



TAKU - STIKINE - UNUK

THE RIVERS THAT FEED US



DEFEND AND SUSTAIN THE SALMON COAST

The transboundary Taku, Stikine, and Unuk Rivers of Southeast Alaska and Northwest British Columbia's Salmon Coast are the rivers that feed us – physically, culturally, economically, and spiritually. These wild, glacial rivers flow from the vast boreal forest of British Columbia (B.C.) into the temperate rainforest of Southeast Alaska and the Tongass National Forest.

Along these major salmon river systems, the B.C. government is aggressively pursuing unprecedented industrial development, including large-scale mines, many with massive toxic waste dams – without the meaningful consent of those living downstream.



WHAT'S AT STAKE: WILD SALMON & PEOPLE LIVE HERE



T'AAKÚ: TAKU

- Largest roadless river system on the West Coast of North America
- U.S. portion is under Tongass Land Use Designation

SHTAX'HÉEN: STIKINE

- Fastest free-flowing river in North America
- U.S. portion is within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness Area

JOONÁK: UNUK

- B.C. has staked nearly 90% of Canadian side of watershed with mining claims
- U.S. portion is within Misty Fjords National Monument

The Taku, Stikine, and Unuk Rivers are central to life, culture, commerce, sustenance, and ways of life in this region – and home to several Indigenous Nations, including the Tlingit and the Tahltan – linking about 80,000 people in many communities on both sides of the U.S.–Canada border. These rivers are hotspots of biodiversity, climate refugia, and birth all five species of wild Pacific salmon – and serve as economic powerhouses that contribute \$48 million annually to Southeast Alaska's economy. Our transboundary rivers have been stewarded by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and are subject to the U.S.–Canada Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909.



AT A GLANCE

- Taku, Stikine, Unuk transboundary watersheds: 30,000 square miles and produce 80% of our region's Chinook (king) salmon
- Almost 20% of these watersheds are staked with B.C. mineral claims
- Nearly 80,000 people live downstream from Northwest B.C.
- Salmon and tourism contribute \$2 billion-dollars annually to the Southeast Alaska economy

B.C.'S MODERN-DAY GOLD RUSH

B.C. is feverishly rushing through massive open-pit gold and copper mines, including their colossal toxic waste storage facilities, at the headwaters of shared, iconic salmon rivers. This is happening without the meaningful input of communities and Tribes downstream in Alaska, and despite a global push to ban earthen mine tailings dams.

The industrialization of these river systems is the largest threat to some of the last remaining wild salmon habitat left on the planet. B.C.'s archaic mining laws are not strong enough to protect communities that depend upon cold, clean water, and wild salmon.

Almost 20% of all three AK-B.C. transboundary watersheds are staked with B.C. mineral claims. B.C. markets these mines of the "Golden Triangle" as important for the "clean energy transition." In reality, the vast majority of mining companies are targeting mostly gold. About 80% of the gold they dig up will become jewelry and bullion.



TULSEQUAH CHIEF - ABANDONED MINE IN TAKU



RED CHRIS - OPEN-PIT MINE IN STIKINE



RED CHRIS MINE, STIKINE WATERSHED



MOUNT POLLEY MINE, FRASER WATERSHED



TOXIC TAILINGS DAMS

B.C. continues to permit earthen mine "tailings dams" along shared salmon rivers even though these massive mine waste dams have to hold back a toxic slurry of acid-generating waste forever. These dams pose a great risk to environmental and human health because these will ultimately fail. An expert panel that reviewed B.C.'s 2014 Mount Polley mine waste dam failure (pictured right) found B.C. could face an average of two tailings dam failures every ten years. Peru, Chile, and Brazil have all banned upstream tailings dams. It's time these ticking time bombs are also banned along some of the world's last remaining intact salmon rivers.

SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR SPECIAL PLACES

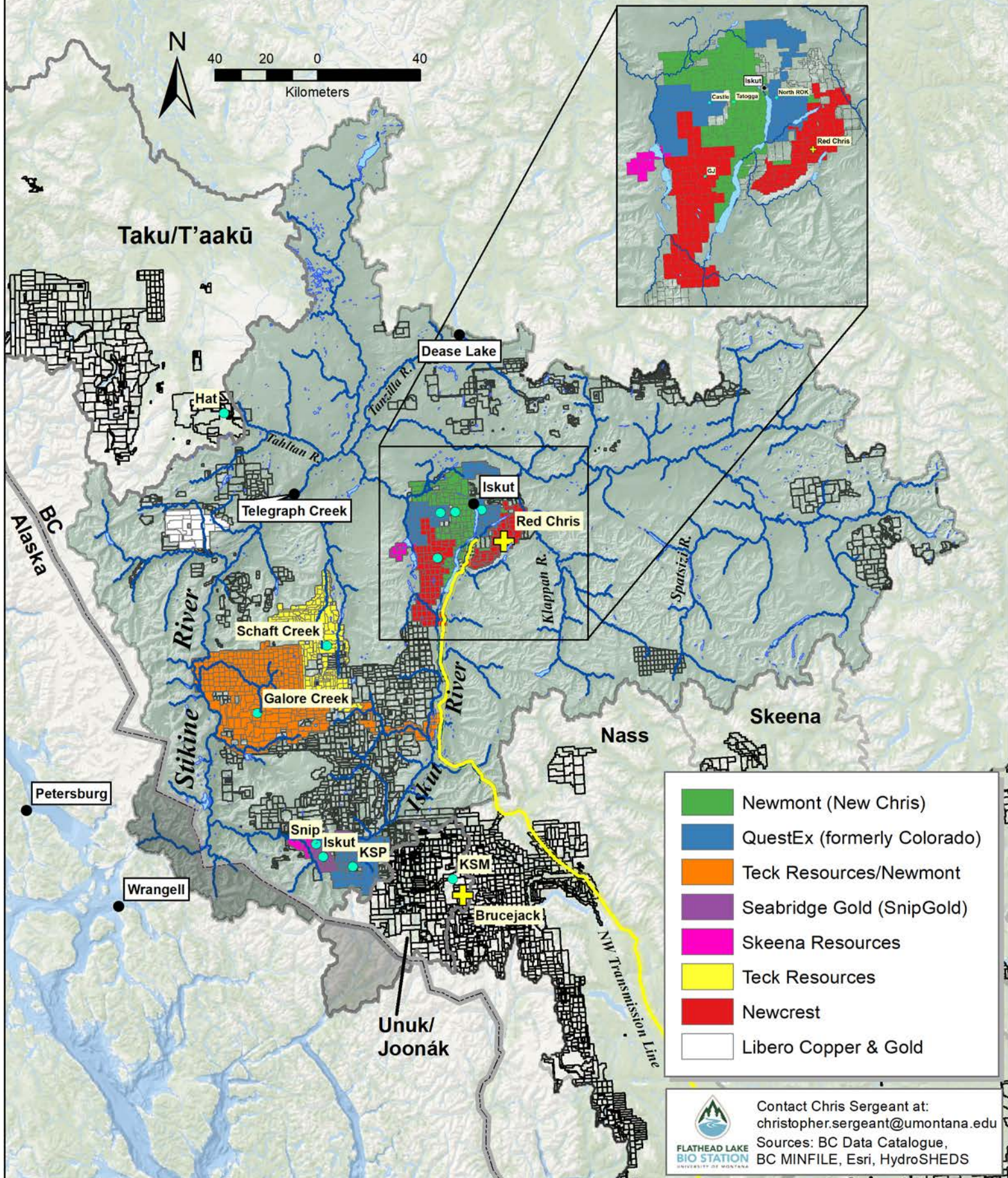
THE RIVERS THAT FEED US

This international issue requires an international solution. That is why Tribes, municipalities, business owners, and concerned citizens are calling for a temporary HALT to exploration, development, and expansion of B.C. mines along shared AK-B.C. salmon rivers until the U.S. and Canadian federal governments convene local communities, stakeholders, and Indigenous leaders to develop a binding international agreement that:

- Honors no-go zones and decisions by impacted local residents and Indigenous peoples
- Ensures B.C. mining companies and shareholders are liable for cleaning up their waste
- Permanently bans toxic mine waste dams along AK-B.C. transboundary salmon rivers

