

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program

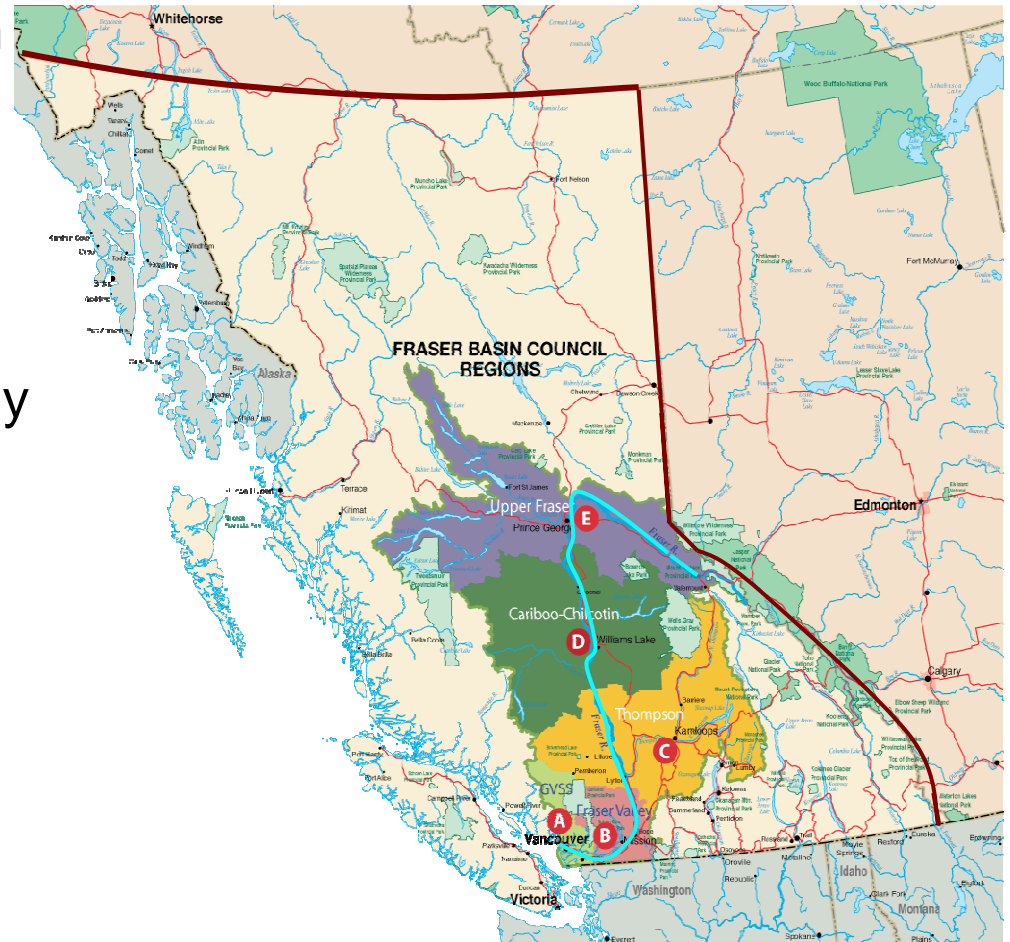


Chief Lake

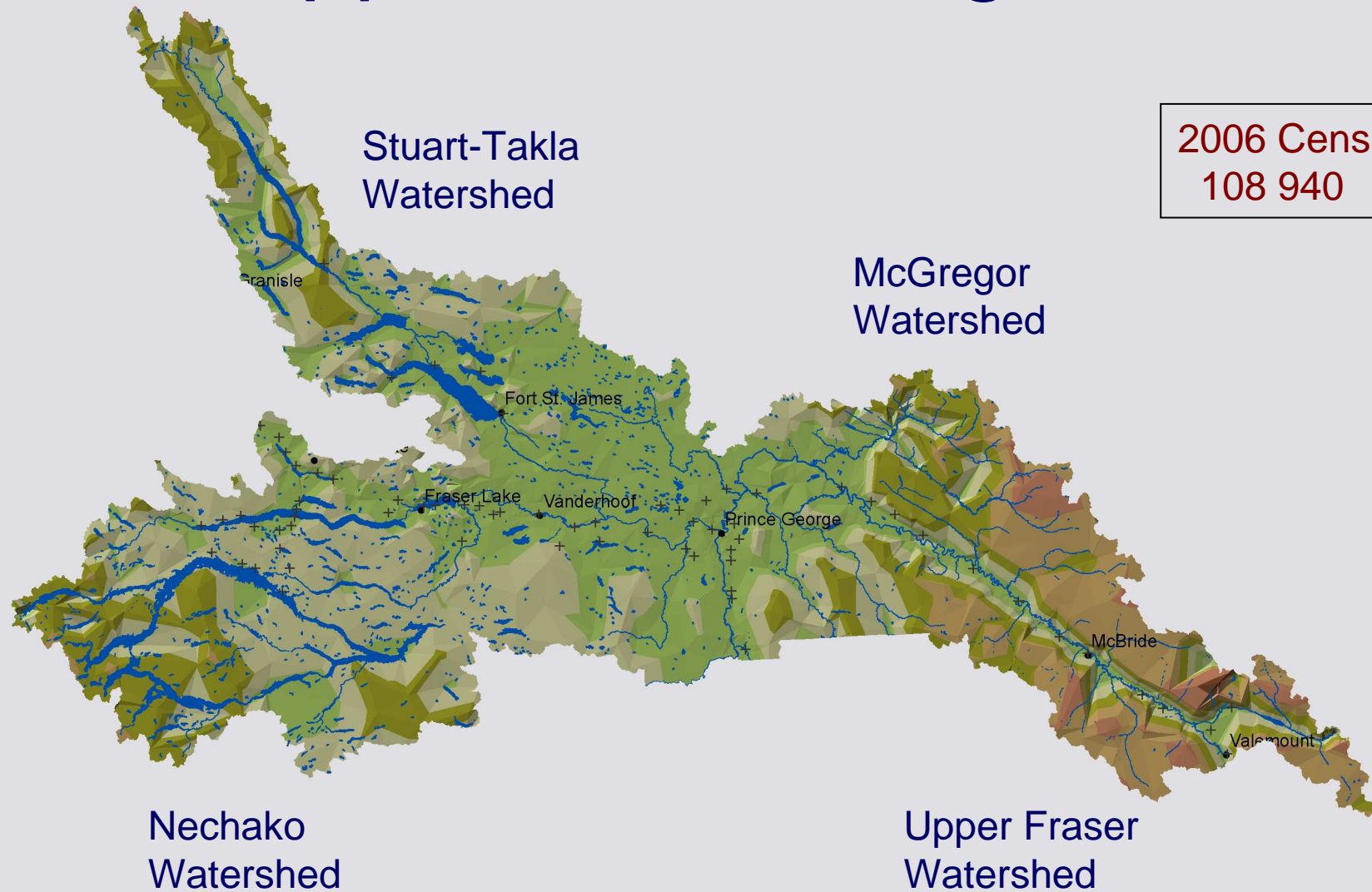
June 2008 Assembly
An Overview of the Upper
Fraser Region

Fraser River Basin

- Fraser River flows ~1400km from Mt Robson to Vancouver
- Area is about 220,000km²
- Population is 2.8 million and growing
- Contributes 80% of BC's economy
- Five regions within the Basin
 - Upper Fraser
 - Cariboo-Chilcotin
 - Thompson
 - Fraser Valley
 - Greater Vancouver-Sea to Sky



