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Photo by Chris Harris

Species and Ecosystems At-Risk in the Thompson – Nicola

**based on Conservation Status of
Species and Ecosystems in the
Thompson-Nicola Region, Dyer 2020*



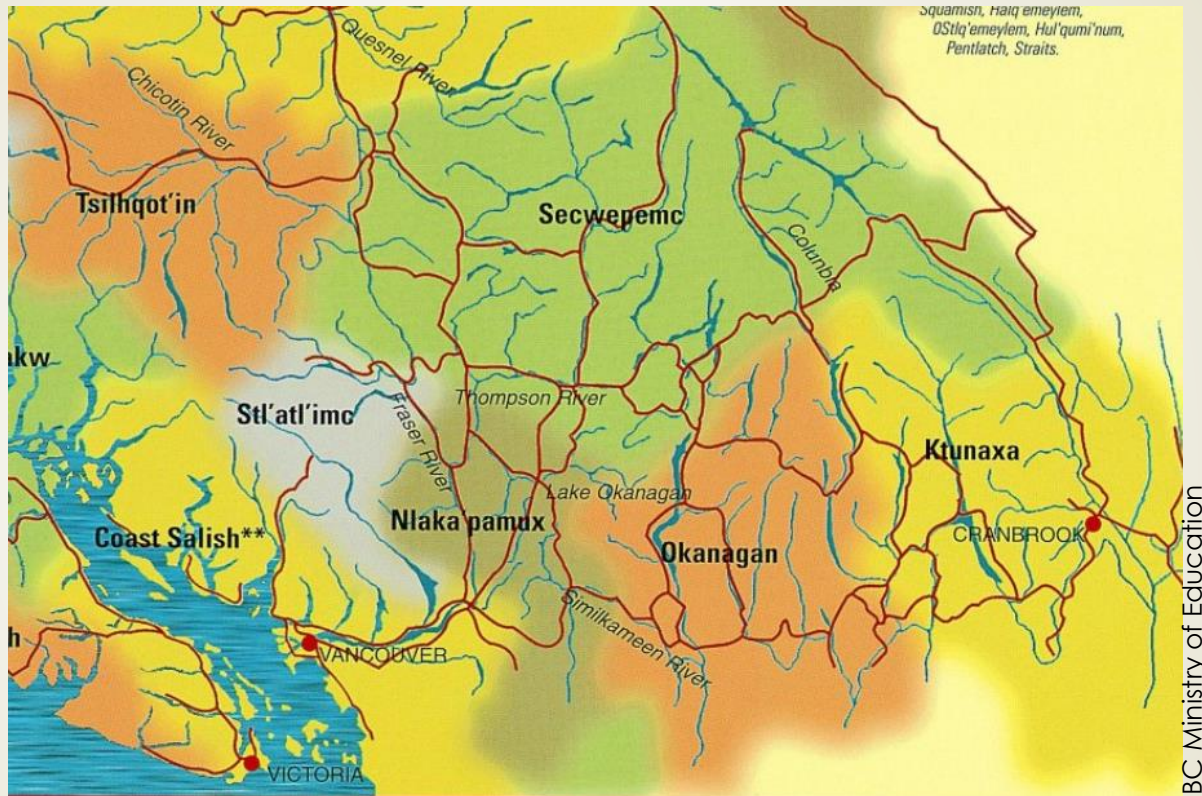
Steve Cannings photo

2 Thompson-Nicola

- Boundaries: Thompson – Nicola Regional District
- 45,500 km²
- Population: 133,000
 - 78% in City of Kamloops
- Traditional Territory of 5 Indigenous nations



Traditional Territory



➤ Secwépemc (Shuswap)

➤ St'át'imc

➤ T̓silhqot'in

➤ Nlaka'pamux

➤ Syilx (Okanagan)

