



November 19, 2018

The Honourable Claire Trevena
 Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
 Room 306, Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC
 V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena,

We are contacting you on behalf of a large number of recreational anglers and several fish conservation advocacy groups (e.g. BC Wildlife Federation, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Steelhead Society of BC, BC Federation of Drift Fishers, Watershed Watch, etc.) to explore what steps we might undertake to name the Highway 1 bridge crossing the Thompson River near the community of Spences Bridge "Steelhead Memorial Bridge". This would be in remembrance of a once internationally renowned steelhead resource now subjected to the contorted process of being formally listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA).

You are not likely aware, but the Thompson River steelhead are on the verge of extinction and already recommended for an emergency listing under SARA by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Unfortunately, the process of going from a COSEWIC recommendation to a formal SARA listing will take two more years by which time this treasured resource will be that much closer to extinction and impossible to recover, if it isn't already. The grim reality is the listing is unlikely because that action would require implementation of strict conservation measures that would constrain too many other fisheries and commercial interests for the sake of 150 fish (the estimated remaining spawning population of these magnificent fish in the spring of 2018). Placing a name on the bridge would, hopefully, awake the interest of a much broader public that ultimately might learn how conservation or lack thereof manifests itself.

Your advice and direction on how we might acknowledge a formerly iconic British Columbia resource by naming a bridge in its honour will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Yours in conservation,

Harvey Andrusak
 President
 BC Wildlife Federation

Jesse Blake
 President
 BC Federation of Fly Fishers

Rodney Clapton
 President
 BC Federation of Drift Fishers

Mark Angelo
 Rivers Chair
 Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

Aaron Hill
 Watershed Watch Salmon Society
 Executive Director



Copies to:

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, MP
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of the Province of British Columbia

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development