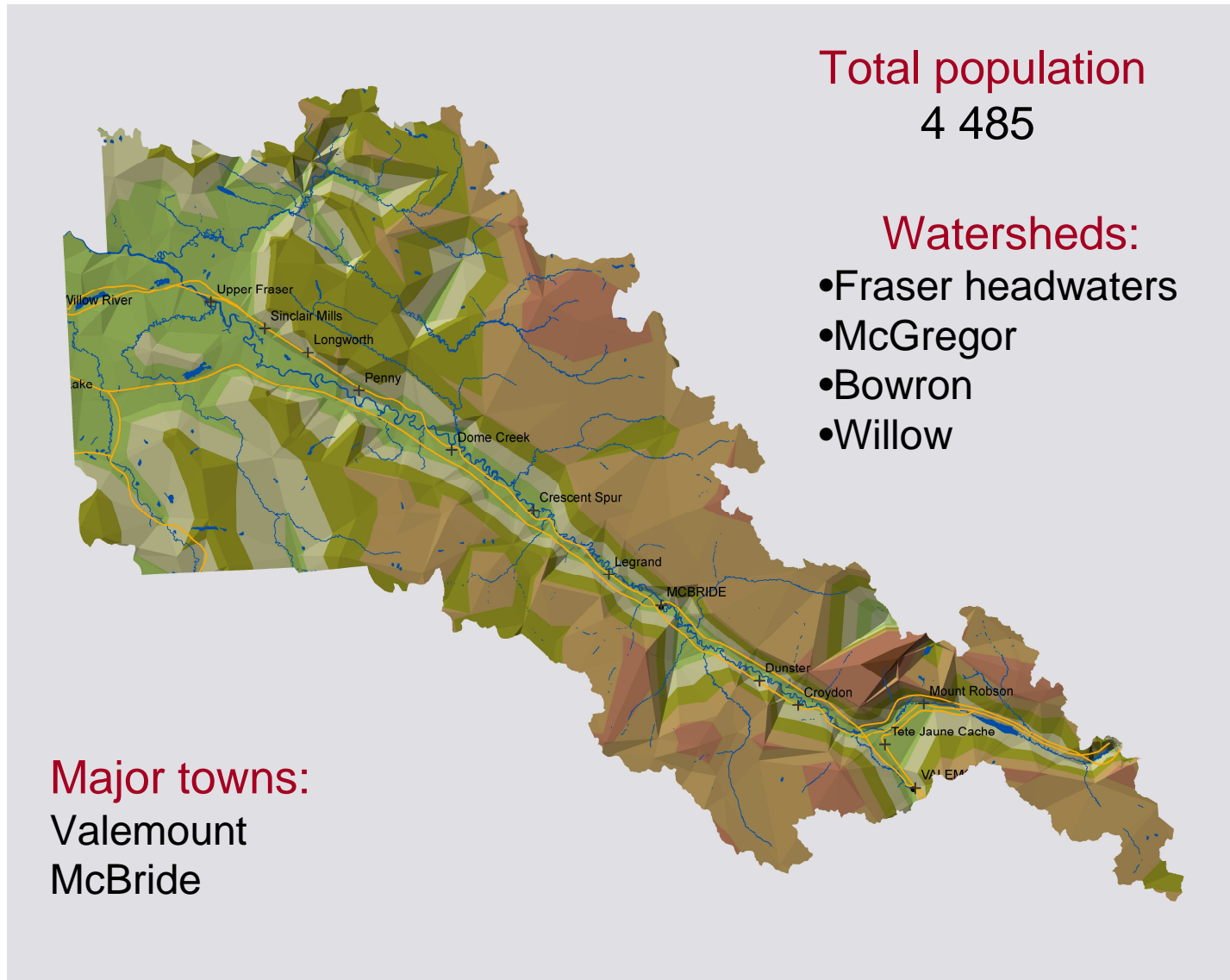
Upper Fraser Region



Upper Fraser Region

- 78 164 km² or 7 816 400 hectares
- 4.2% of the Fraser basin's population (108 940)
- Economic base is forestry, with agriculture, transportation, mining and tourism
- Includes 5 of 13 communities in BC most vulnerable to the forest sector
- Highest water quality in the basin
- Air quality in Prince George for PM_{2.5} exceeds the Canada-Wide Standard

