

# Advancing our understanding of Indigenous Values and Interests within Impact Assessments

## Teck's Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project - Case Study



**Valerie Masterman and Jaimie Dickson**

*ERM / Teck Resources*

[Valerie.Masterman@erm.com](mailto:Valerie.Masterman@erm.com)/[Jaimie.Dickson@teck.com](mailto:Jaimie.Dickson@teck.com)

[www.erm.com](http://www.erm.com)

[www.teck.com](http://www.teck.com)



# Advancing our understanding of **Indigenous Values and Interests** within Impact Assessments



# The Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project





# The Regulatory Landscape

## Advancing Reconciliation Through Changes in Legislation

The British Columbia (BC) Environmental Assessment (EA) Act was updated in 2018:

- To advance reconciliation with Indigenous communities by implementing the Articles outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (EAO 2021).
- To set clear expectations around:
  - Including Indigenous knowledge and perspectives throughout the impact assessment process.
  - Seeking consensus with Indigenous groups on regulatory process or recommendations.



# The Highland Valley Copper Mine Engagement

- Agreements Signed in 2013
- Collaborative studies to address concerns raised by Indigenous communities including impacts to air, land and water
- Engagement on permitting
- HVC Mine Life Extension  
Environmental Assessment process



# The Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project Engagement

- Supporting unique Indigenous assessment frameworks and approaches
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Valued Components
- Considering historical impacts



# Pre-Mining Conditions

- Indigenous communities have expressed the importance of understanding the effects of the mine and the proposed mine extension in relation to pre-mining conditions.
- Although HVC Teck did not assess the impacts of the Project against the pre-mining conditions, Teck HVC included pre-mining information to help create context.

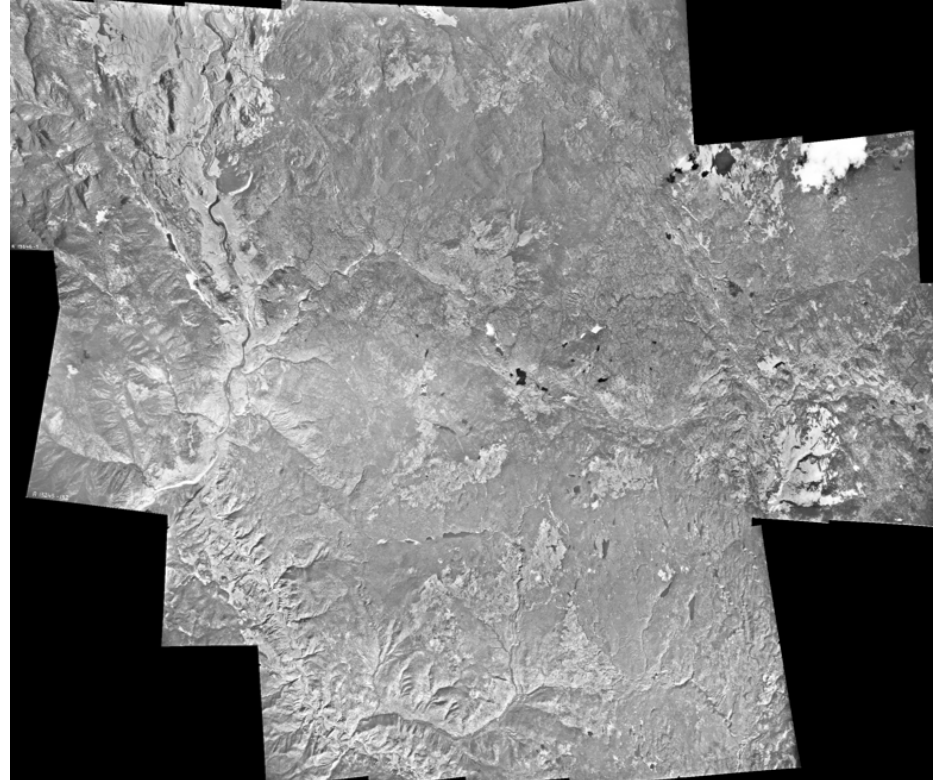


# Pre-Mining: Vegetation and Ecosystems

Historical imagery for the area was used to develop pre-mine Terrestrial Ecosystem Maps for the study area.

- Loss of ~11,77 ha since 1951
- ~8,400 ha is linked to the current mine
- The extension will disturb ~1,500 ha

**Image:** accessed through the Geographical Information Centre at the University of British Columbia, scanned and georeferenced using ESRI ArcMap (10.1). IEG 2023; Appendix 7.6-4 HVC MLE 2023).





