

June 25, 2015

# WWF-Canada Watershed Reports

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Canadian Water Summit

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James Snider



# Our Vision

**All waters in Canada  
in good ecological health  
by 2025**



**A major milestone....**

**All major freshwater  
systems assessed by  
by 2017**



WATERSHED REPORTS

# TAKING THE PULSE OF CANADA'S RIVERS

*Canada has one-fifth of the world's freshwater. Thousands of interconnected rivers and lakes across our country provide the essentials of life for people, animals and ecosystems.*





Collectively, Canada's rivers make up **25 major watersheds**, each brimming with stories of history, culture, ecology and economy. Yet, as a country we are missing an important part of that story. At a national level, we don't know how healthy our rivers and watersheds are or what threats they currently face.

WWF is working to address these key questions by completing the first Canada-wide assessment of the country's watersheds, focusing on four indicators of river health and seven key threats. We have completed **Watershed Reports for half of Canada.**

These are the results of our assessments to date. By 2017 — the year marking Canada's 150th birthday and WWF-Canada's 50th anniversary — we will have completed our ambitious undertaking.

[Your Watershed](#)

[Canada](#)





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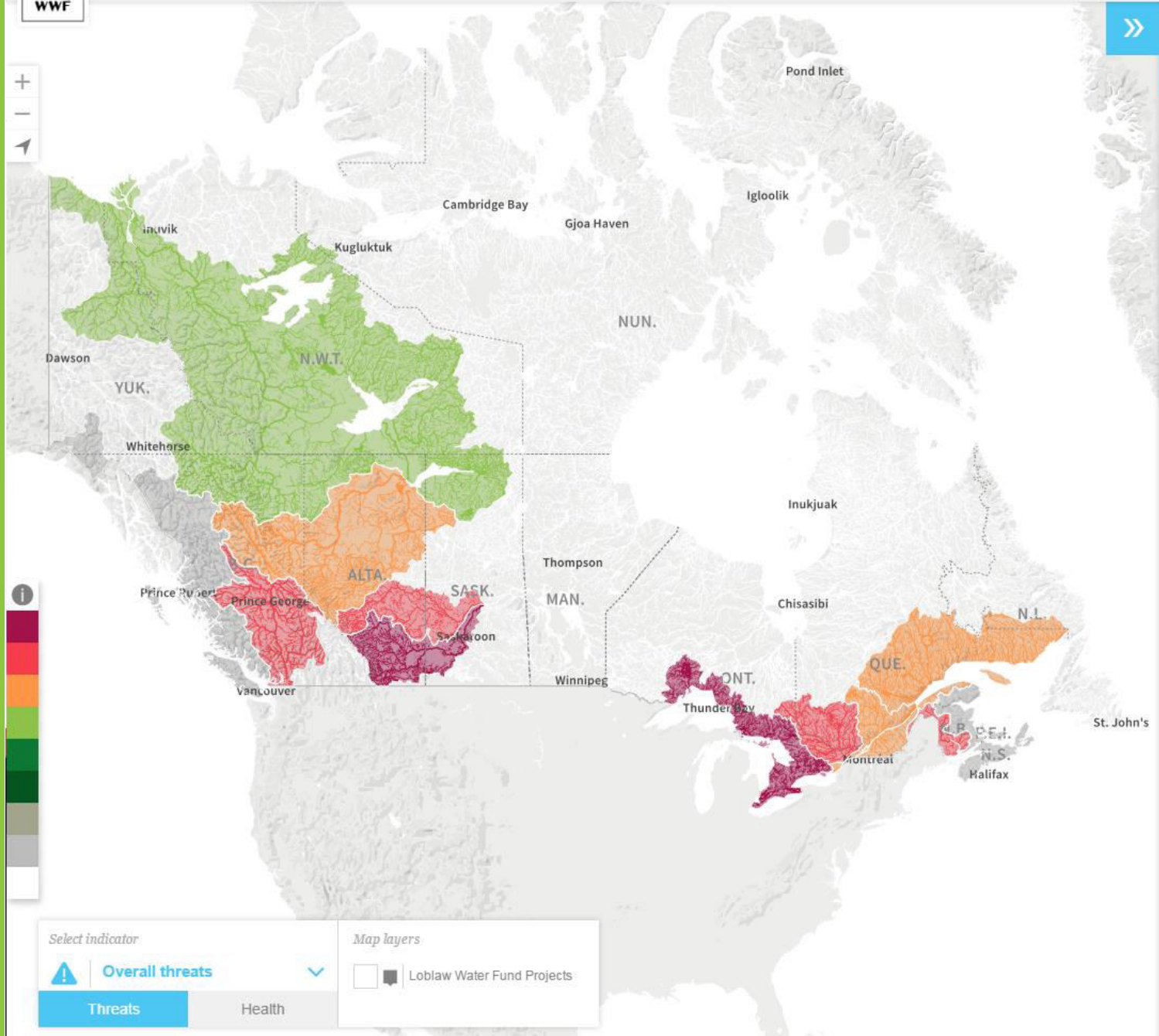
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Navigation bar with icons for: Canada, Watersheds (25), Sub-watersheds, and Sites.