Upper Fraser – Robson Valley

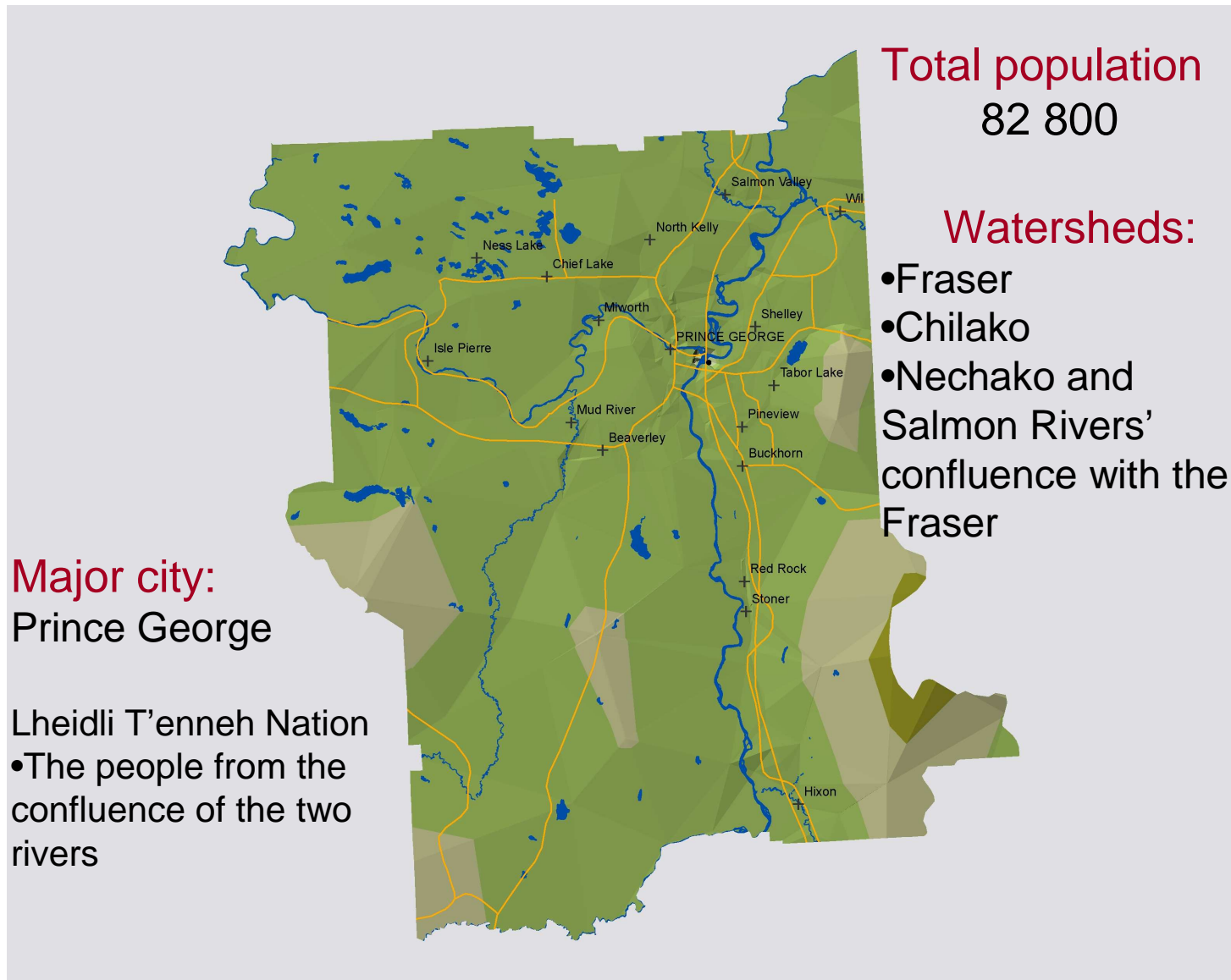


Robson Valley



Robson
Valley

Upper Fraser – Greater Prince George



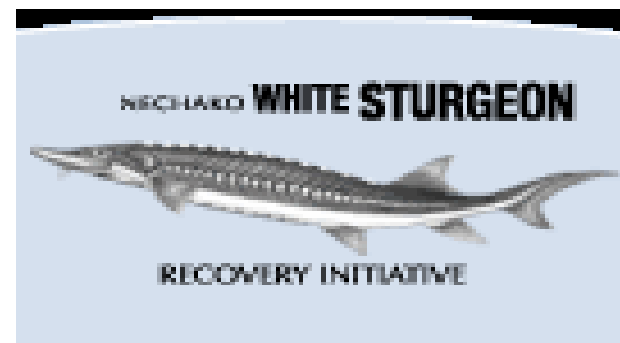
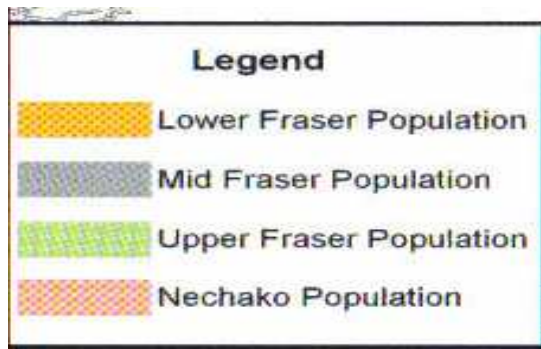