4 Thompson-Nicola

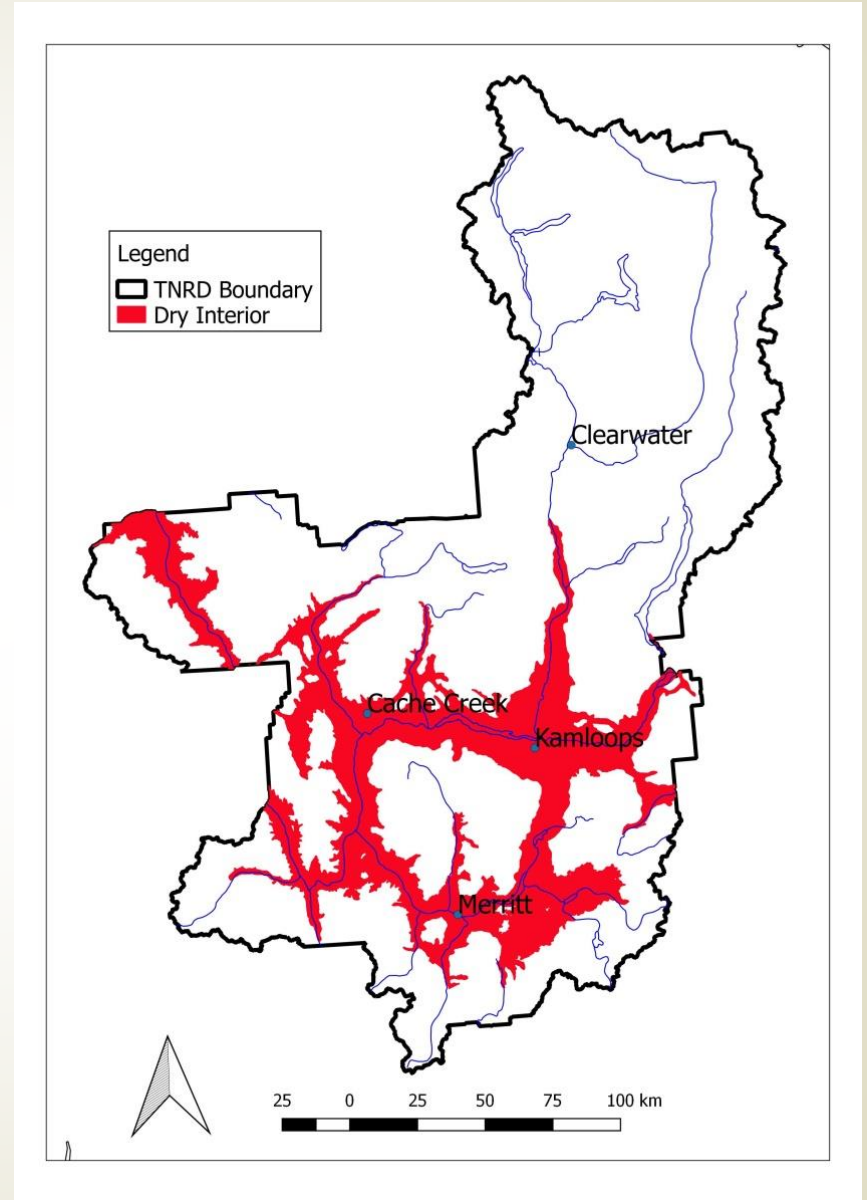
- Rivers and Lakes
- Movement Corridors
- Conservation Importance



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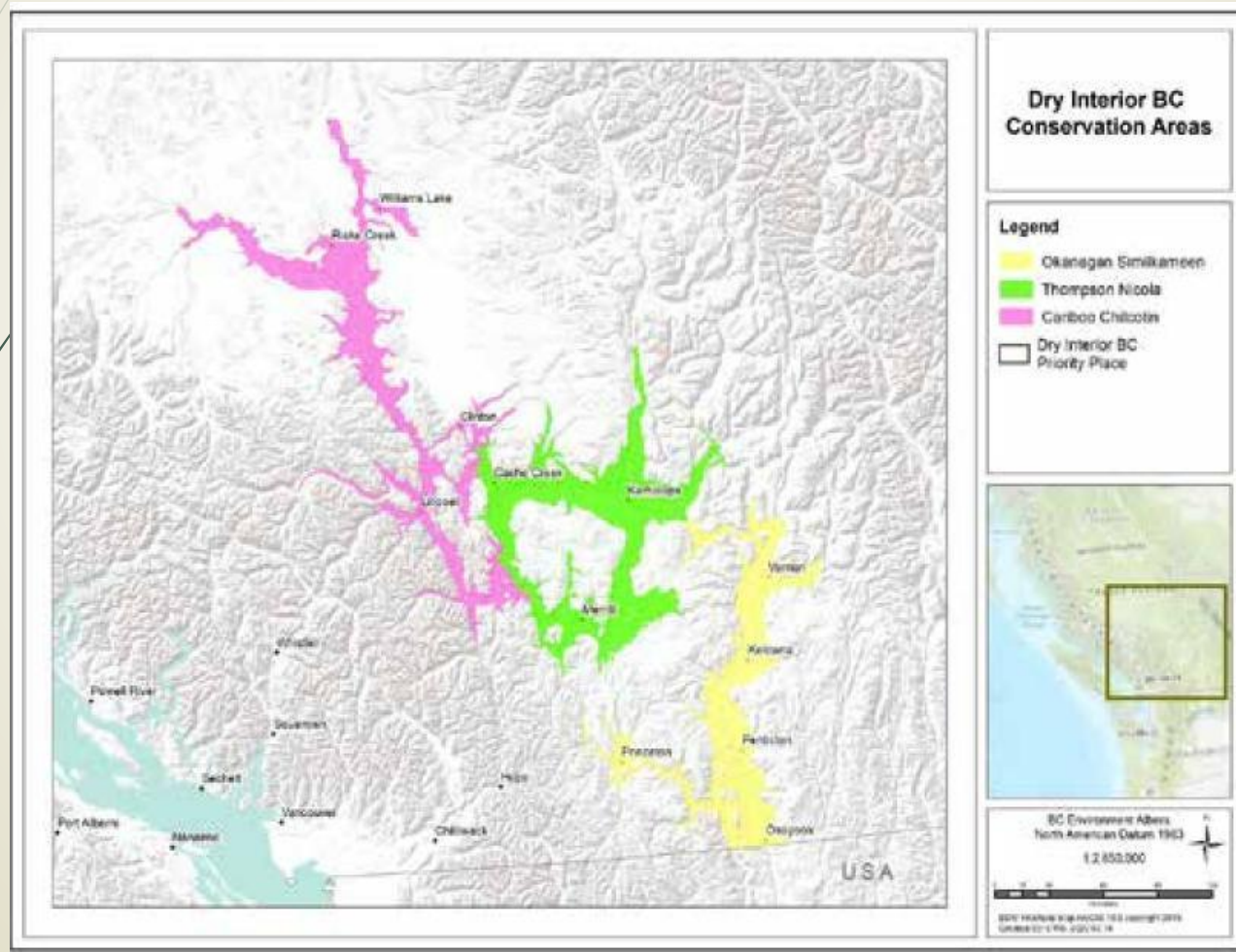
Initial focus on Dry Interior

