CSKT Perspectives on the Lake Koocanusa Site-Specific Selenium Criteria Development

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe Representative to the Lake Koocanusa Monitoring Group and Selenium Technical Subcommittee;

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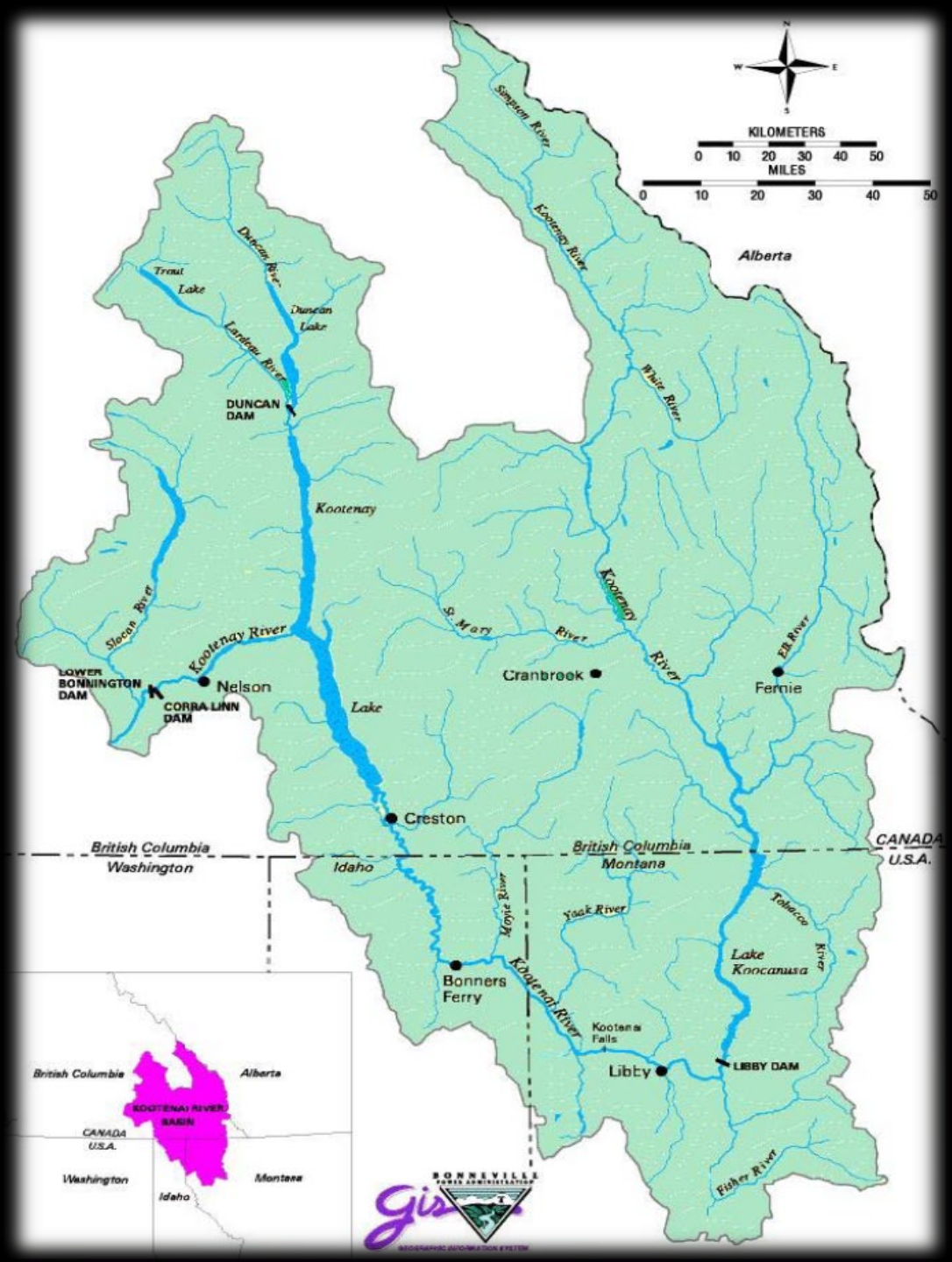
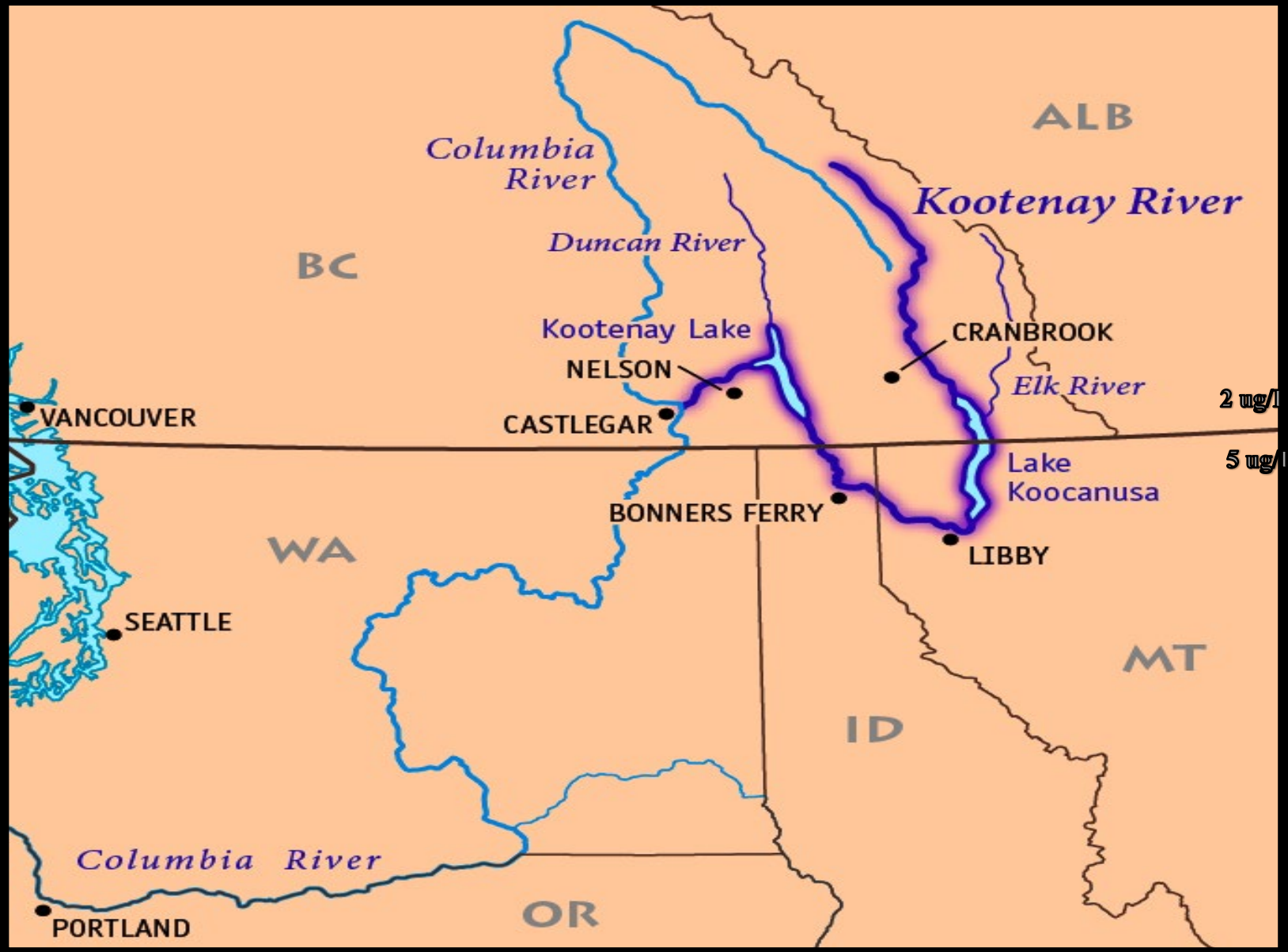
Transboundary Kootenai Watershed

