

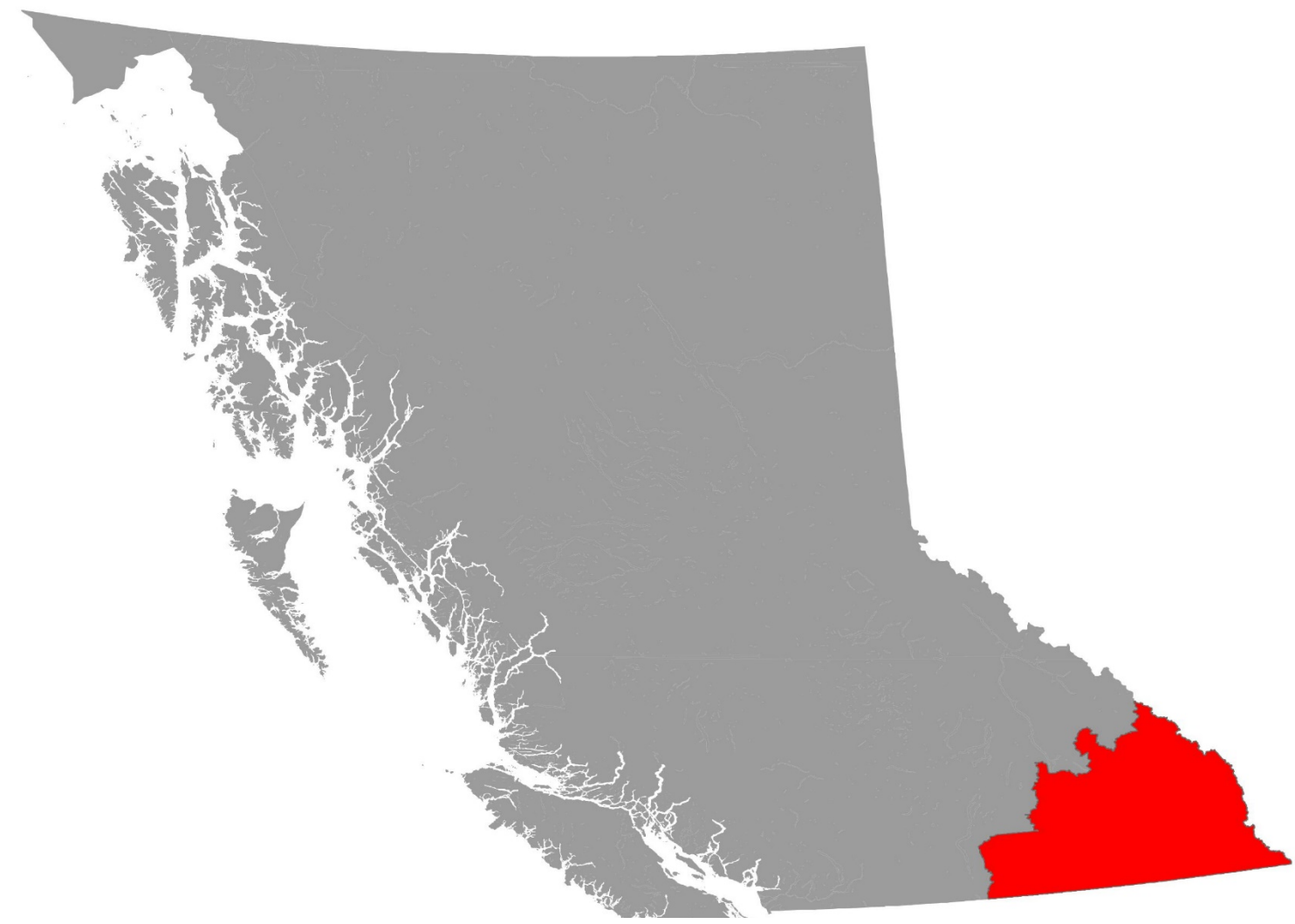
Geographic analysis of cannabis regulations in the Kootenay Region

