

B.C. Regional Geochemical Survey Program

Regional geochemical surveys provide a representative measurement of the concentration of metals in the environment. Resultant data depict the natural variability of metals of the Earth and highlight areas of elevated or depleted concentrations. In British Columbia, regional geochemical surveys commonly evaluate areas covering in excess of 100,000 square kilometres. Stream sediment and water samples are collected from first or second order drainage basins which have an average area of 10 to 13 square kilometres. Fine-grained stream-sediment is the preferred sample medium due to its ability to provide representative geochemical data for the drainage basin upstream from the sample site.

Since 1976, data from joint federal-provincial surveys have been systematically collected, compiled and published. Currently, the Regional Geochemical Survey (RGS) database contains determinations for up to 40 elements, field observations and sample location information for approximately 36,000 sample site locations covering over 65% of the province.

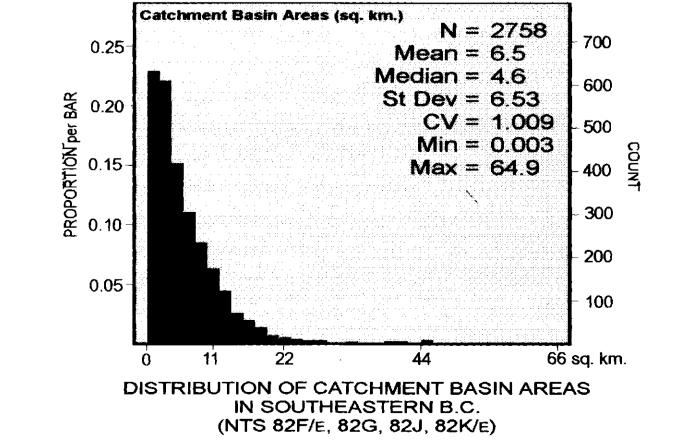
Regional Geochemical Surveys are an established exploration tool which have been credited with numerous mineral discoveries within the province. The RGS database is also used to (1) outline regional geochemical trends and assist in metallogenic studies and geological interpretations; (2) assist in the evaluation of mineral potential and aid in resource management and land-use planning initiatives; and (3) provide background geochemical data useful for environmental assessment.

