

# In a remote corner of northern British Columbia

lies the **Sacred Headwaters**, the shared birthplace of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine Rivers.

Here grizzly bears, caribou and stone sheep roam the meadows and wild salmon spawn in clear streams. It is one of North America's most remarkable places, and it is imminently threatened.

**Royal Dutch Shell** plans to drill for coalbed methane gas in the Sacred Headwaters. If it proceeds, its project could result in thousands of gas wells connected by a maze of roads and pipelines.

Around the world, citizens are coming together to stop Shell from destroying the Sacred Headwaters.

Will you join them?



# You can help protect BC's Sacred Headwaters!

**1** Write BC Premier Gordon Campbell. Urge him to suspend Shell's drilling:  
Premier Gordon Campbell  
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1  
Premier@gov.bc.ca  
(E-mail a copy of your letter to Shell at [questions@shell.com](mailto:questions@shell.com))

**2** Add your name to the thousands of citizens and organizations who have signed the Sacred Headwaters Declaration. You can download the declaration at [skeenawatershed.com](http://skeenawatershed.com).

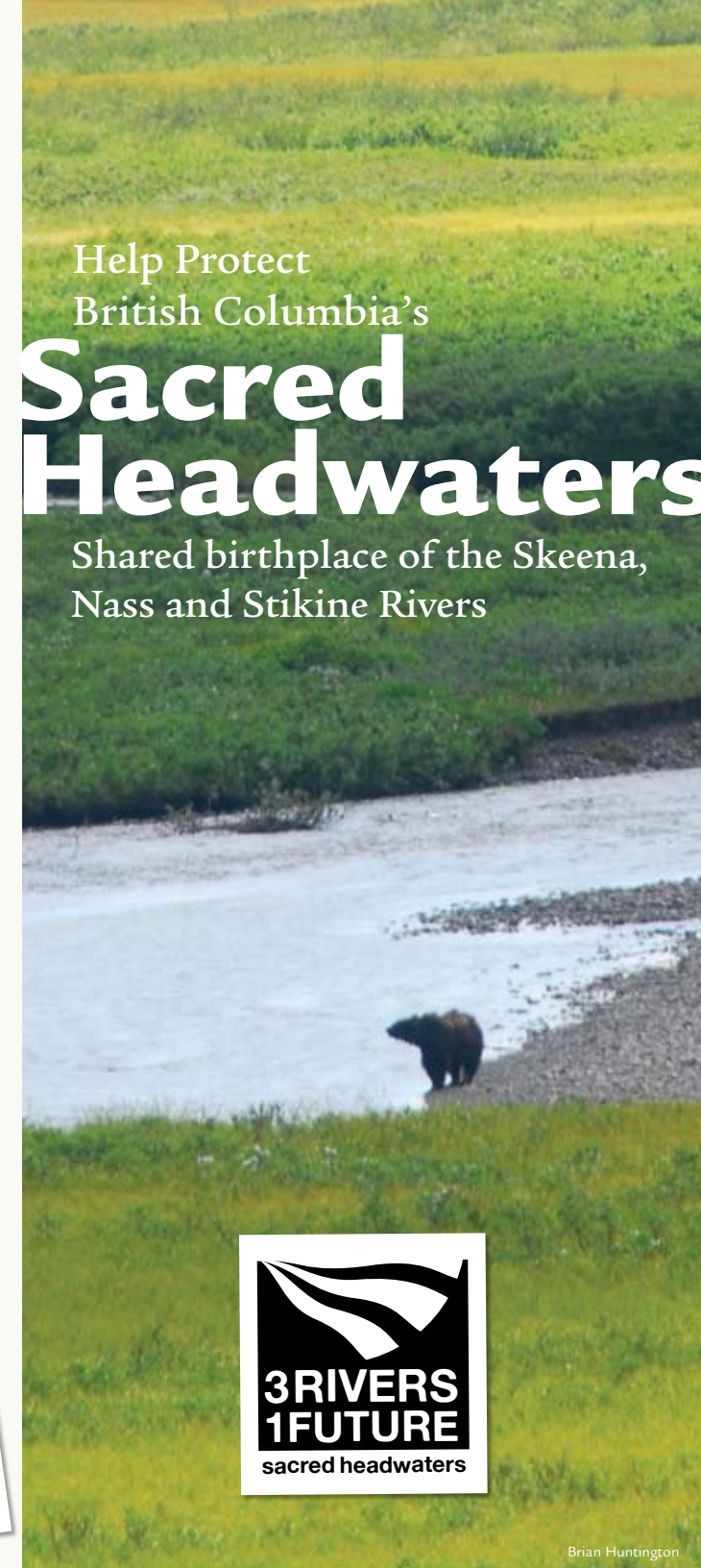
**3** Go online and learn more about the Sacred Headwaters. Tell your friends. Organize a Sacred Headwaters event in your community!

