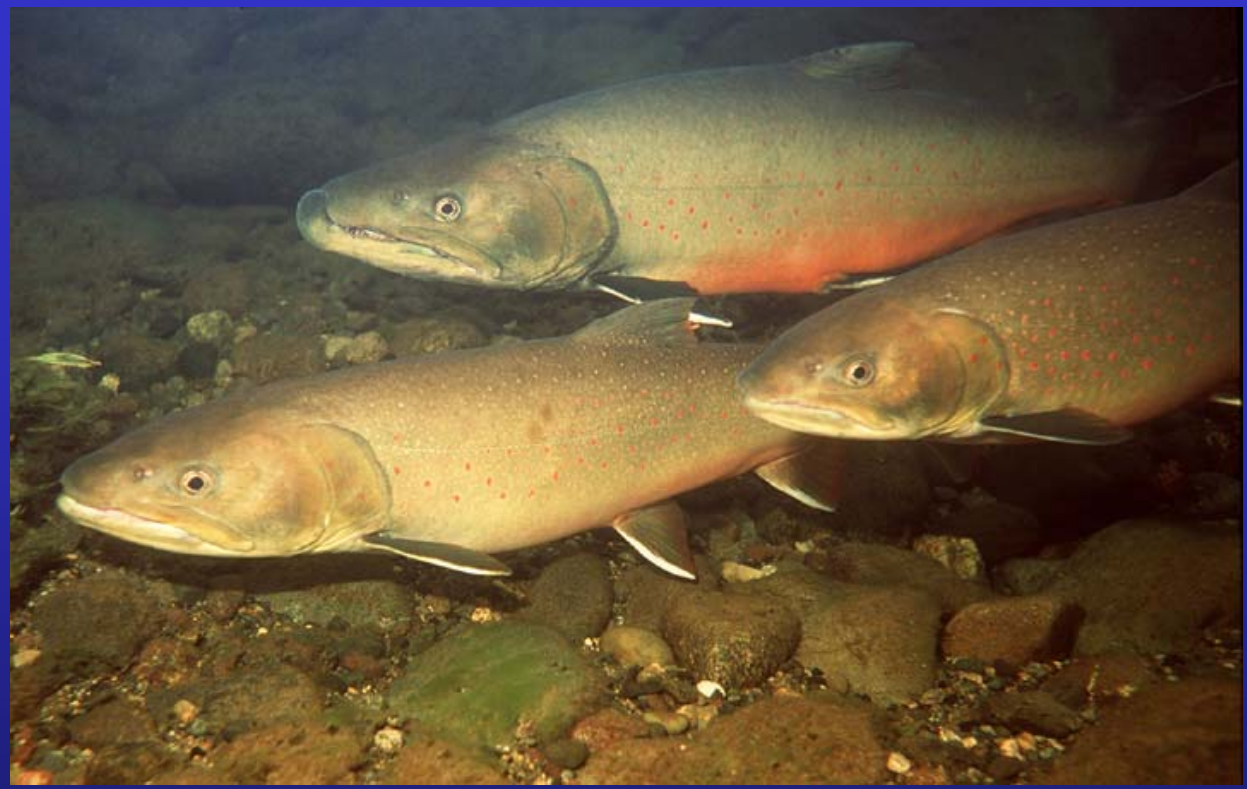
Fisheries and the Proposed Mine



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