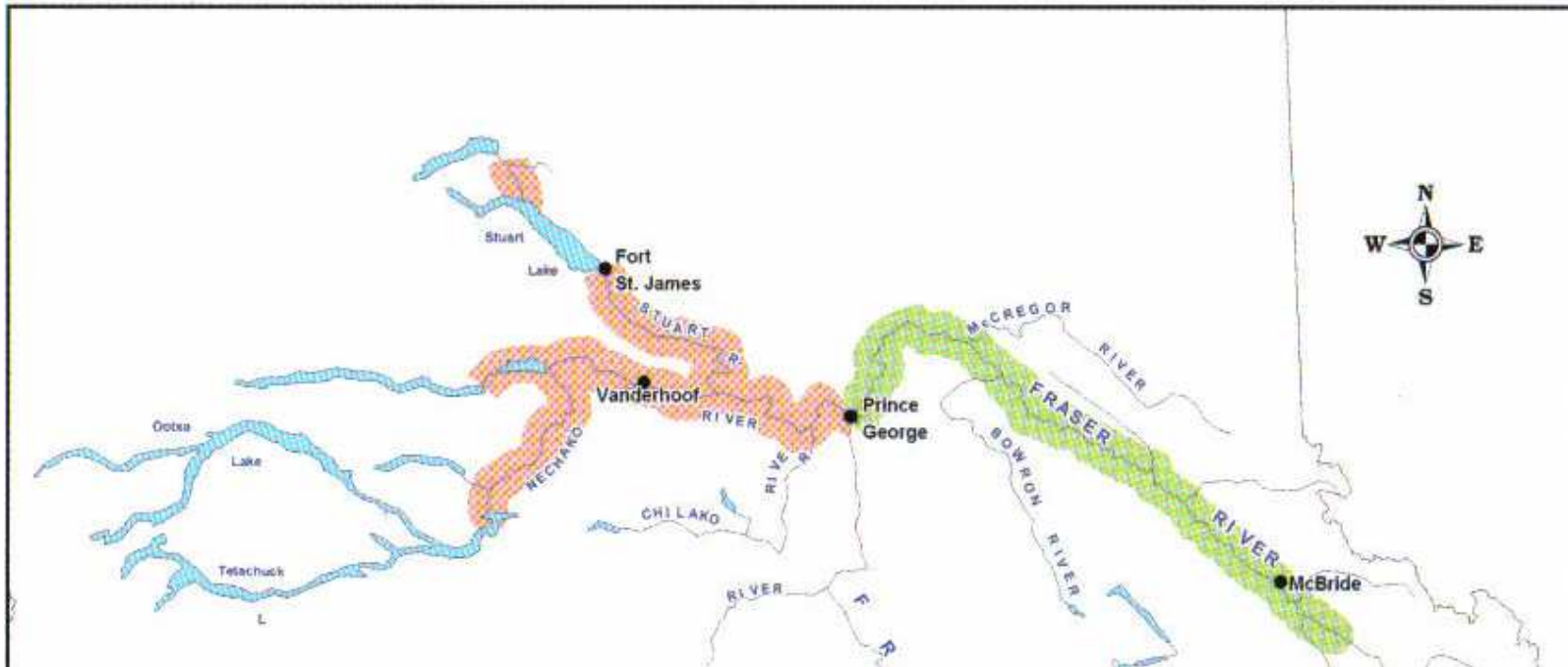
Upper Fraser – Greater Prince George Chilako River - Cows AND Fish Program



Northern Medical Program



Fish and Fisheries



Nechako White Sturgeon - Species at Risk Act

Upper Fraser – Stuart Nechako

Major towns:

- Vanderhoof
- Fraser Lake
- Burns Lake
- Fort St. James

Carrier Communities

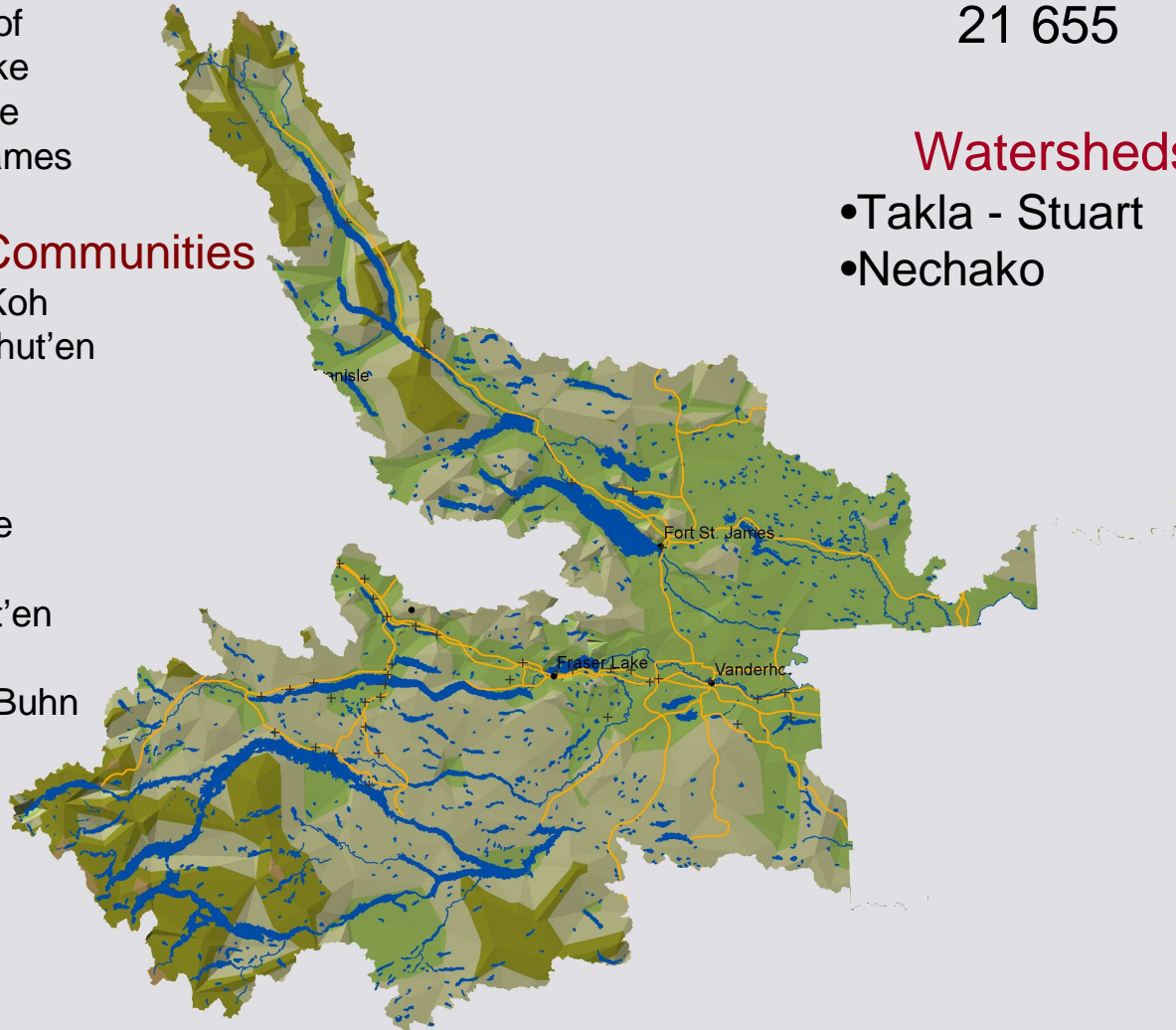
- Ts'il Kaz Koh
- Nadleh Whut'en
- Nak'azdli
- Saik'uz
- Stellat'en
- Takla Lake
- Tl'azt'en
- Wet'suwet'en
- Cheslatta
- Nee Tahi Buhn

Total population

21 655

Watersheds

- Takla - Stuart
- Nechako



Upper Fraser – Stuart Nechako



Nechako River Sturgeon Release – Vanderhoof - 2007



Nechako Sturgeon Release – Vanderhoof - 2005

Collaborating on Natural Hazards

Flooding

- January 2005 - Naver Creek Ice Jam
- Freshet 2007 – Vanderhoof & Prince George
- Dec 07 to Feb/08 – Nechako-Fraser Ice Jam
- Fish friendly flood hazard management





From small scale projects ...
Naver Creek in Hixon
Bio-engineering

To large scale projects ...
Fraser River at Shelley -
Riprap with vegetation



Challenges in the Forest

Mountain Pine Beetle:

- Omineca Beetle Action Coalition – economic diversification
- First Nations MPB Initiative – governance, community, ecology
- UNBC research – changes in watershed hydrology
- FORREX - information network