Introduction

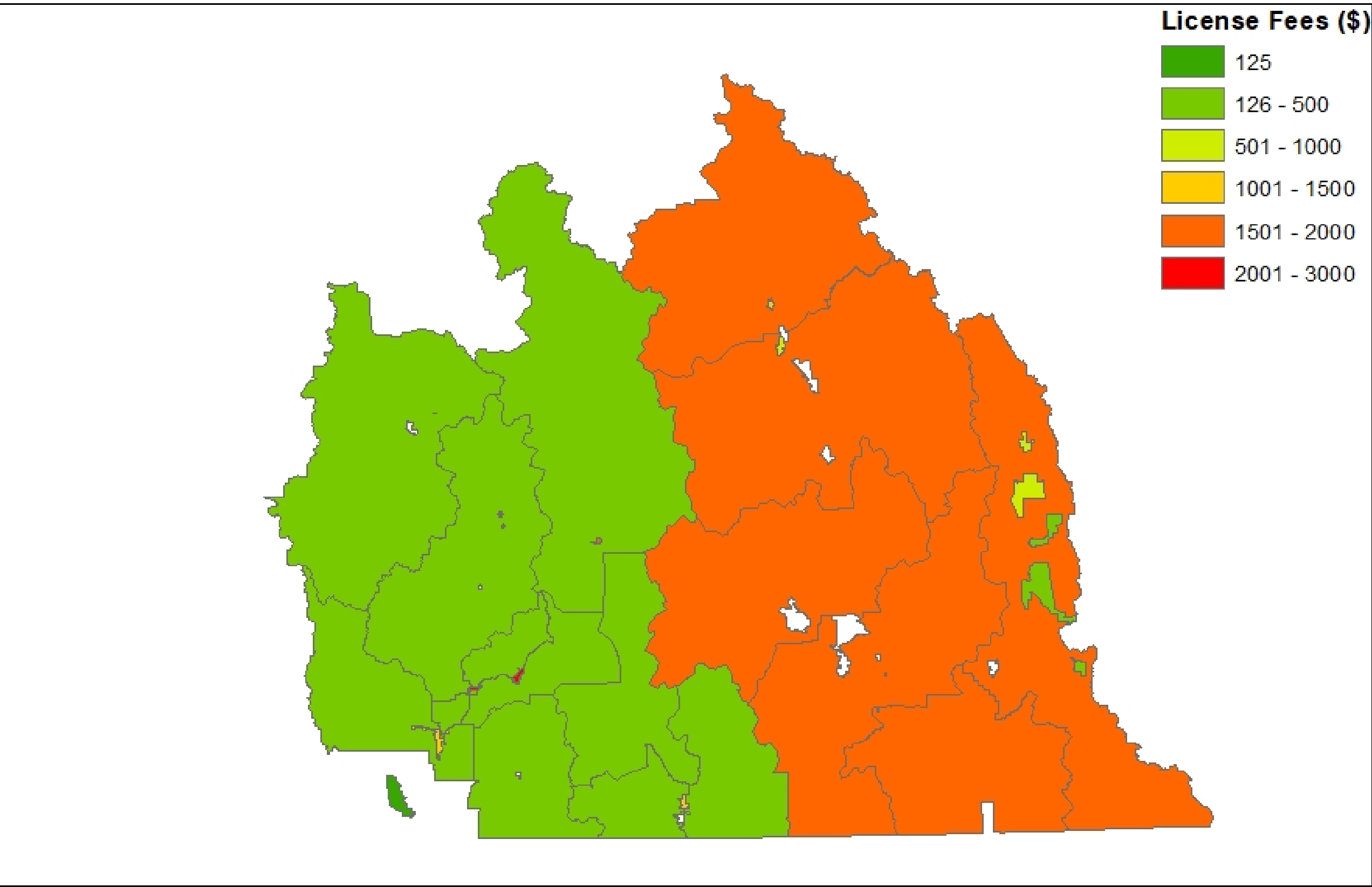
This analysis was conducted for Tracey Harvey, GIS Instructor at Selkirk College in the School of Environment and Geomatics at the Castlegar campus and PhD student at the University of Guelph. It was also intended to serve as a resource for the average person to access information about municipal cannabis regulations across the Kootenay Region. The areas of study were limited to regulations of public consumption, retail licensing fees, and commercial production allowance.

*Blank areas on maps and areas symbolized as “not addressed” constitute areas where data was either unavailable or incomplete.