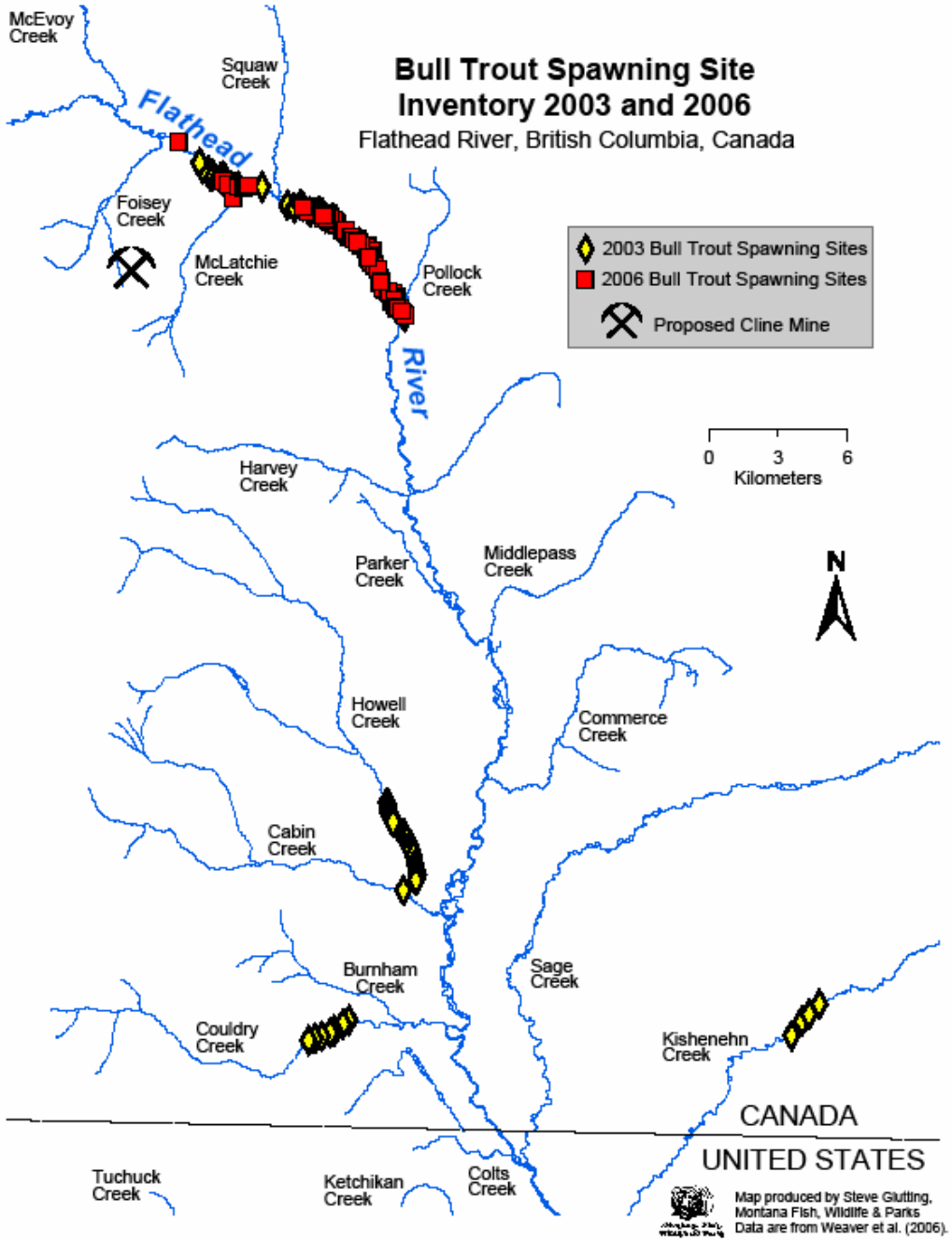
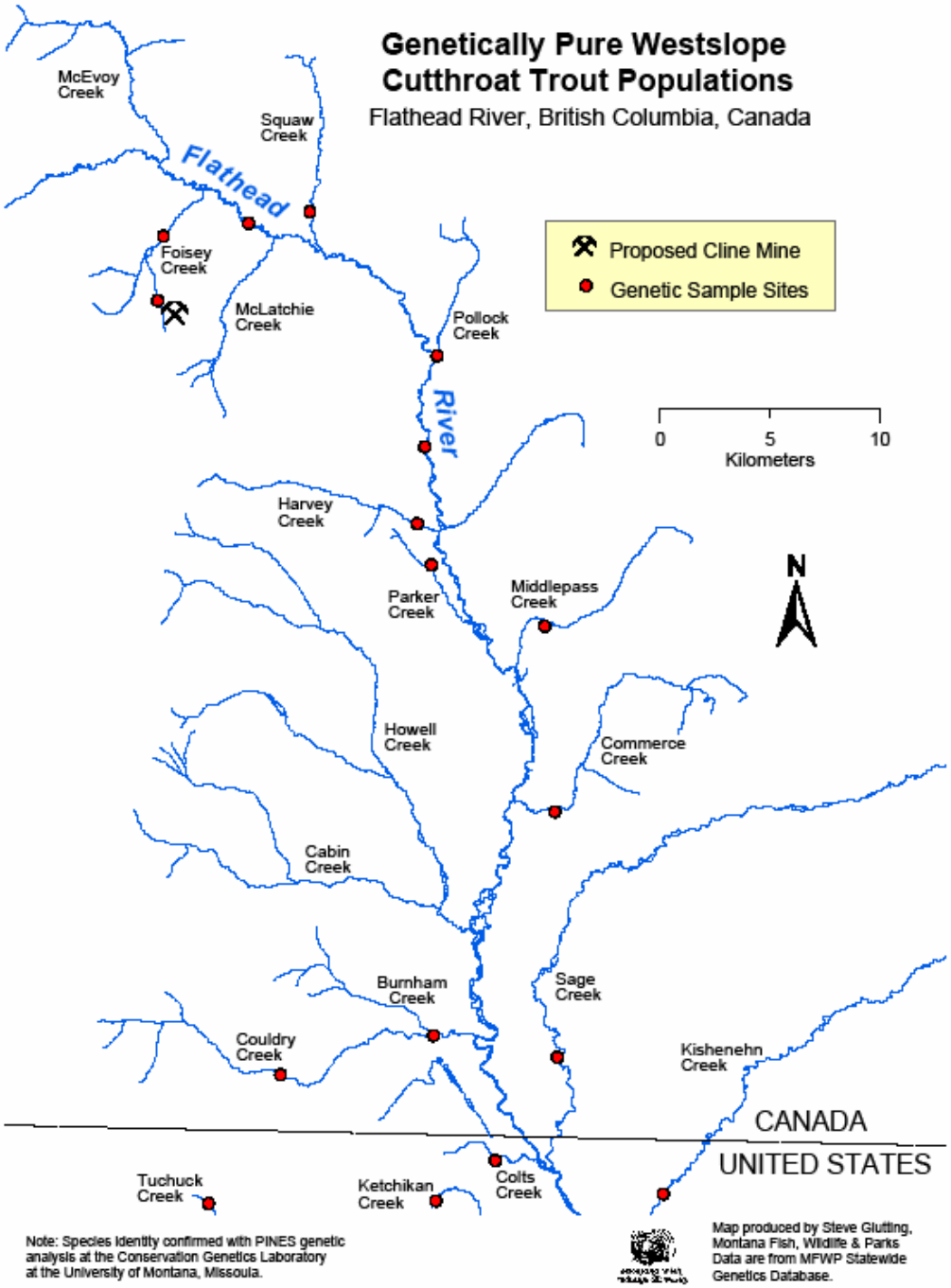


