

## 4.7 VISUAL REHABILITATION

Visual rehabilitation consists of improving the visual impact of past practices. While good design is necessary for all future logging, especially in visually sensitive areas, the continuing reminders of former practice create adverse visual impacts that cannot be ignored.

- **For some modified landscapes there is no design solution - a completely logged hill or valley needs time for the alterations to achieve visually effective greenup and some structure to become established.** Equally, the window of opportunity may have been missed for other areas where regeneration has reached a stage where the logged area has more than greened up, even though a geometric shape still remains.
- **For other modified landscapes remedial action to correct the worst mistakes is possible and desirable.** In most cases, this will mean additional logging to improve the shape, even though the scale may be compromised. In the longer term, the scale can be resolved but shapes are there for a very long time.
- **Shape is so powerful that it is preferable to correct a shape at the expense of scale.** In the most drastic cases, it may be better to fell almost a complete hill so that in effect both shape and scale cease to exist. This will obviously result in a visual quality objective of excessive modification but in the longer term, will produce a better result. In the most sensitive and awkward situations, several options may need to be drawn up and presented for public consultation.
- **In some instances, it may be acceptable to expand and reshape a single unit to follow landform as much as possible.** In other cases amalgamation of several units plus some reshaping might be necessary. Often it is the narrow leave-strips which cause visual offense. If these are removed there may be problems of fire control or insect spread to tackle. In that case, the relative costs and benefits would have to be weighed very carefully.
- **If road access is good and extraction machinery can reach unlogged areas, then corrective action may be attractive to companies constrained to smaller or fewer units elsewhere.** The process to follow is the same as described for designing new clear cuts. This time there are fewer options because the visual quality is already heavily compromised. Action must be taken before the regenerated forest grows too much to prevent newly felled and replaced areas to appear visually connected with older logged areas.

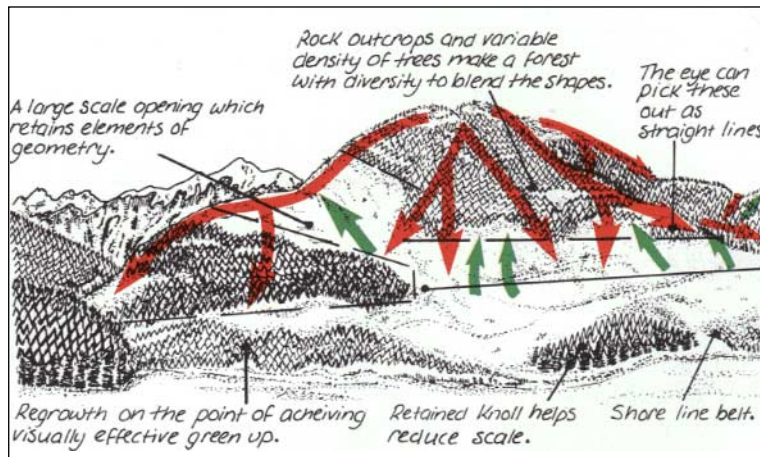
As well as the general reshaping, feathering the edges should also be considered to reduce the strong contrast



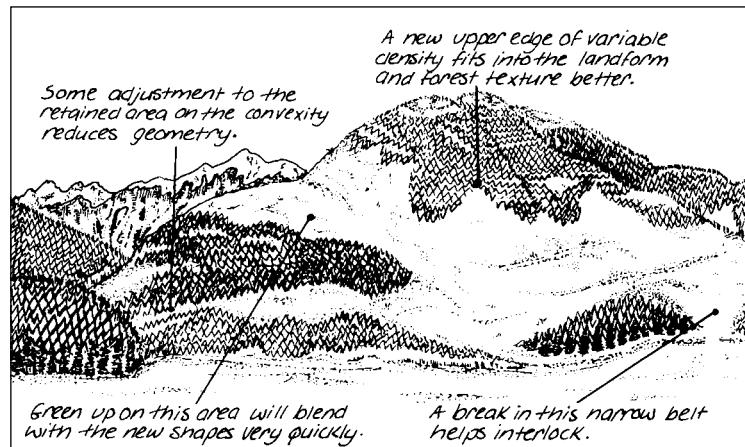
*In some landscapes design has little to offer by this stage of logging and replanting. Vancouver Forest Region.*



An extensively logged landscape where the shapes of the remaining forest could be blended better. Vancouver Forest Region.



