

TSOLUM RIVER RESTORATION SOCIETY

The Abandoned Mt Washington Mine

A Challenge:

to

Restore the Tsolum River Watershed

to

Historical Levels of Health and Productivity

from the

Perspective of the Afflicted Community

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<http://members.shaw.ca/tsolum/mend.html>

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TRRS

“restoring the Tsolum River





to

historical levels of health and productivity”

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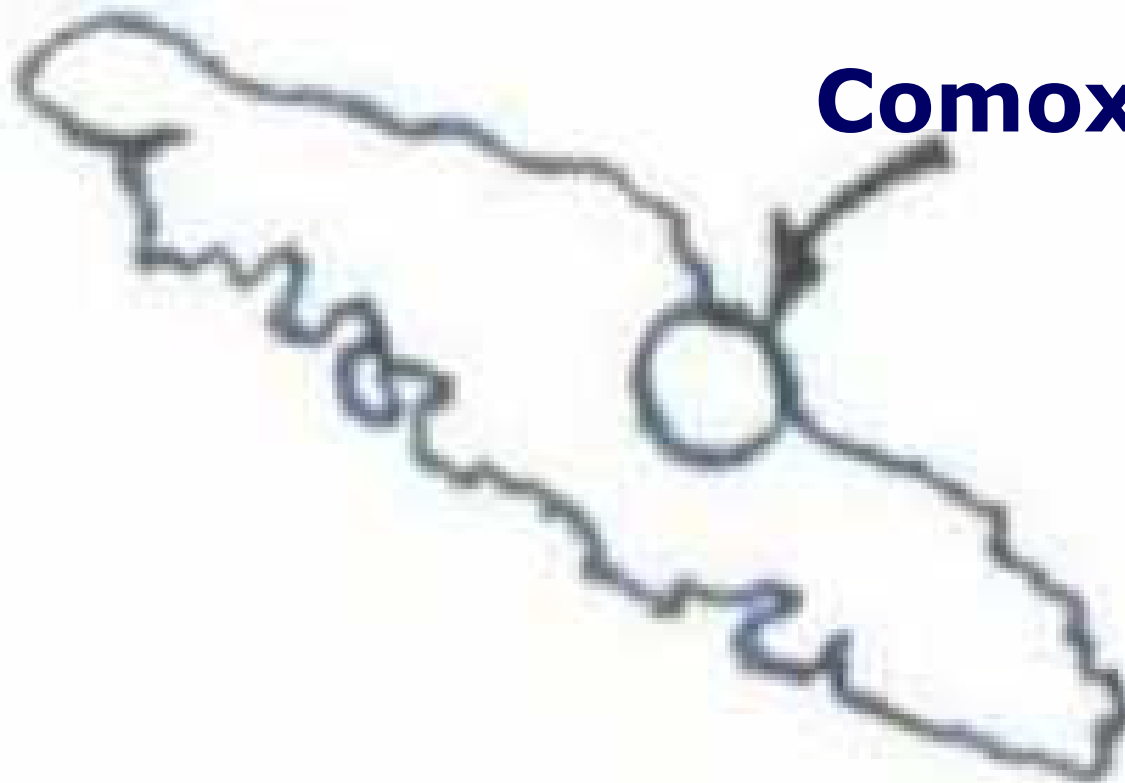
WHO AM I?

-  I have a MASc in Chemical Engineering. My lab-mate worked on microbial leaching of chalcopyrite.
-  I moved to VI in 1984 to build a shii-take mushroom farm.
-  I first heard about this problem in 1987. I thought that everything was under control.
-  I was rather shocked to learn in 1994 that things were NOT under control.

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WHERE ARE WE?