- ▶ Highest concentrations of Species at Risk, Sensitive Ecosystems
- ▶ Low levels of existing protection
- ▶ Highest threats/pressures
 - ▶ E.g. urban and rural development
 - ▶ Invasive species



6 BC Dry Interior: one of 11 Priority Places in Canada

- Federal Government focussing on ecosystem-based, multi-species conservation strategies



Species at Risk (SAR)

- 43 SARA listed species in the Dry Interior (federal Species at Risk Act) (T-N: 57)
- 120 BC-listed SAR (T-N: 175)
- 145 BC-listed ecological communities in T-N (37 Globally at Risk)



Ole Westby photo

Lewis's Woodpecker



Ole Westby photo

American Badger



Ole Westby photo

Western Rattlesnake



Dennis St. John photo

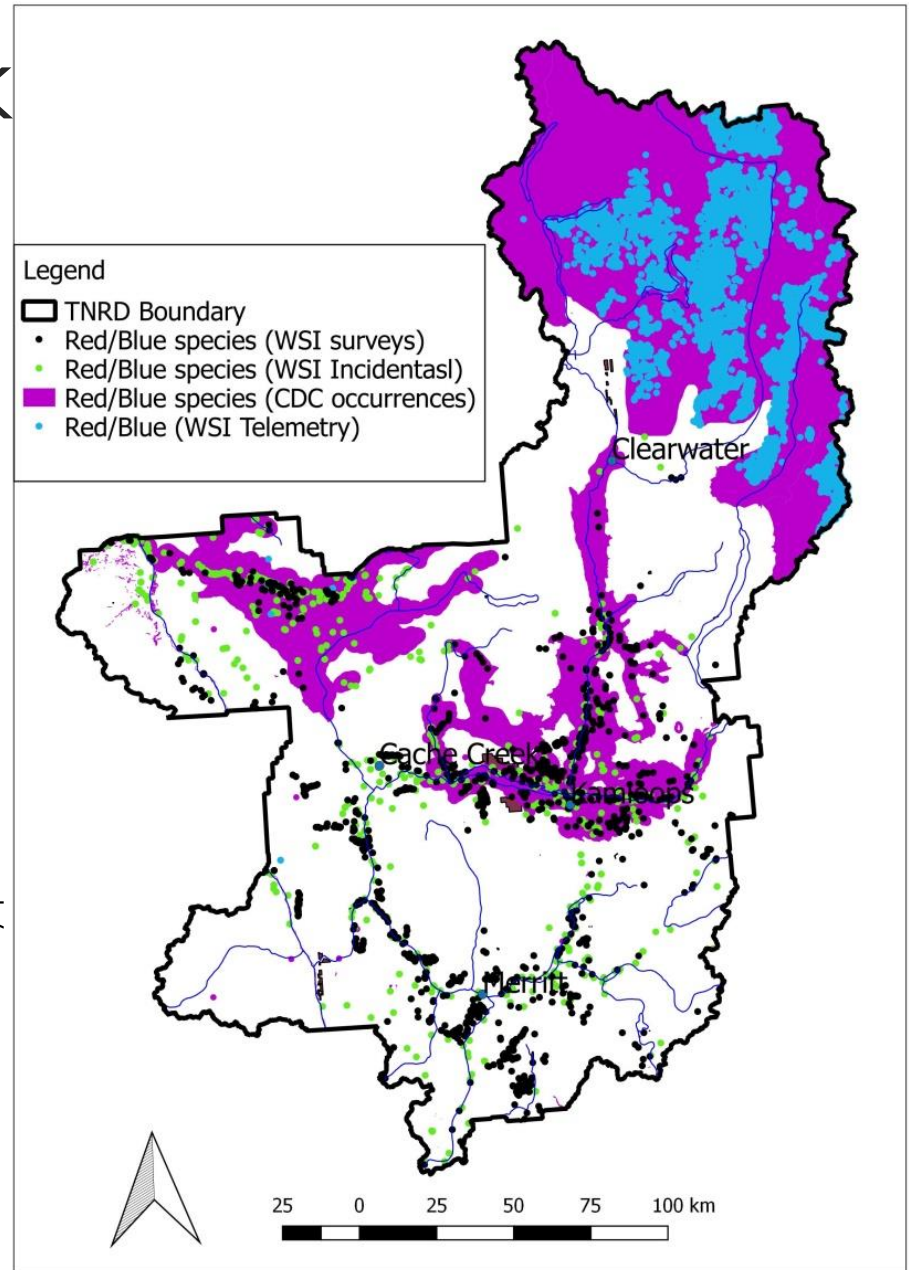
Monarch Butterfly

Species at Risk observations



Great Basin Spadefoot

Ole Westby photo



9 Critical Habitat

- Mapped for 10 species

Critical Habitat Species

Caribou (S. Mt. Pop.)

