LiDAR = Light Detection And Ranging ...also known as LASER altimetry

An increasingly common form of **active** remote sensing since ~2000

- contrast with Radio Detection and Ranging (RADAR) in the microwave

Objects reflect more in UV/visible/NIR (than radar microwaves)

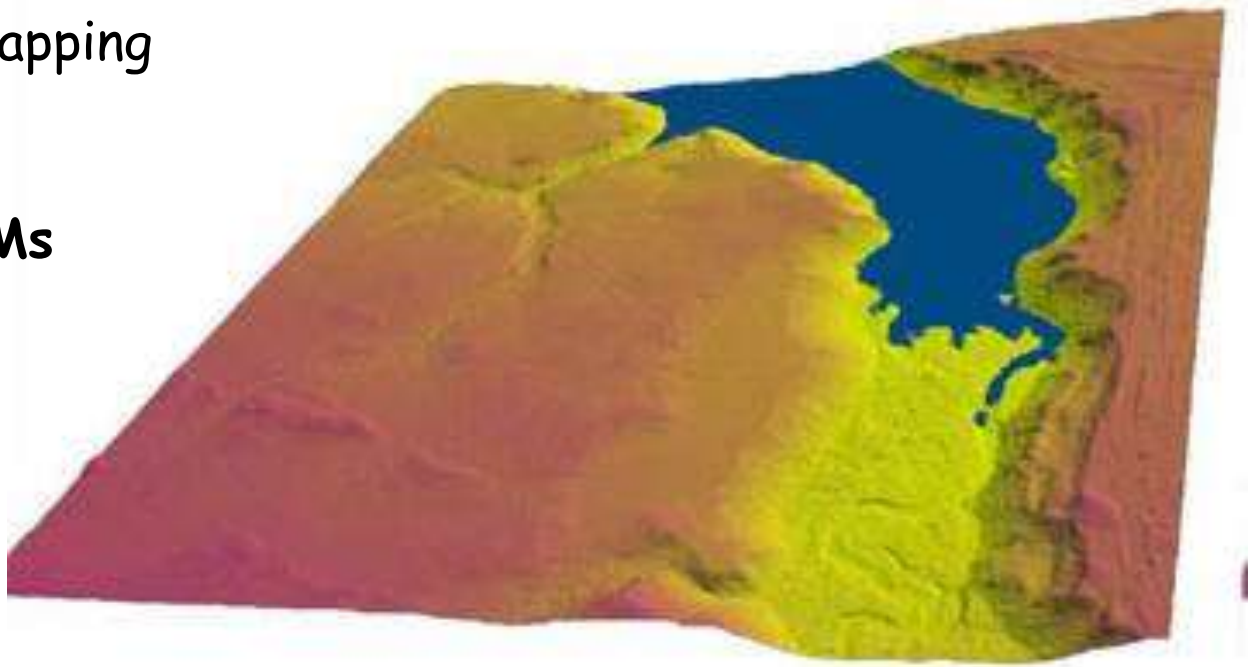
= higher resolution mapping

- **high resolution DEMs**

e.g. for flood control

~1 foot or <1 m

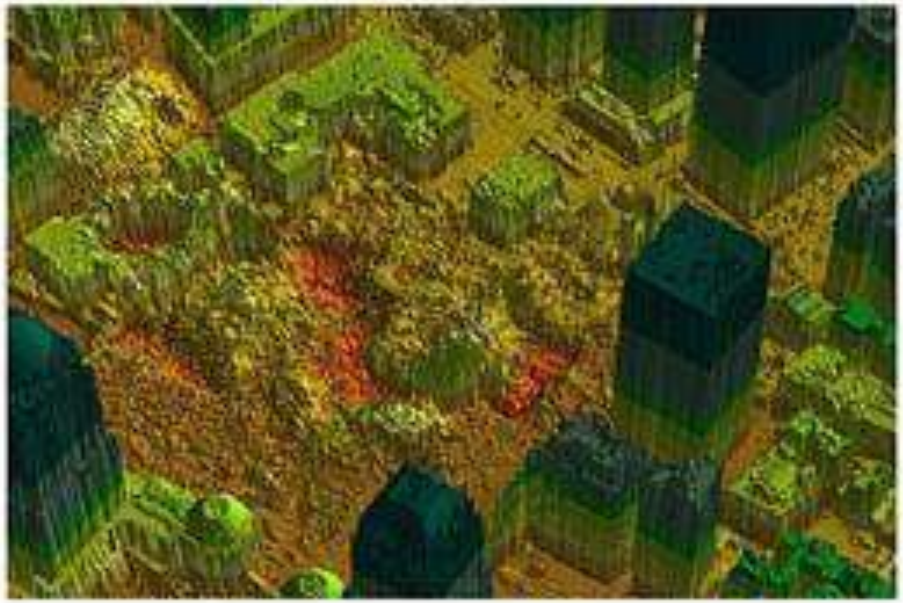
(mostly airborne)



http://www.ags.gov.ab.ca/geohazards/turtle_mountain/lidar.html

Turtle Mountain, AB (Frank slide, 1903)

LiDAR DEM

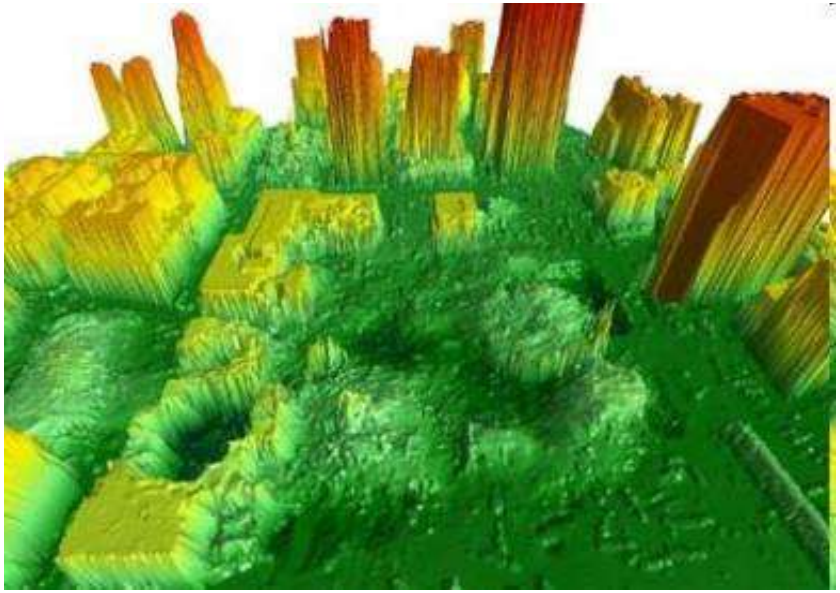


LiDAR Volume estimation:

Ground Zero, World Trade Centre site, New York

post-September 2001

http://www.volker-goebel.de/Lidar.html



What is LiDAR ?

Controlled bursts of LASER
(Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation)

Distance to object given by TIME

-**requires 3 units:**

-laser emitter/receiver

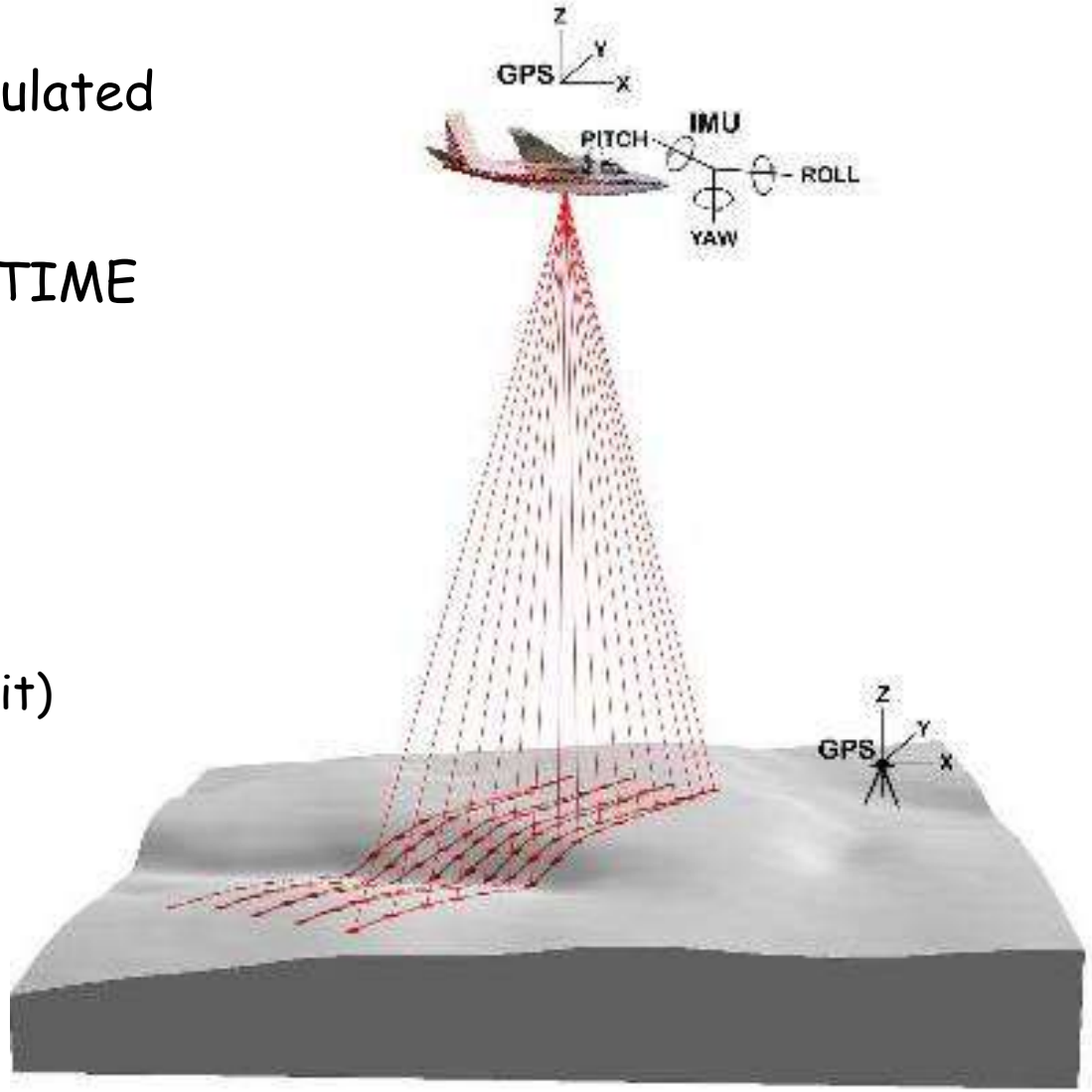
-GPS

-IMU (Inertial measurement unit)

First developed in 1960s but needed GPS technology for detailed mapping –1980s

Expansion since 2000s,

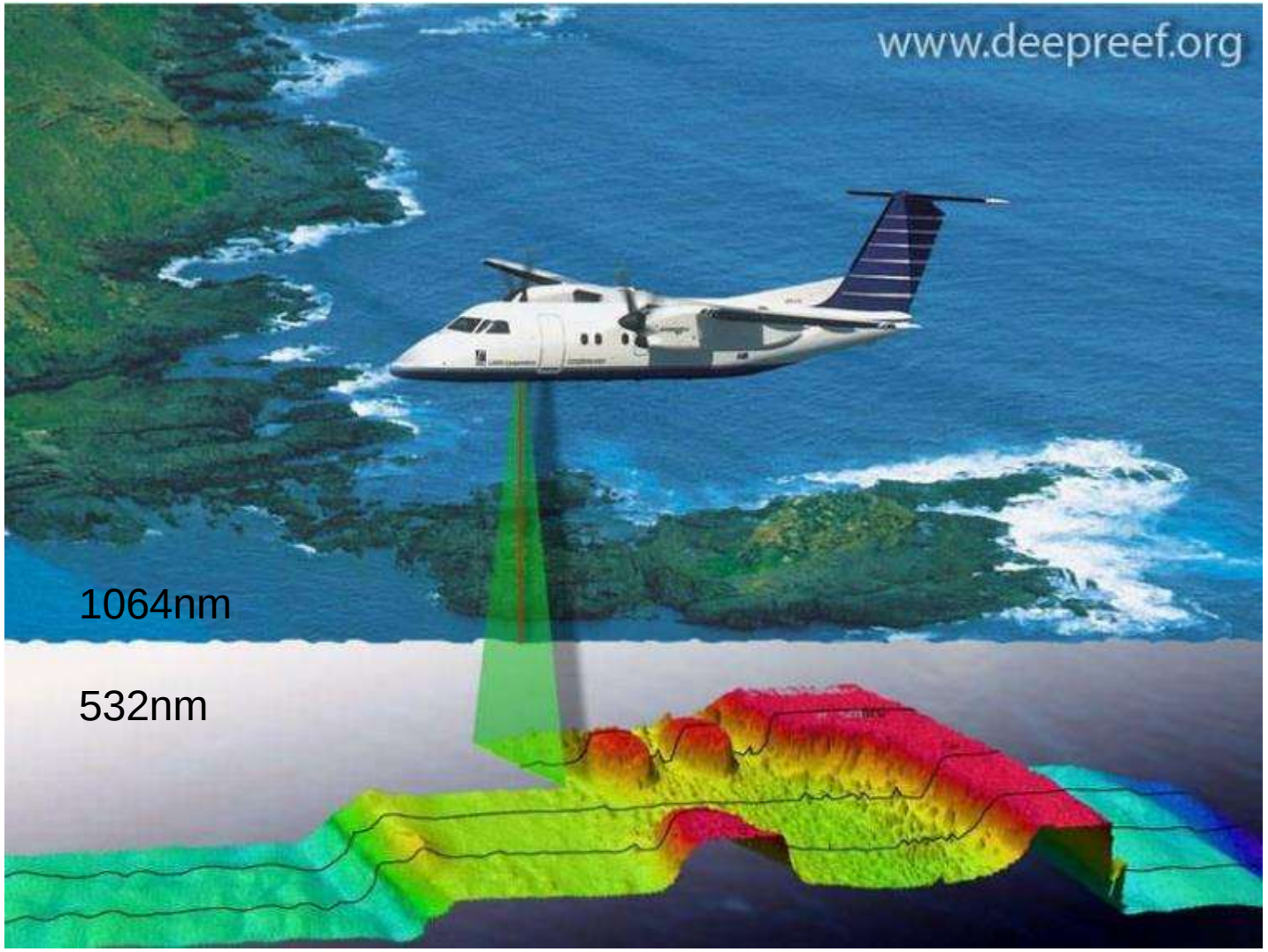
Drone 2015, iPhones 2020



Related technologies:

SONAR: SOund NAvigation and Ranging : sound propagation for communication/navigation
SODAR: SOnic Detection And Ranging : sound propagation upwards (atmospheric)

Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS): Bathymetry



http://www.navy.gov.au/laser-airborne-depth-sounder-lads

Range finding LiDAR for topographic mapping

Unaffected by clouds **above** (unlike air photos) .. *why?*

Laser bursts are emitted usually at one of these wavelengths:

- 355 nm (UV): wind, water vapour
- 532 nm (green): bathymetry
- 1064 nm (Near IR): surface mapping

….. (why these ??? *) This was not solved by googling or LiDAR vendors

* I asked this every class and offered a 6-pack to who could solve this

Trivia: taser guns are at 650 nm; phasers (Star Trek) at 350nm

LiDAR – 1064 nm, 532nm, 355nm - why those wavelengths?