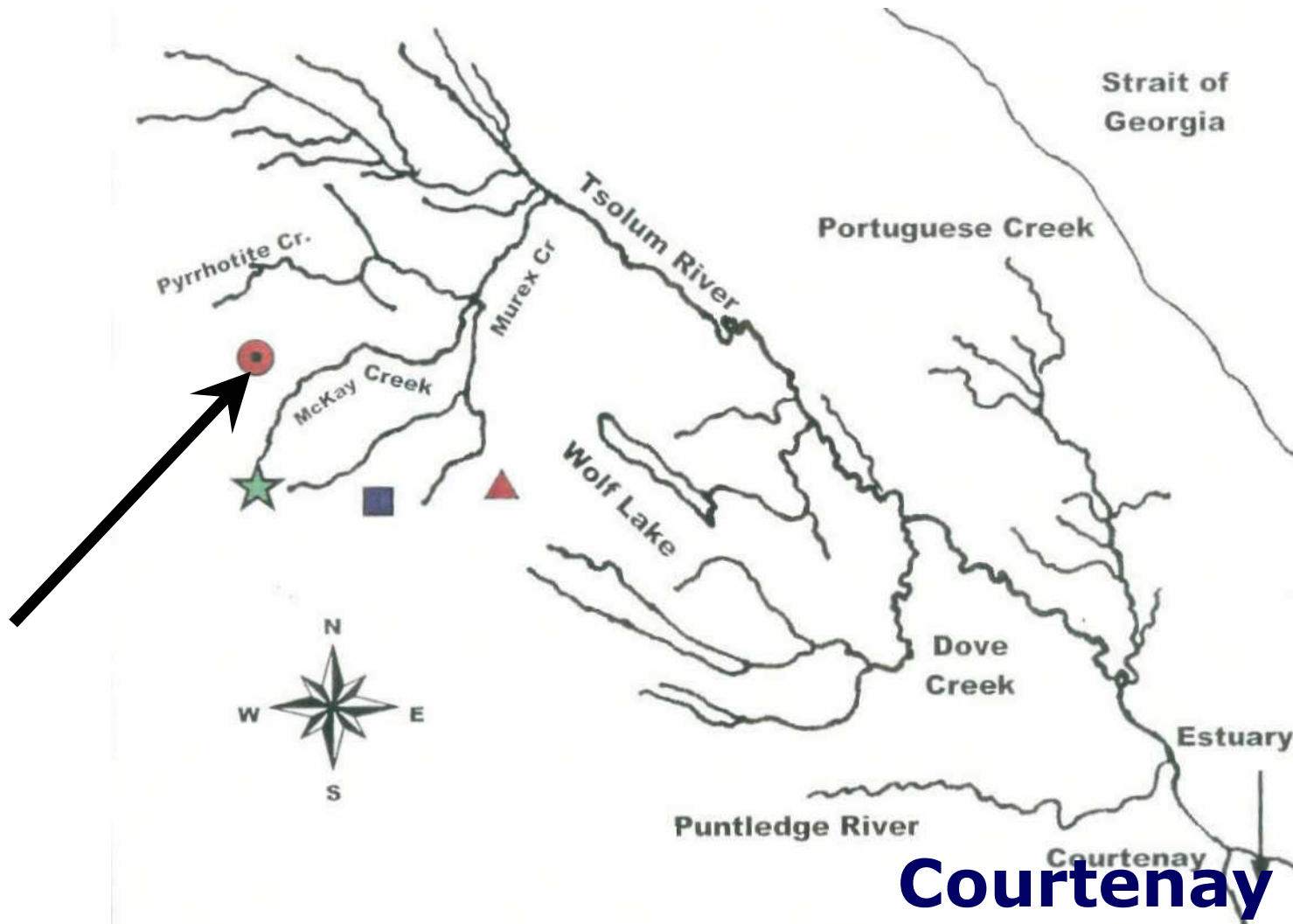


Comox Valley

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← Approximately 20 Km →



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