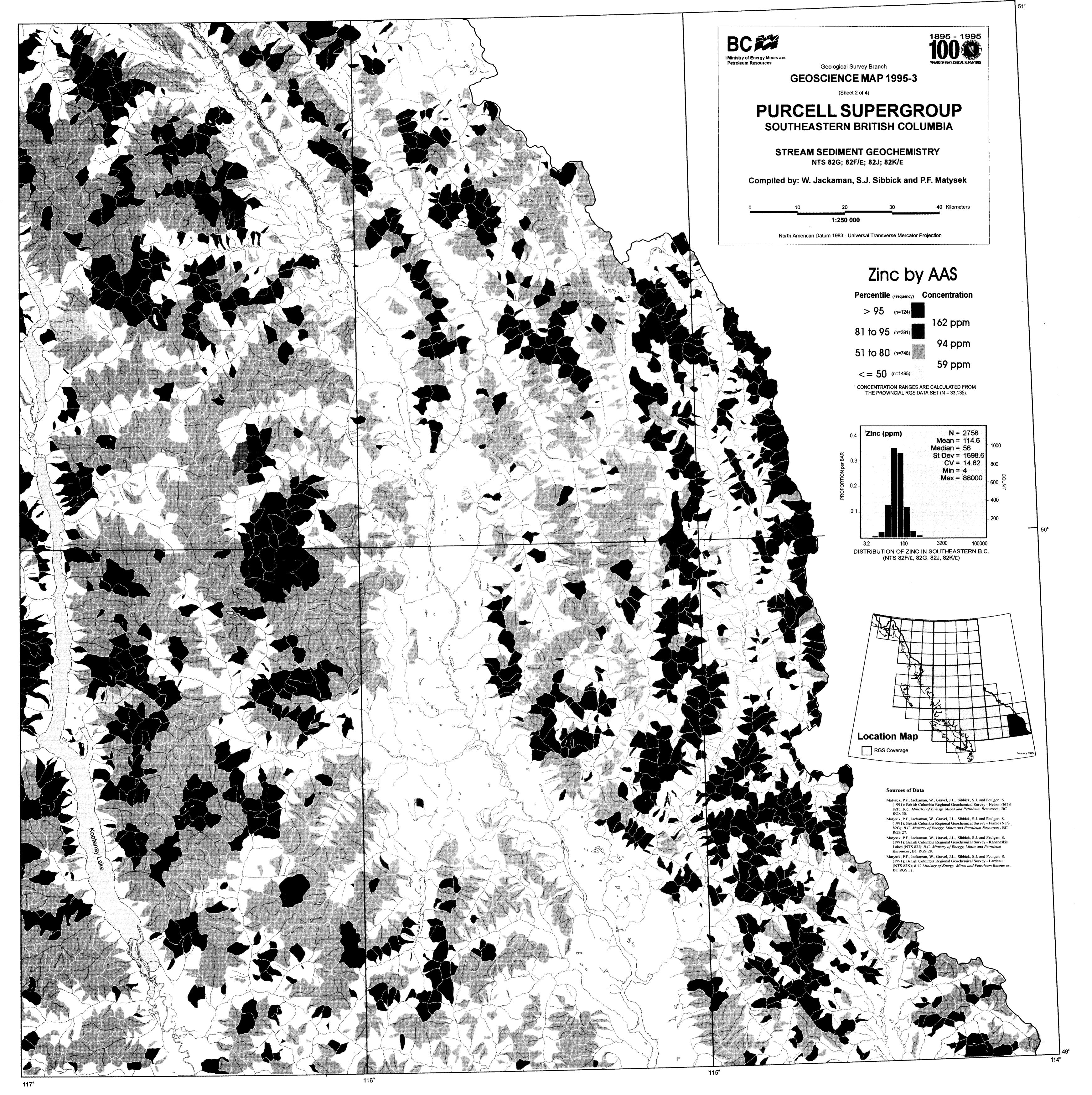
Catchment Basins

In order to maximize the value and utility of the RGS database, catchment basins are being delineated and digitized from NTS 1:50 000 map sheets for all RGS sample sites. Catchment basins are defined by the topographic height of land which separates a stream from surrounding streams. The resulting polygons represent the metal determination of a single stream sediment or water sample collected at the basin outlet. The main benefits of this method include:

(1) improved integration with other polygonal (e.g. geology) and point (e.g. mineral occurrences) databases,

(2) geochemical patterns and trends are more easily defined, and(3) actual areal coverage of a survey is more accurately represented.