- Entirely within the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation Territory
- Five Original Bands; Three Governments; CSKT, KTOI, KNC
- Nation does not recognize the Colonial US/CA Boundary



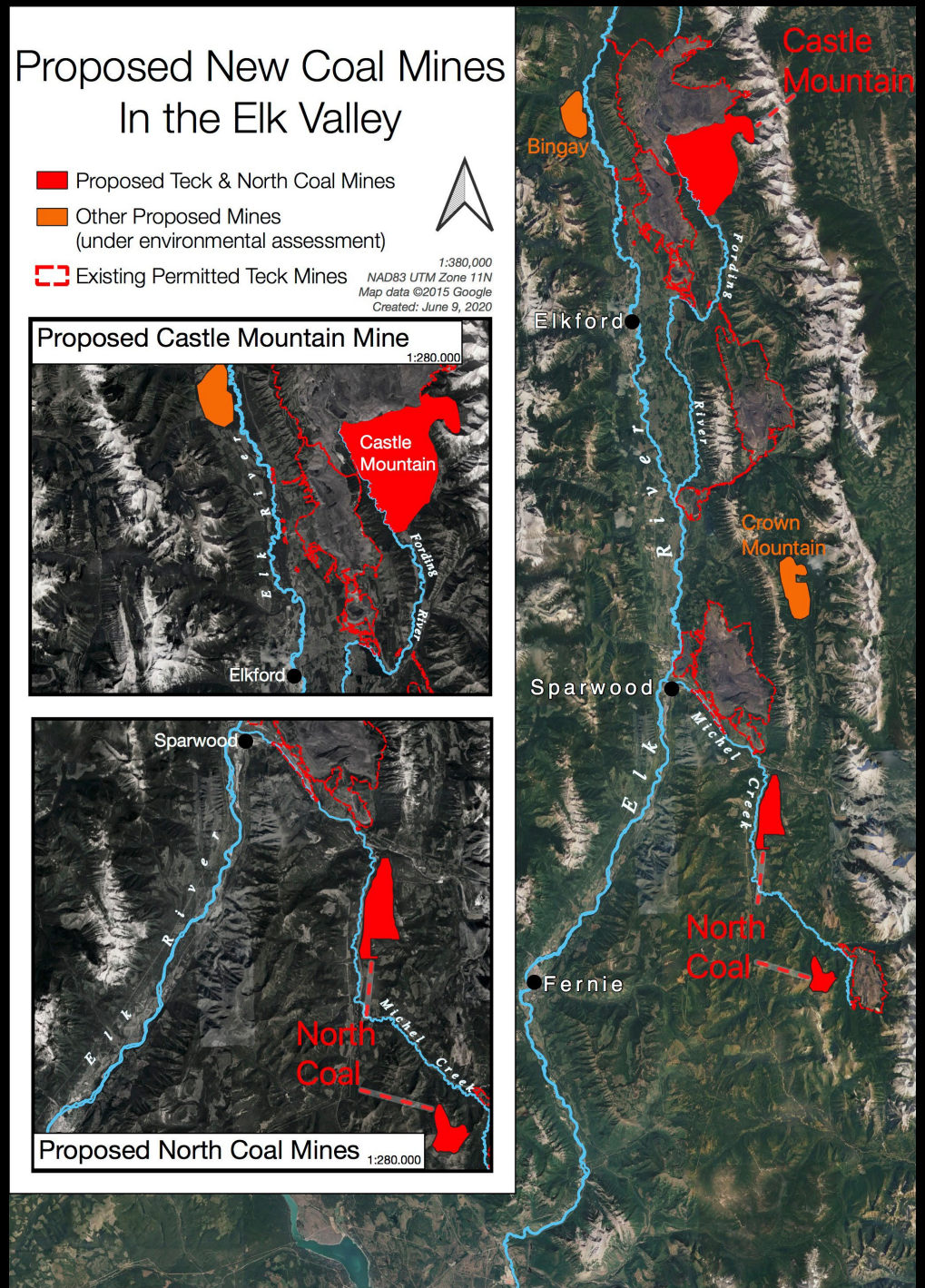
Transboundary Kootenai(y) Watershed



- CSKT participated on the Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and Research Working Group (LKMRWG) and on the Selenium Technical Subcommittee from Day 1 in November, 2014

