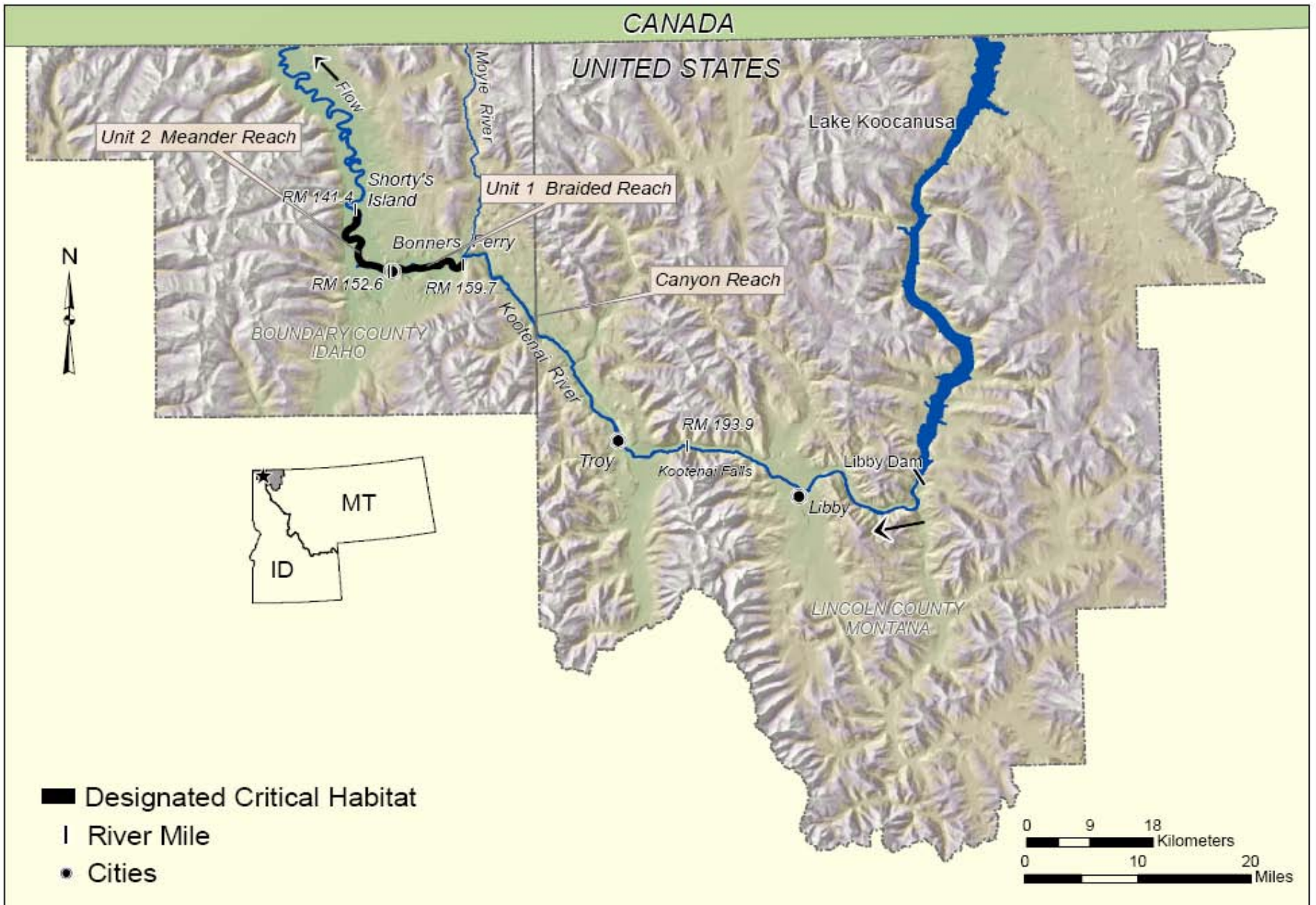


Current Conservation Strategies for Kootenai River White Sturgeon, January 2007

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Designated Critical Habitat for Kootenai River Population of White Sturgeon



Essential Habitat Attributes

Essential habitat attributes that must *ALL* be provided in the proper sequence

- 1. Water depth, velocity, and turbulence suitable to attract spawners to suitable sites
- 2. Descending limb of hydrograph when fish present and in spawning condition
- 3. Increasing water temperatures when fish are present and in spawning condition
- 4. An extensive reach of rocky substrate for embryo attachment and free embryo cover
- 5. Water velocity to provide cover for embryos and free embryos

Three Current Habitat Conservation Strategies

- 1. Take habitat to the spawners: The Meander Reach
- 2. Take the spawners to the habitat: The Braided Reach
 - a. Flows only
 - b. Channel constriction with modest water management

KOOTENAI RIVER DOWNSTREAM OF SHORTY ISLAND (facing upstream)



DOWNSTREAM BOUNDARY OF THE BRAIDED REACH (facing upstream)



Rectified Aerial Photos Taken during 1978 and 1998 with Comparable Streamflow Conditions

