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Re: Trout Unlimited flyer

It is disappointing to see that Trout Unlimited is distorting both the facts and the science around water quality in the Elk River and Lake Kooconusa in a flyer distributed by your organization (*'Lincoln County Loves the Kootenai River'*).

This document presents a completely inaccurate picture of the state of aquatic health in the region. As you are no doubt well aware, the pictures of deformed fish presented under the heading "Alarming Discoveries" are not from any of the local rivers or lakes and do not represent any effects happening in the local watershed. The fact is, extensive aquatic monitoring and data gathering clearly indicate that the kinds of impacts on fish and birds shown in this flyer are not occurring as a result of selenium in the Elk River or Lake Kooconusa.

Your publication also states that no plan is in place to safeguard water, which is entirely incorrect. Teck recognizes that action is required to stabilize and reverse the trend of selenium and other mining-related substances before impacts occur. That is why we are investing significant resources to implement a comprehensive plan, developed with input from governments in both Canada and the U.S., to protect and improve water quality. This includes investing between \$850-\$900 million over the next five years to build water treatment facilities – the second of which will begin construction later this spring – and undertaking extensive monitoring, studies and research.

Teck is committed to carrying out this work and to continuing advance the science around selenium and water quality. Residents in both British Columbia and Montana deserve action to protect water quality that is grounded in facts and solid science, not scare tactics. I would encourage anyone interested in learning more and supporting this work to visit www.teck.com/elkvalley and to also read the annual report of the Environmental Monitoring Committee – which provides science-based advice to Teck and the government of B.C. – available on the website.

Sincerely,



Marcia Smith
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