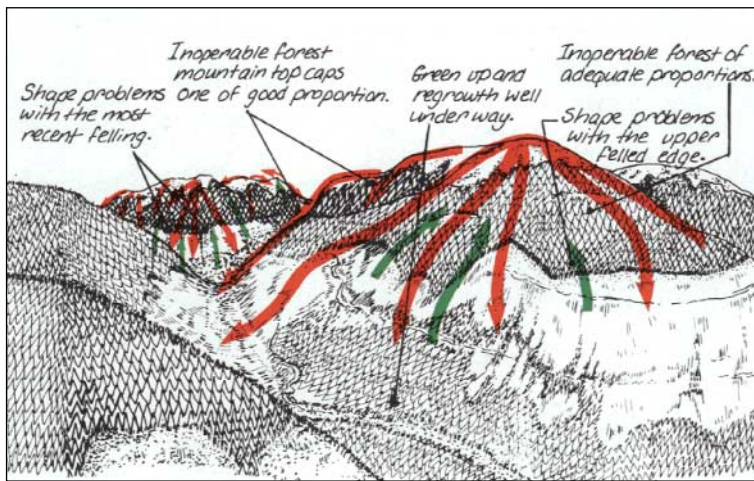
Landform and land feature analysis.



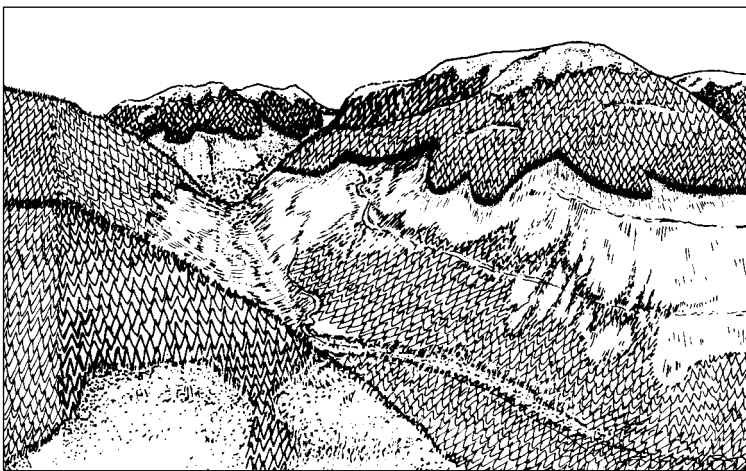
A possible solution.



A landscape where logging has reached a tenure boundary. Vancouver Forest Region.



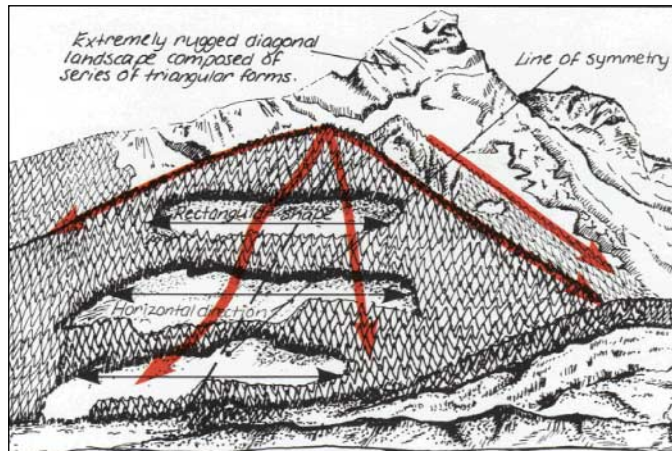
Landform and land feature analysis.