# Pre-mine Ecosystem Maps

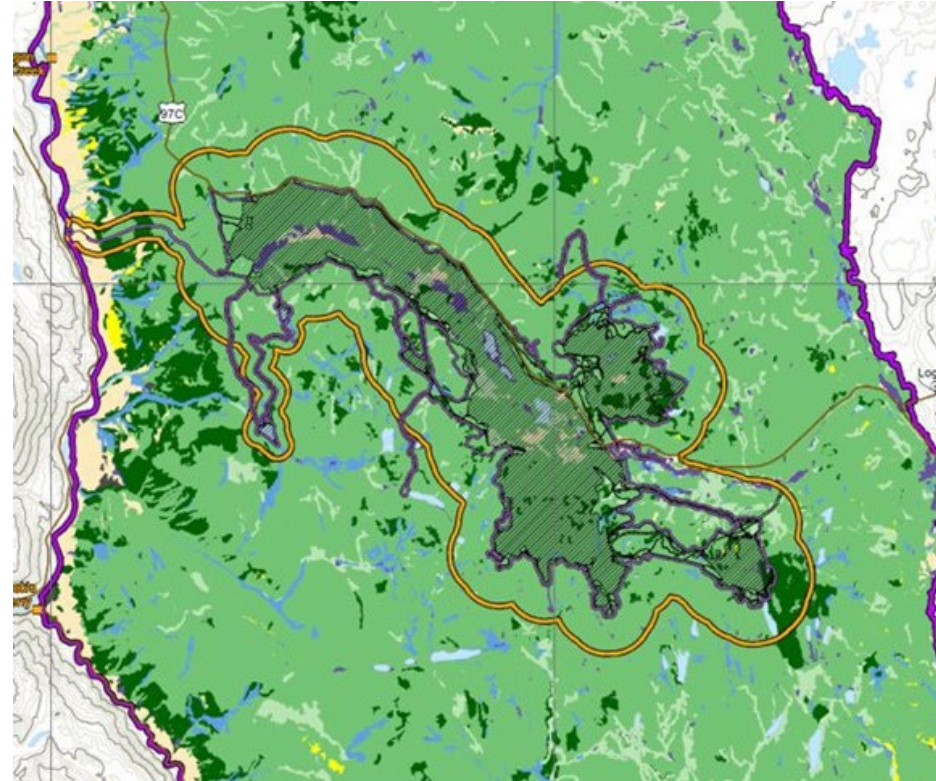
## Legend

- ⊙ Community
- Indigenous Community
- Highway
- ▭ Permitted Mine Area
- ▨ HVC 2040 Base Case Footprint
- ▭ Regional Study Area
- ▭ Local Study Area

## Ecosystem Site Unit

- Disturbed
- Dry Forest
- Grassland
- Mesic Forest
- Moist Forest
- Riparian
- Sparsely Vegetated
- Water
- Wetland