Williamson's Sapsucker

Dun Skipper

Great Basin Gophersnake

and Western Rattlesnake

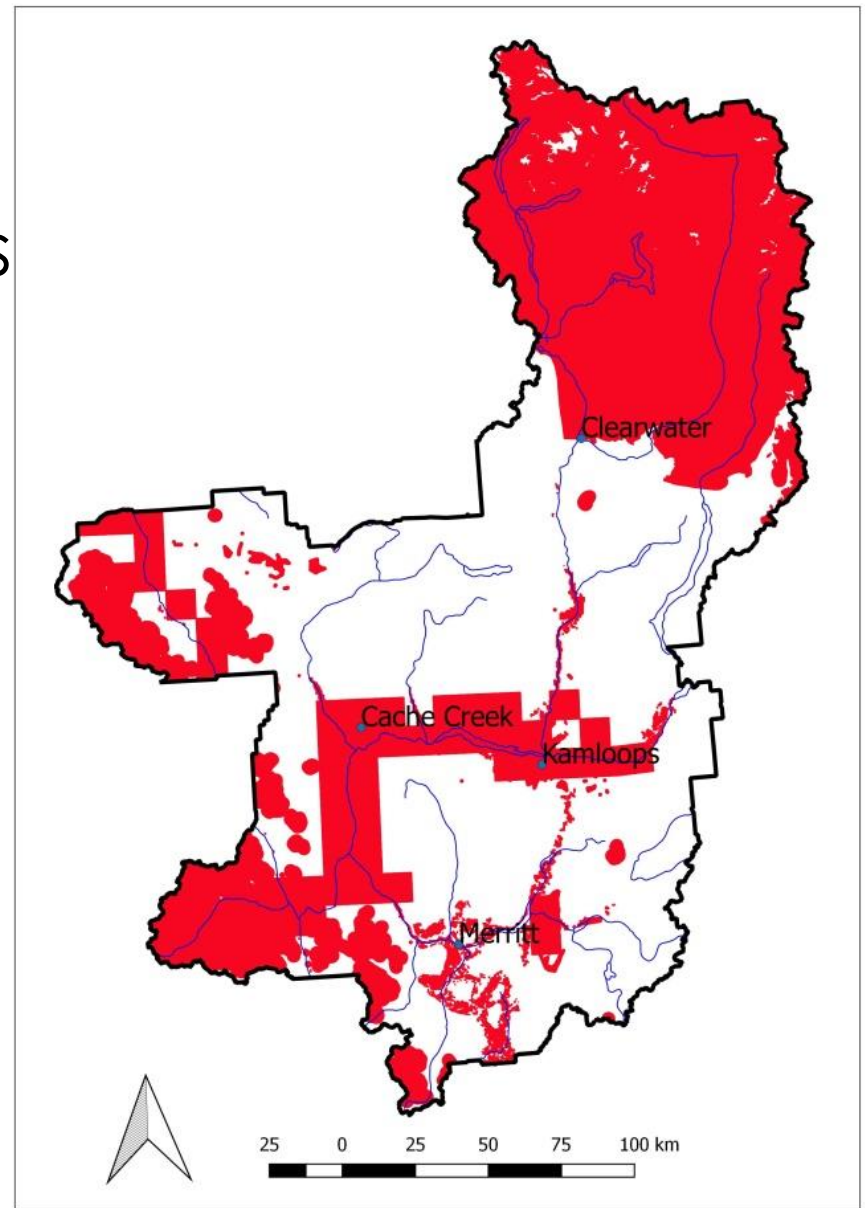
Great Basin Spadefoot

Lewis' Woodpecker

Mexican mosquito fern

Toothcup

Whitebark pine



Culturally Important Species

- ▶ Steelhead, salmon (fisheries, watersheds)
- ▶ Elk
- ▶ Moose
- ▶ Caribou
- ▶ Bighorn sheep
- ▶ Food and medicine plants