Lasers produce light the same way as a neon sign – a substance is stimulated to an excited state, causing the release of extra energy as a photon of light.

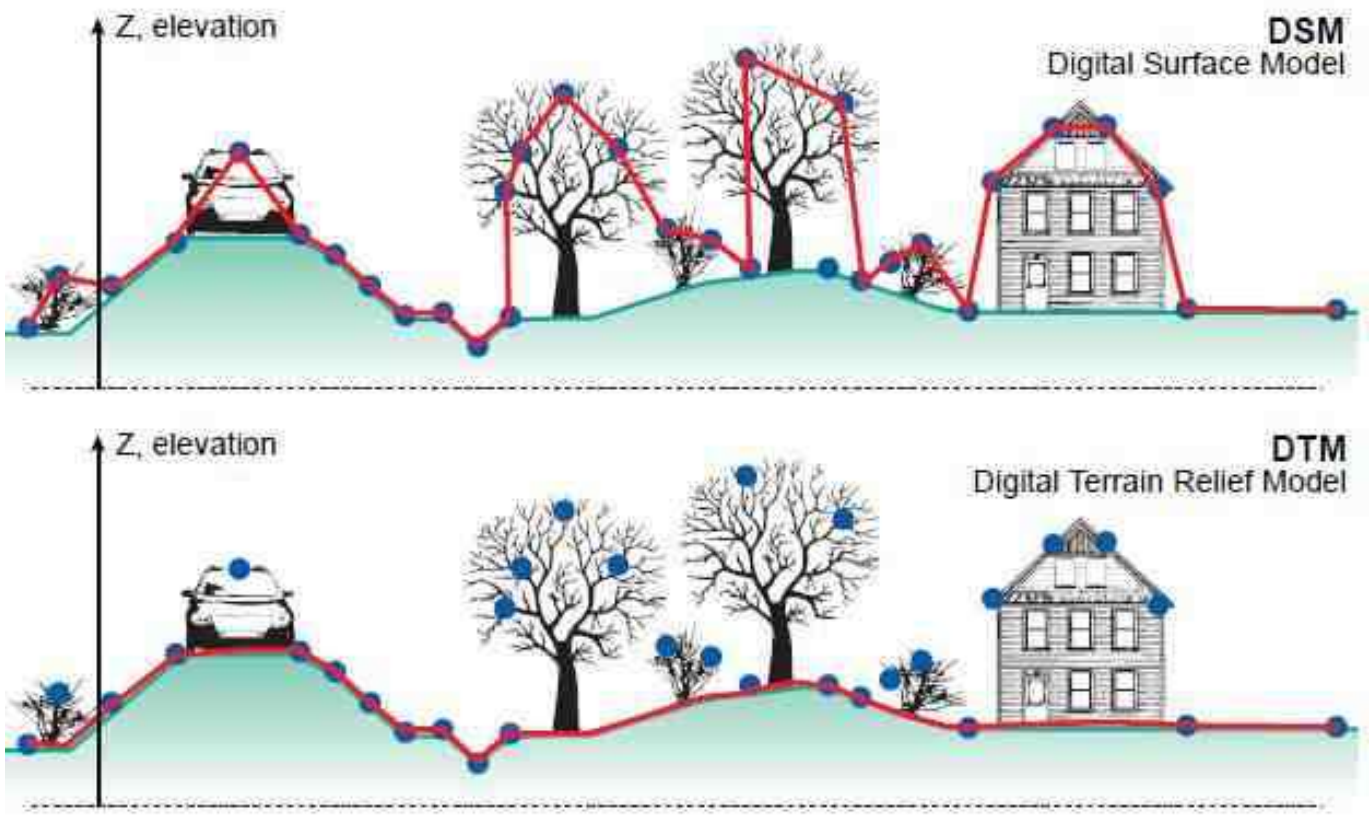
Nd:YAG (*neodymium-doped yttrium aluminium garnet*) is a crystal that is used as a lasing medium for solid-state lasers. It emits at a wavelength of 1064 nm.

According to the Planck-Einstein equation: $E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$.

Where h= Planck's constant, and c = the speed of light;
halving the wavelength, has the effect of doubling the energy released, and one-third the wavelength (355) triples the energy (= the second and third harmonics)

Solved by Patrick Daley, (Fall 2009) – won a 6-pack of Guinness

DEMs: DTM and DSM



Digital Surface Models

Spaceborne / LiDAR

Digital Terrain Models

Photogrammetric / LiDAR

'Bare Earth'

LiDAR is the only remote sensing system that can do both - and thus give a measure of tree heights (and buildings)

http://www.satimagingcorp.com/svc/dem.html

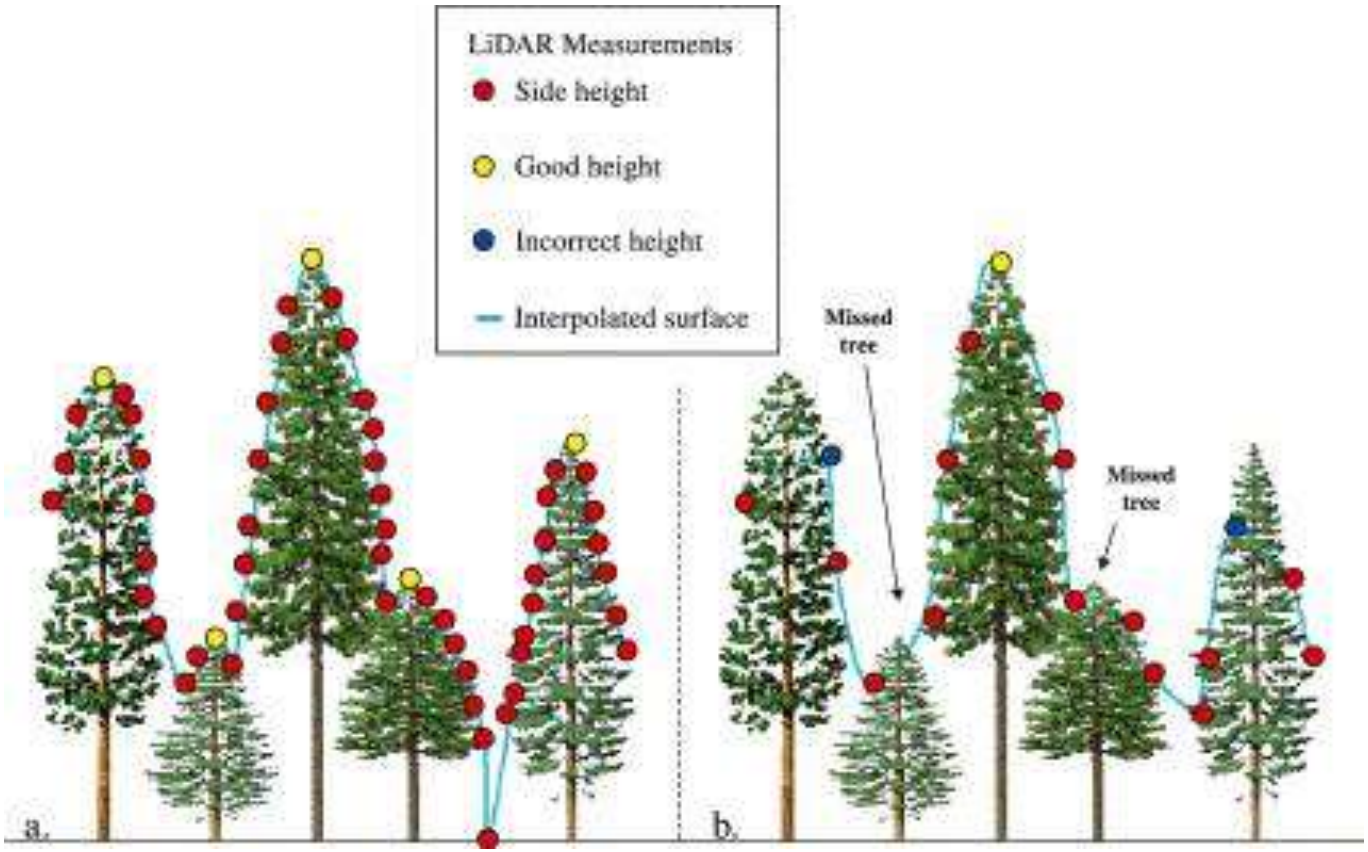
Laser pulses at up to 50,000 - 200,000 / second

Resulting cloud of points: up to 20 points / square metre

~10/m^2 needed for forestry 1/m^2 for glaciers (no trees)

Horizontal accuracy 50cm - 1m, vertical ~20cm

Cloud of points is converted to raster grid ~1 metre ….. 'LAS tools'



Vegetation: Tree Canopy Height

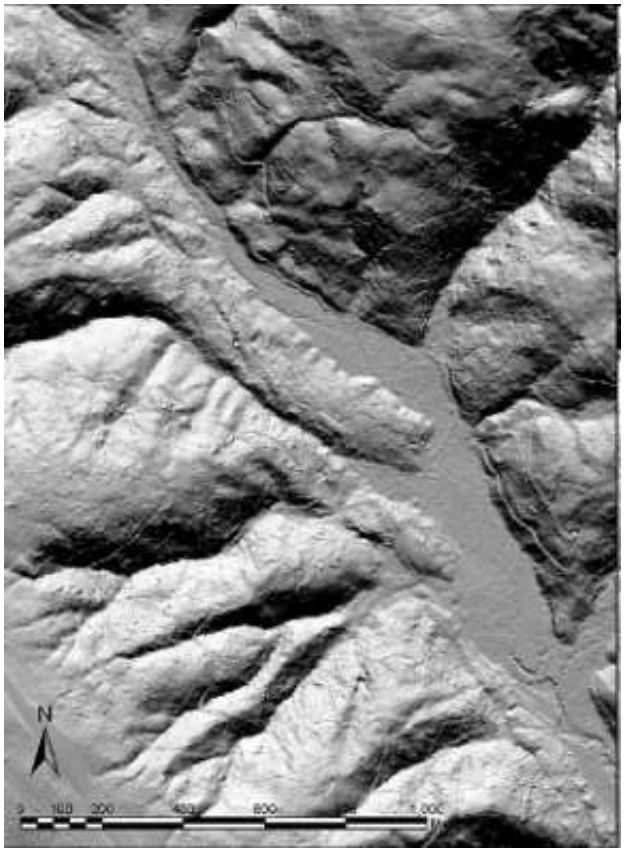
http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/research/geology/lidar/example2.html

Air photo

Vegetation surface DSM

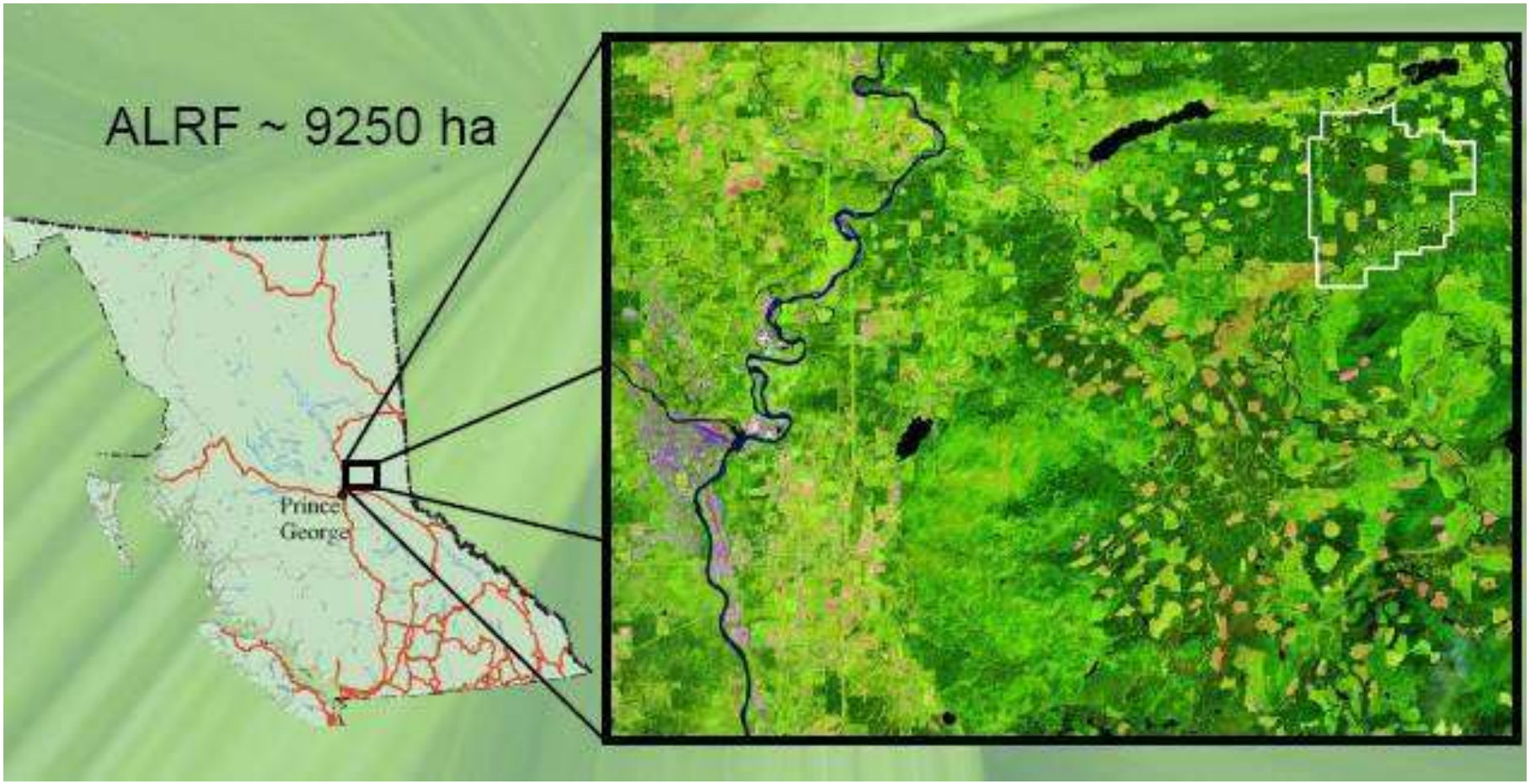
Bald Earth Model (BEM/ BEDEM)