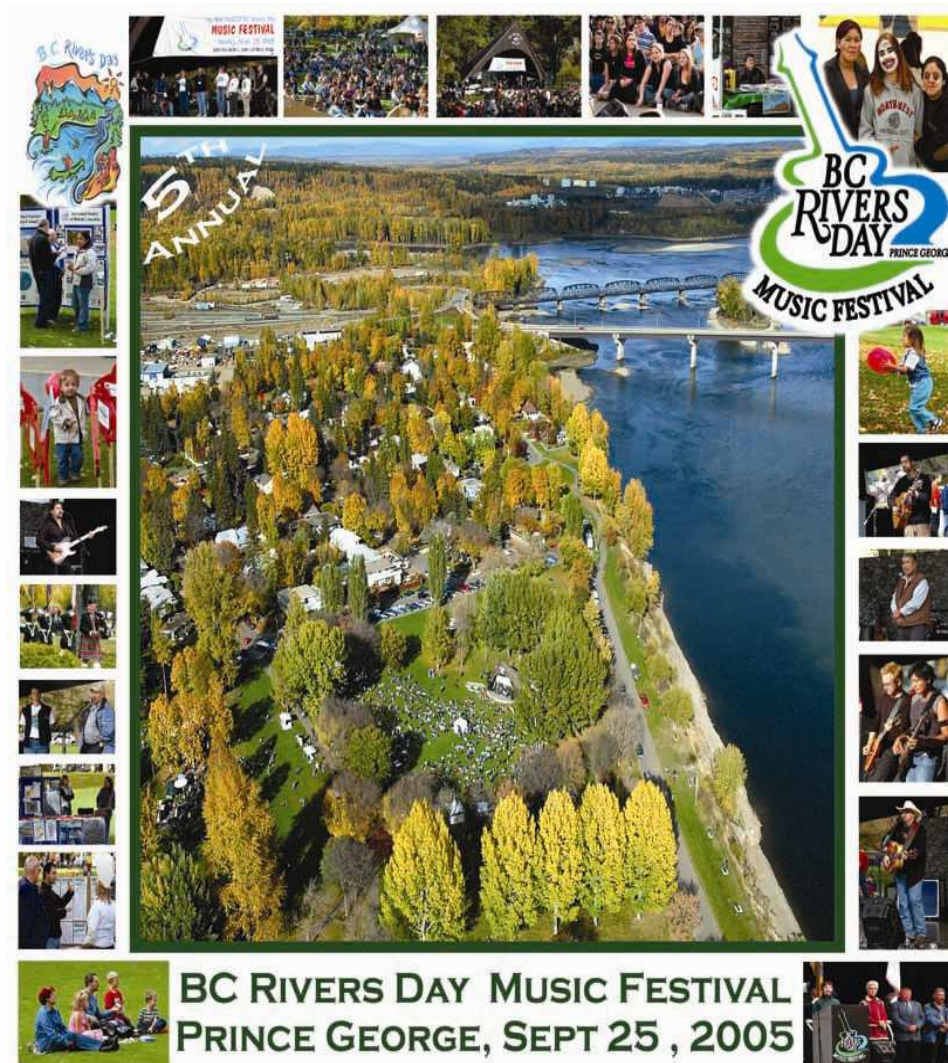
Economy – estimated 3500+ jobs lost in northern BC – mill closures due to low prices, drop in demand (USA mortgage lending crisis)

Bioenergy – several plants proposed in the region and northern BC



BC Rivers Day

- The local BC Rivers Day event has become one of the largest in BC
- The BC Rivers Day Music Festival draws 3500-4000 residents
- Features musicians and First Nations performers, educational displays, and children's activities
- Rivers, lakes, aquatic life
- Everyone can make a positive difference



Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal Communities

- Building relationships – government to government, neighbours, business people
- Positive examples:
 - Lheidli T'enneh / RD Fraser Ft George
 - Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative
 - Prince George Native Friendship Centre
 - T'loh Forest Products – Apollo / Nak'azdli
 - BC Rivers Day Music Festival in PG
 - Nechako Watershed Council

Conclusion

- Fish and fisheries occur in a context of an ecosystem, a society and an economy
- Learn from and build upon the successful models
- Involve everyone – different ways, times, places
- Work together towards your goal
- One step at a time

Thank you