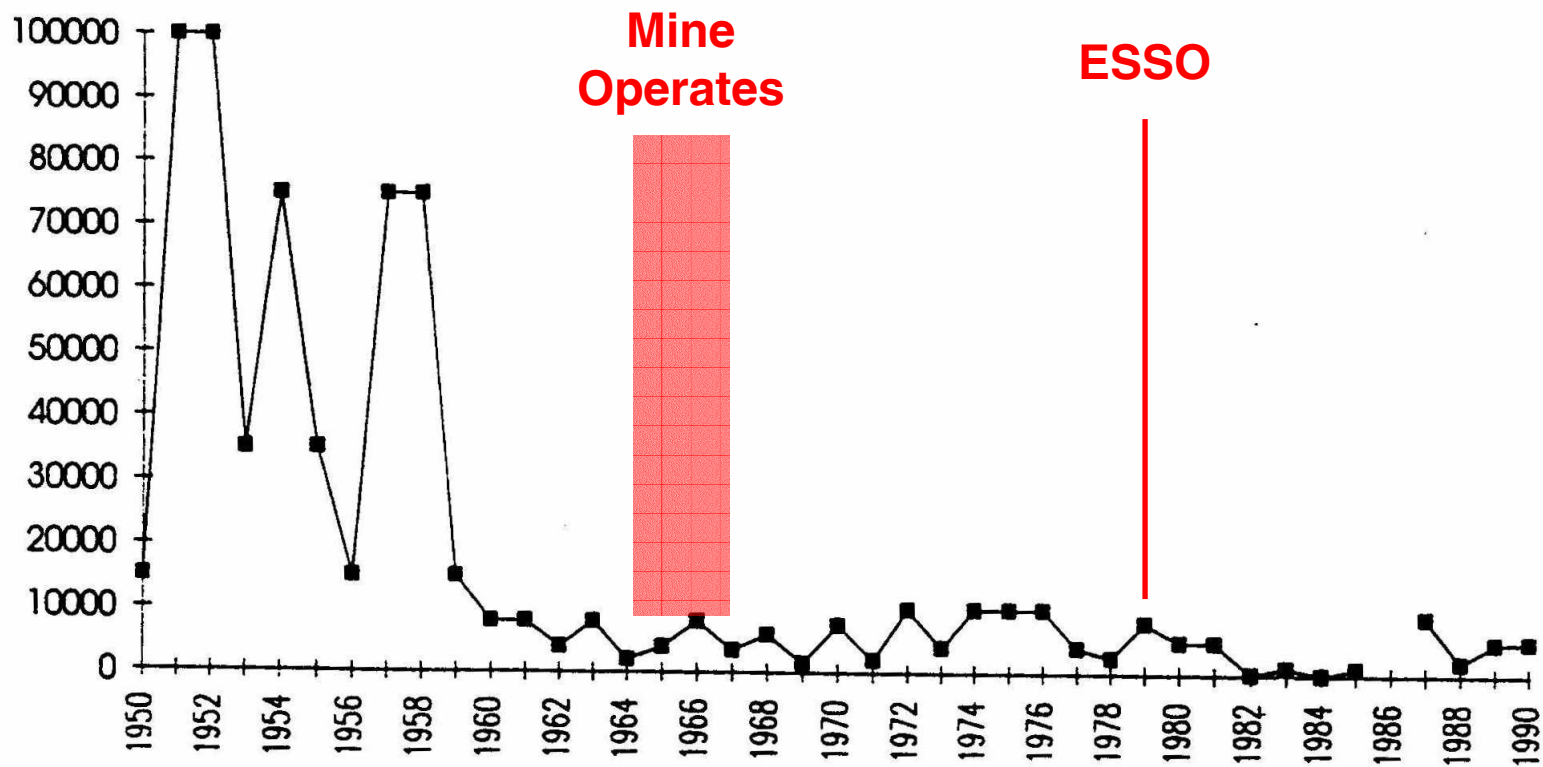
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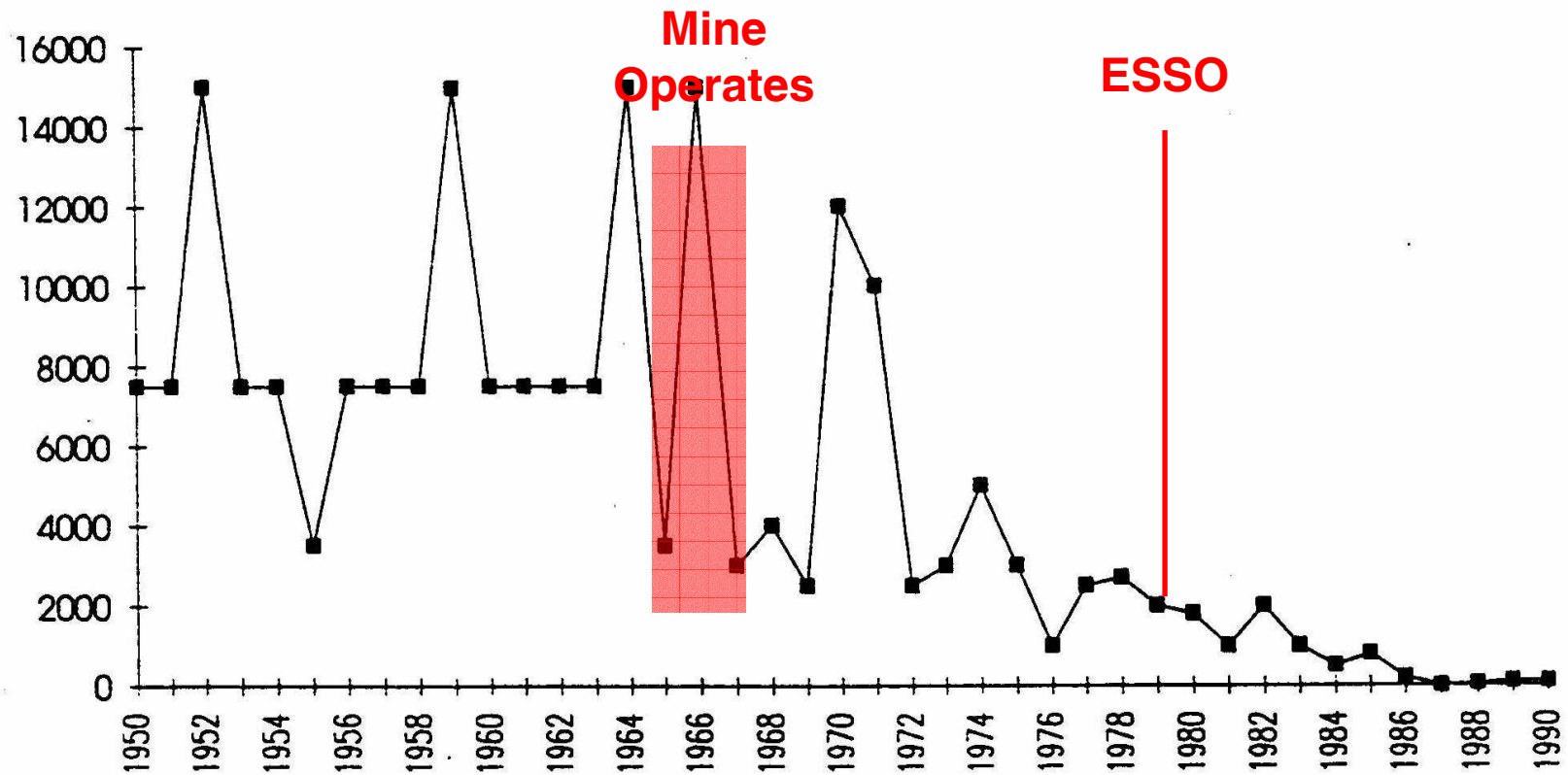
FIGURE 6. TSOLUM RIVER PINK ESCAPEMENT