# Canada

Profile Threats Health



(c) Tim Irvin WWF-Canada

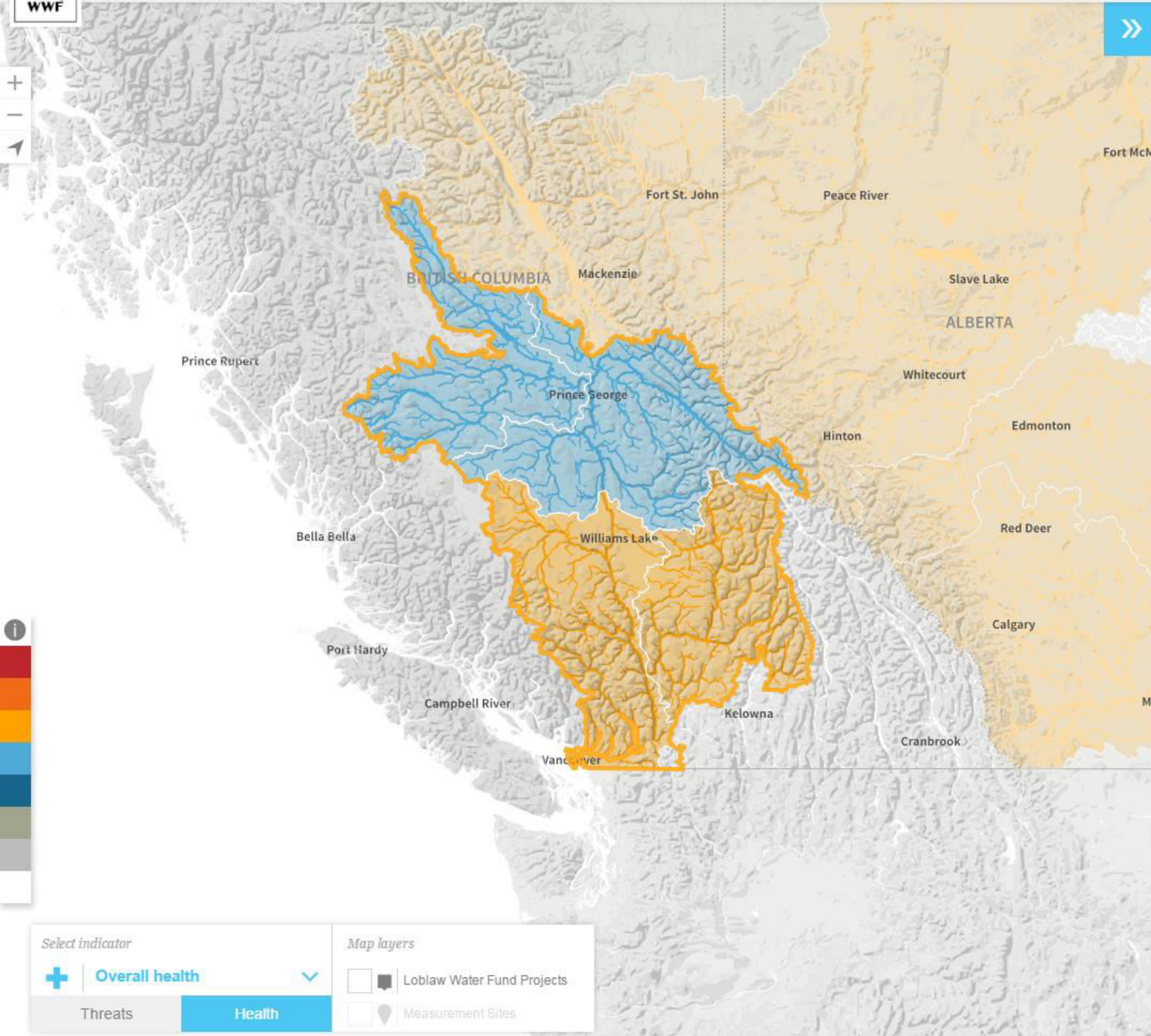
Based on our Watershed Reports to date, several key national themes are emerging:

- Our watersheds are facing a series of significant threats which, left unchecked, will jeopardize the health of water resources that provide invaluable wealth across the country.
- Where the health of watersheds can confidently be determined based on available data, the majority fall below the threshold of *good* condition, receiving a score of *fair* (four). To date, only two fully assessed watersheds have met the criteria of *good* health.
- There is a pronounced lack of available and accessible data on the health of the watersheds that we have tried to assess. Even in some of Canada's most densely populated and highly developed watersheds, such as the [Great Lakes watershed](#), we don't know the health of the rivers that underpin our wellbeing and our economies.

Select indicator: Overall threats (dropdown menu)

Threats (selected) | Health

Map layers:  Loblaw Water Fund Projects



Canada > Watershed > Sub-watersheds (5) > Fraser-Lower Mainland

# Fraser-Lower Mainland

Profile Threats Health



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B.C.'s longest and largest river begins as an icy trickle in the Rocky Mountains and drains into the Pacific 1,370 kilometres later.

**Watershed area**  
232,739 km<sup>2</sup>



**Jurisdiction**  
British Columbia

The Fraser supports many creatures along its course, including five species of salmon and the endangered white sturgeon. Its delta is home to the highest density of wintering birds in Canada and also provides an important stopping point for many migratory birds.

*Species of interest*  
**Coho salmon**

For its human inhabitants, the Fraser is just as important. Two-thirds of B.C.'s population — 2.7 million people — live in the watershed. Fishing in the salmon-rich watershed is a multi-million dollar industry, while agriculture in the Fraser Valley drives the regional economy.



© Florian Schutz / visionsofthewild.com

Meanwhile, many of B.C.'s First Nations communities have relied on the Fraser and its tributaries for thousands of years