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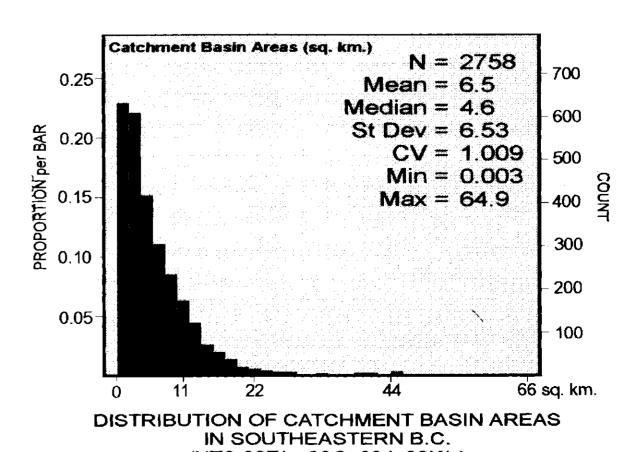
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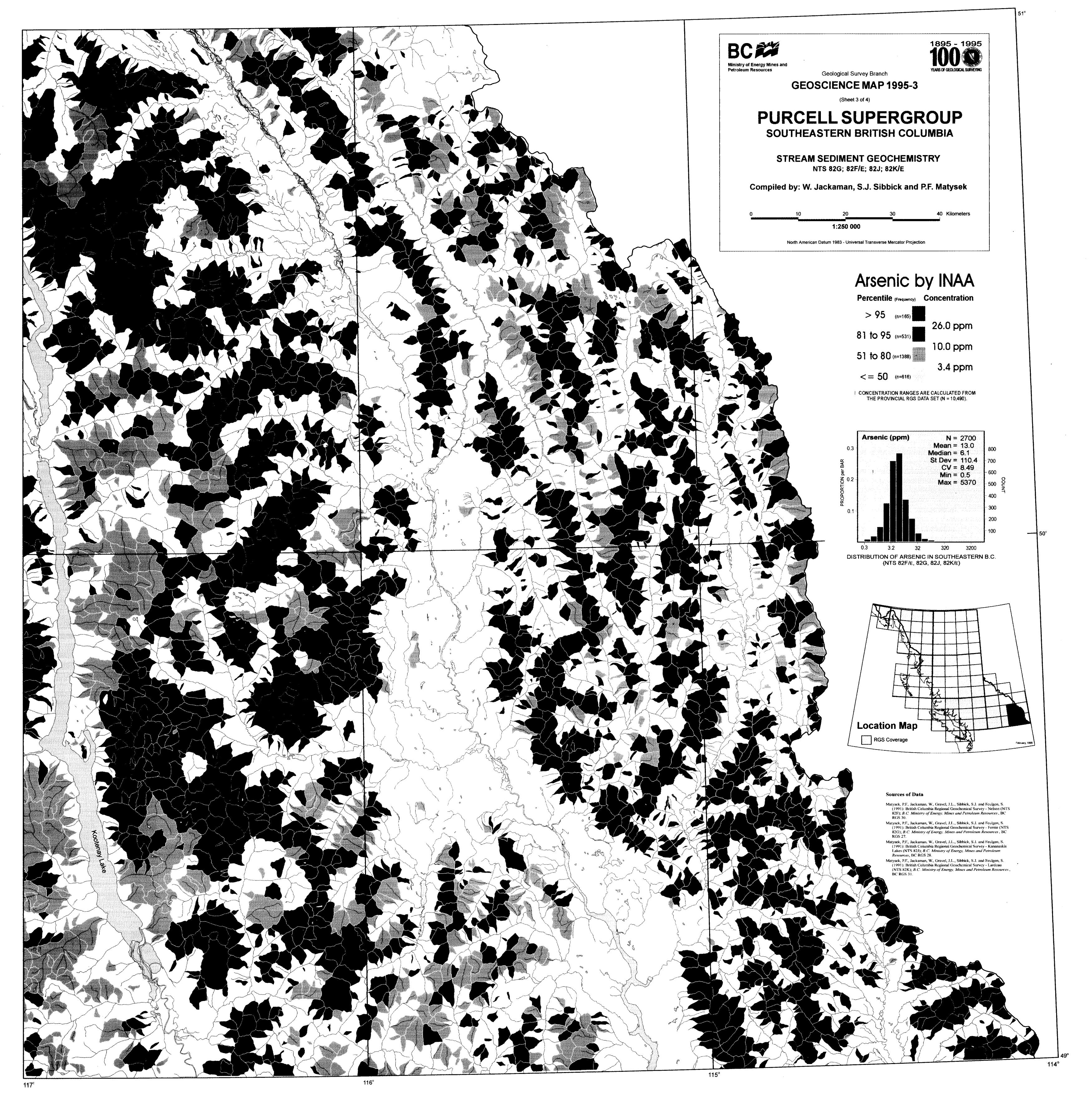
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IN SOUTHEASTERN B.C. (NTS 82F/e, 82G, 82J, 82K/e)



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