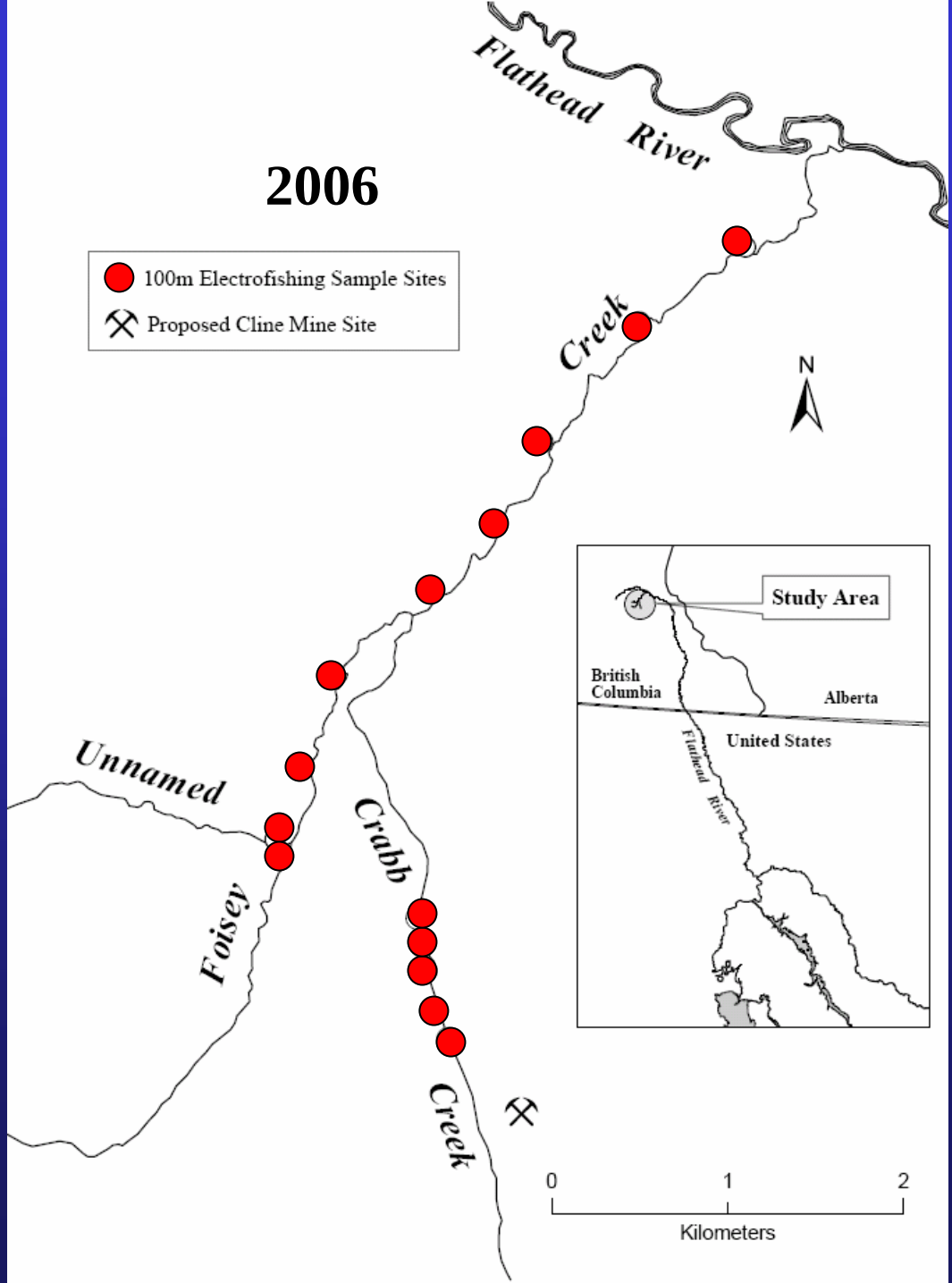
- Bull trout migrate from Flathead Lake to spawn in British Columbia
- In 2003, there were 62 bull trout redds in the upper reach
- Representing 37% of spawning in the North Fork
- Representing 21% of bull trout spawning for Flathead Lake
- In 2006, there were 78 redds in the upper reach