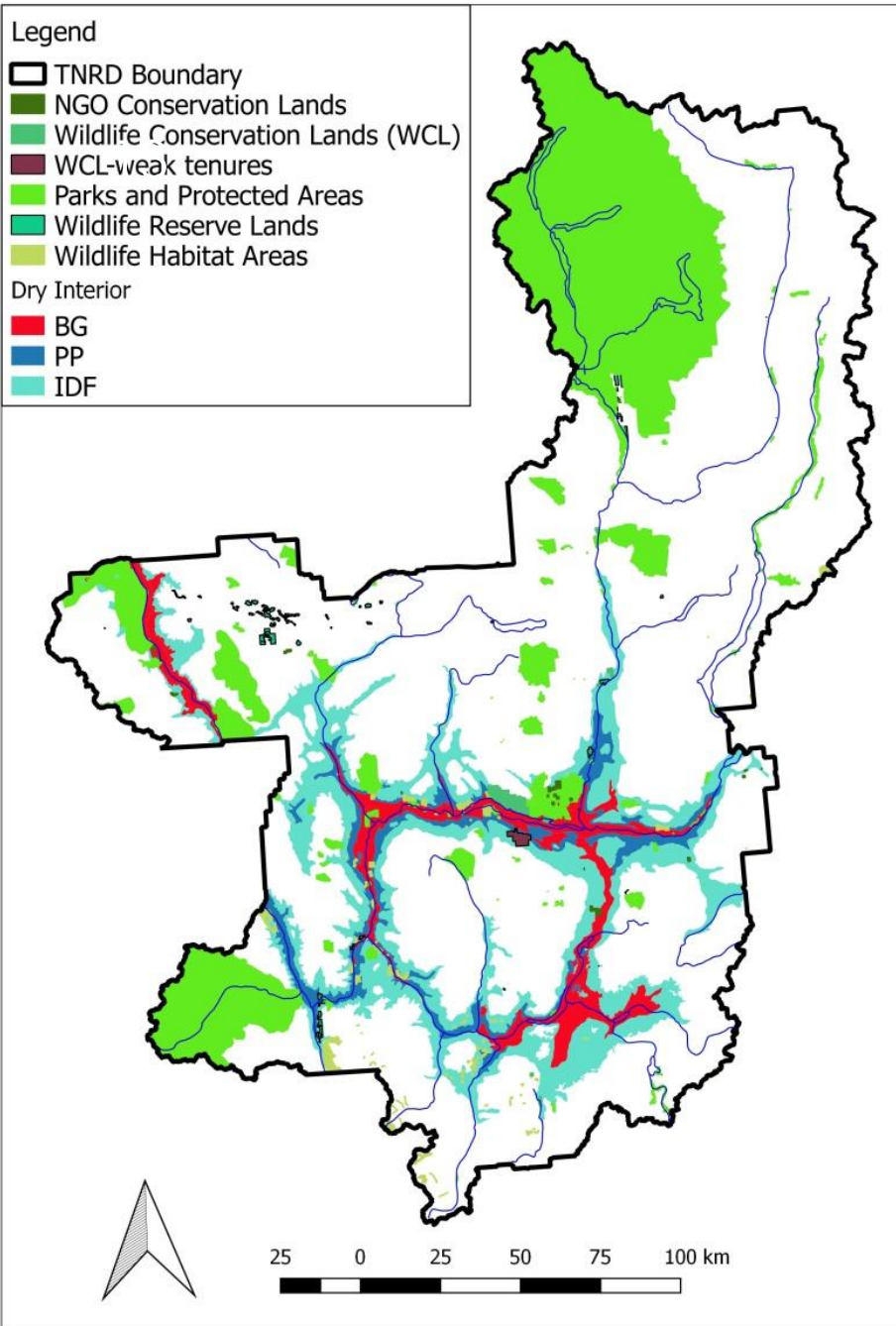
Caribou

Threats

- Urban and agricultural development
- Highest in the Dry Interior and on private land
- Additional threats:
 - Road mortality
 - Invasive species
 - Livestock
 - Persecution
 - Recreation
 - Fire (altered dynamics)
 -
 - Pesticides
 - Changes in predator dynamics
 - Forestry
 - Resource extraction
 - Dams

Land Ownership/Management

Land Tenure	Hectares	% of TNRD
Crown	4104600	90.28%
Federal	1894	0.04%
IR	77035	1.69%
Private	361507	7.95%
Unknown	1379	0.03%
Total	4546415	100.00%