Select indicator



Overall health



Threats

Health

Map layers

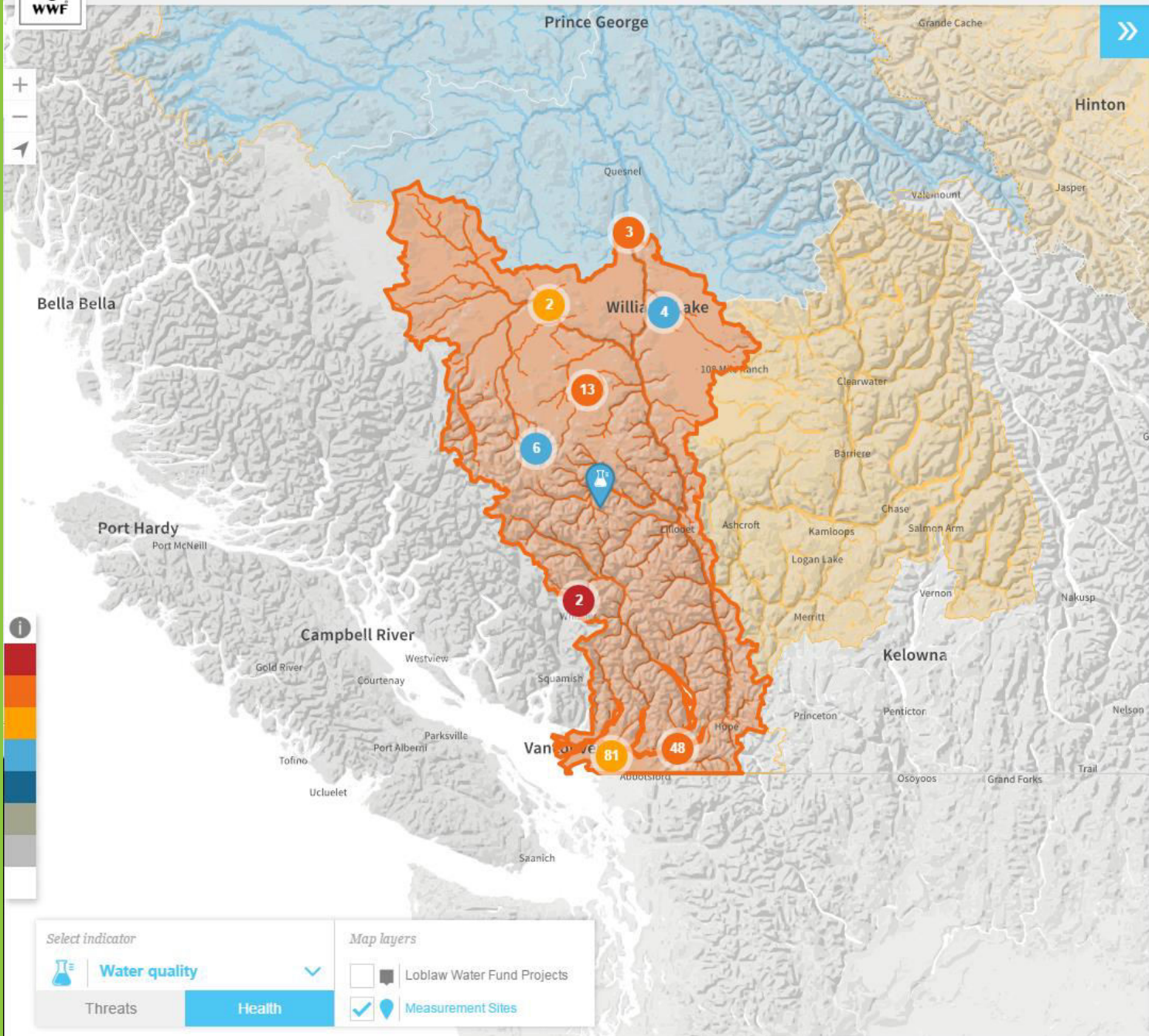


Loblaw Water Fund Projects



Measurement Sites





Canada > Watershed > Sub-watershed > Sites (168)