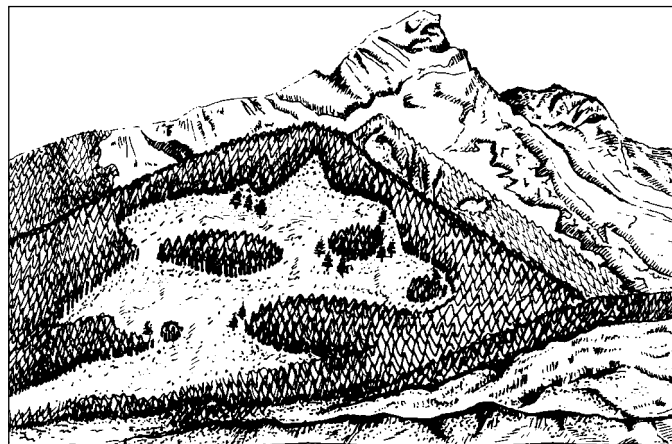
In order to allow the scars to heal without leaving a legacy of bad shapes, the time is right to design the caps so that the replanting interlocks and blends with the retained mature forest. Spiky shapes work well in this landscape.



*A dramatic, bold landscape of rugged, spiky mountains dominated by diagonal, triangular shapes. The forested middleground slope has had three clearcuts, horizontal in emphasis, geometric in form, leaving strips like sandwiches in between. Nelson Forest Region.*



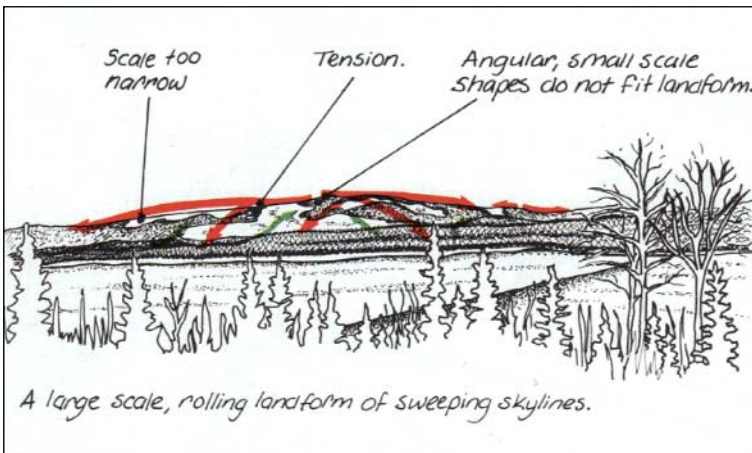
*Landform and land feature analysis.*



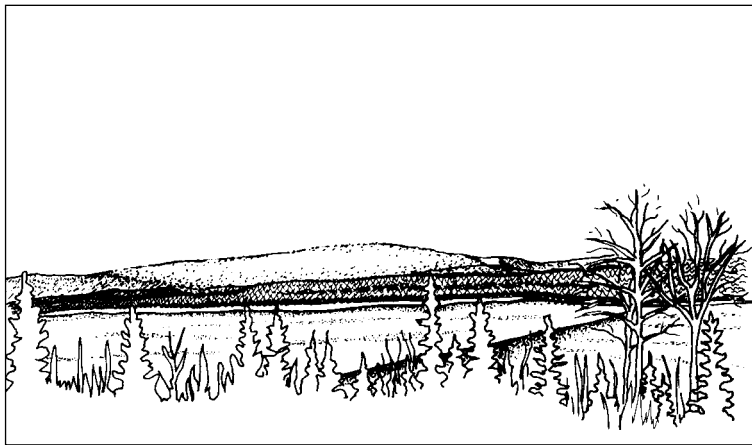
*The slope concerned is actually smoother and less influenced by strong forms than the background. By amalgamating all the units the worst problem can be solved. An organic shape following landform is designed which resembles the location of a natural event such as a fire. The eye can focus on the mountain top once more.*



*These clear cuts on the skyline are too angular in this rolling, simply flowing landscape. Cariboo Forest Region.*