**Map:** Figure 7.6.1-4 Pre-mine TEM General Ecosystem Units in Section 7.6 Vegetation and Ecosystems MLE HVC 2023

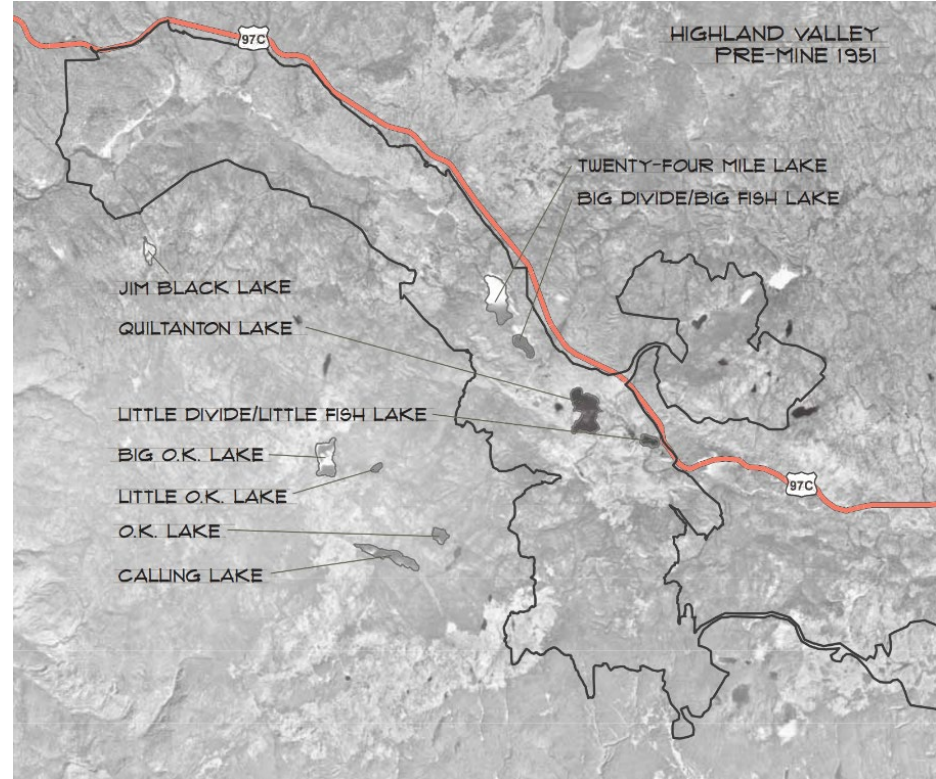


# Pre-Mining: Water

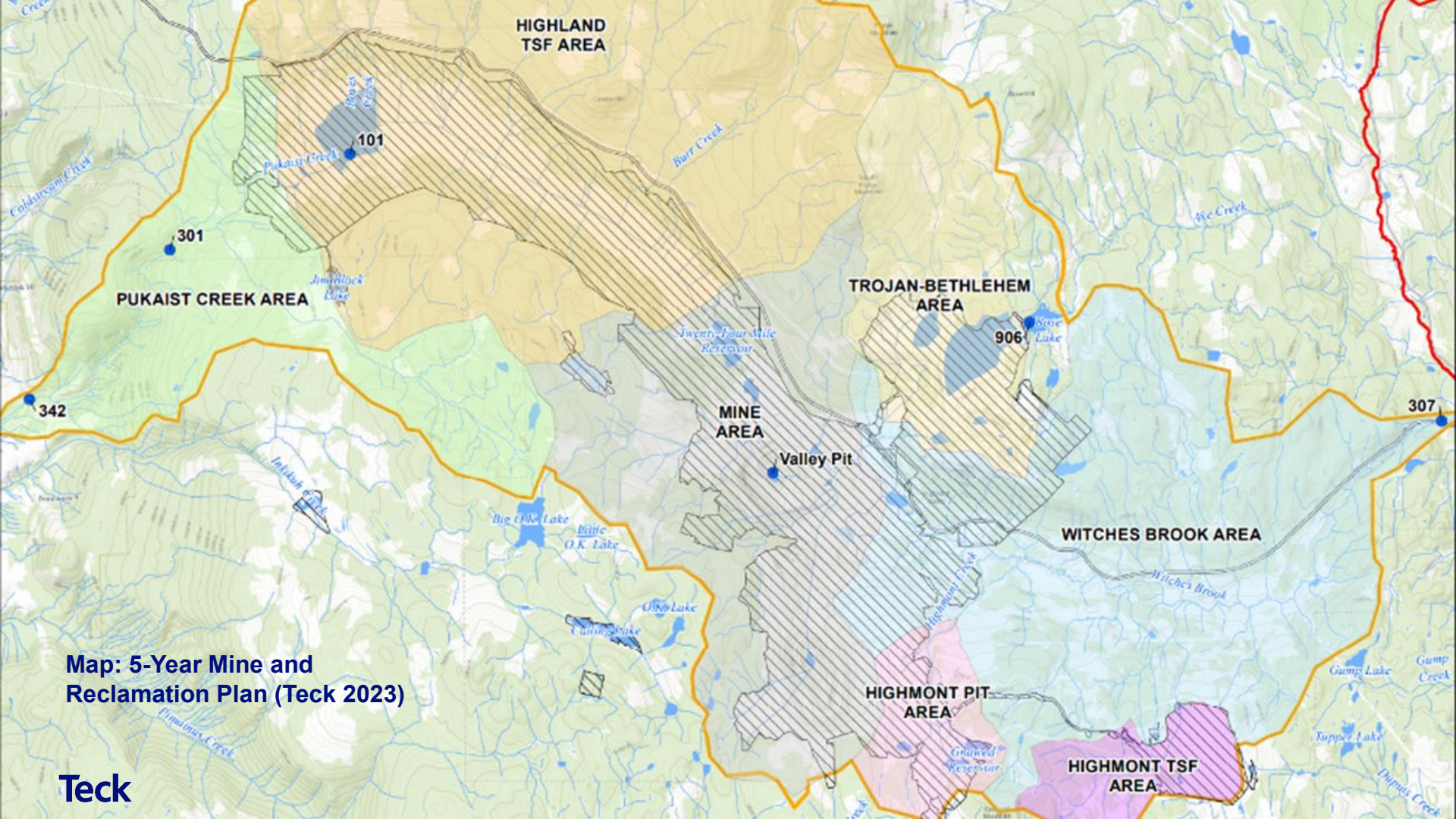
Flow patterns have changed since pre-mining and in the 1980s five lakes were drained which changed flow patterns:

- Big Divide Lake
- Quiltanton Lake
- Twenty-four Mile Lake
- McNaughton Lake
- Little Divide Lake

Image: Returning Land Use Plan Photo Book (IEG 2017).







