



Bow River Chapter – Trout Unlimited Canada
Suite 160, 6712 Fisher Street SE
Calgary, AB T2H 2A7

March 13, 2017

Honourable Shannon Phillips
Minister of Environment and Parks
Government of Alberta
208 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: Support for great protection of the Castle watershed

Dear Honourable Minister,

The Bow River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada is pleased to offer our support for increased protection for the Castle area. We believe the decisions being made in the Castle cannot be in isolation; it is time that Albertans collectively got more serious about protecting all of Alberta's headwaters.

Our area of focus is the Bow River from Bearspaw Dam to Carseland Weir including all major tributaries that enter the system throughout that stretch. The Bow River experiences many downstream impacts of headwater degradation including increased sedimentation of the river, deterioration of water quality and increased frequency and devastation of flooding events. These are all impacts that could be mitigated with a more comprehensive focus on water security throughout the eastern slopes.

All Albertans benefit from healthier headwaters. Our headwaters are the last refuge for bull and west slope cutthroat trout populations in our province, but they are so much more than that. These areas represent 80 percent of Alberta's fresh water supply and act as a natural buffer against major flooding events. Securing and preserving the Castle headwaters is a critical step in addressing this important provincial issue, and is something we can universally agree on as good stewards of the resource.

Thank you for your meaningful action on this file. We look forward to working with you and your team to make meaningful progress in recovering our species at risk, securing our watersheds and protecting Alberta's wilderness.

Kindest regards,

Rick Moses
President, Bow River Chapter – Trout Unlimited Canada