



# 2011 MacLean Creek Clear Cut and Trail Damage Mitigation: An analogy for the West Bragg Creek Fire Smart Harvest?

One example of State of the Art Alberta  
logging practices and trail damage  
mitigation (photos from August 9, 2012).





The Barwell Trail is a designated, approved and signed dirt bike trail in the SE corner of MacLean Creek Forest Land Use Zone (FLUZ).

<http://www.srd.alberta.ca/RecreationPublicUse/RecreationOnPublicLand/PublicLandUseZones/documents/McLeanCreek>

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It is a serpentine single track trail through mature forests on high, rocky ground.





Rough alignment of the remaining trail through the woods as an indication of the superb trail quality and sustainability. This quality of trail is rare and special to users of MacLean Creek.





Barwell trail area  
in MacLean  
Creek. This was  
once mature  
forest.



At the August 7, 2012 ESRD Fire Smart presentation, the audience was told that "all approved West Bragg Creek Trails would be restored to their pre-existing or improved state"



GPS Track of the 1.9 km of logged trail.  
Google earth image was prior to 20xx  
clear cut of the area (08/14/2007)



Present condition of 1.9 km Barwell serpentine trail segment through mature forest now cut into 7 individual pieces by the logging road







Bisected trail segments







A photograph of a logging site. In the foreground, there is a dirt path or trail segment that is partially covered with logging debris, including logs and wood chips. A yellow arrow points to this segment. The background shows a hillside with several tall, thin evergreen trees and a clear blue sky with some clouds. The entire image is framed by a thick blue border.

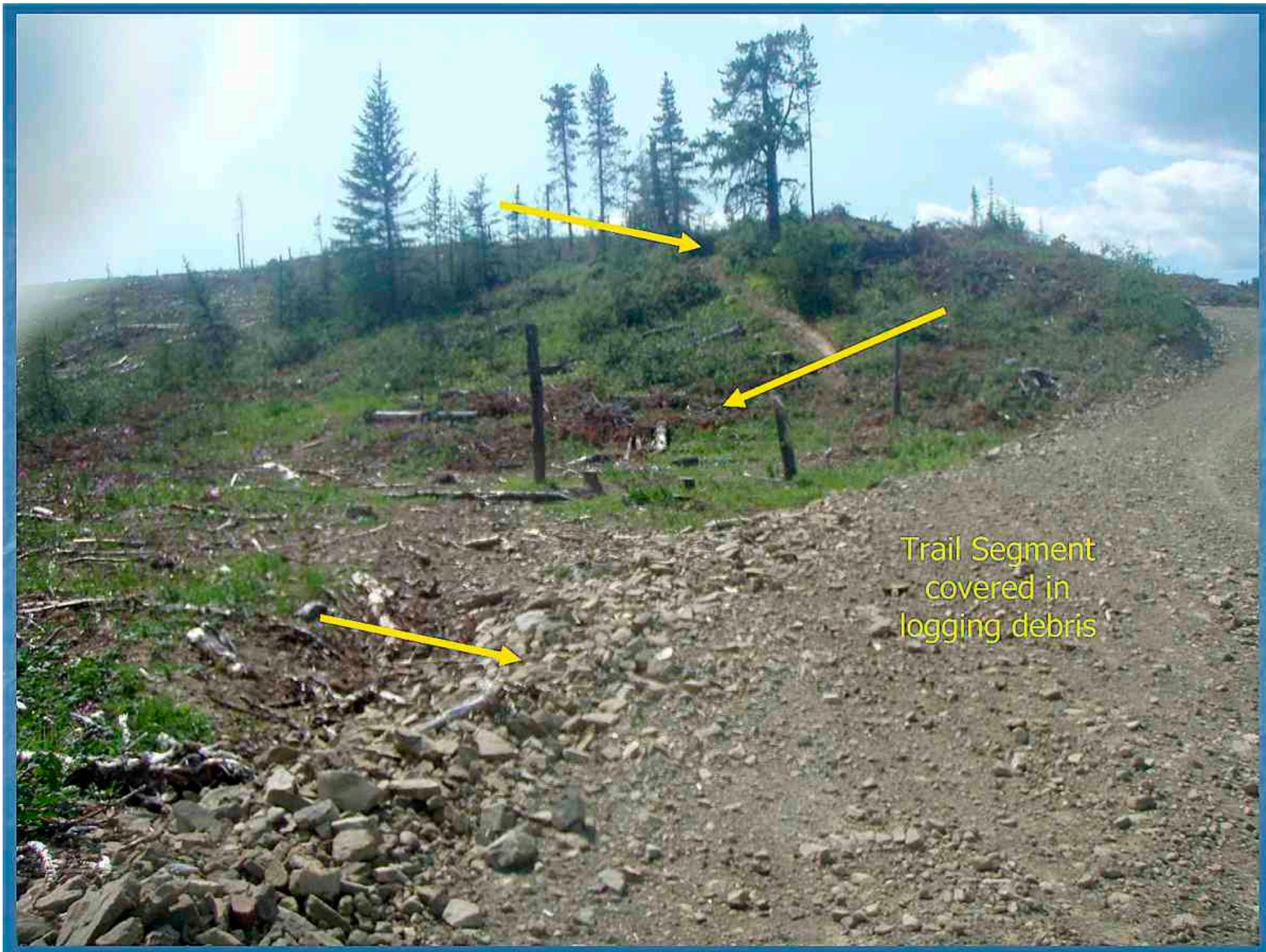
Trail Segment  
covered in  
logging debris



Trail Segment  
with entrance  
from the road  
covered in  
grader debris







Trail Segment  
covered in  
logging debris





Can you locate the trail  
segment in this photo?  
It is completely blocked  
by debris






Trail segment  
completely  
blocked by  
logging debris



Trail segment  
completely  
blocked by  
logging debris







Logging debris  
was cut and  
pushed onto  
the trail. It is  
not blow down.





