

From: [REDACTED]
To: CEAA.Springbank.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca
Cc: [Laura Friend](#); [NRCB Info](#)
Subject: Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project
Date: June 14, 2018 9:58:47 AM
Attachments: [Westslope cutthroat trout.jpg](#)
[Bull trout.jpg](#)
[Fish Location .jpg](#)

To: CEAA – Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (SR1)

Thank you for the opportunity to address concerns I have about Aquatic Ecology. I, along with family and friends fish the Elbow River between the Townsite of Redwood Meadows and Highway 22.

I have a copy of the Stantec EIS-March 2018 and have read Section 6.6 Aquatic Ecology. In the summary Stantec claim “pure-strain westslope cutthroat trout are not present within the RAA/LAA.” (p6.29) In a second reference Stantec claim “westslope cutthroat trout stocks are considered unlikely downstream of Bragg Creek.” (p6.27) Talking with a fish biologist at the Open House in Calgary/May 24,2018 he said they used data rather than actual field studies to make these claims. Using data that predates the flood of 2013 is irrelevant due to the significant changes in the Elbow River. Their assumptions are not justifiable.

Westslope Cutthroat trout are a threatened species under SARA. Bull trout are listed as Species of Concern and listed as sensitive. I fish these waters and have been catching Westslope Cutthroat trout. My family and I have caught Cutthroat and Bull trout less than a kilometre from the proposed diversion structure. I have attached photos of a Cutthroat I caught and released September 2016 and a Bull trout my son caught last year. For Stantec not to conduct an electrofishing survey/species identification and count in their early Environmental Assessment period is questionable. For a project of this size and scope statistical data alone is not acceptable. These threatened and sensitive species are in these waters downstream of Bragg Creek. Stantecs claims must not be accepted at face value. The summary admits changes could result in permanent alteration or destruction of fish habitat. (p6.29)

Therefore, I respectfully request CEAA pay particular attention to Aquatic Ecology pertaining to Westslope Cutthroat and Bull Trout habitat and survival.

Sincerely,

Brian Copithorne

