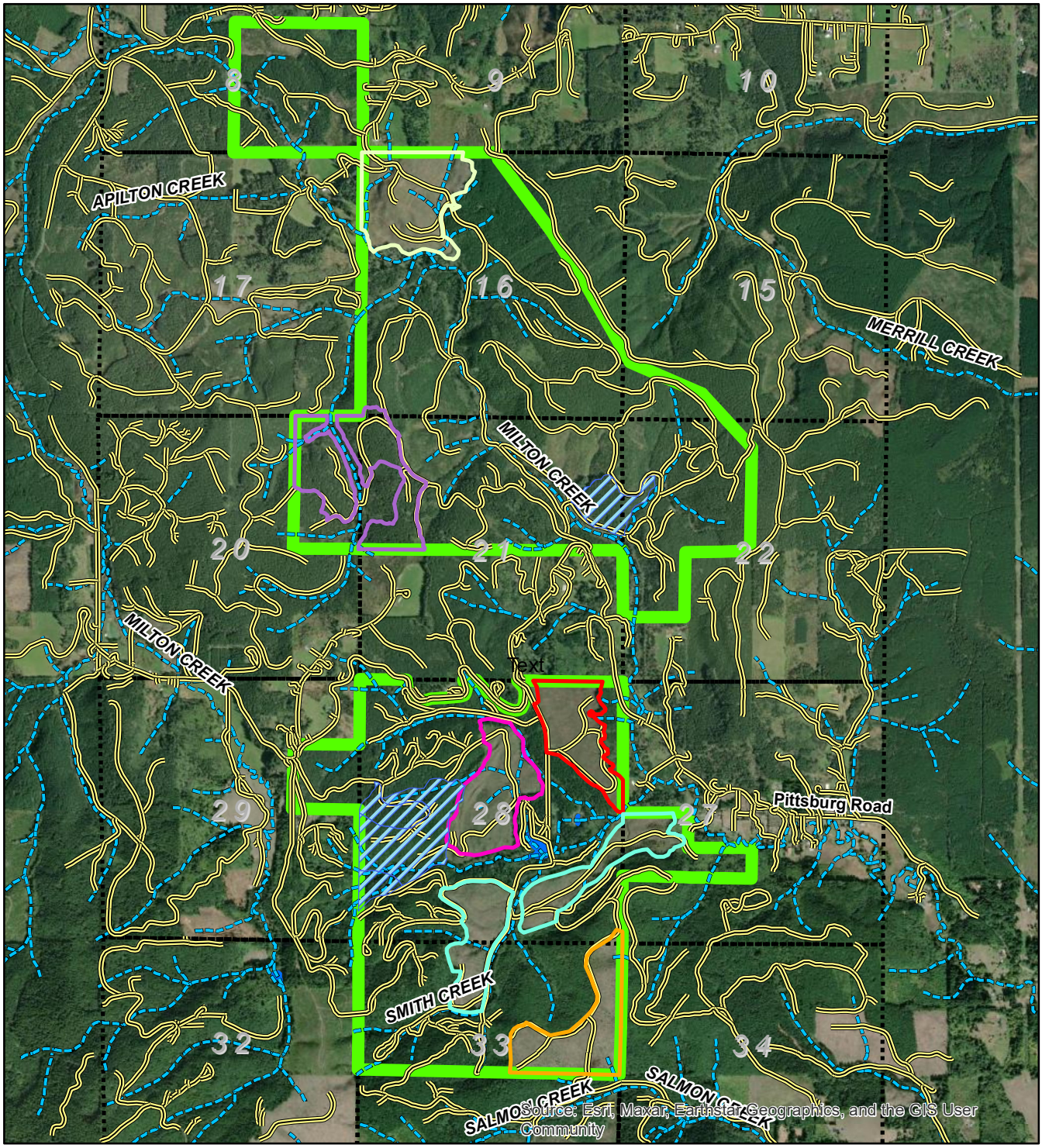
City of St Helens

Timber Sale History 2018-2024



FUTURE SALE	Ownership
'Section-20' 2024	Sections
'Pinkney Road' 2023	Roads
'Salmon' 2022	Streams
'Smith' 2021	Lakes
'Salmonberry' 2020	
'Section-28' 2018	