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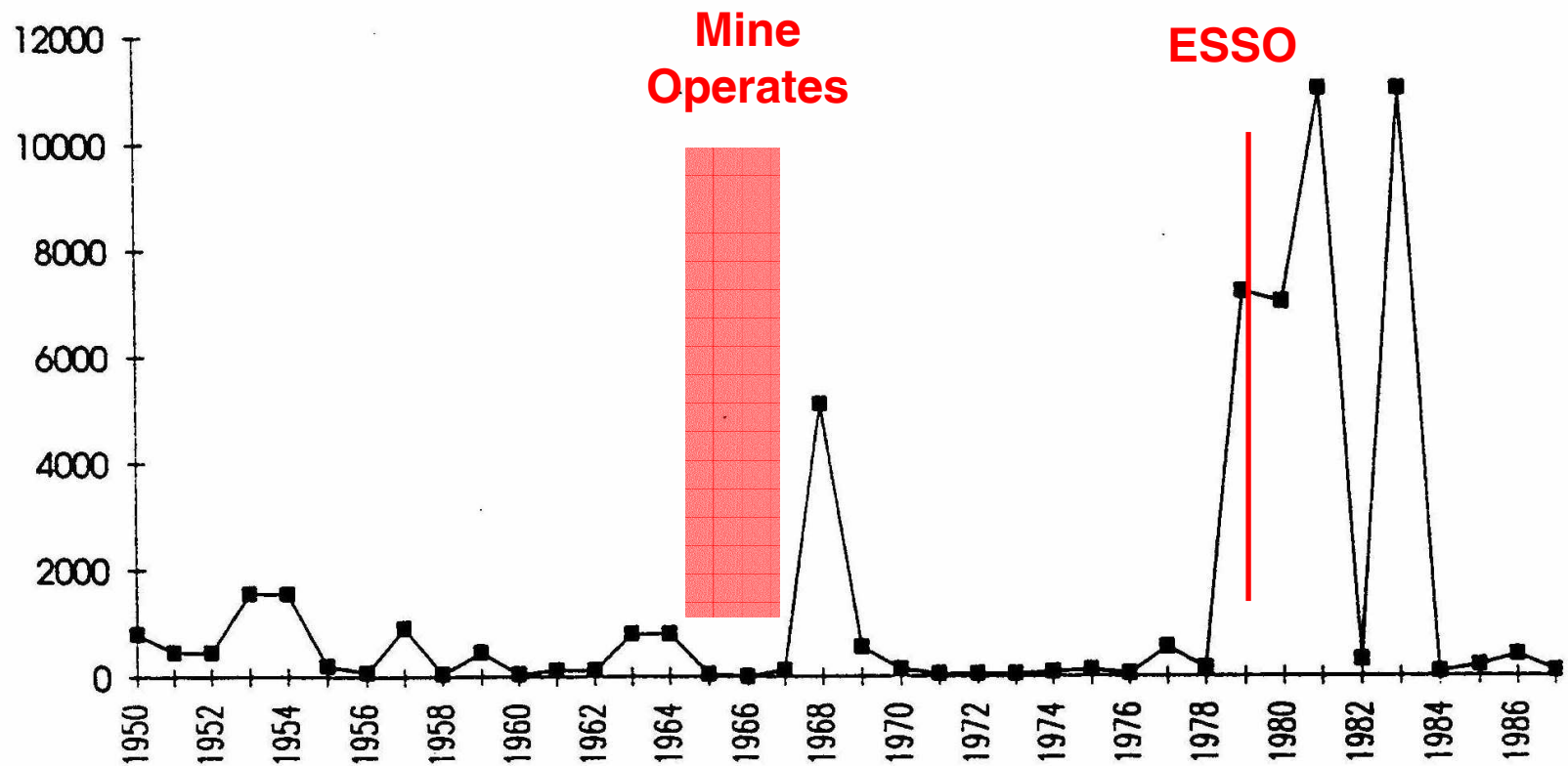
FIGURE 8. TSOLUM RIVER COHO ESCAPEMENT