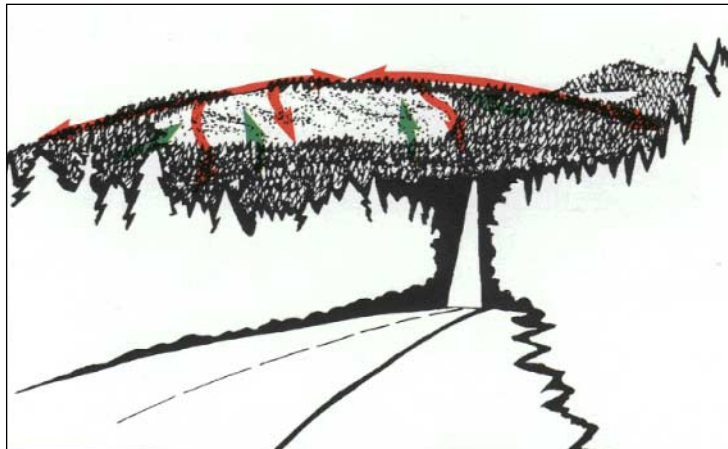
*Landform and land feature analysis.*



*The shape of the landform and the scale of the landscape suggest taking the entire cap off to eliminate the angularity and restore its simplicity. The overall size might then be a problem for other reasons such as winter range, so such an option would need careful evaluation.*



*A focal view of a medium scale, rounded landform. The rectangular clear cut so close to the skyline is a very bad eyesore. The fringe left behind is also intrusive. Prince George Forest Region.*



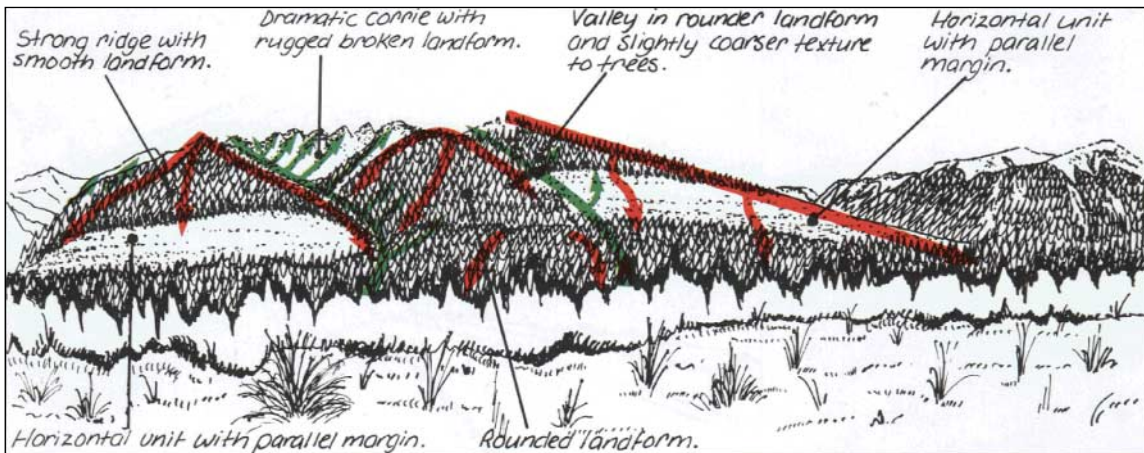
*Analysis of landform showing the simple dome shape.*



