



**BC SOUTH COAST
MASSIVE RIVER
DIVERSION DEVELOPMENT**

Legend: Permanent project structure: 

Transmission line:

- 500 KV: 
- 230 KV: 
- 69 KV: 

Water license applications: 

Campbell River



To learn more, visit: www.bc-creeks.org, www.kinaklini.info or email info@bc-creeks.org

Background

British Columbia is currently experiencing the rapid development of hydroelectric projects by independent power producers. These projects are a response to the BC government's current energy plan, which overestimates future energy demand, requiring that BC Hydro purchase vast amounts of energy from private companies. Many previously undeveloped watersheds on the south-central coast have been particularly hard-hit by these river diversion developments, with major multi-creek projects planned or underway in the Bute, Toba, Knight, and Jervis Inlets. Although the government and independent powers producers promote these as "green" energy projects, the density, scale, and remote location of these developments raises questions about how green this energy really is.

These wilderness rivers need your voice! Your informed opinion does matter and public participation in the environmental assessment can play a key role in the approval process.

The Scale

The scale of river diversion development is unprecedented in British Columbia. **Fifty-two creeks** in the south-central coast are slated for development by four major private power companies, and others are catching on. This area is ground zero for the liquid gold rush. Projects planned for Bute, Toba, Knight, and Jervis Inlets would result in

1650 MW of new power. One project in Bute Inlet alone would produce ~70% of the power of proposed Site C on the Peace River.

1000+ km of new transmission line requiring deforestation of more than 8000 hectares of land, the equivalent of 20,000 football fields.

150+ km of penstock as large as 10 m diameter, diverting up to 90% of the water from creeks and rivers.

disposal of vast amounts of **waste rock** from tunnel boring. In Knight Inlet, the Klinaklini Hydroelectric Project alone will produce 1.6 million cubic meters.

400+ km of new access roads including over 150 bridges.

construction of **50 power houses**

The Impacts

of river diversion developments are largely unknown and poorly researched. The precautionary principle is not applied by government and industry.

Construction of powerhouses, construction camps, roads, and transmission lines **destroy habitat** essential for the survival of endangered species such as marbled murrelets that require old growth trees for nesting.

Fragmentation of large areas of wilderness by new roads and transmission lines **impacts large predators** such as wolves and bears that have extensive territories, and cuts off migration routes of other species.

Downstream effects of river diversion on aquatic species, including salmon and eulachon, are **unknown**.

Dams and weirs are potential **barriers to migration** for anadromous fish that rely on habitat above the weir for spawning; there is little consideration of **impacts on resident fish** due to dewatering.

New projects increases our ecological footprint and **reduces resilience** of the environment to other stresses such as **climate change**

Cumulative impacts of multiple diversion projects, logging, mining, commercial fishing, salmon farming, and other developments on ecosystems are **understudied** and **largely unknown** and should be **better understood** before development takes place.