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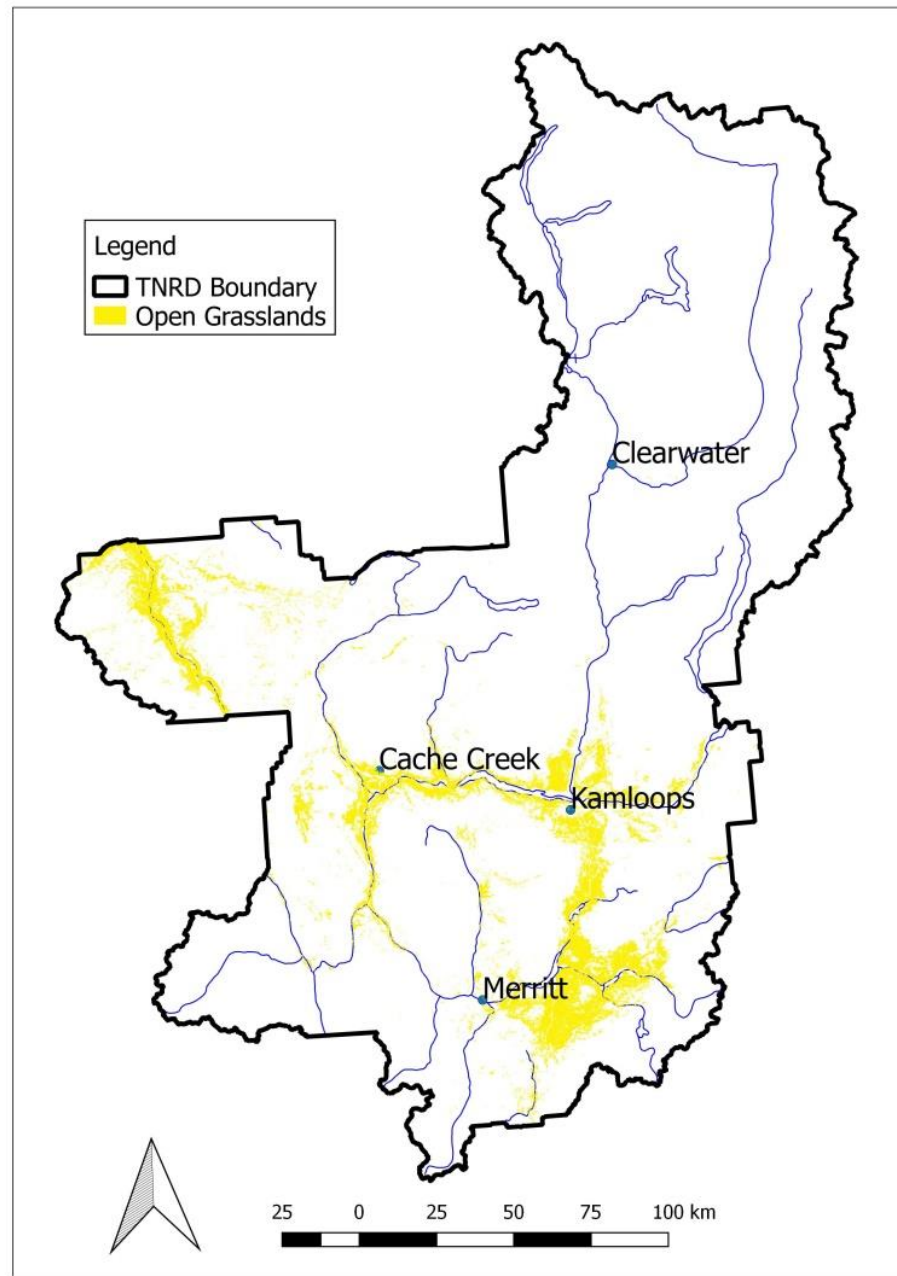
Land Protection: Protected conservation lands