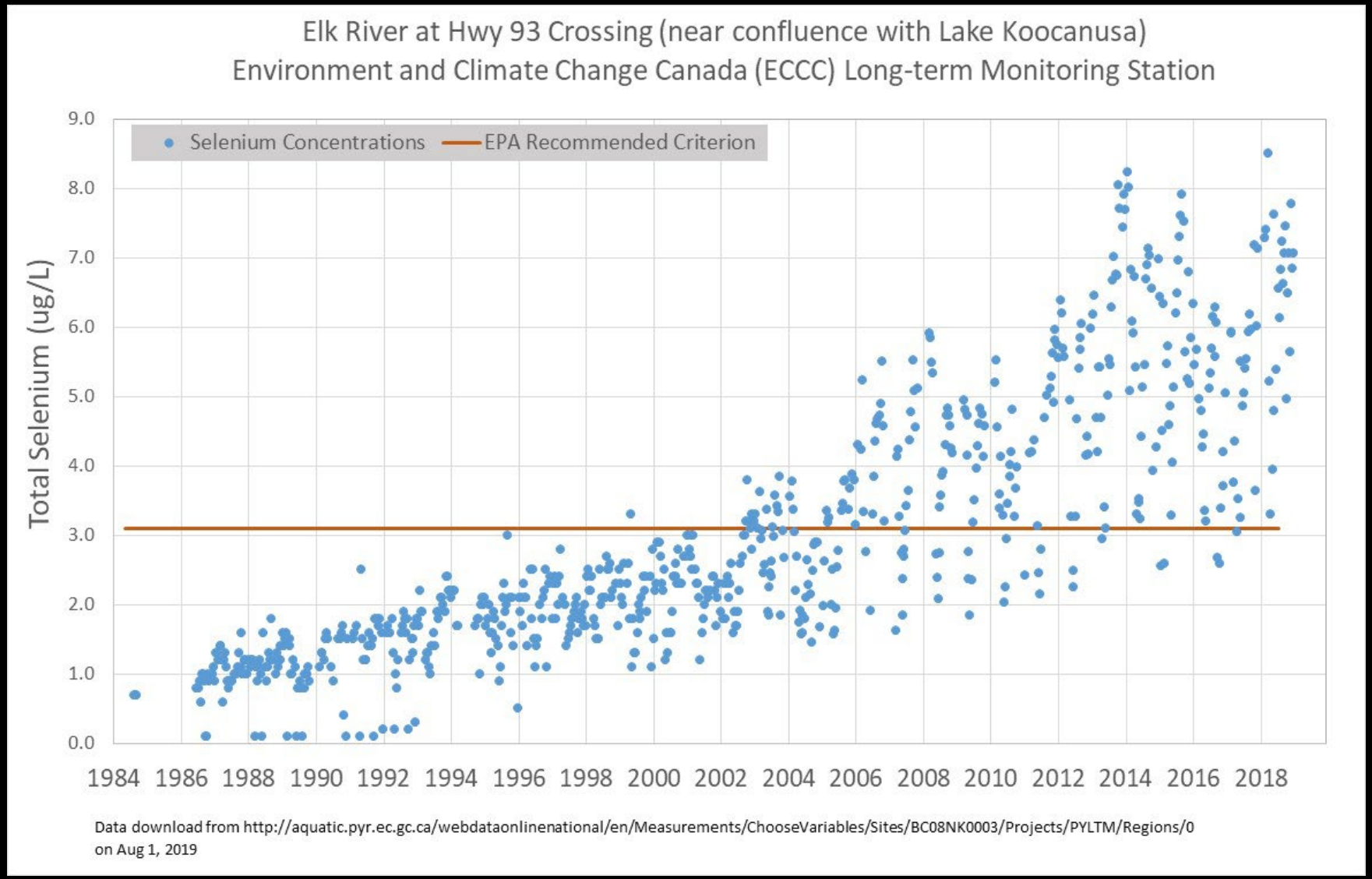
- CSKT supported a selenium criteria that was protective of ALL SPECIES OF FISH IN THE RESERVOIR
- At ~ 1.0 ug/L of selenium in Koocanusa, three species of fish exceed selenium toxicity thresholds
- Therefore, CSKT supported a selenium criteria of 0.8 ug/L in the water column and 15.1 ug/kg in fish tissue.

CSKT and KTOI hosted the US IJC Commissioners to the Kootenai in June, 2021and the US Department State Department in Sept, 2021

