



June 26, 2023

Honourable George Heyman, MLA  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Honourable Bruce Ralston, MLA  
Minister of Forests

**RE: Large-scale gravel extraction on the Vedder River.**

Dear Ministers Heyman and Ralson,

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC wishes to voice its concerns about the scale and extent of the MCSS gravel removal project that is proposed this summer for the Vedder River, Chilliwack. This commercial sediment removal project is unprecedented in scale and carries a significant risk of damage to pink salmon rearing habitat, along with the potential for massive erosion of the stream bed and large-scale sediment movement.

We believe that unless there's clear scientific evidence to the contrary, an appropriate precautionary approach to caring for the river and its fish stocks would dictate not proceeding with such a removal during a pink salmon year.

ORCBC is a charitable society with more than 70 organizational members spanning the entire spectrum of outdoor recreation user groups, including paddlers, hikers, mountain bikers, off-road motorcyclists, equestrians, snowmobilers, quad riders, anglers and other outdoor interests. We indirectly represent more than 100,000 British Columbians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. A. Pedersen".

Louise Pedersen, Executive Director  
Outdoor Recreation Council of BC