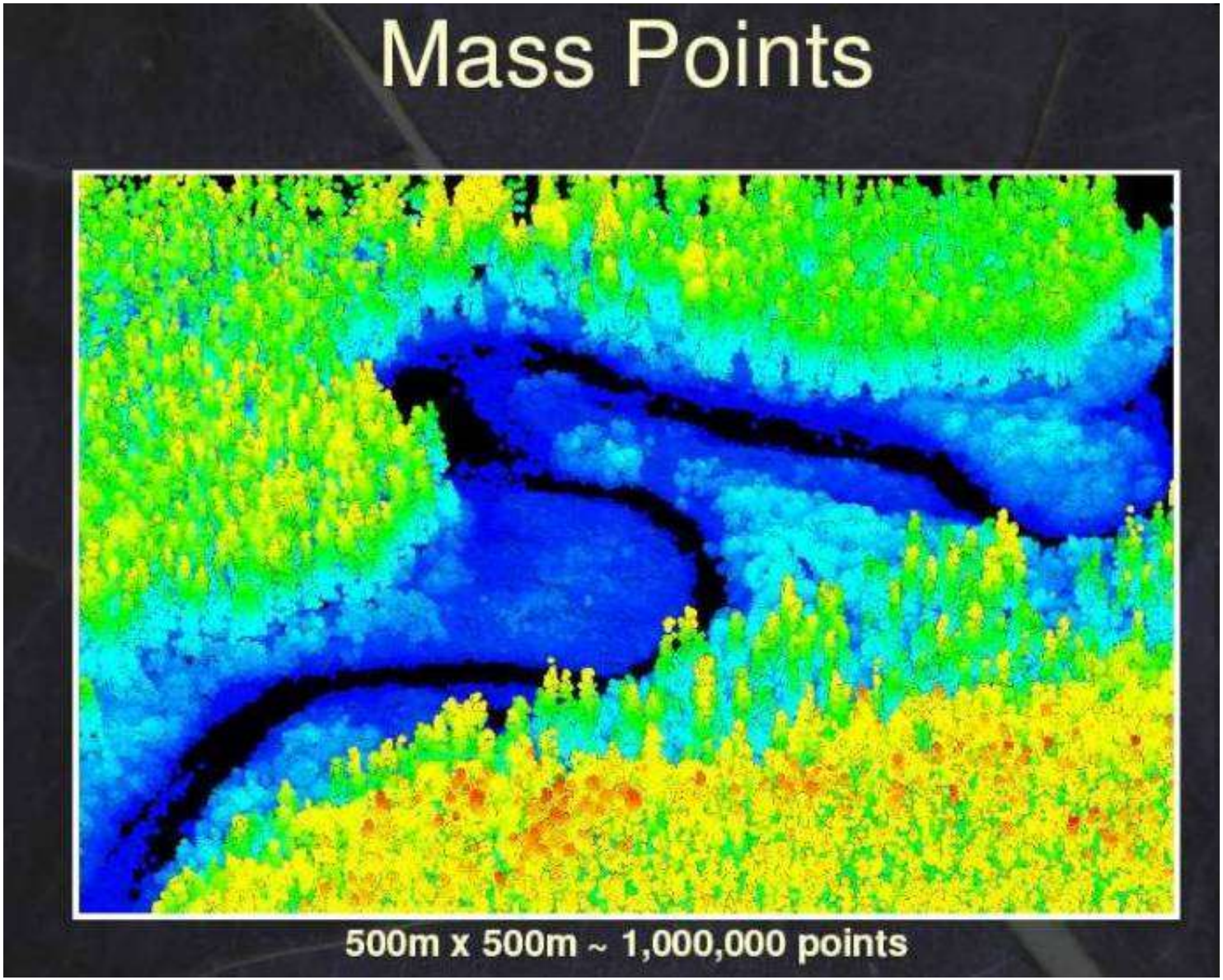
Vegetation height = DSM minus BEM



Aleza Lake Research Forest (ALRF)

Oldest research forest in BC, jointly operated by UBC and UNBC
60km north-east of Prince George, LiDAR mission 2005

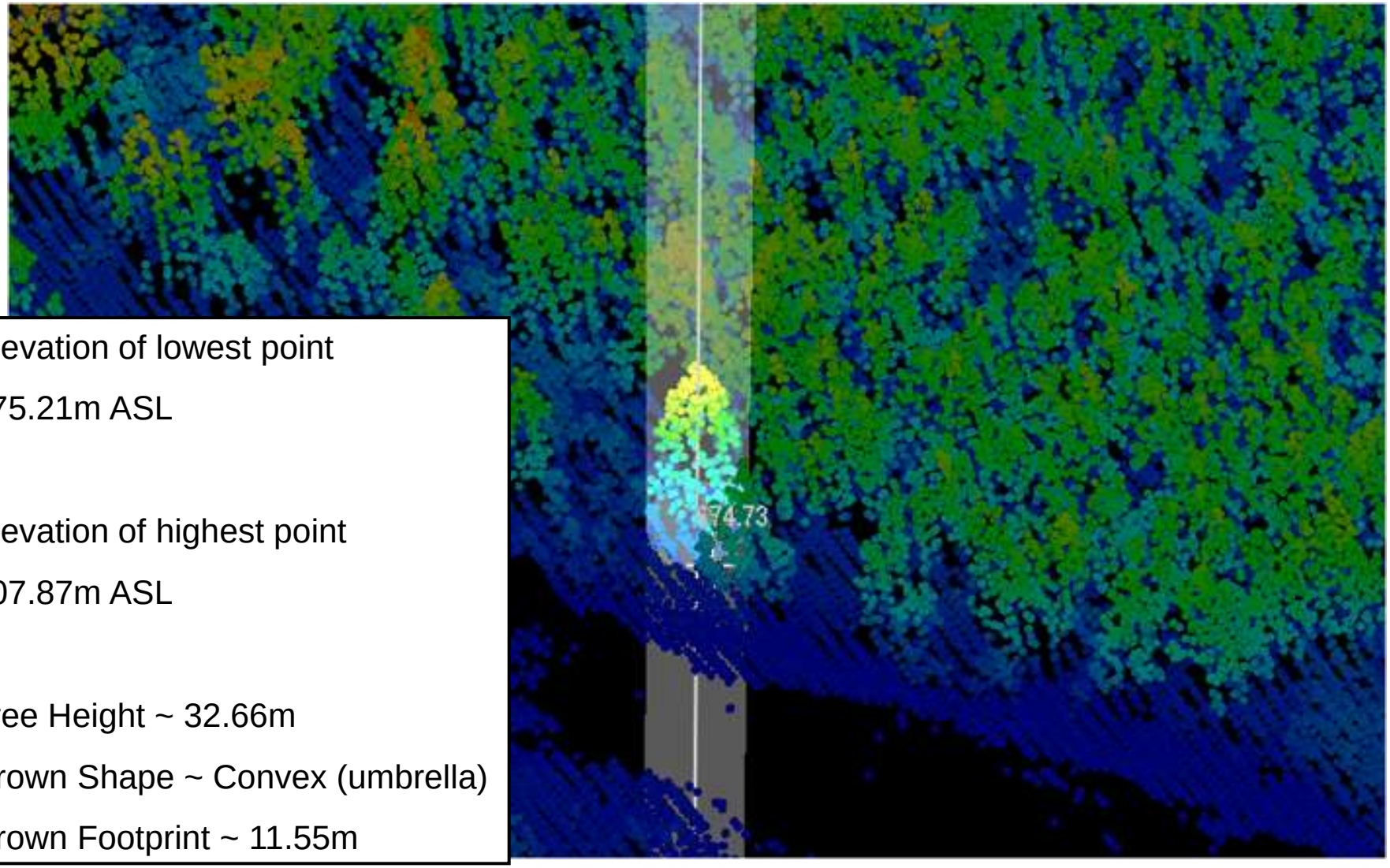




Cloud of points, colour coded by elevation, Bowron R. southern edge of ALRF

LiDAR reveals both ‘bare earth’ (ground) and canopy height

… and multiple vegetation layers – shrub layer, sub-canopy etc..



Elevation of lowest point

675.21m ASL

Elevation of highest point

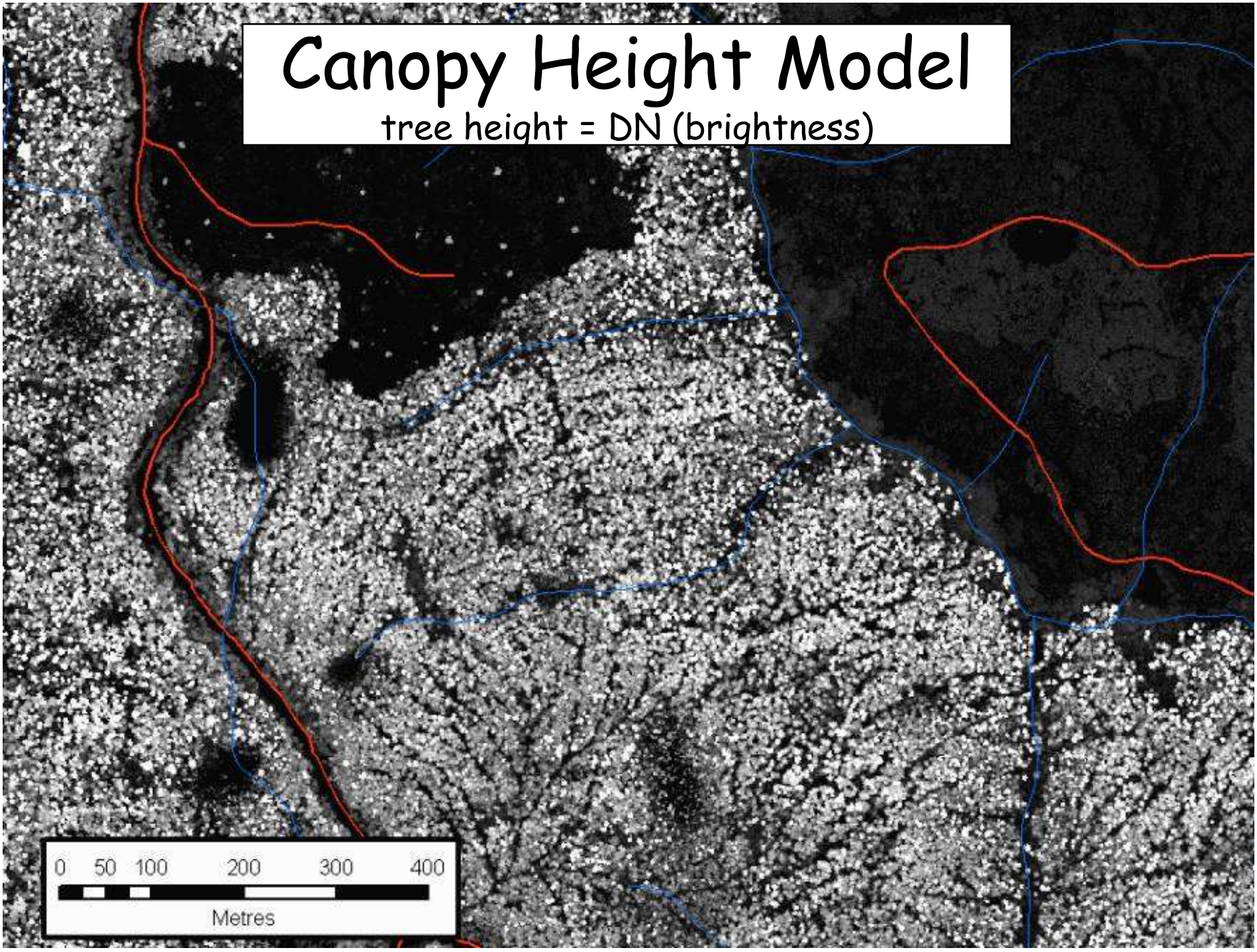
707.87m ASL

Tree Height ~ 32.66m

Crown Shape ~ Convex (umbrella)

Crown Footprint ~ 11.55m

UNBC LiDAR datasets include UNBC campus, Aleza Lake RF, JPRF, Ancient Forest


Canopy Height Model
tree height = DN (brightness)
0 50 100 200 300 400
Metres

LiDAR Data Products

Mass points detailing elevation can be converted into:

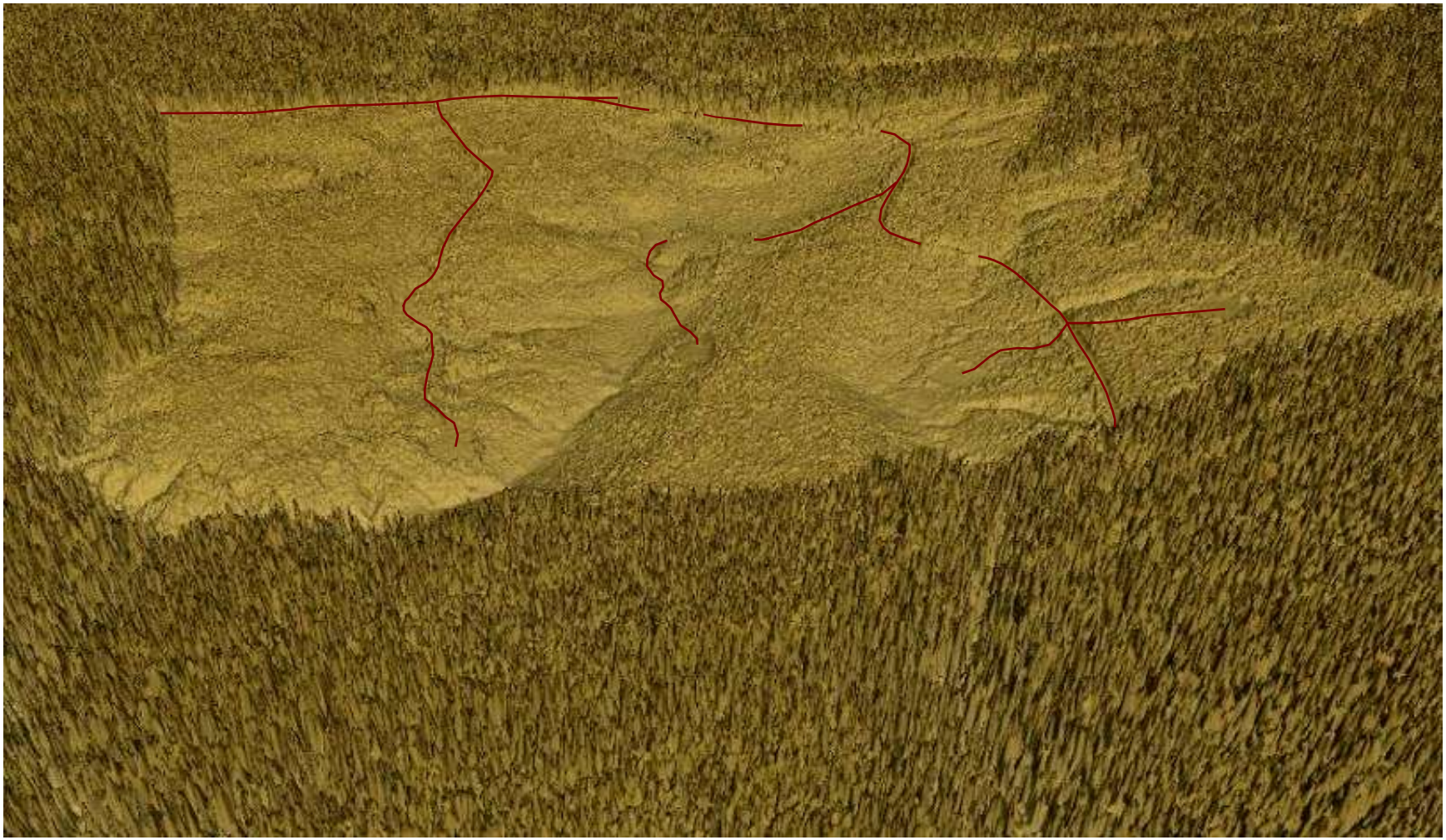
- Bare Earth Model (BEM)
- Slope, Aspect, and Hillshade models
- Canopy Surface Model

