



**COAL BED METHANE
THREATENS YOUR CLEAN WATER**

ACT. NOW.



Rick & Susie Gneitz

COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT THREATENS NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER

British Columbia drops proposed coal mine but aggressively pursues coalbed methane development in the headwaters of the Flathead, Kootenai and Elk rivers.

LEARN.

About this unconventional new industry

ACT.

Write the Premier of British Columbia

A single CBM well pad in the Canadian Rockies

FLATHEAD COALITION

WHAT IS PROPOSED? WHAT IS AT RISK?

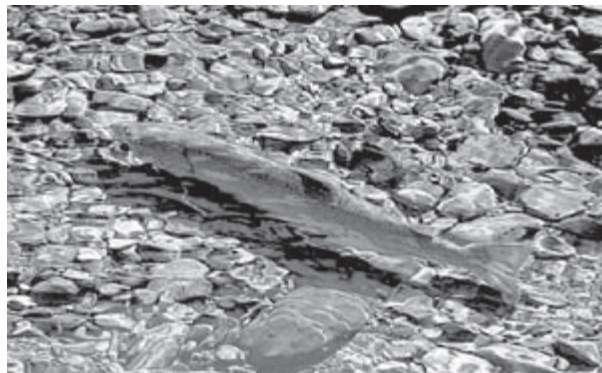
British Columbia recently announced the auction of CBM leases this summer in the Flathead and Elk watersheds. This development poses grave risks to Glacier National Park and the world-class waters and wildlife populations along the Canadian and U.S. transboundary frontier.



Stephen Krasemann

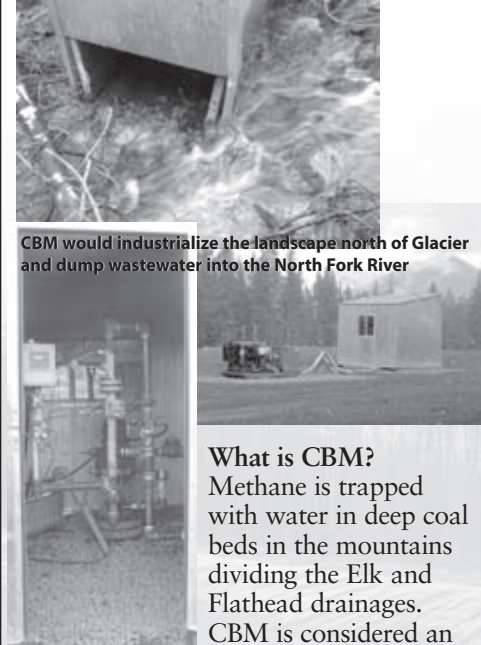
The North Fork Flathead River exists today as one of the most protected watersheds in the U.S. The river boasts “Wild and Scenic River” protection, forms the western boundary of Glacier National Park, and provides habitat for the greatest biodiversity of aquatic insects in the lower 48 states. Lands adjacent to the river harbor the densest population of grizzly bears in interior North America. Virtually every species of wildlife found here at the time of European settlement still remains.

Unfortunately, these protections don’t extend into the 28 percent of the watershed that lies in British Columbia. Despite these internationally appreciated values and its decision in May to shelve a proposed open-pit coal mine just north of Glacier, British Columbia is fast-tracking its CMB drilling plan.



British Columbia cancelled the coal mine only because of overwhelming public protest, both in Montana and in local Canadian communities like Fernie. Public pressure is now needed to persuade Canadian officials to postpone the August 25 CBM auction.

TAKE ACTION!



CBM would industrialize the landscape north of Glacier and dump wastewater into the North Fork River

What is CBM?

Methane is trapped with water in deep coal beds in the mountains dividing the Elk and Flathead drainages. CBM is considered an unconventional natural gas industry. To recover CBM, unlike conventional gas, hundreds and more likely thousands of wells would have to be drilled and wastewater removed to access the gas.

CBM Wells Produce Vast Quantities of Wastewater:

Coal seams are aquifers that must be dewatered prior to CBM production. Each CBM well would produce between 20 to 200 gallons per minute. Water must be removed at this rate for up to 2 years before wells produce

commercial gas. Wastewater would be discharged into surface creeks.

Wastewater Degrades Streams and Fisheries

Discharged water contains chemicals that are not in balance with surface stream and river environments. Discharged water may contain high levels of chloride, bicarbonate, sodium, ammonia and iron, a high pH and no oxygen. Streams and rivers could lose important aquatic insects and other species, including native trout.