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FIGURE 7. TSOLUM RIVER CHUM ESCAPEMENT



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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REMEDICATION?

-  **The original perpetrators?**
-  **BC Mines and Energy?**
-  **The Current Owners of the Land?**
-  **The People of the Comox Valley?**

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Steelhead Society



CV Environmental Council



CV Project Watershed



CV Watershed Assembly



Team Tsolum



Tsolum River Task Force



**Tsolum River Restoration
Society**

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MEETINGS with MINISTERS



**1986 (?) Jack Davis,
Stan Hagen**



1995 Anne Edwards



**1997 Cathy MacGregor,
Dan Miller**

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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?



SRK Study from 1987 recommended:

- 1. Gather up all the waste rock at the mine site and cover it with a clay/till cover.**
- 2. If the mine 'pit' is still producing acid; cover the remainder of the pit.**
- 3. If the cover(s) are inadequate; add an impermeable membrane protected with more till.**

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REPORTS

-  **SRK Study 1987**
-  **MEMPR report on activities 1992**
-  **Tsolum River Water Quality Objectives 1995.**
-  **AGRA Report 1996**

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MORE REPORTS

-  **GOLDER Wetland Report 1997**
-  **GOLDER Pipeline Study 1997**
-  **LEVELTON Report 1998(?)**
-  **TRRS State of the Tsolum 1999(?)**
-  **SRK 2000**

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ARD WORKSHOP COURTENAY 1999

 **Included all the usual suspects; and**

**Dr. Moir Haug of the U of
Saskatchewan; and**

Dr. Tom ? of Boliden Sweden

 **Conclusions:**

Every site different

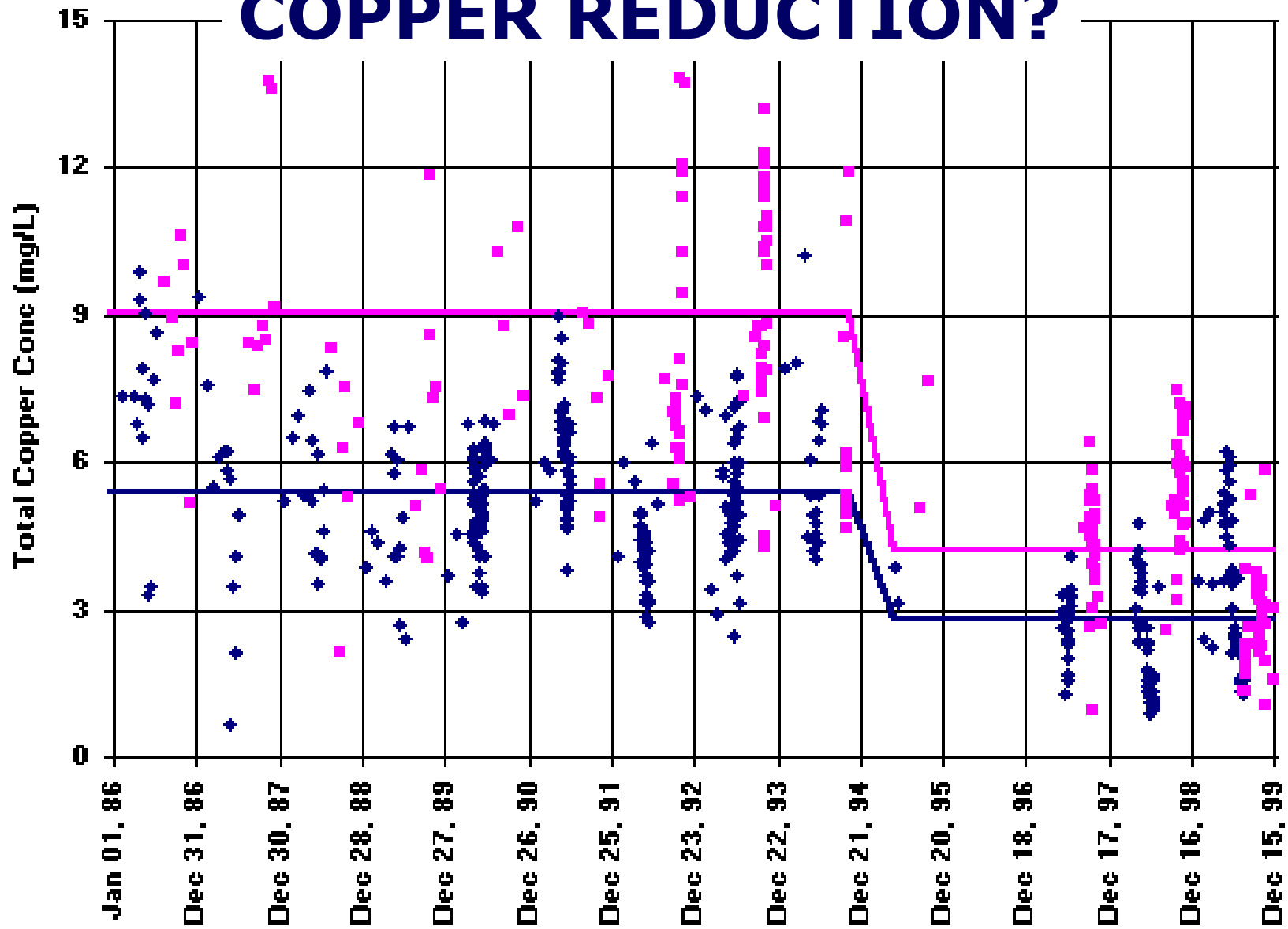
**Scale up from pilot rarely true--
modelling needed**