HIGHLAND  
TSF AREA

PUKAIST CREEK AREA

TROJAN-BETHEHEM  
AREA

MINE  
AREA

WITCHES BROOK AREA

HIGHMONT PIT  
AREA

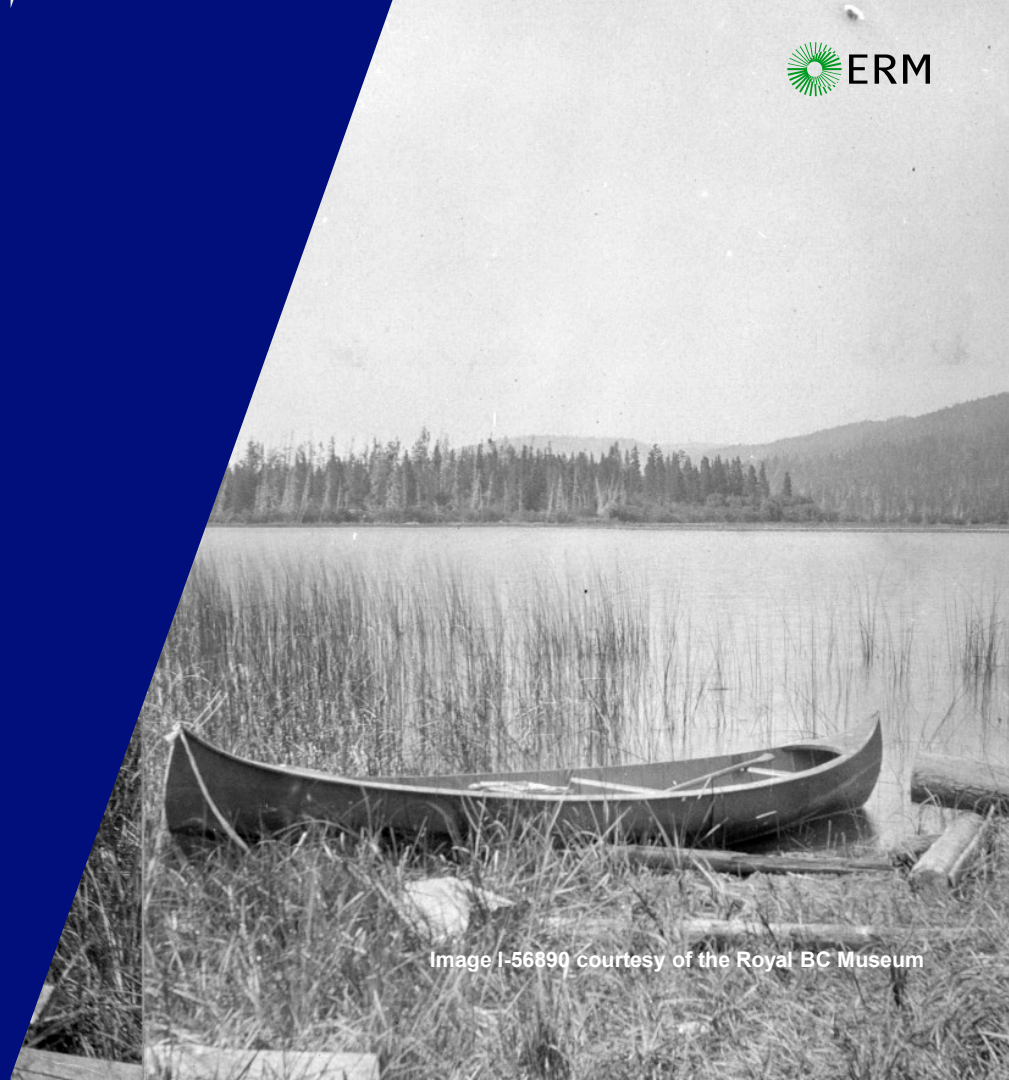
HIGHMONT TSF  
AREA

Map: 5-Year Mine and  
Reclamation Plan (Teck 2023)





# Conclusion



# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.



## #iaia24

**Valerie Masterman/ Jaimie Dickson**

*ERM/ Teck Resources*

*Canada*

[Valerie.Masterman@erm.com](mailto:Valerie.Masterman@erm.com) and [Jaimie.Dickson@teck.com](mailto:Jaimie.Dickson@teck.com)

*[www.erm.com](http://www.erm.com)*

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