Infrastructure Harms Wildlife:

Tapping CBM in the mountains requires up to 24 wells per square mile, between 0.5 to 2.0 miles of service road per well, and more than 4 acres of clearcut forest per well. Infrastructure for wells in the Flathead could cover some 58 square miles and establish a formidable barrier to migrating deer, elk, moose, bear and other wildlife.

Noise and Human Disturbance Ruin Wildlands

Well sites require pumps, compressors, and gas flares. With hundreds and thousands of wells, CBM production would create a din of industrial noise unsuited to wildlife use or human recreation. CBM dominates the landscape and prevents traditional uses of the land.

COALBED METHANE *in the* FLATHEAD: *Big Project with Big Impacts*

TAKE ACTION! PROTECT THE FLATHEAD WITH YOUR LETTER.

British Columbia puts Flathead coalbed methane rights to auction!

Spurning requests from the State of Montana and Fernie, B.C., the British Columbia Premier plans to sell CBM development rights without baseline water data or a comprehensive assessment. Ask him to cancel the auction and develop a joint review panel with U.S. scientific involvement.

The Canadian Rockies loom over a gas flare burner at an exploratory CBM well in the upper Elk Valley.



How to Contact the Flathead Coalition

If you or your organization would like to join the Flathead Coalition, membership dues of \$20 can be sent to: The Flathead Coalition, 867 North Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901. Additional support for public outreach and scientific monitoring is invited!

To learn more about CBM and the Flathead Coalition, go to www.flatheadcoalition.org. Or visit the web site of the Fernie-based Citizens Concerned about Coalbed Methane: www.cccb.org

To schedule a public presentation about CBM in the Flathead, contact CBM researcher Erin Sexton at erinkelly_s@yahoo.com or by phone at 212-4243 (local cell phone in Flathead County).

Send your comments to:

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E1
premier@gov.bc.ca

Minister Richard Neufeld
Ministry of Energy and Mines
PO Box 9060 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W9E2
Richard.Neufeld.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Please copy your letters to:

Governor Judy Martz
c/o Todd O'Hair,
Natural Resource Advisor
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620-0801
tohair@state.mt.us

(If you copy to Gov. Martz, thank her for her leadership on this issue!)

Sample Letter

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E1

[Date]

Dear Premier Campbell:

Thank you for your May 28 decision to cancel the proposed Cline Mine in the Flathead Valley. This was an important step toward protecting the world-class waters, wildlife and parks that our nations share in common.

I remain very concerned, however, about the future of the transboundary Flathead River. The development of coalbed methane in the headwaters of the Flathead River, in addition to the Elk and Kootenay rivers, has the potential to dramatically impair our shared waters, native trout, abundant wildlife, and the world's first International Peace Park.

I join the Fernie City Council, the Flathead Basin Commission, Montana Governor Judy Martz, and the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce in asking you to initiate a comprehensive review and baseline data collection. This review should occur prior to any decision to auction or not auction CBM tenures to private industry.

The Province should immediately suspend any action on CBM tenure auctions until completion of a comprehensive assessment of potential CBM impacts by an international expert panel.