Pushed down  
trees





Logging debris left  
on the cut block  
makes it virtually  
impossible to re-  
route or create new  
trail.





Trail  
Intersection



Remains of our  
forested single-  
track trail

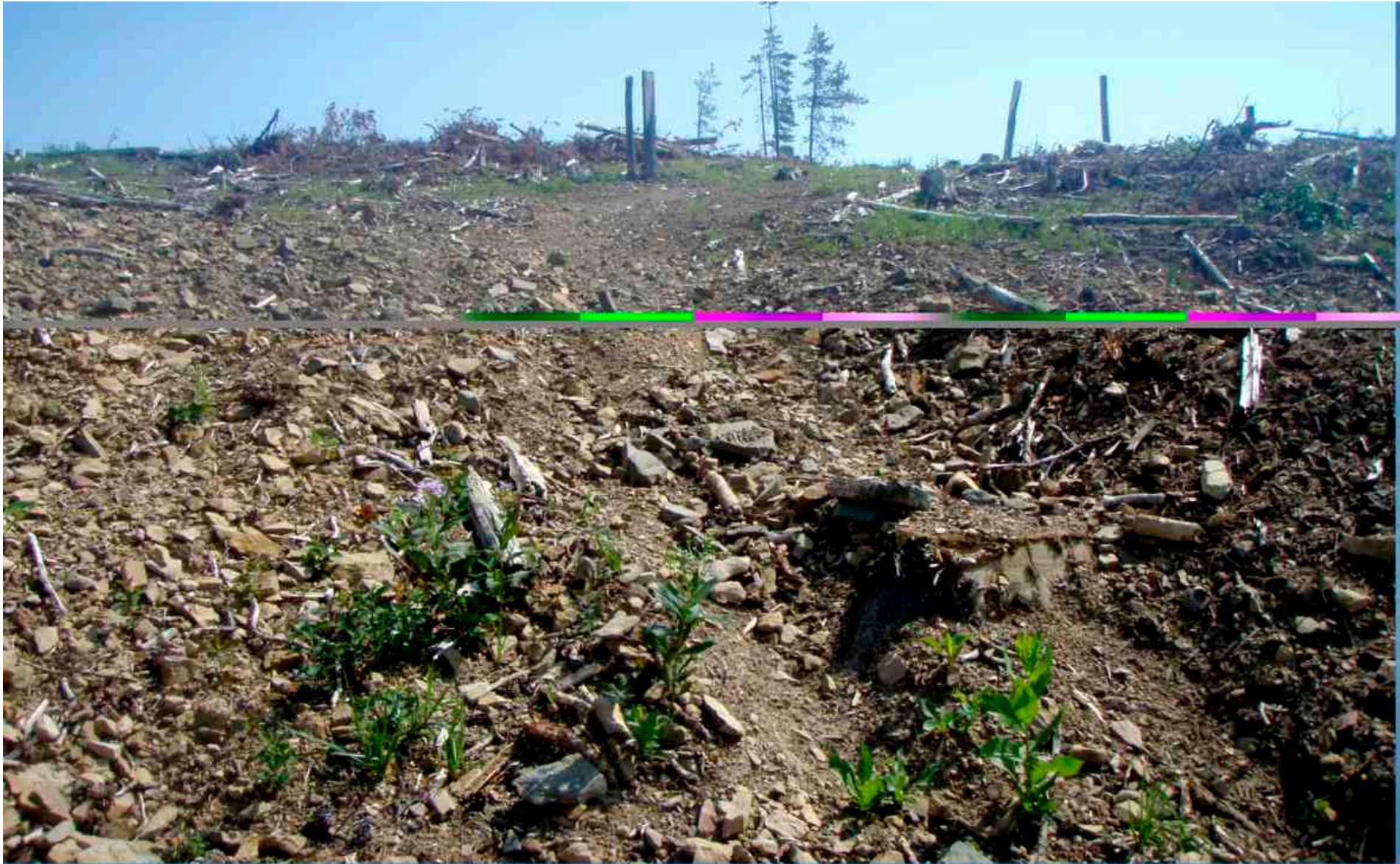






Where's the  
trail ?









What we had  
before





What we have now  
(different view)







# Observations

- SRD and SLS commitments and capabilities to restore trails are not proven by recent past performance in MacLean Creek. "Hope" to do better was all that has been offered for West Bragg Creek.
- Logging road placement was poorly planned. It bisects a serpentine trail 6 times and renders the individual segments useless.
- Debris left on the trails and cut blocks makes trail use very difficult.
- Erosion has already started.
- A narrow single-track trail segment designated for motorcycles only is now wide enough for ATV use and abuse.
- What trail damage mitigation monitoring was conducted and why was the trail damage not known or repaired?
- Is logging debris fuel for wild fire?
- Logging practices in Alberta appear well behind best practices in other jurisdictions.



# Observations (con't)

- **A key distinction in SRD Guidelines:** returning a trail to a pre-existing state only refers to the dirt and soil of the trail. It does not include other trail values (shade, visual attributes, etc.).

This one example covers 1.9 km of trail. Is this the future of 25 km of pristine West Bragg Creek Trails?



# Present Status (08/14/2012)

- The trail damage issues shown were discussed with SRD and they are being very diligent in determining what went wrong.
- SLS on their own accord have been working cooperatively with Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders since February to correct the damage.
- Scarification remains to be completed.
- Irrespective of the damage mitigation, the short term landscape of West Bragg will look like these slides if the clear cut proceeds.