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April 20, 2023

Josh Pressey  
Regional Executive Director  
Regional Operations Cariboo  
Ministry of Forests  
200-640 Borland Street  
Williams Lake BC  
V2G 4T1

Dear Josh,

Subject: Moratorium on all industrial forest related activities including Road Permits within the Horsefly River Fisheries Sensitive Watershed.

An Order, signed June 7, 2018 by Michael C. Pedersen, Regional Executive Director of Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development declares the Horsefly River Watershed, identified as FR-5-001, a Fisheries Sensitive Watershed (FSW).

**The main objective is to protect the habitat of fish species which include Sockeye, Kokanee, Chinook and Coho salmon, Bull and Rainbow trout and other fish species.**

The following points support a pause in industrial forest activities.

1. The area of clear cut logging set out in the Order is within approximately 5% of its allowed Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA). There are discrepancies between agencies regarding current ECA status.
2. The water quality within the FSW has steadily declined, resulting in algae bloom, increased siltation, warmer water temperatures and lower water levels which negatively affects all aquatic habitat and has caused multiple years of river fishing closures.
3. The FSW provides some of the most important fish habitat in the Fraser River Watershed. Fisheries resources are comprised in part by Rainbow trout, a unique race of world class trophy size fish, which along with Sockeye salmon are biologically unique to the FSW at a cellular level. These two special fish along with Chinook, Kokanee and Coho rely heavily on the FSW for spawning and juvenile rearing.

4. Over the last 25 years the number of imperiled species in Canada has increased exponentially as reported by the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council. Interior Fraser Coho were assessed as threatened in 2016 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, they were also provided with further protective legislation through the *Fisheries Act*.
5. The BC government is committed to achieving stringent biodiversity objectives and is considering retaining more remnant old growth, ancient forest and big treed old growth. The untouched portion of the FSW is a wet, high elevation, steep alpine area and is integral to biodiversity and ecosystem protection. A portion of the remaining untouched area is classified as Interior Rain Forest.
6. Horsefly Lake provides pristine drinking water which is relied upon by all residences. Throughout the FSW area subsurface aquifers supplying other local residents are also at risk.
7. The FSW sees year round recreational use of fishing, camping, boating, hunting and winter activities which are enjoyed by First Nations, locals and visitors from all over the globe boosting the tourism sector.
8. Climate change is at a precarious level globally and the effects on fisheries are unpredictable, the likelihood of cumulative, preventable watershed damage is probably high and increases the risk for further environmental instability and declining water quality.

The Horsefly River Roundtable and its stakeholders hereby request a immediate moratorium on all industrial forest related activities including Road Permits within the FSW while environmentally sensitive harvest plans are created. We request that the following points be supported by the Association of BC Forest Professionals and the District Manager.

1. Complete a State of the Watershed Report, including tiers 1 and 2 data.
2. Completed hydrological impact assessments for the entire FSW including each basin and sub basin within it.
3. Install and monitor sensors for water temperature, volume and suspended sediment in mouths of all streams draining into Horsefly River and Horsefly Lake.
4. Thorough testing and monitoring of water quality of Horsefly Lake.
5. Collaborate and create a standard procedure for collecting and updating ECA data, including a definition of stands which are hydrologically recovered and considered forest.
6. Special planning and operational measures within areas of the Interior Rain Forest that will insure that any future development does not cause landslides, wildfires or excess surface erosion.
7. Members of the Association of BC Forest Professionals practice a higher level of environmental stewardship and increase the size of riparian areas, assign a higher value to wetland complexes and related drainages and minimize allowable disturbance levels when prescribing forest activities in the FSW.

8. Collaboration with all stakeholders in long term planning for effective and efficient restoration activities.

It is time to observe “Super Natural BC” and protect the Horsefly River Fisheries Sensitive Watershed. Forest revenue in BC is forecast to decrease while tourism has been contributing significant provincial revenue and it is forecast to increase in the coming years. Future British Columbians depend upon both industries to maintain biodiversity, clean air and water and a stable economy.

Sincerely,



Brian Englund  
President Horsefly River Roundtable

CC: Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, Xatsul First Nation, Williams Lake First Nation, Esketemc First Nation, Neskonlith Indian Band, Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band, Canim Lake Band, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, MLA Lorne Derksen, MP Todd Doherty, Coralee Oakes, MLA, Sonia Furstenau, Green Party, Mike Cullen and Minister Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and Michael Lee and Minister Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Jordan Sturdy and Kelly Greene, Parliamentary Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fin Donnelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Watershed Restoration, Renee Merrifield and Minister George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ministry of Environment, District Manager, Harold Stolar Ministry of Forests, Shane Berg, Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests, Christine Gelowitz, CEO Association of BC Forest Professionals, Forest Practices Board, Tolko, West Fraser, BCTS, David Eby-BC Premier, local trappers and guides Stuart Maitland, Joe Morhart, Len Teppema. West Coast Environmental Law, CRD Council and Area Director Maureen LeBourdais, Horsefly Board of Trade, SAWS, Womens Institute, Horsefly community club, Miocene community club, HVFD, AOTF, Scout Island.