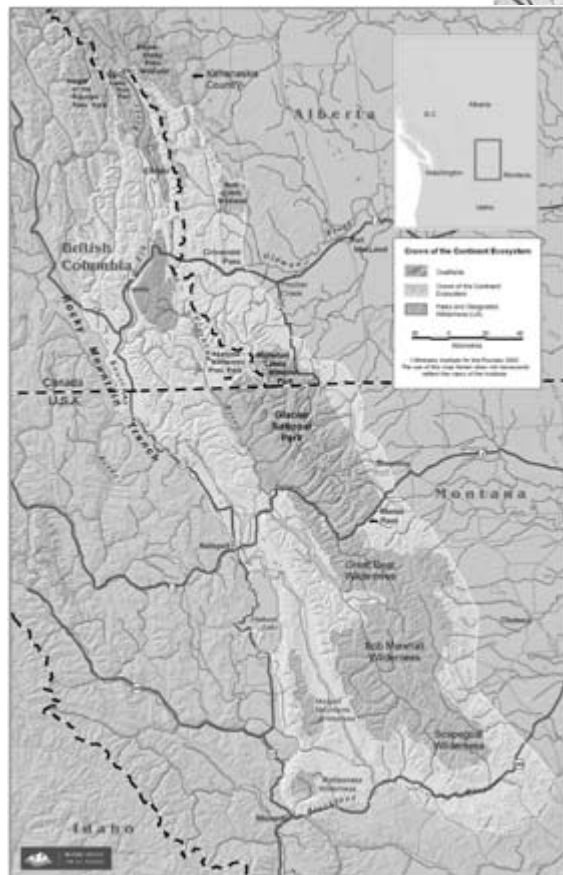
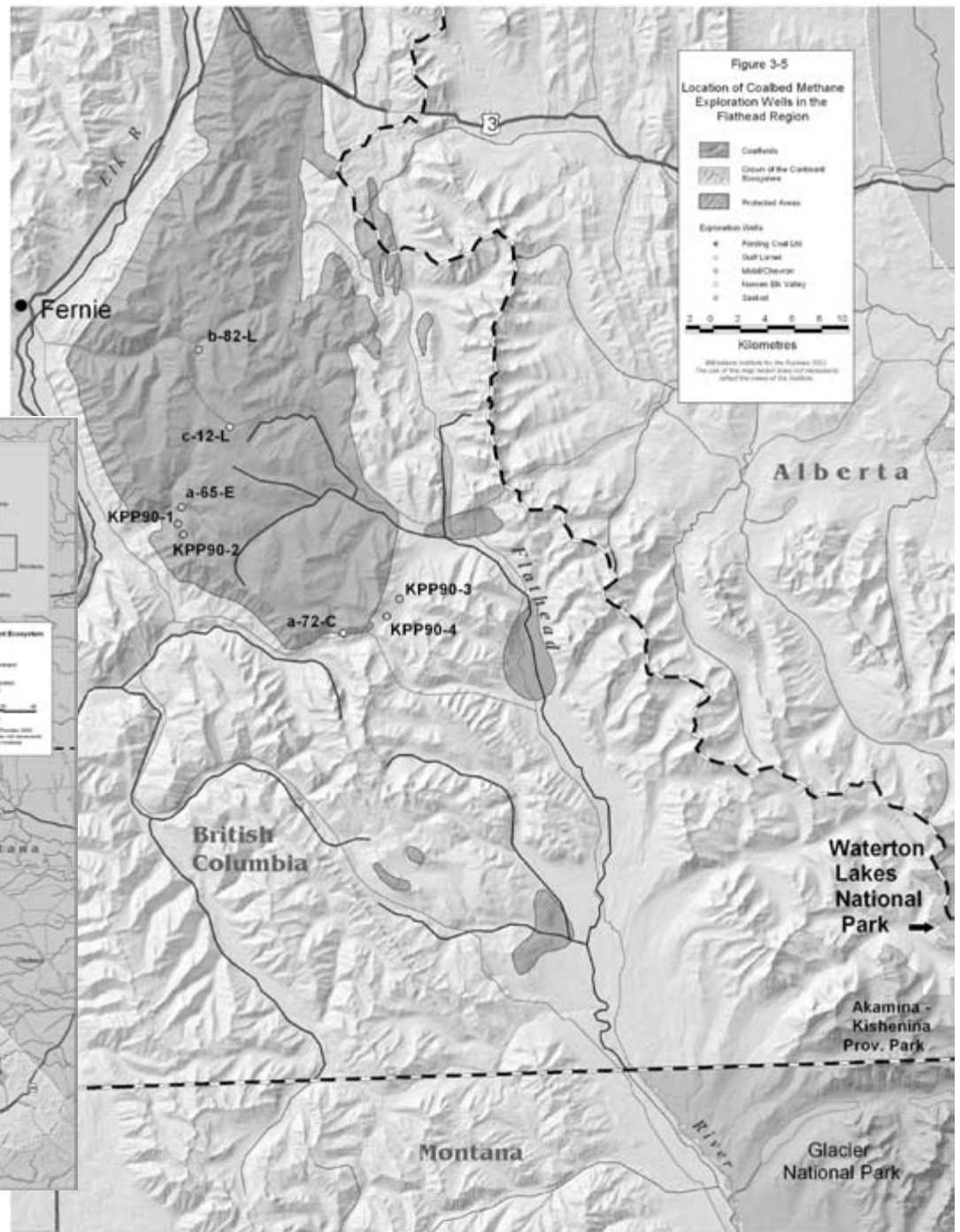
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name and Address]



The proposed coalbed methane development lies at the headwaters of the Canadian Flathead River and spans the height of land between the Flathead River and Elk River (a major tributary of the Kootenai). CBM development would pollute pristine waters and fracture the landscape, degrading streams and rivers and leaving little room for wildlife.



Several companies have drilled test wells in the Flathead basin of the Crow's nest coal field near Fernie (right). The trans-boundary Flathead Valley provides critical wildlife habitat and backcountry recreation in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem (inset).

FLATHEAD COALITION

**International neighbors working for clean water,
healthy habitat and thriving communities.**