Numerical models can be built to estimate:

- Species, volume, dbh, biomass

Canopy Surface Model

shaded relief draped on DEM, ALRF

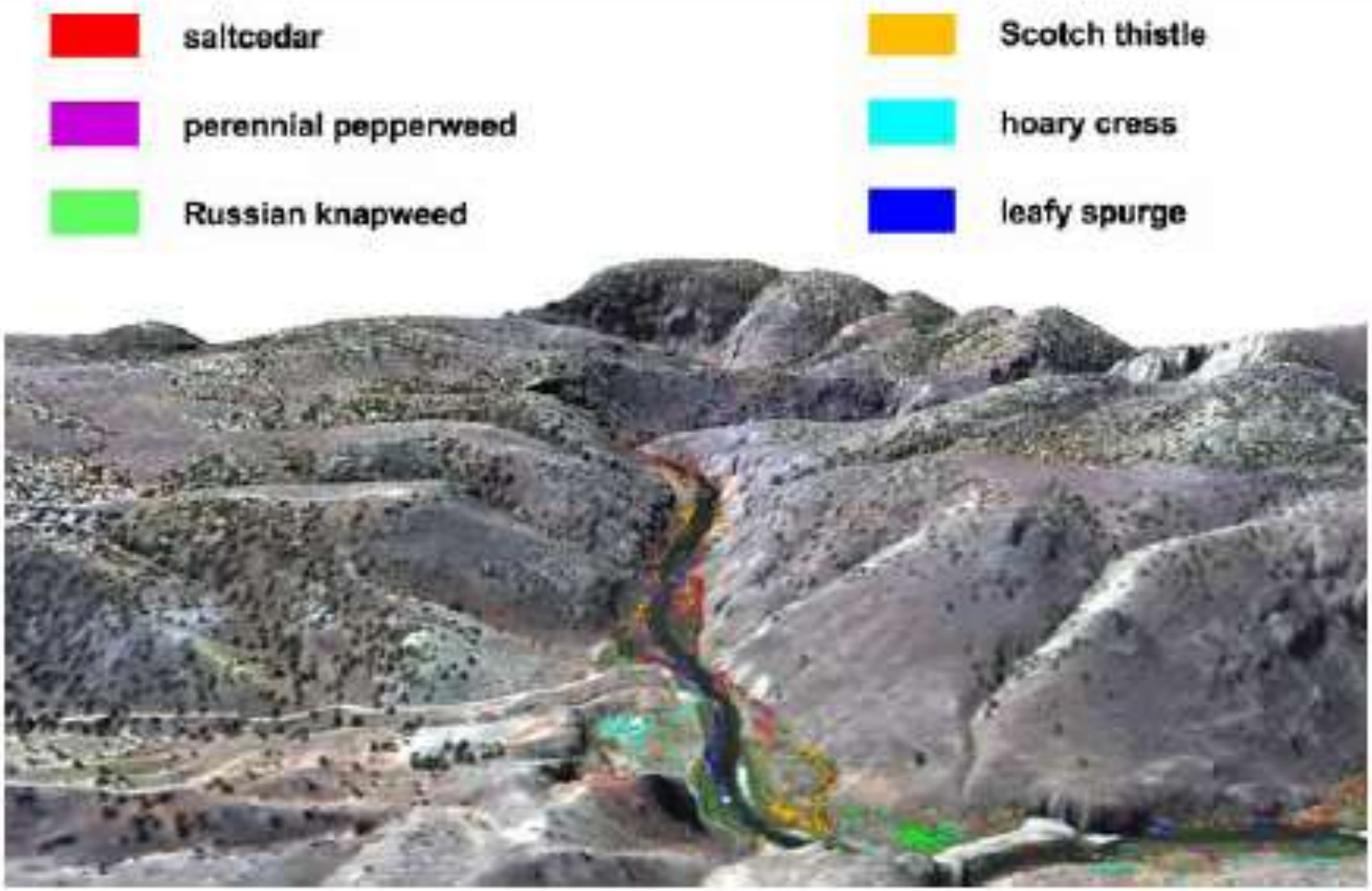


Canopy Height = Canopy Surface – Bare Earth

Quantifying structural physical habitat attributes using LIDAR and hyperspectral imagery

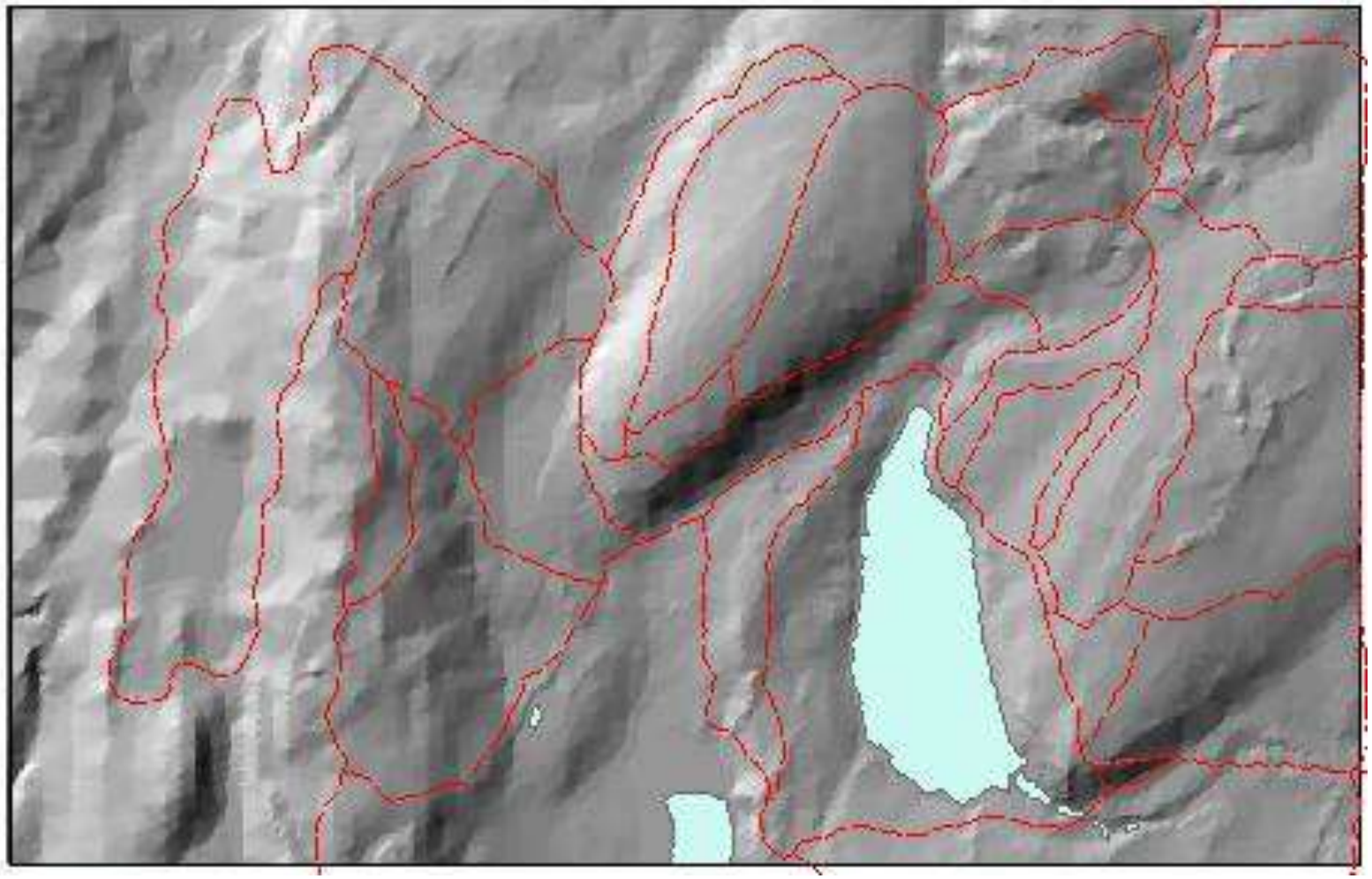
LiDAR DEM / ISODATA classification

Environ Monit Assess (2009) 159:63–83

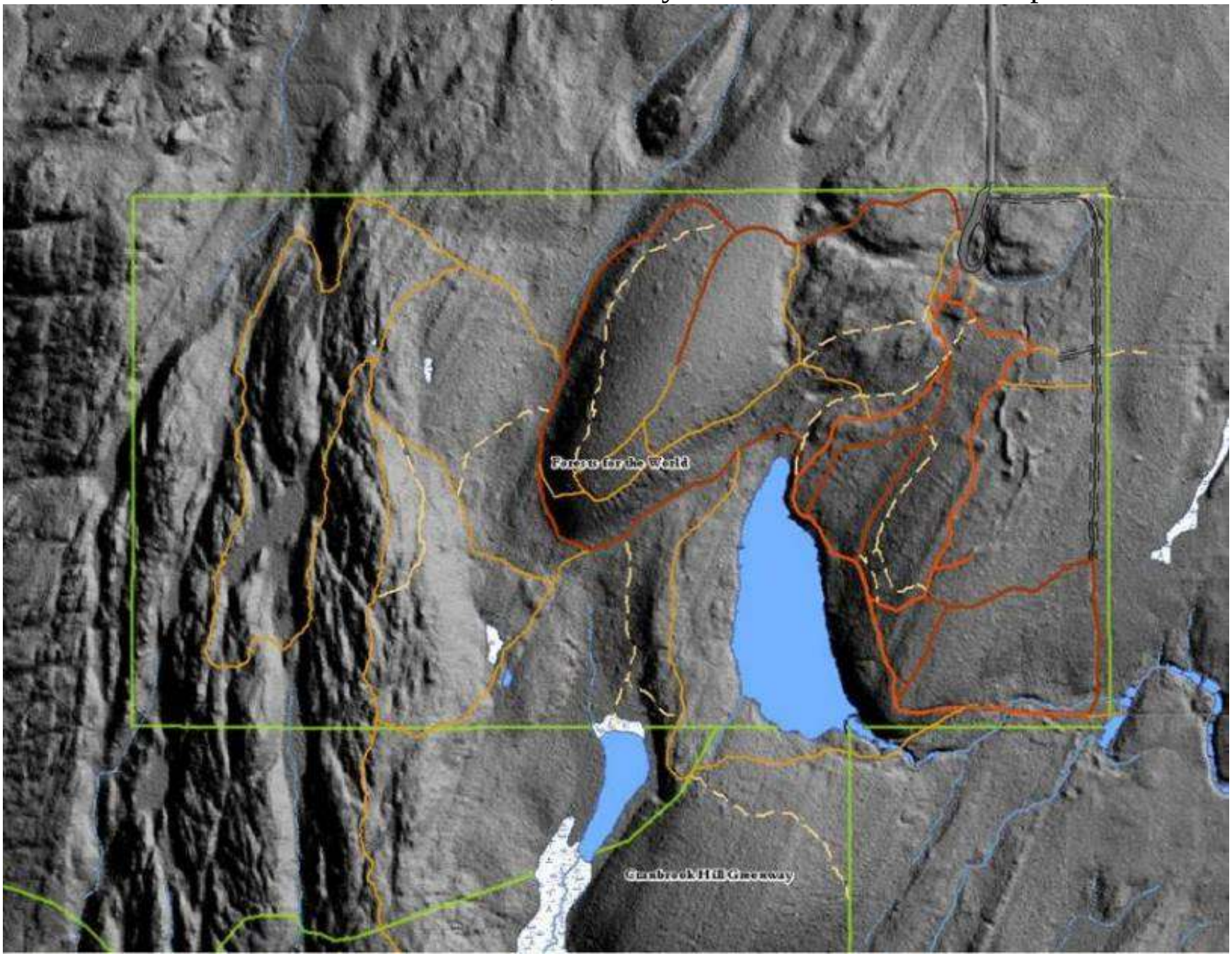


Forests for the World orthophoto

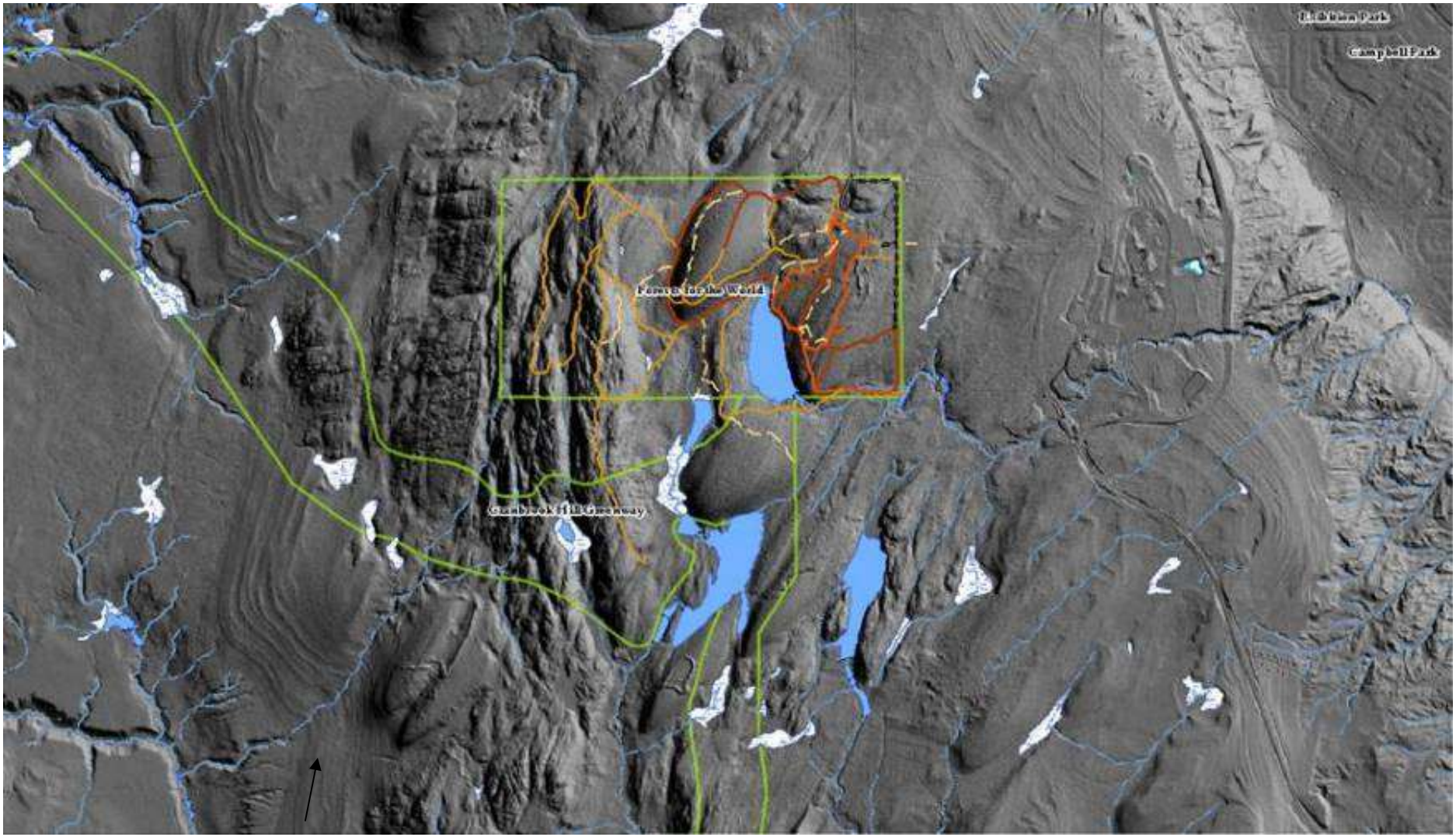
City 1 metre DEM (from 1m contours) 2000s



LiDAR Forests for the World, PG city DEM 2009 – see PGMap ?