Here's what coalbed methane development in New Mexico looks like



# Help Protect British Columbia's Sacred Headwaters

Shared birthplace of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine Rivers



# What folks are saying

“In the end, what is at stake is the future of one of the most extraordinary regions in North America. The voices of all Canadians deserve to be heard.”

WADE DAVIS, EXPLORER-IN-RESIDENCE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



“Coalbed methane threatens the very lifeblood of the Northwest. If you care for our rivers and our salmon, I urge you to speak out against it.”

ROY HENRY VICKERS, ARTIST AND ORDER OF CANADA RECIPIENT



“We shouldn’t even consider this development here. When Shell is gone, what will we be left with?”

GENE ALLEN, GUIDE OUTFITTER AND RODEO STOCK CONTRACTOR



“My customers come here from around the world to experience pristine rivers and world class fishing -- not coalbed methane development.”

STEVE HIDBER, NORTHWEST BC BUSINESS OWNER



“I am proud to announce tonight that I will be giving my award money to the Sacred Headwaters Coalition and the First Nations in the area to support their fight to protect these pristine fishing grounds in northern British Columbia. Your struggle is our struggle.”

MAUDE BARLOW ACCEPTING A CITATION OF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AT THE 2008 CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT AWARDS.



*Skeena River wild salmon and steelhead contribute Over \$110 million to the region's economy each year. Studies show Shell's project is likely to harm fish populations.*

Brian Huntington

## A brief history

- 2004** BC government sells Shell gas rights to a 400,000-hectares of the Sacred Headwaters. Estimates suggest the area could contain 8.1 trillion cubic feet of methane. Shell drills three exploration wells.
- 2005** Tahltan Elders evict Shell from their territory.
- 2006** Shell suspends its drilling program due to opposition
- 2007** Tahltan elders blockade shell's road access. Shell spends the year in court and repairing road access.
- 2008** Thousands of northwest BC residents and people from around the world join the campaign to protect the Sacred Headwaters. Shell plans to complete its exploration phase with 14 new coalbed methane wells.

## Coalbed Methane Q & A

### What is coalbed methane?

Coalbed methane (CBM) is a gas trapped in coal seams.

### How many wells is Shell planning for the Headwaters?

Most fields involve hundreds or thousands of wells.

### Has CBM ever been developed in a salmon watershed?

No.

### What about wildlife?

The roads and pipelines associated with CBM development have serious impacts on wildlife.

### Don't we need the jobs?

Once established, CBM fields result in very few jobs or local economic benefits. At the same time, CBM threatens existing jobs, such as commercial fishing, steelhead guiding, and guide outfitting.



*This is a coalbed methane well drilled by Shell in 2004. If Shell's project goes ahead, it will require hundreds if not thousands of these wells, each connected by pipelines and roads. The impact on wildlife and wild salmon will likely be significant.*

Brian Huntington

Learn more

[www.skeenawatershed.com](http://www.skeenawatershed.com)  
[www.friendsofwildsalmon.ca](http://www.friendsofwildsalmon.ca)