Work with natural processes

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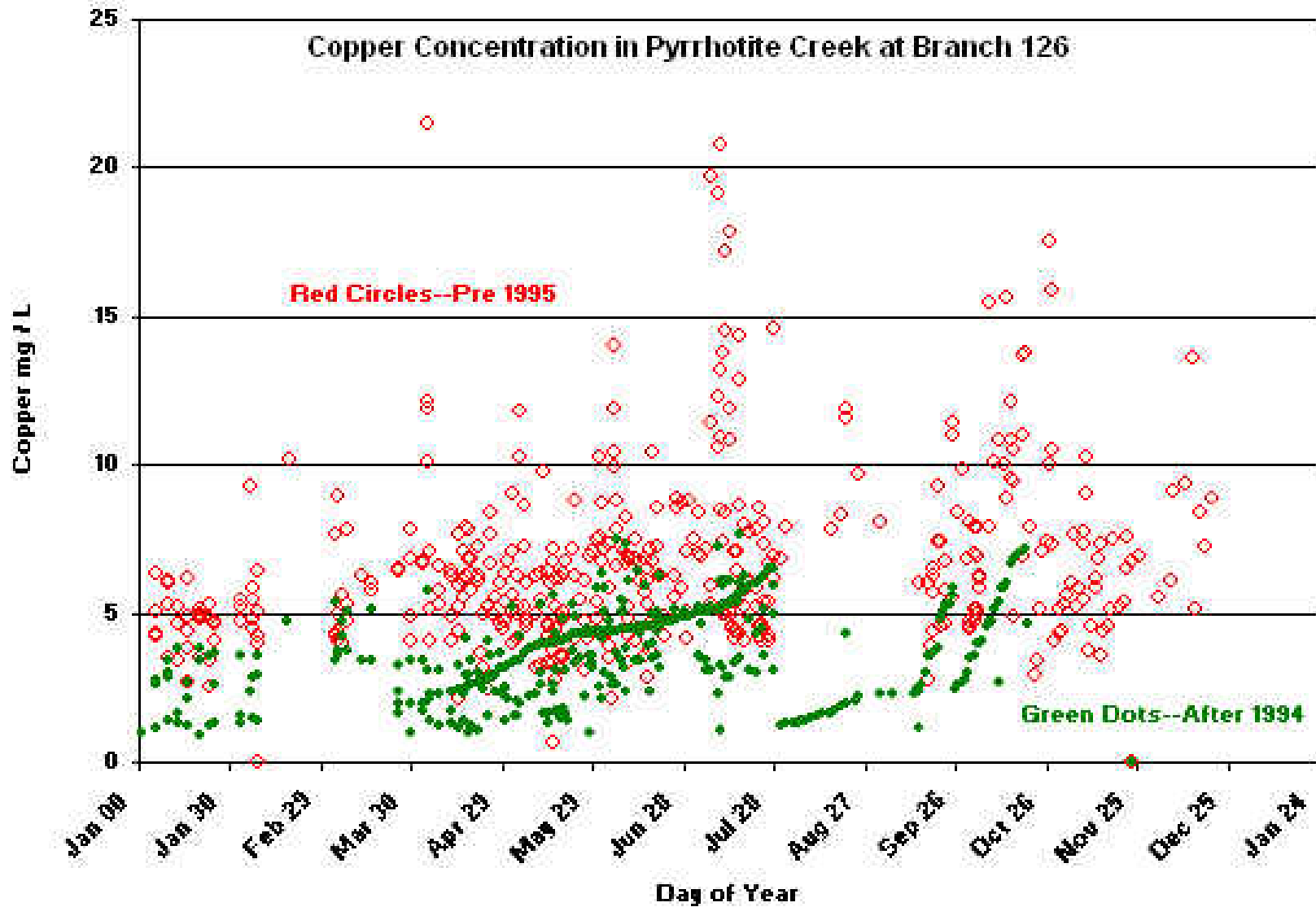
COPPER REDUCTION?