Canada > Fraser-Lower Mainland >

# Lower Fraser

Threats **Health**

Scores by health indicator

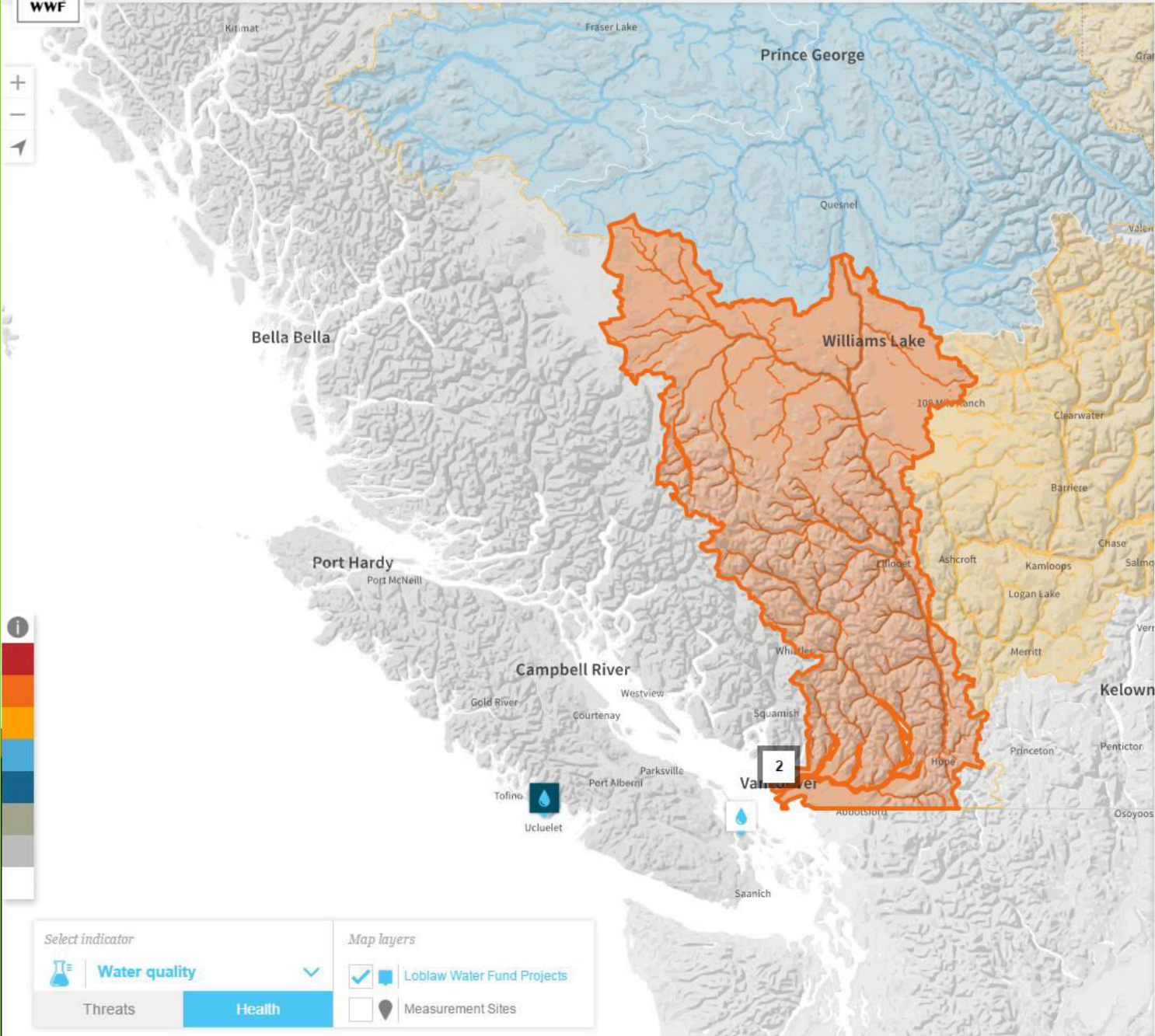
- OVERALL HEALTH**  
Fair
- WATER FLOW**  
Fair
- WATER QUALITY**  
Poor
- FISH**  
Good
- BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES**  
Very good

[Explore measurement sites](#)

Select indicator: **Water quality**

Threats | **Health**

Map layers:  Loblaw Water Fund Projects |  **Measurement Sites**



# Lost Shoe Creek Watershed Restoration Project



© Central Westcoast Forest Society

Year: 2014-2015

Led by the [Central Westcoast Forest Society](#) in Ucluelet, B.C., this initiative restored river ecosystems to help fish and wildlife populations recover throughout Lost Shoe Creek, in the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

[Learn more about the Loblaw Water Fund.](#)



# Thank you

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