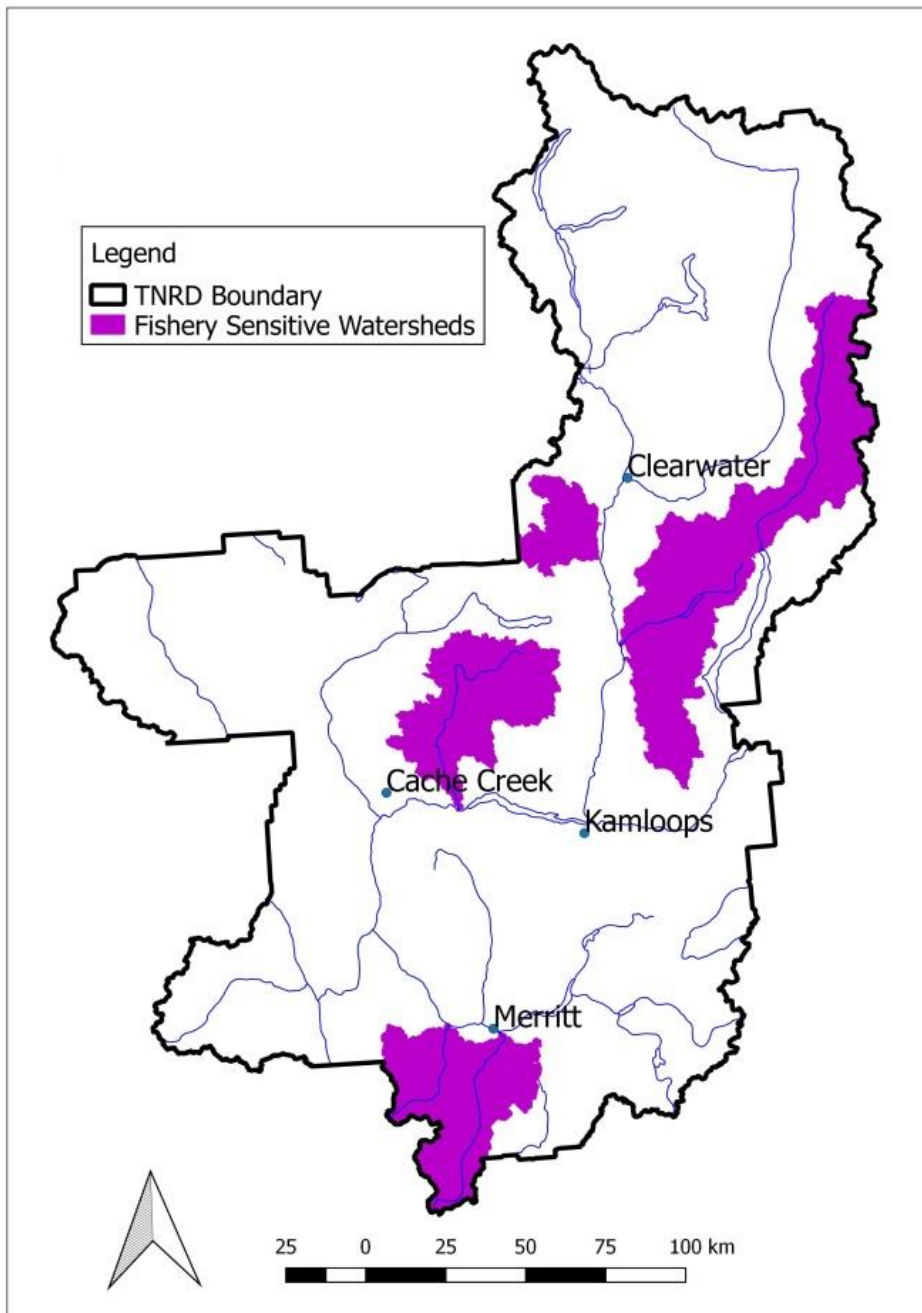
Grasslands



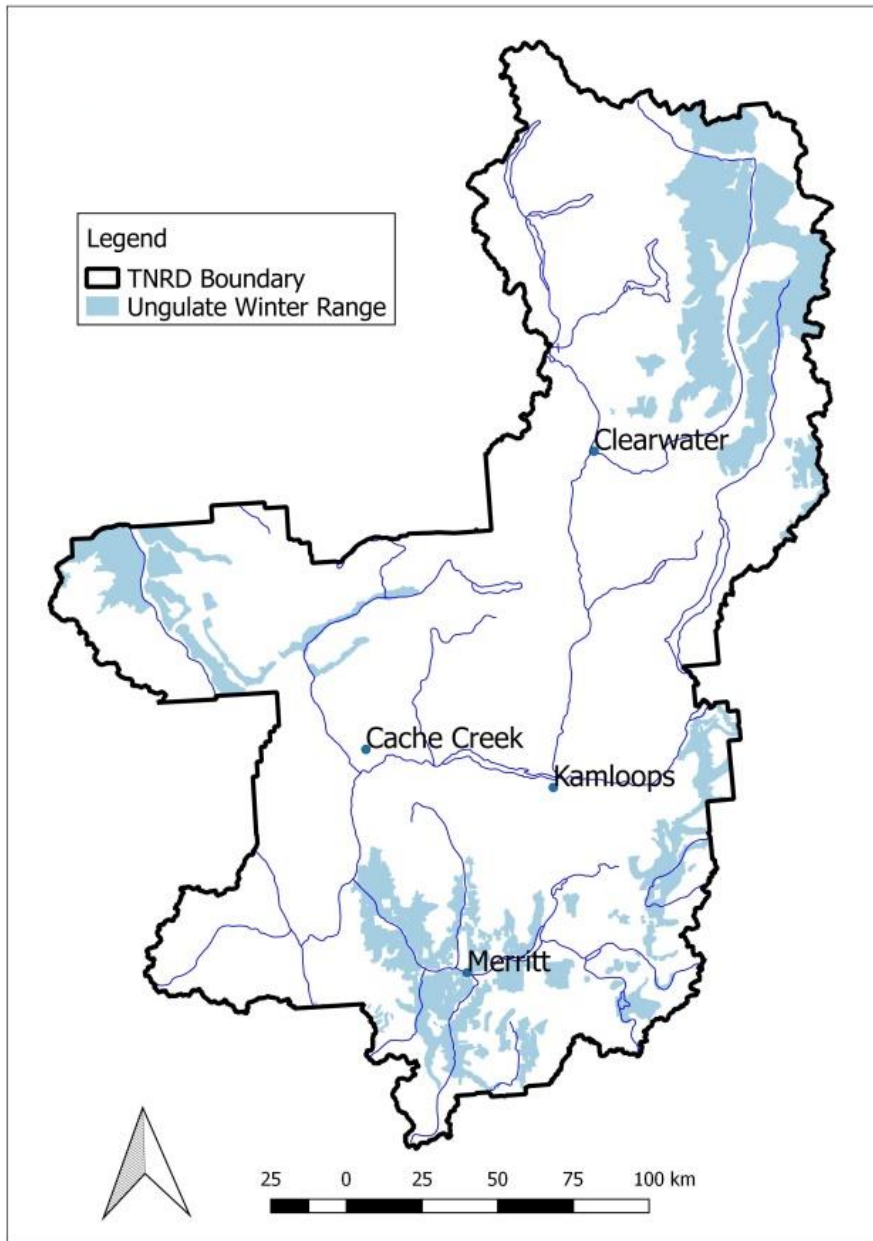
Steve Cannings photo

Ecosection	Grassland Loss
Shuswap Basin	56%
Northern Thompson Upland	36%
Thompson Basin	23%
Guichon Upland	15%