Township 5 North
Range 2 West

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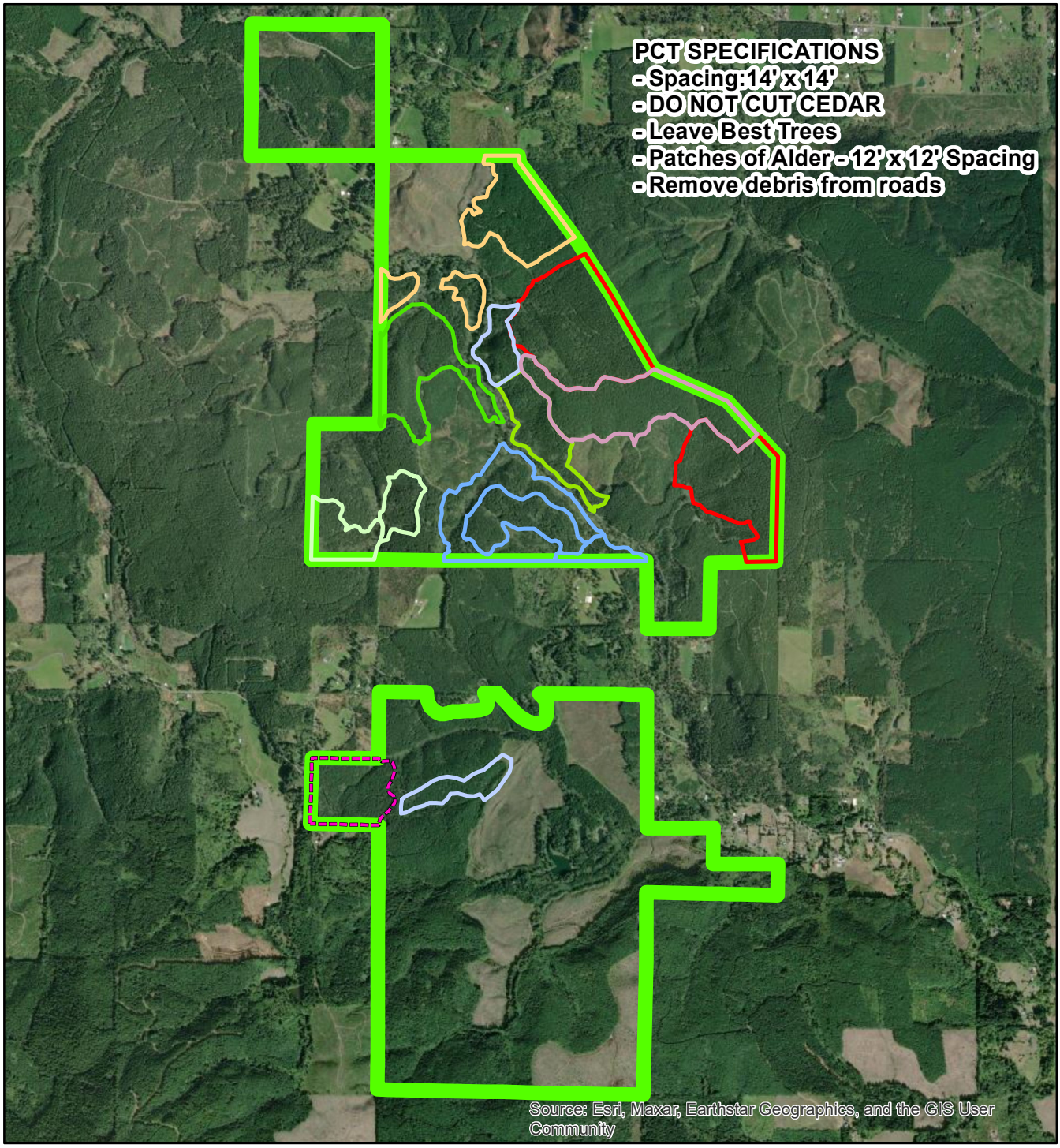
Pre-Commercial Thinning History 2014-2026



Township 5 North - Range 2 West

2026 PCT	2018 PCT
2025 PCT	2018 PCT
2023 PCT	2017 PCT
2020 PCT	2014 PCT
2020 PCT #2	St Helens Ownership

N

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