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COPPER REDUCTION?



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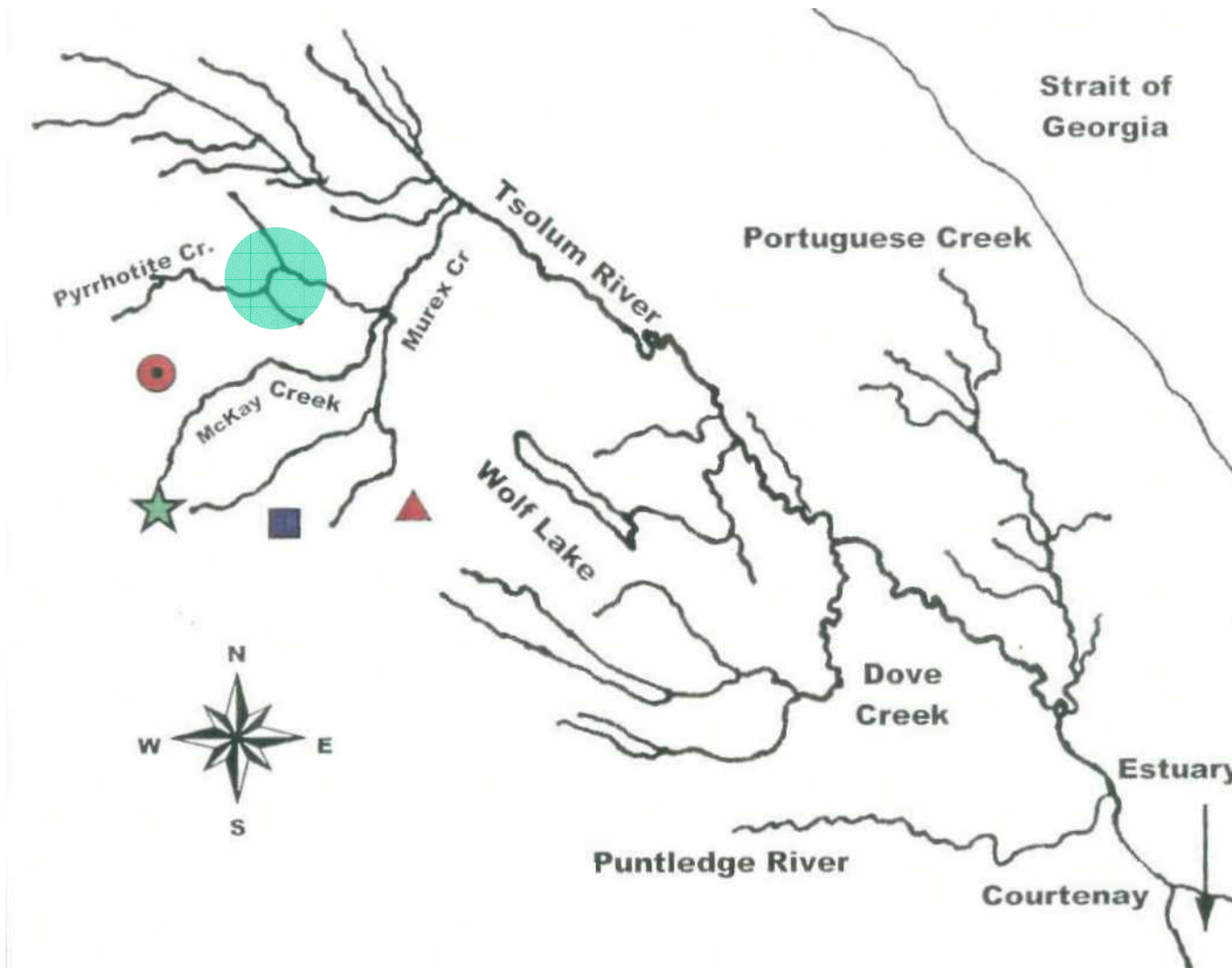
TimberWest 2003

-  **In order to comply with an order to comply with environmental quality standards, TimberWest with their silent partners CPR decided to reconnect a wetland at elevation ~500 m to Pyrrhotite Creek.**
-  **This work was done under the direction of Dr Bob Willington who has recently passed away.**

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TimberWest 2003



TimberWest believes that this work will meet Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans' criteria.