Wigwam River Bull Trout Redd Counts

- Bull trout migrate from Lake Koocanusa to spawn in the Wigwam River Drainage
- In 2006, there were 444 bull trout redds in Lodgepole Creek
- Representing 19% of bull trout spawning in the Wigwam River Drainage
- Roughly 95% of Lake Koocanusa bull trout spawn in the Wigwam



- Westslope cutthroat trout migrate from Flathead Lake to spawn in British Columbia
- Genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout inhabit only 10 to 20% of their historic range
- No hybridization was found in British Columbia surveys



- At mine site, there is an intact native fish community
- In 2006, surveys found bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and sculpin in Foisey Creek
- Westslope cutthroat trout were found in Crabb Creek

Potential Impacts to Fisheries

- Mining excavation, road building, vegetation clearing, settling pond and waste dump failures degrade water quality
- Degradations include introductions of heavy metals and sedimentation, reductions in flow and oxygen, and loss of physical habitat
- Water quality degradation will reduce reproductive success and survival of trout

International Joint Commission Study Board Conclusions in 1988 Assessment of Previously Proposed Mine

- There would be impacts to bull trout and other fish species
- Baseline fisheries database was too limited to fully assess impacts
- To date, these data have not been collected

Inadequacies in the 2006 Terms of Reference

- Inadequate Fisheries Database
- Too Limited Scope of Project Area
- Lack of Detailed Mining Plan
- Need for a Cumulative Effects Assessment

Conclusions

- Headwaters near the proposed mine site contain critical habitat for native fish of Montana
- The inadequacies in the current fisheries database and Terms of Reference limit our ability to fully assess impacts
- The proposed mine will impact fisheries, threatening bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout populations