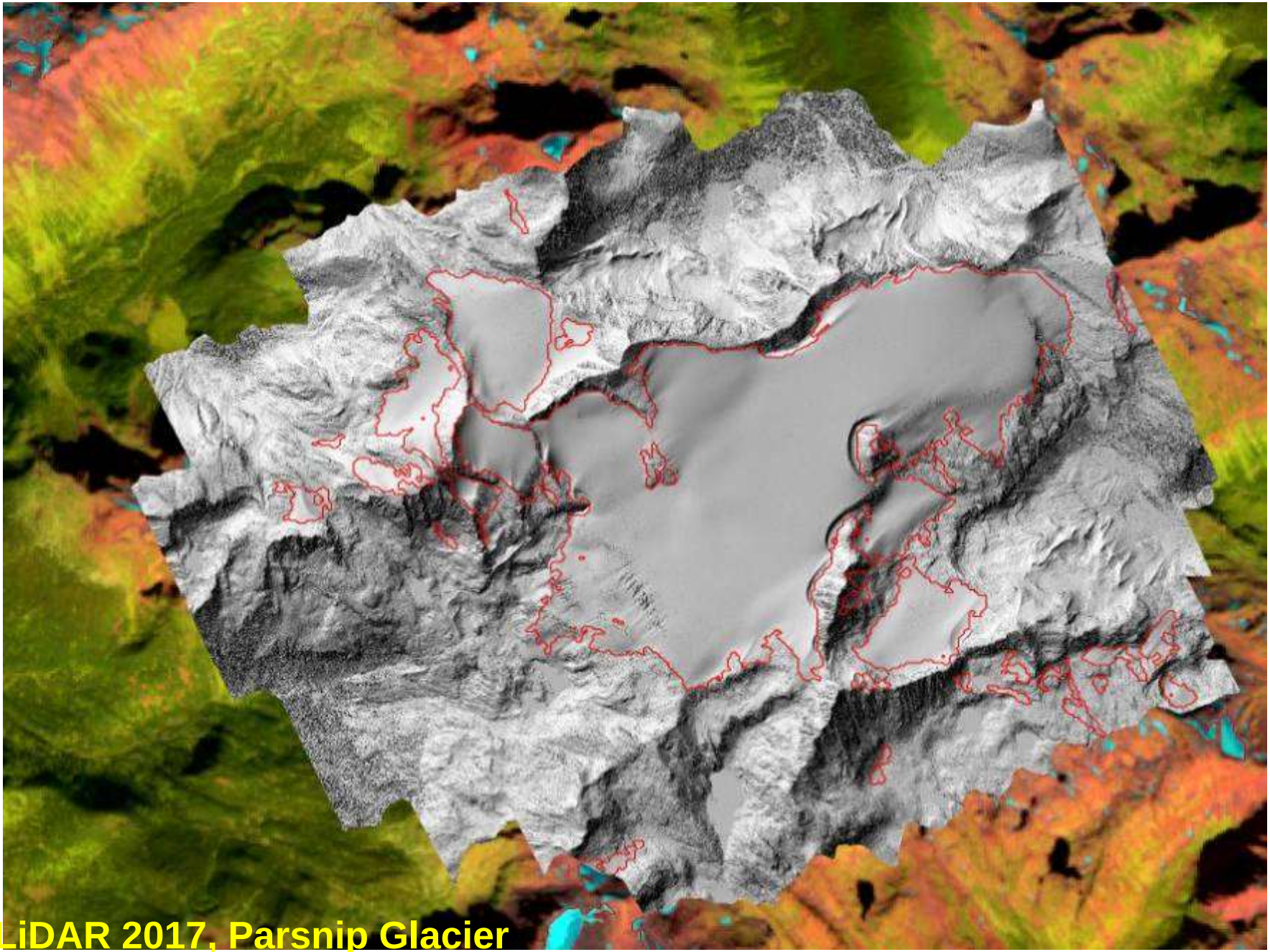
UNBC / Cranbrook Hill LiDAR 2009



https://pgmap.princegeorge.ca/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=PGMap