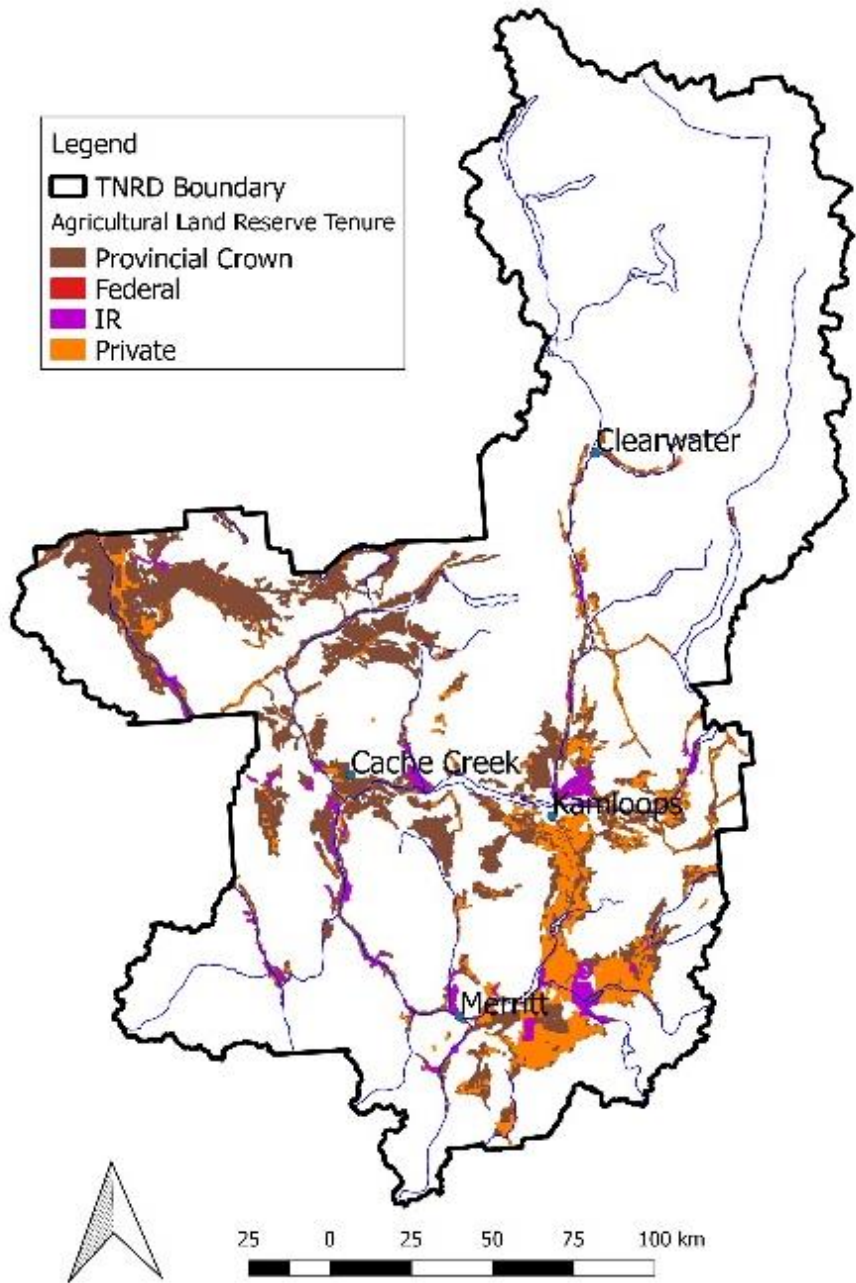
Fishery Sensitive Watersheds



Ungulate Winter Range
(Mule Deer, Caribou, Elk,
Moose)

Legend

- TNRD Boundary
- Agricultural Land Reserve Tenure
 - Provincial Crown
 - Federal
 - IR
 - Private



Legend

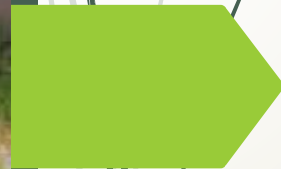
- TNRD Boundary
- Agricultural Land Reserve Tenure
 - Provincial Crown
 - Federal
 - IR
 - Private

Agricultural Land Reserve by land tenure

Conclusions

- ▶ The T-N is important for conservation:
 - ▶ Globally, Nationally, Provincially and Regionally
- ▶ The Dry Interior is particularly threatened and requires conservation
- ▶ The TNRD has 145 ecological communities that are at risk
- ▶ The TNRD has 175 species at risk

- ▶ Conservation is needed to meet:
 - ▶ international and national species and ecosystems commitments,
 - ▶ maintain ecological services that humans need,
 - ▶ maintain and enhance economic values like ecotourism,
 - ▶ protect First Nations values and culture
 - ▶ provide recreation and contribute to human health



Thank You