**TAKE ACTION AND LEARN MORE AT
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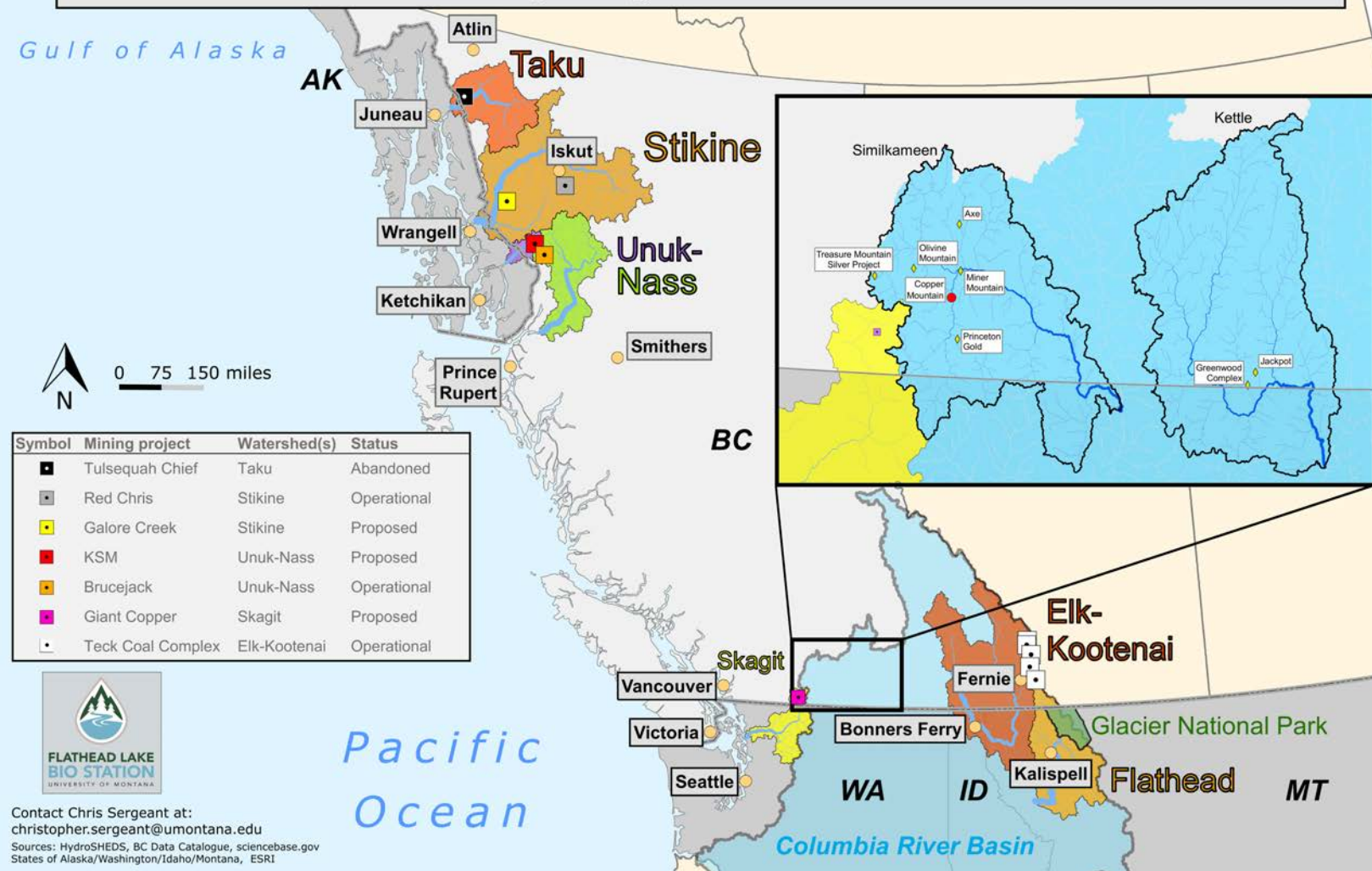
Major BC mines, claims, and companies in the Stikine/Shtax'héen watershed



CANADA POLLUTES SHARED WILD RIVERS

Canadian large-scale mines impact the U.S. waters of three other British Columbia (B.C.) border states – Washington, Idaho, and Montana – just as they pollute or threaten to pollute the Alaska-B.C. transboundary Taku, Stikine, and Unuk-Nass Rivers. For decades, B.C. has stalled meaningful international action between the U.S., Canadian and Indigenous governments to protect shared rivers and salmon. B.C. promotes its handshake agreements (MOUs) with downstream U.S. states, while doubling down on the destruction of critical fish and wildlife habitat so vital to our economies and ways of life. B.C.'s own Auditor General has sharply criticized the B.C. mine evaluation, approval, monitoring, mitigation, and bonding processes, warning that B.C. is at risk of violating the Boundary Waters Treaty in relation to the ongoing B.C. mining-related pollution of international waterways.

British Columbia Mining Projects in Shared US-BC Watersheds



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