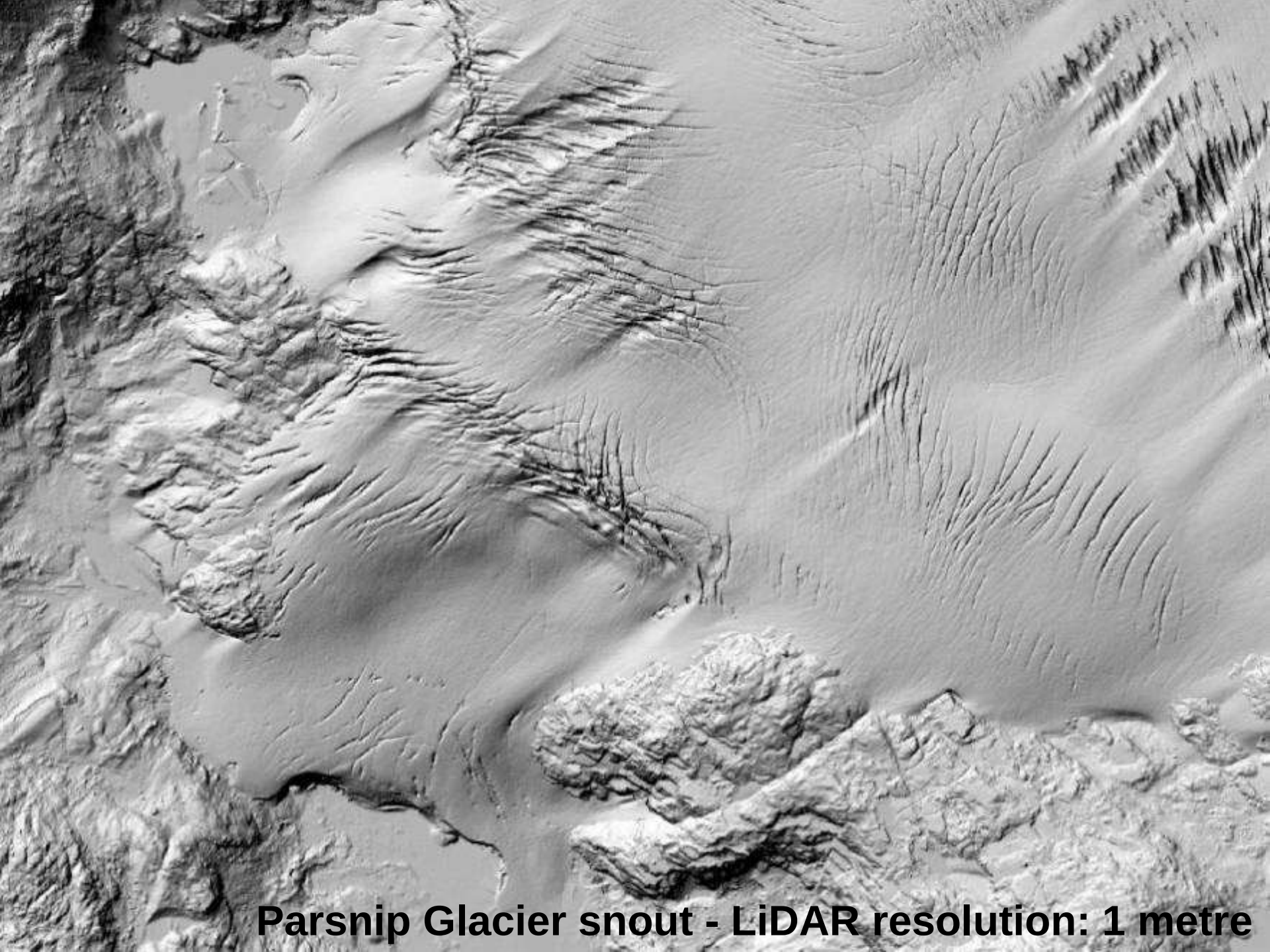
50cm beach lines

Monkman provincial park ….the closest glaciers to PG

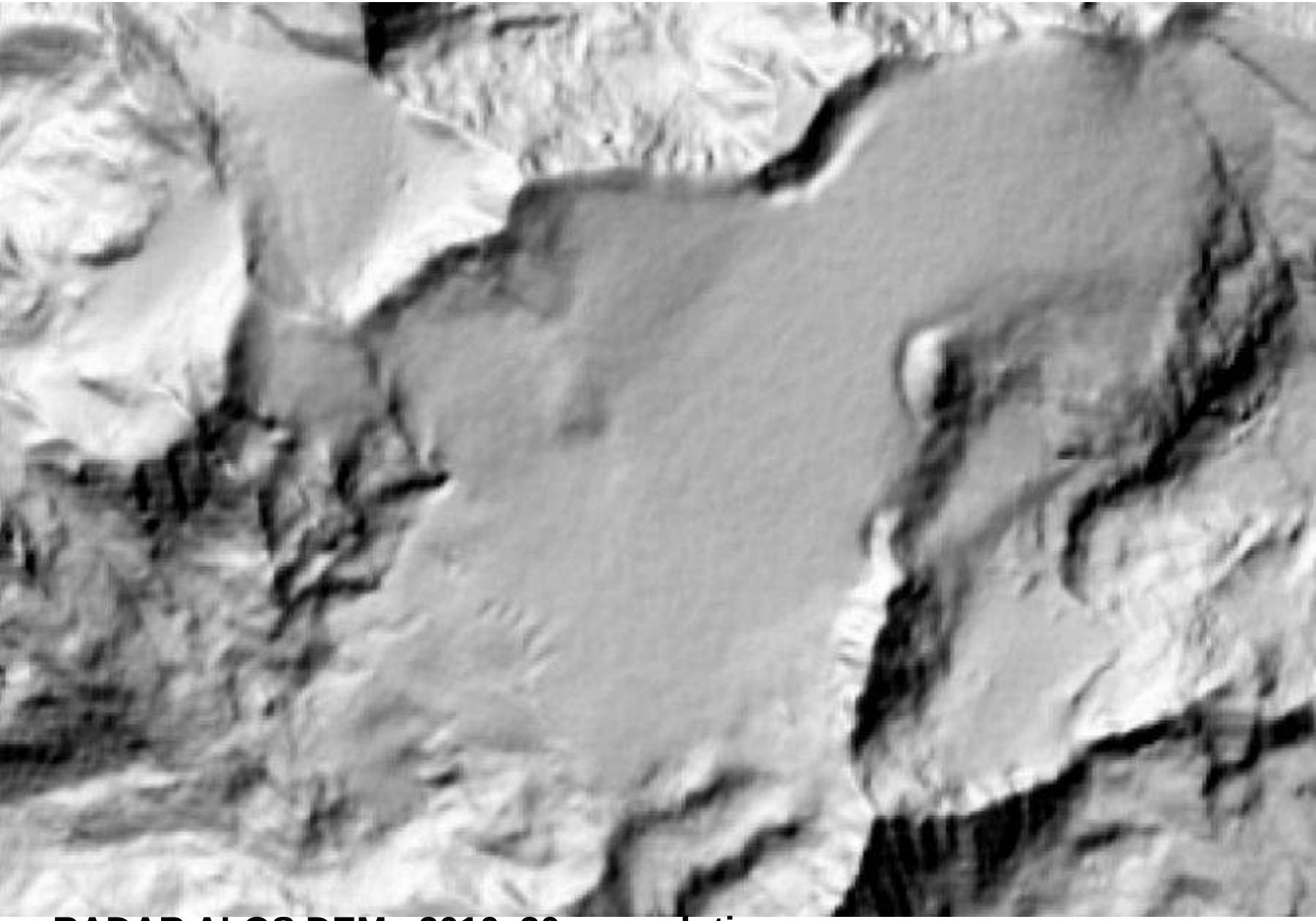


LiDAR 2017, Parsnip Glacier

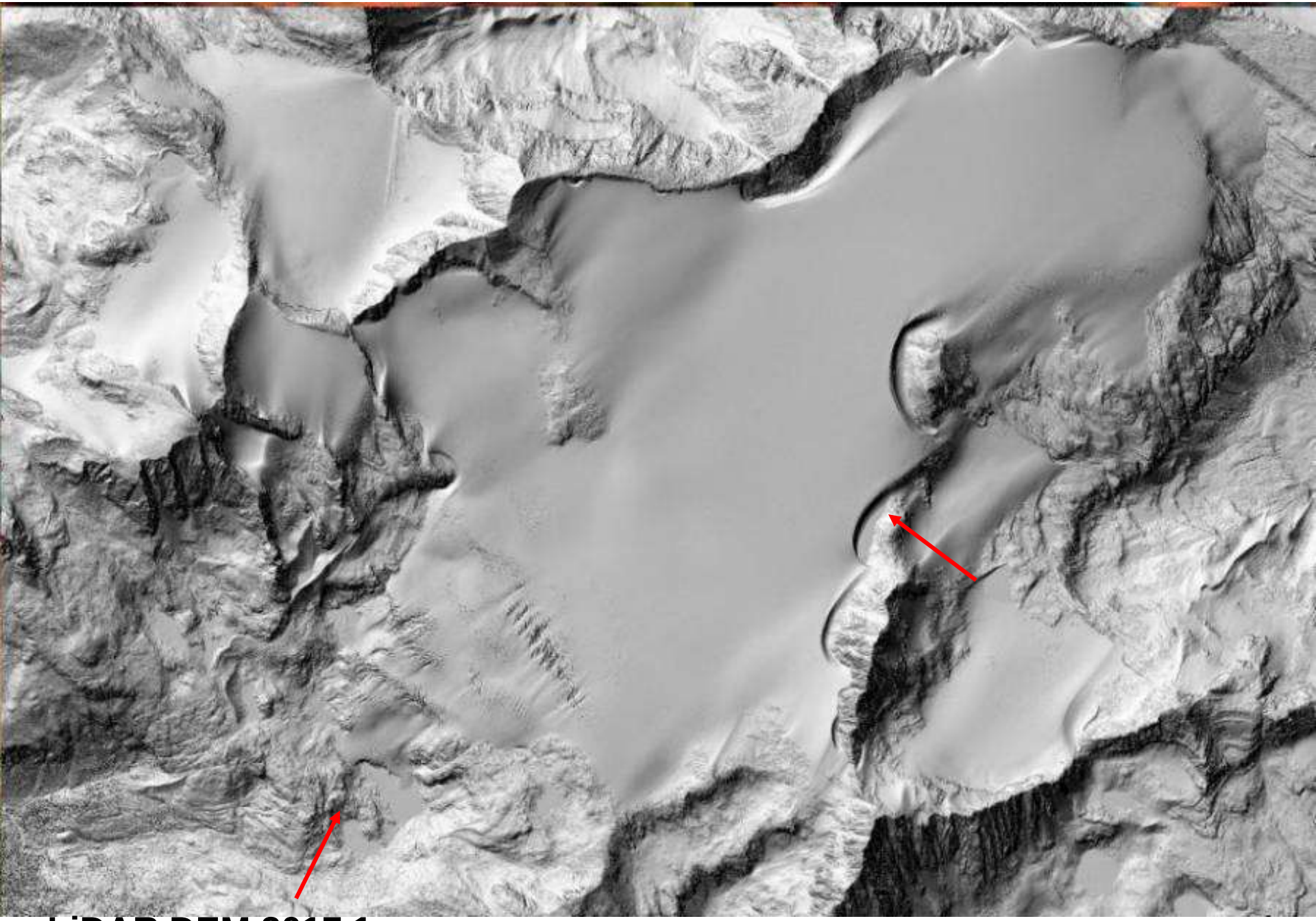
LiDAR data from Dr. Brian Menounos, UNBC



Parsnip Glacier snout - LiDAR resolution: 1 metre

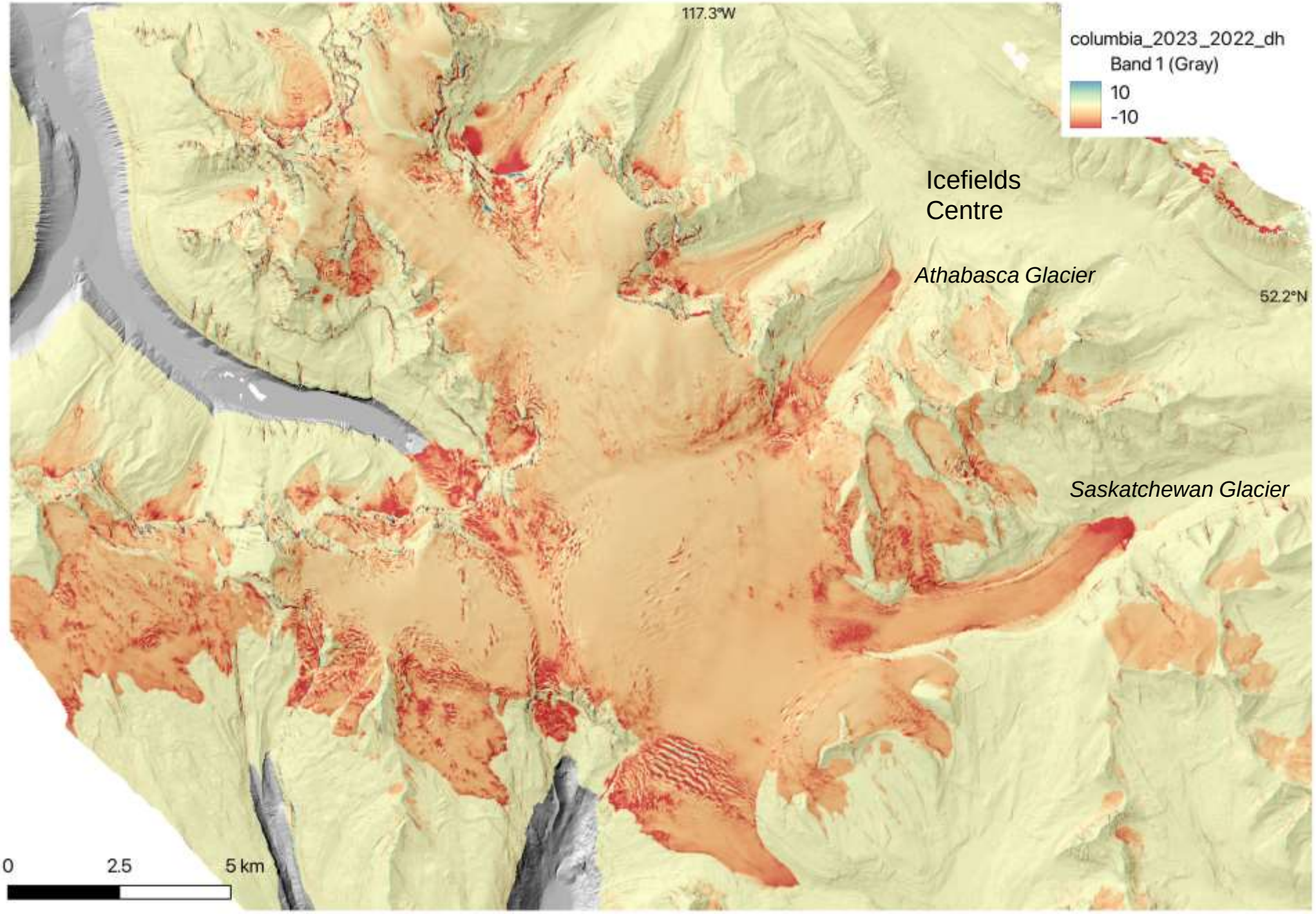


RADAR ALOS DEM ~2010 30m resolution



LiDAR DEM 2017 1m

Repeat LiDAR 2022-23 to show glacier elevation loss in one year – Brian Menounos



LiDAR summary

Previous drawbacks: (all reducing with technology increase)

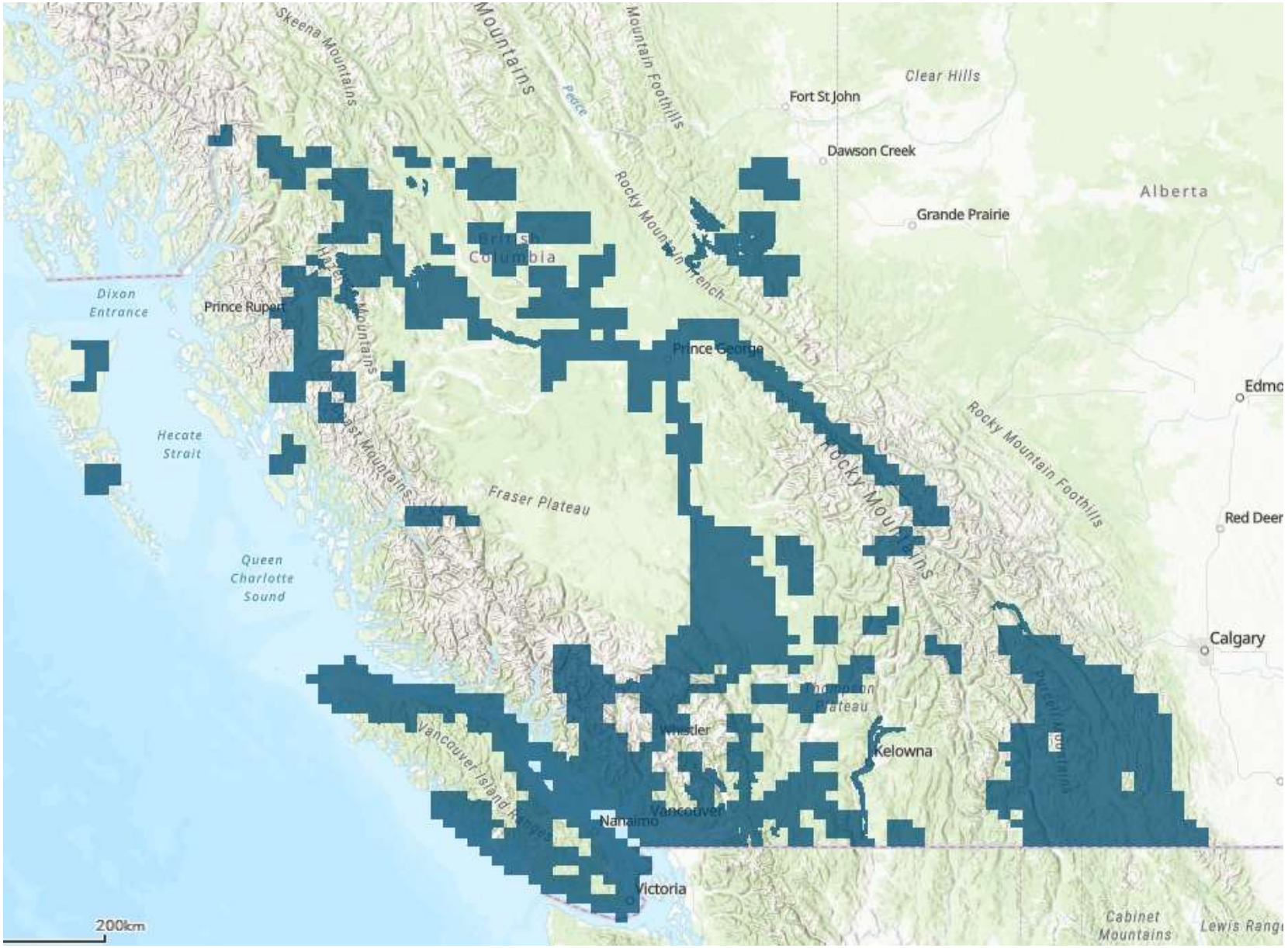
- The relative high cost of collecting LiDAR
- High data volume - Terabytes
- Steep learning curve in research and understanding

  (involving utilizing the entire point cloud)

LidarBC - Open LiDAR Data Portal - Web Map 2022 (free download)

https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=c2967cee749b4bdbac5e7c62935ca167

BC LiDAR data portal, 2023



LidarBC Data Availability

Click to filter the map by data availability

Available

Data available for download through the LidarBC data download portal.

- Data collected 2023 onwards
- Data collected prior to 2023

Being Processed

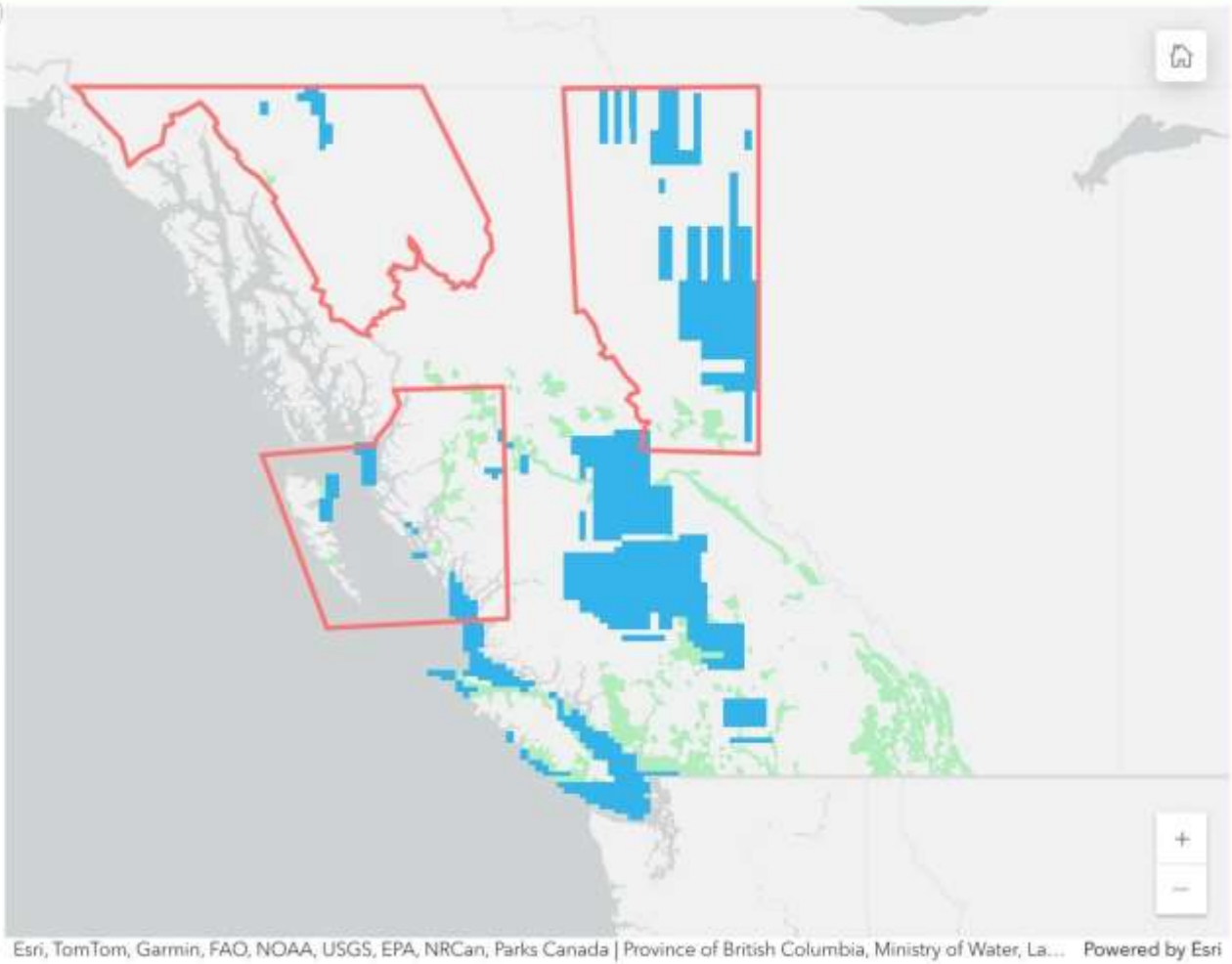
Data being processed for publication.