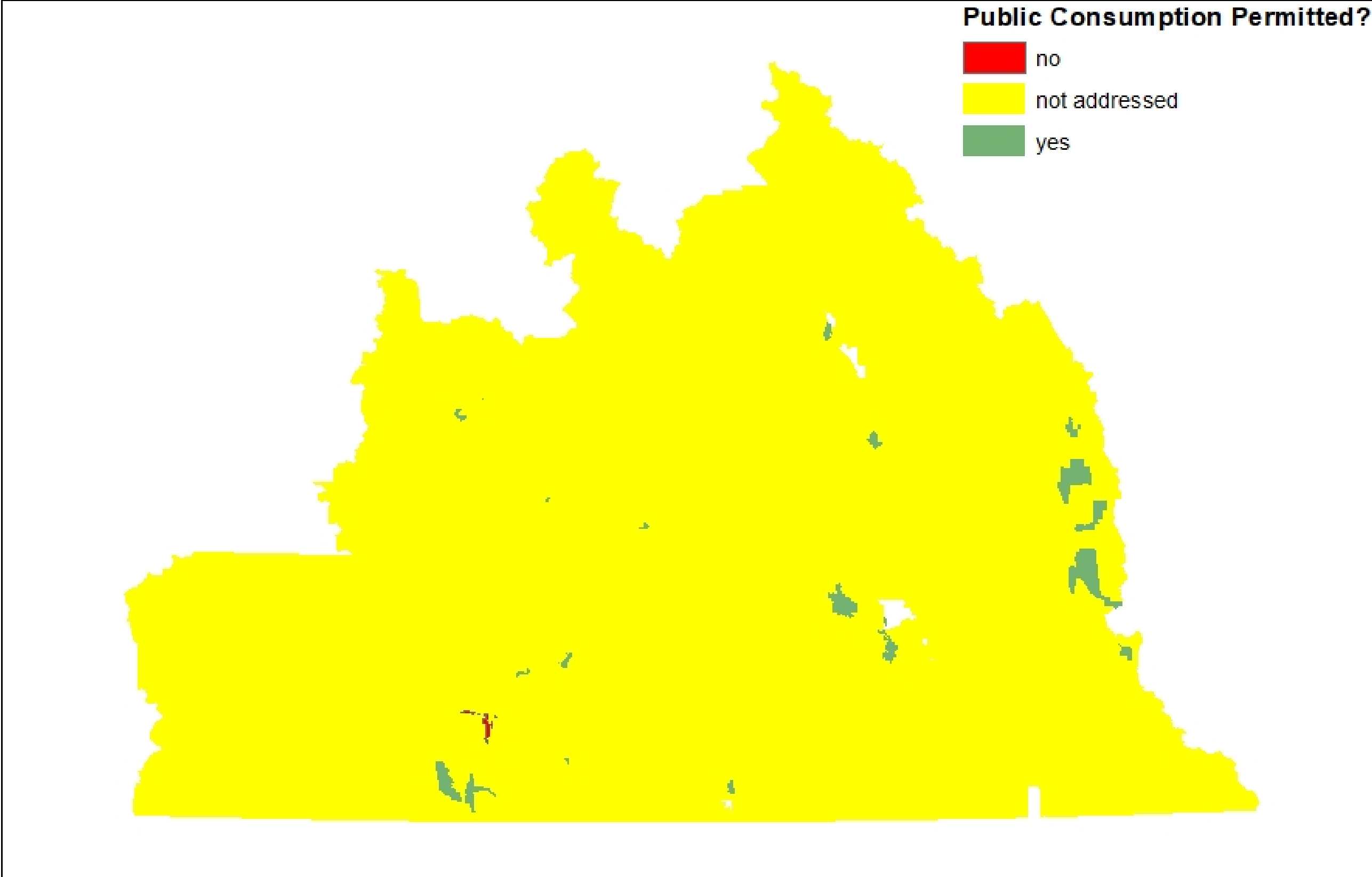
Kootenay Region Study Area



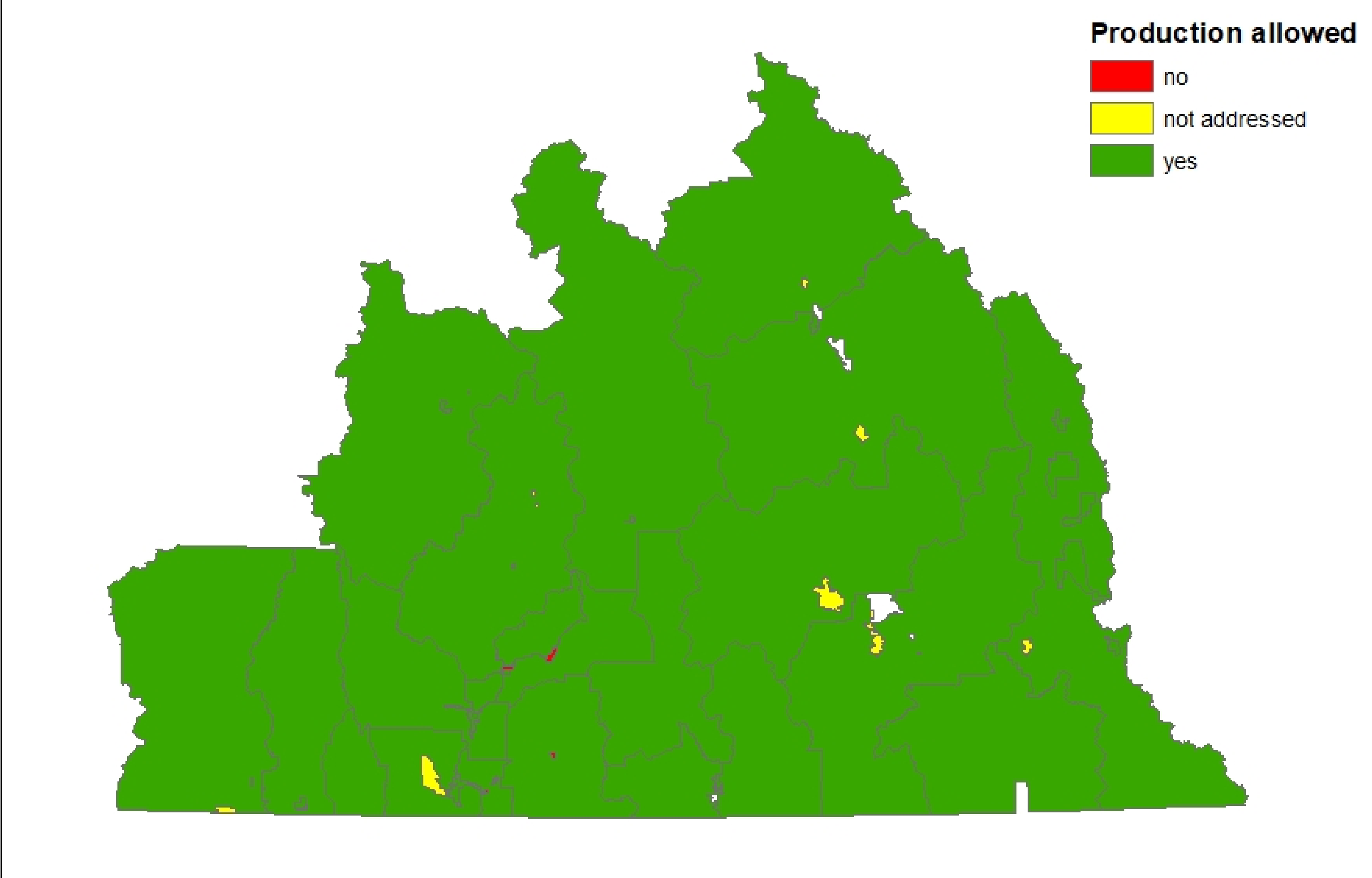
Retail License Fees



Public Consumption Regulations



Commercial production



Scale: 1:2,000,000

Discussion

The results for each category of regulation are outlined below.

Retail License fees: This analysis found that generally the west Kootenay areas have lower licensing fees for retail cannabis businesses, with the exception of Nelson, Castlegar, Kaslo, and Creston. The East Kootenay areas were found to have the inverse of the western areas. License fees in rural electoral areas were relatively high, and certain communities proved exceptional to this trend by having lower license fees; these communities included Sparwood, Elkford, Invermere, and Radium Hot Springs.

Public Consumption Regulations: Regional Districts were found to have no regulations concerning the public consumption of cannabis beyond existing provincial laws. The communities permitting public consumption (within varying conditions) included Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, New Denver, Salmo, Canal Flats, Cranbrook, Elkford, Invermere, Kimberley, Sparwood, Rossland, Trail, and Warfield. The only community found to be prohibiting the public consumption of cannabis products was Castlegar.

Commercial Production Regulations: Commercial cannabis production was found to be permitted in all Regional Districts. Production was prohibited in Salmo, Montrose and Nelson. All other municipalities in the study area either allowed commercial cannabis production or have not yet addressed it.

Future research recommendations

Given the recent nature of cannabis legalization in Canada, this data is almost sure to change in the coming years. Therefore it is recommended that further studies be done in the future concerning these and other aspects of cannabis regulation in the Kootenays. It is also recommended that similar analyses be performed on other regions of British Columbia and Canada in order to show any broad geographical trends regulation.

Data sourcing and methods

The bulk of this analysis consisted of assembling data on 47 different municipalities through a mixture of online research of bylaws and correspondence with municipal offices via email and phone. Arcmap polygons for different census subdivisions were sourced from the Selkirk College database

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