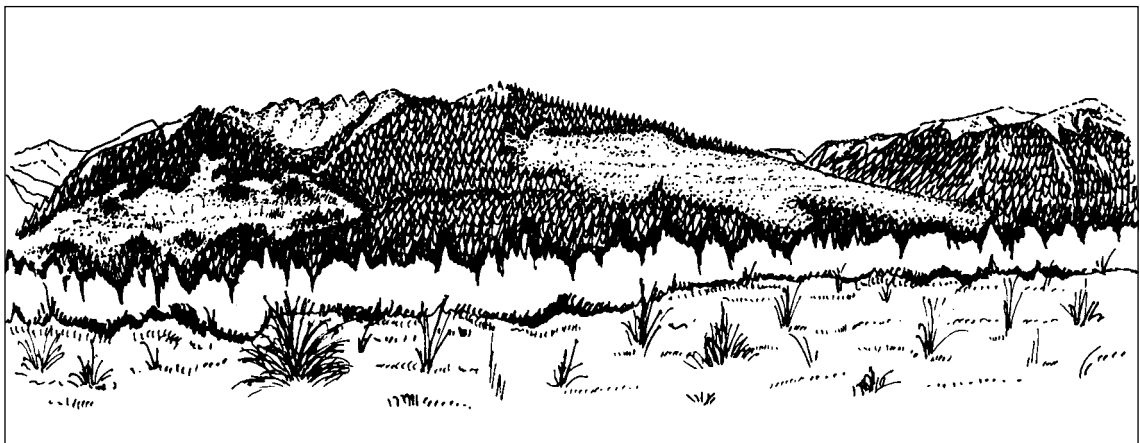
*Making minor adjustments to the shape to reduce geometry would be inadequate at this scale, so more radical logging to create a cap is needed to restore the scale. The area can then be restocked. The visual impact is greater now but future landscape quality is improved.*



Two clear cut units which contradict the landscape character in shape, direction, position. They are parallel edged, they follow the contour and are geometric. They break the flow of the landform and introduce a strong contrast. Prince George Forest Region.



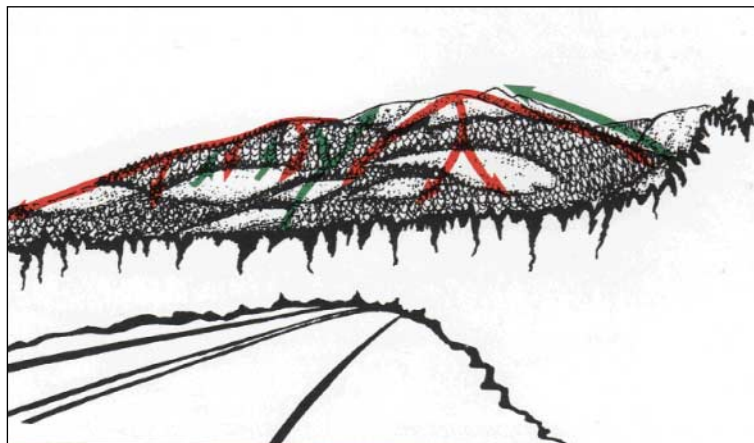
Landform and land feature analysis.



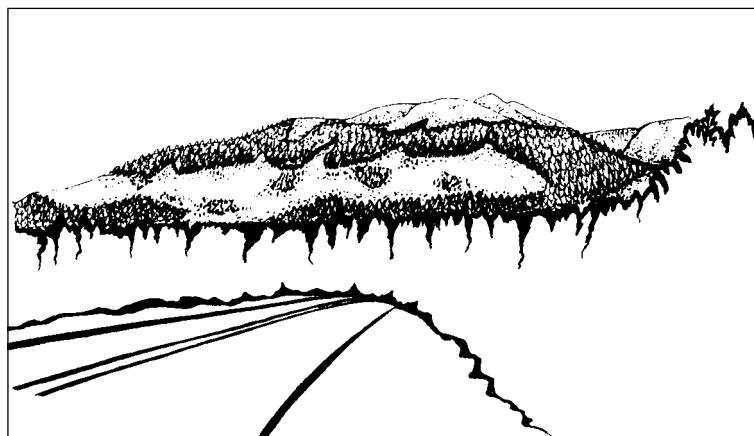
The two units are redesigned to make organic assymmetric shapes. The scale is marginally acceptable. The edges are varied by leaving trees where appropriate. The concept is to make the units resemble fire patterns.



*A collection of badly shaped clear cuts on a landform which is the focal view along a major highway. The cumulative effect of the units together with the leave strips presents a very intrusive result, all the more contrasting because of the snow. Prince George Forest Region.*



*Landform Analysis.*



*Developing a single unit eliminates all the geometry, the leave strips and the artificial, illogical pattern. The scale suffers in the short term, but once visually effective green up is achieved the scale will be right for the landform. The retained clumps of trees help to restore the scale and introduce some natural appearing elements.*