Actual Acquisition

Data flown and acquired.

Planned Acquisition

Planned data acquisition areas for 2024.

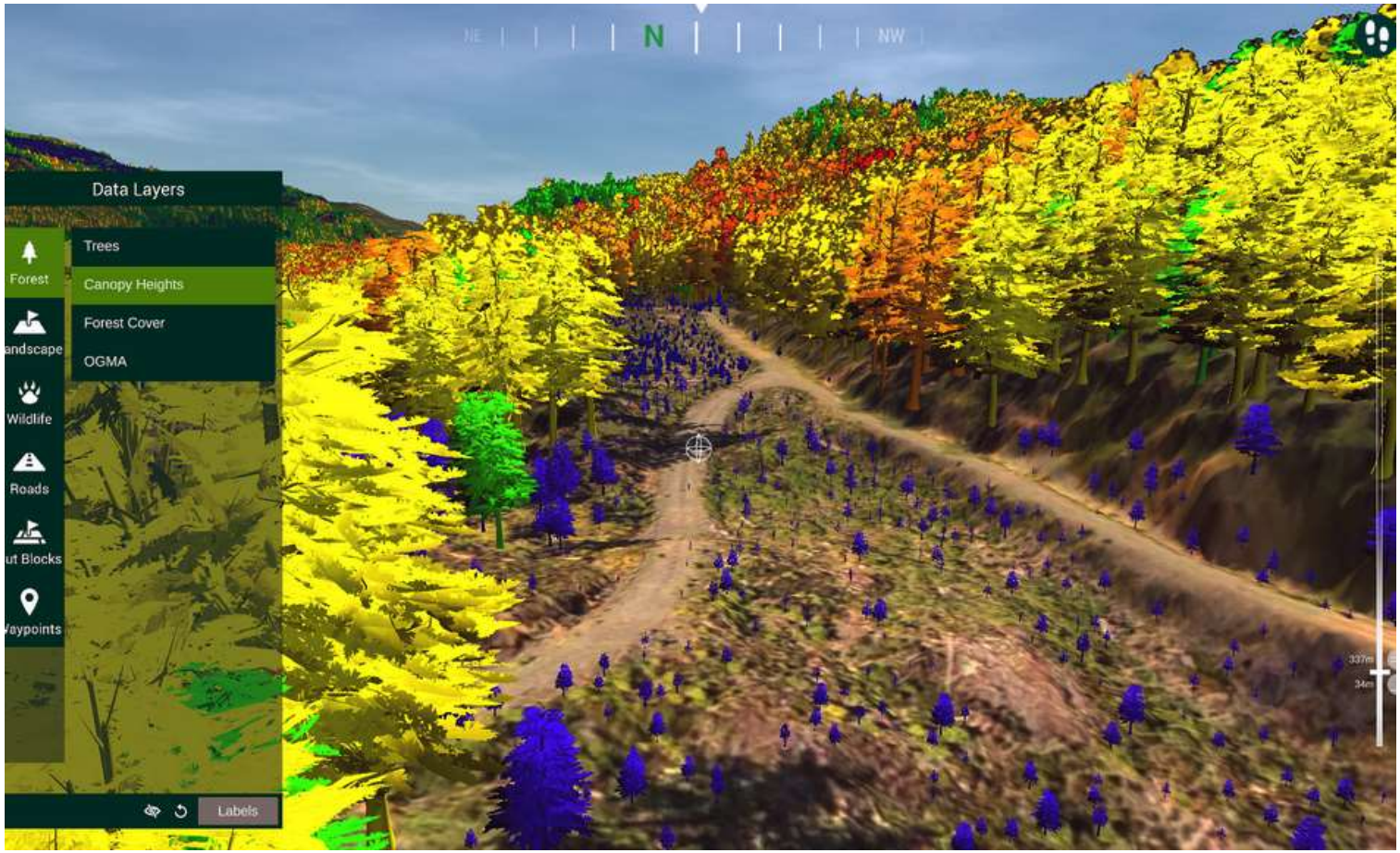


https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/local-news/bc-announces-38-million-aerial-mapping-project-6853531

B.C. announces $38 million aerial mapping project

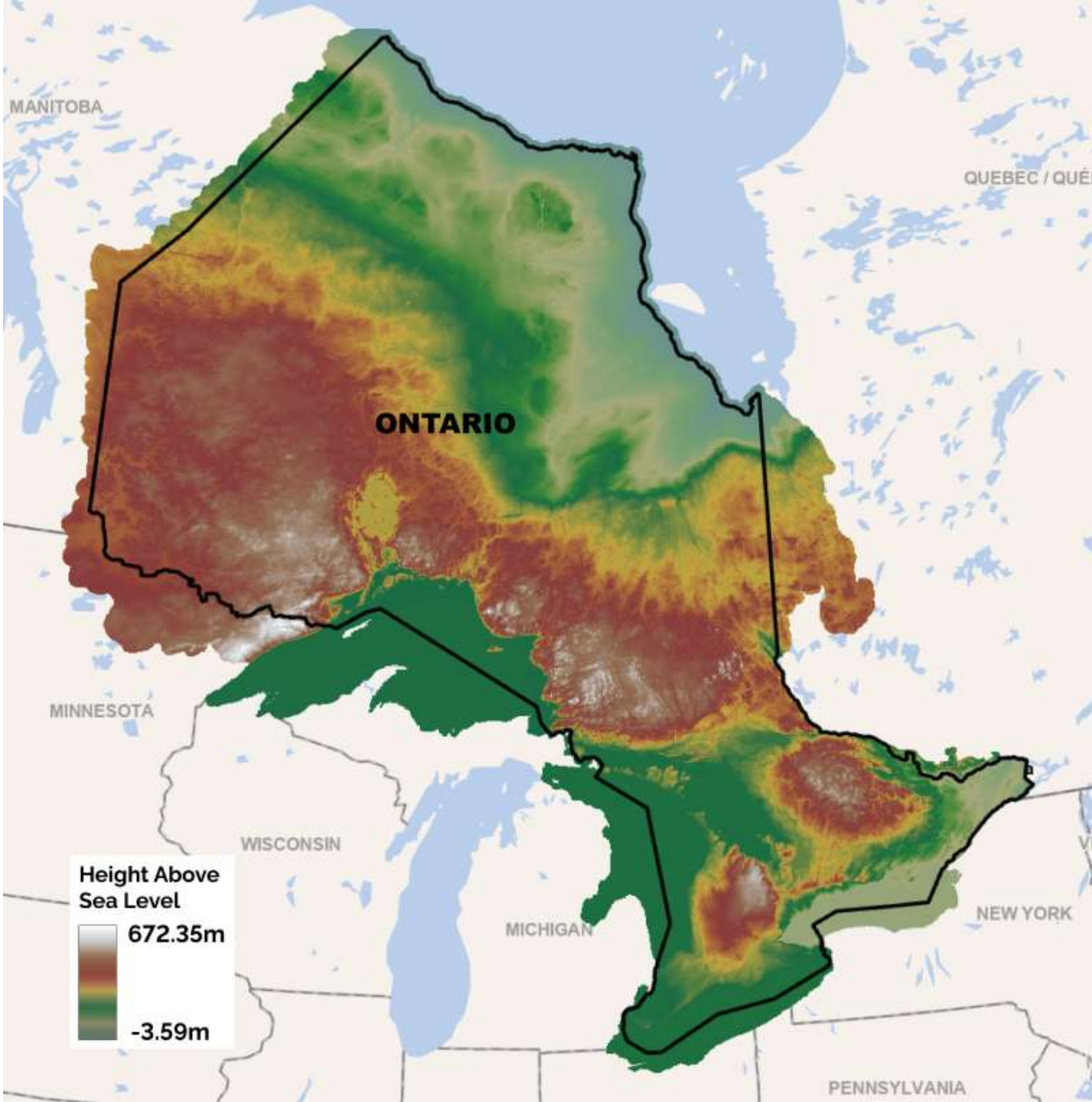
Entire province will be eventually be surveyed using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology - complete by 2030

Ted Clarke Apr 14, 2023 7:07 AM

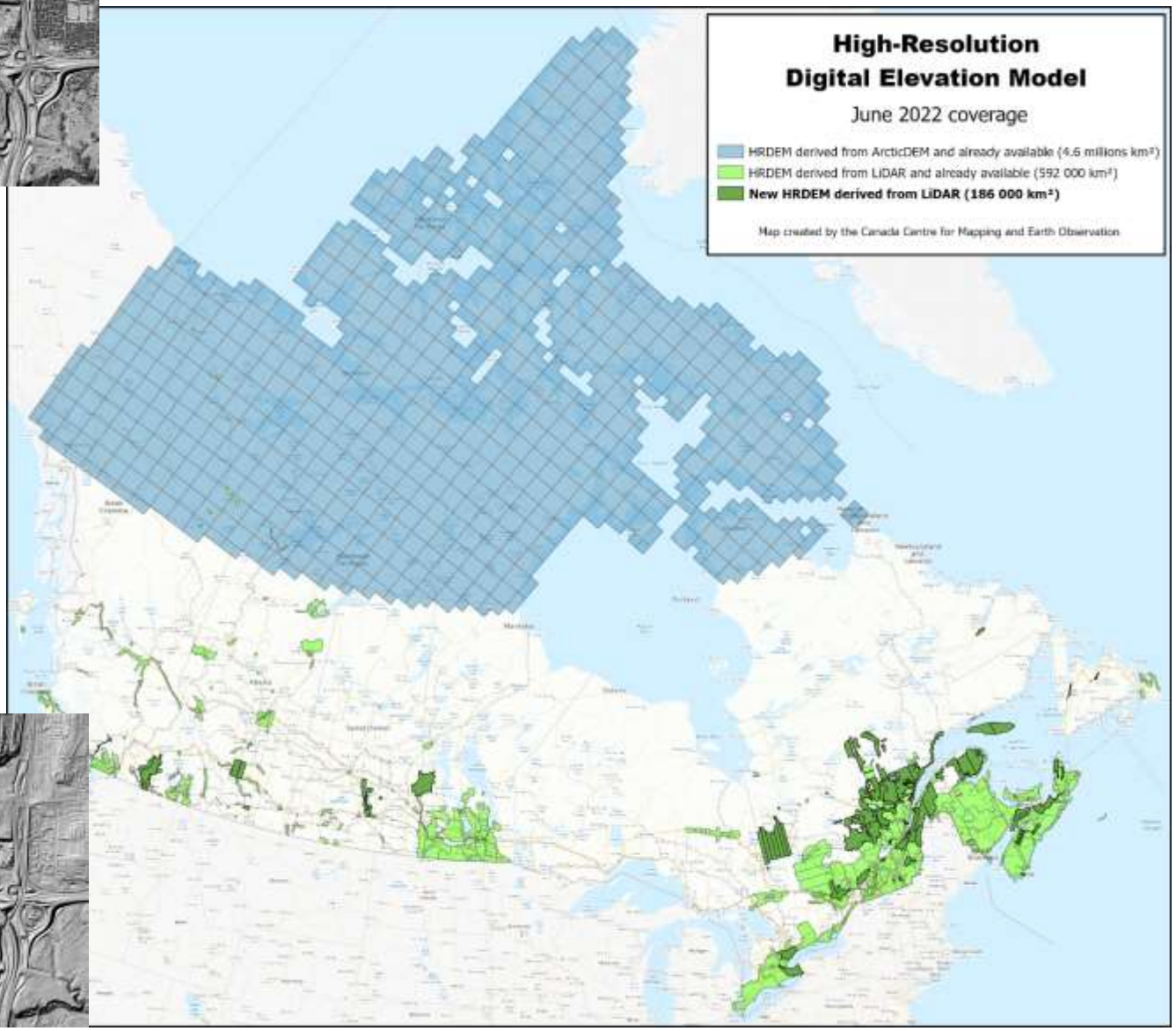


Ontario
https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/pages/ontario-elevation-mapping-program

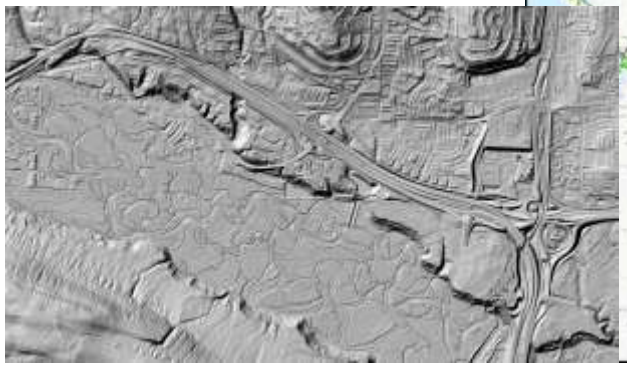
All provinces
https://canadiangis.com/free-canada-lidar-data.php



https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/geomatics/topographic-tools-and-data/whats-new/new-lidar-derived-data-available-on-open-maps/24414



Fish Creek Park
Calgary, DSM/BEM(DTM)



https://ftp.maps.canada.ca/pub/elevation/dem_mne/highresolution_hauteresolution/HRDEM_Download_Instructions.pdf

LiDAR summary

Advantages:

- ✓ Very high resolution DEM for many applications
- ✓ All urban areas with flooding potential
- ✓ Multi-layer data for forestry and ecosystems
- ✓ Increasing data supply – some free download e.g. PEI, NS, NB
- ✓ Increasing conference content in GIS/RS/Cartography/Forestry
- ✓ Many online resources e.g. :

USGS: http://lidar.cr.usgs.gov/knowledge.php

BC CARMS: http://carms.geog.uvic.ca/carmslidarnew.html

LiDAR Platforms

Airborne since 1970s e.g. Optech (Ottawa) NorthWest Geo (Calgary)

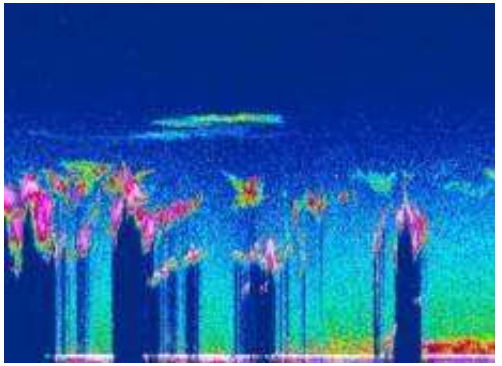
And many others … including UNBC (Brian Menounos)
- LiDAR is mostly airborne, while RADAR is mostly spaceborne

Spaceborne

ICESat (Jan 2003->2009): Geoscience Laser Altimeter System (GLAS):