While I remain skeptical, I do hope that it will work.

It will certainly make things better.

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LESSIONS

-  **Can you understand why many of us in the Comox Valley are reluctant to welcome 'development' to our community.**
-  **They tell us it is safe.**
-  **When it fails they tell us they will fix it.**
-  **When they get around to fixing it, they can't.**

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WHAT DO I WANT?

-  **Total insurance coverage for anything that goes wrong--reinsured on the market.**
-  **Some lasting legacy for the community--particularly when non-renewable resources are extracted.**
-  **And, please restore the Tsolum River Watershed to historical health.**

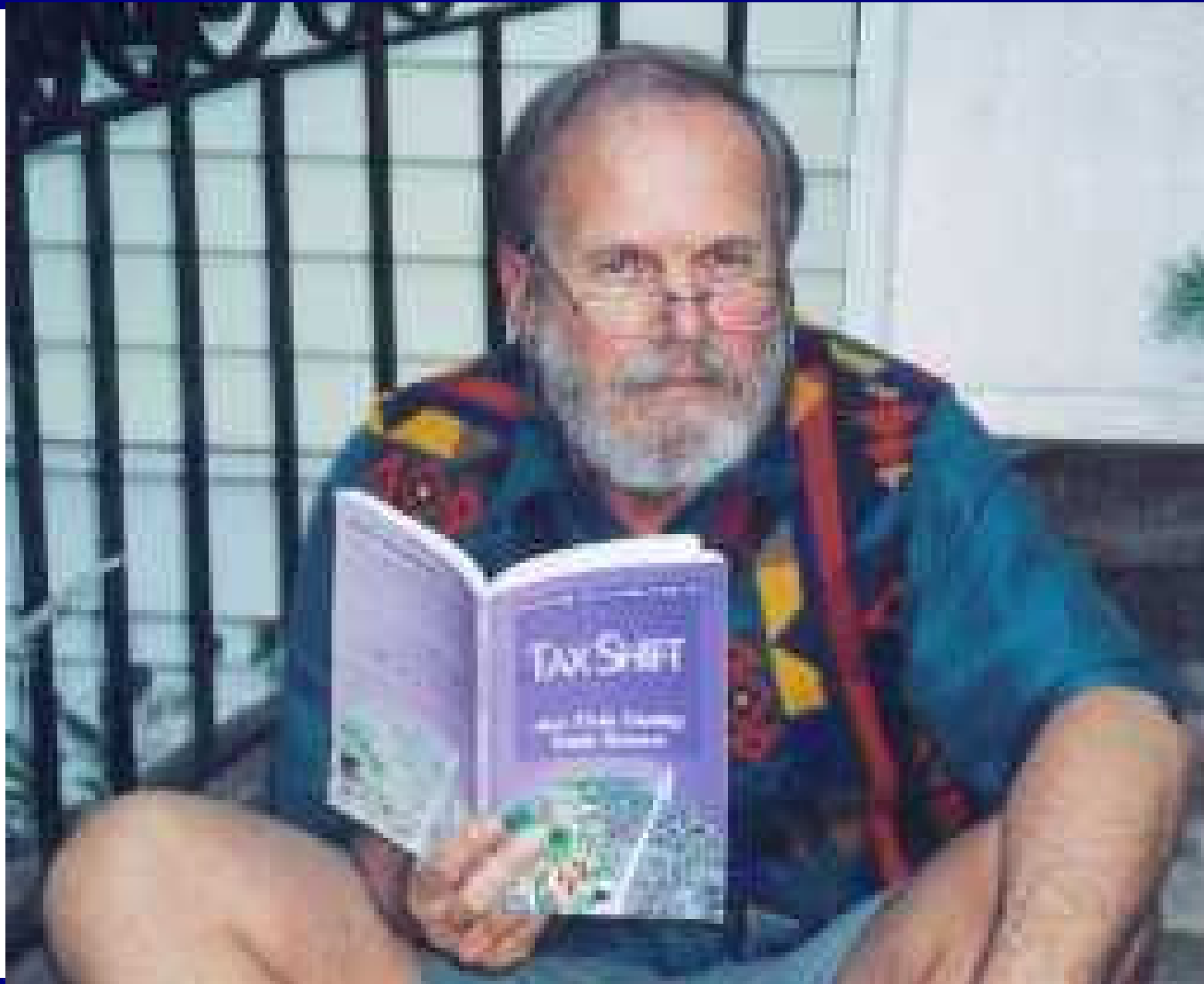
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