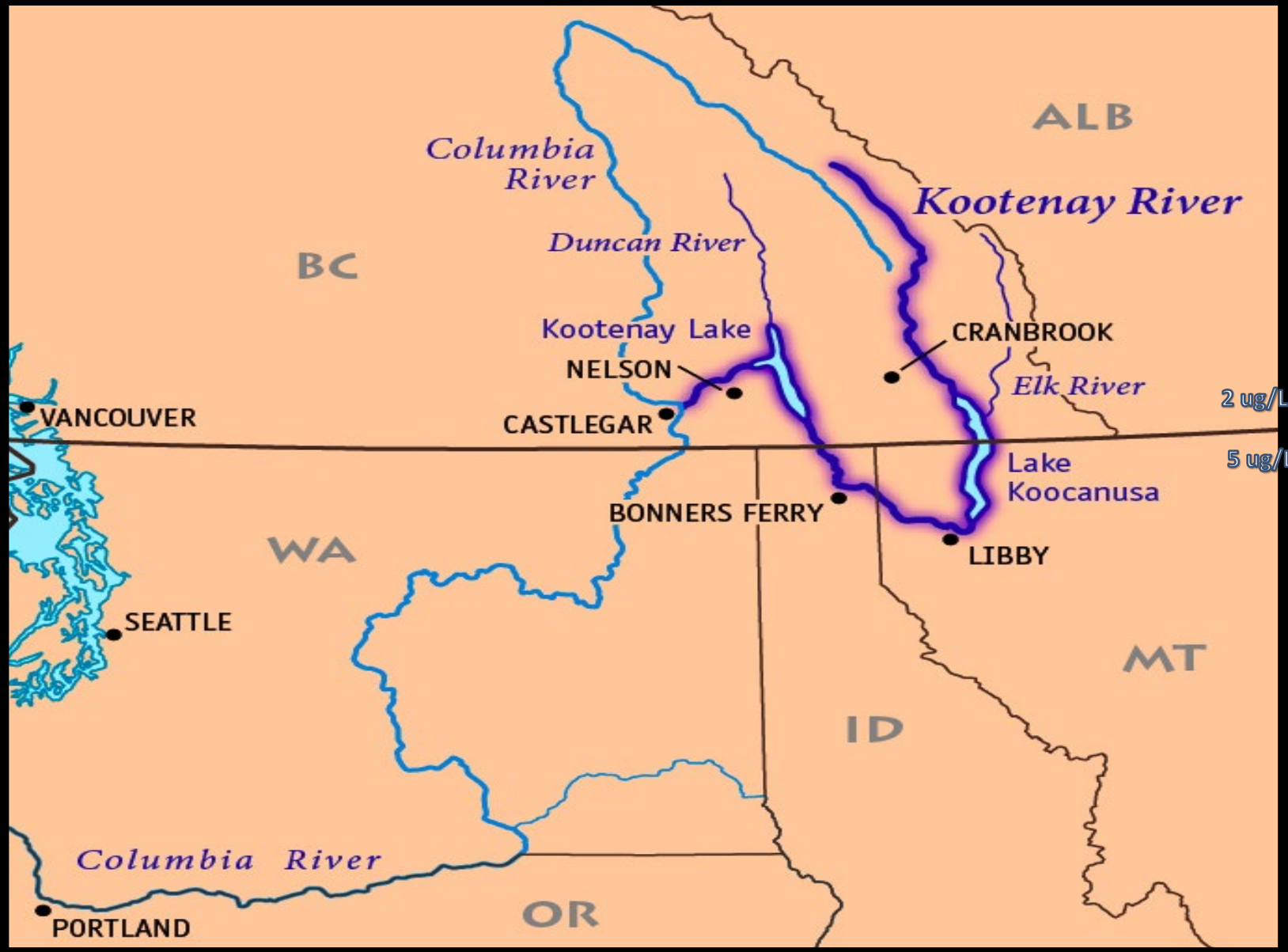


The MT adoption and EPA approval of a site-specific criteria for Lake Koocanusa was a very important success, given that there are three new mines and one mine expansion currently proposed in the Elk Valley.

In 2014, the government of BC ordered Teck Coal to stabilize and decrease contaminant trends from their mines, despite this order, concentrations of selenium have increased over the last 6 years.



Transboundary Kootenai(y) Watershed



It is also important to note that in November, 2021, the Province of BC announced their proposed selenium objective of 0.85 ug/L for Lake Koocanusa, demonstrating a united approach to managing selenium.

- The process was inclusive and transparent (with the exception of excluding Idaho)
- The state, US federal and tribal governments found common ground
- The state, US federal and tribal governments maintained a strong commitment to objective and transparent science

The process resulted in the promulgation of a legally defensible site-specific criteria, with the objective of protecting all species of fish in the Koocanusa Reservoir and the Kootenai River downstream

The site-specific selenium criteria in Koocanusa Reservoir is critical for protecting downstream waters, fish and beneficial uses in Montana and Idaho