66m 'footprint' and 10cm vertical resolution, designed for polar icecaps

ICESat2 (Sept 2018): https://icesat-2.gsfc.nasa.gov



CALIPSO:
Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation
https://calipso.cnes.fr/en/CALIPSO/lidar.htm

Ground based – 'terrestrial' Lidar

Lidar-based rockfall hazard characterization of cliffs

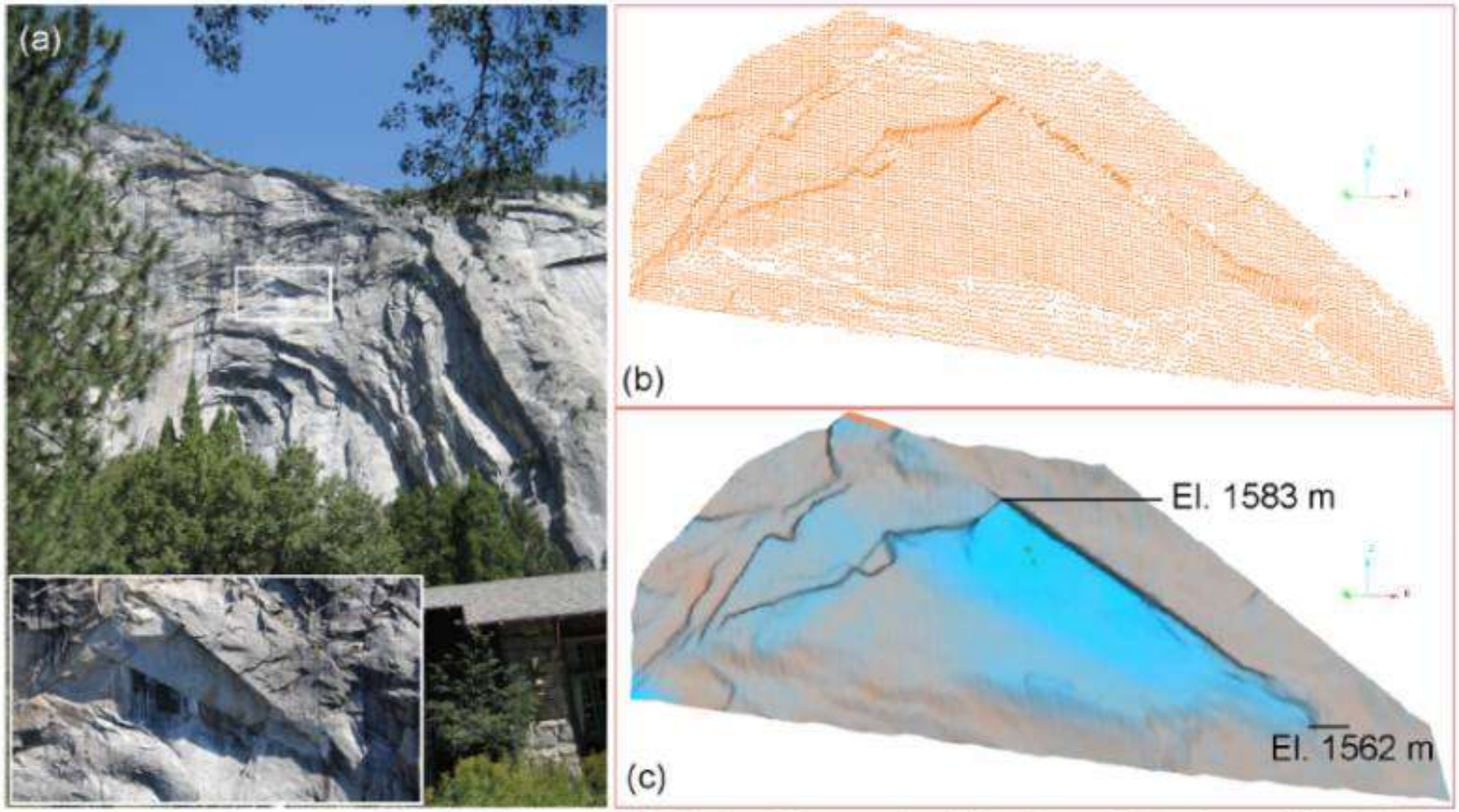


Figure 1. (a) Image of a 2009 rock-fall in Yosemite National Park with (b) point cloud and (c) surface model of the source area. Brightest-blue colored areas of surface model in (c) indicate areas of change following the rock fall.

http://www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/upload/Collins-Stock-2012-ASCE.pdf

LiDAR imagery of Gaping Gill - Britain's largest cavern

http://www.eepublishers.co.za/images/upload/PositionIT-pages%2029-32.pdf

Fig. 1: Gaping Gill Main Chamber LIDAR survey 2003. Vertex cloud looking west.

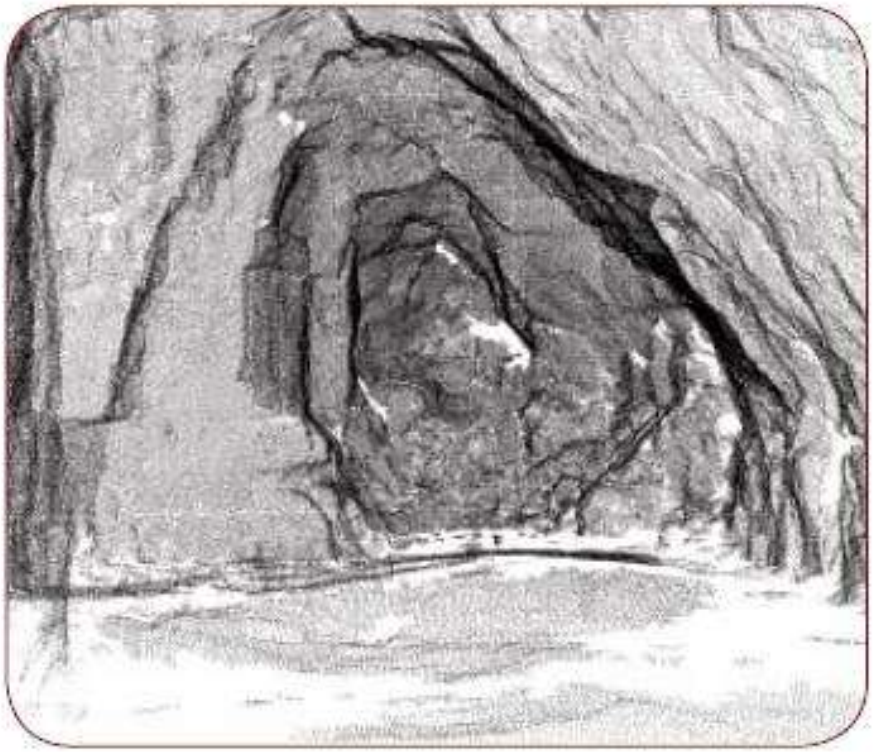


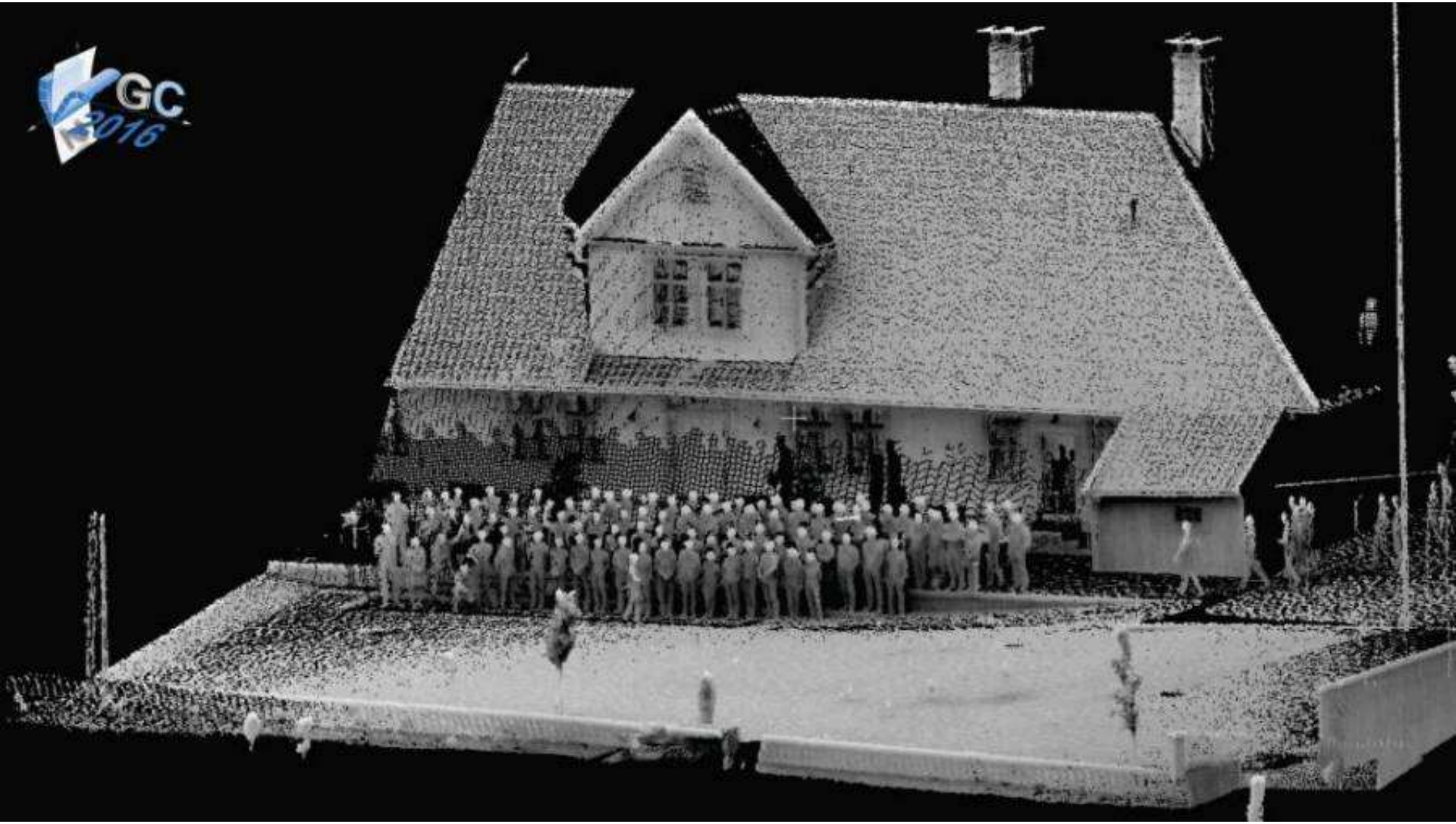
Fig. 2: Gaping Gill Main Chamber LIDAR survey 2003. Vertex cloud looking east.

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HdgliagAds

Heritage building scanning: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AGk01Ims5k

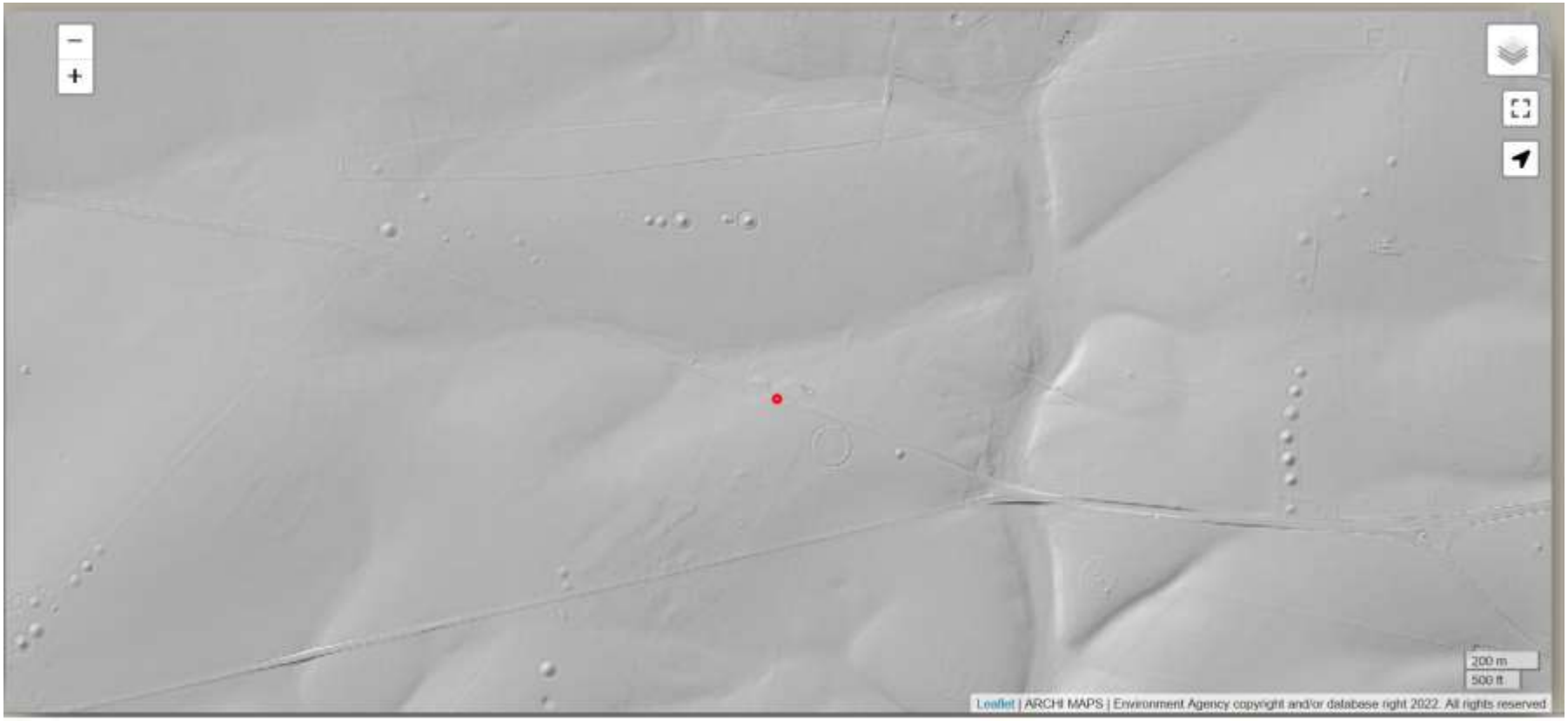
- **building information modeling** (**BIM**)

Conference group photo (RW in red jacket, front centre)



The same Conference group LiDAR scan image

Stonehenge mapping: Archaeology LiDAR



Stonehenge map https://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/build_lidar_map.pl?map_location=Stonehenge&point_title=Neolithic%20site%20of%20Stonehenge%2C%20Wiltshire&ngr=&is_sub=&pwd=&point_lat=51.179420&point_long=-1.826809

Stonehenge3D: https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/stonehenge-lidar-archaeology-landscape-c15c247d4e6c462ca48b5276492c1b7c

Flight: https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/explore-stonehenge-landscape