

THE EFFECT OF WINDTHROW ON FOREST PROTECTION CAPACITY

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MOTIVATION

- Windthrow Vivian 1990, Vaia 2018
- With climate change **disturbance regime** may be altered



OBJECTIVES

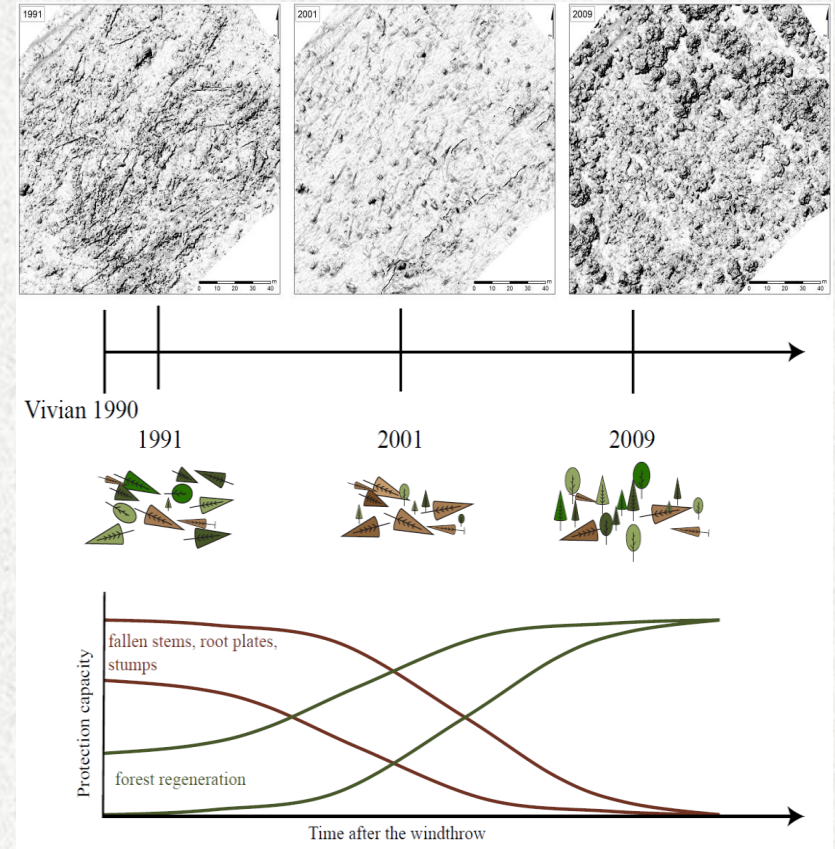
- i) To account for effective heights after a windthrow
- ii) To assess the protection capacity in any time after a windthrow (forest succession)
- iii) To set the thresholds for maximum snow heights

RESULTS

The **effective height of woody debris** drops after 10 and 20 years.

However, already after 20 years **natural regeneration** starts to overtake the **protection capacity**.

How does this look like **after 30 years?**

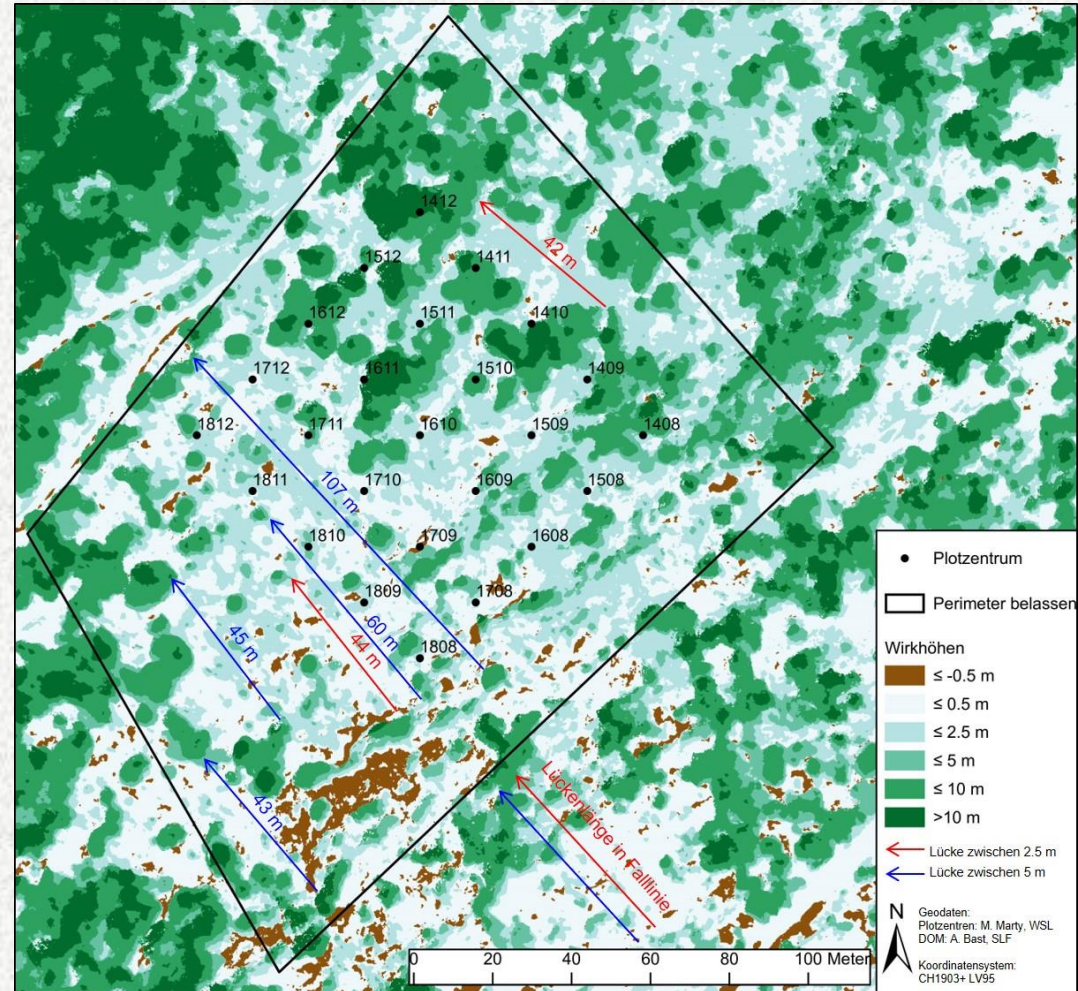


RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

Estimation of **gaps** in windthrow area depending on different snow heights → **proxy** for the **protection capacity**


Gaps may be prone to avalanche formation → SMP measurements next winter


The **effective heights** (dead wood and vegetation) and the gaps between the surface elements





THANK YOU

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