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St. Louis MO 63130
February 22, 2003

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FEB 25 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Missouri Land Reclamation
Commission

PO Box 176

Jefferson City MO 65102

Gentlemen:

The Missouri Department of Conservation has spent a great deal of money to improve the quality of natural fisheries in Missouri. The natural flowing springs, creeks, streams and rivers have be the focus of a large part of their efforts and expense.

It seems that expanding gravel mining in these waterways would not be in the interest of the State and it's citizens. It would mean one government agency destroying the work of another. And any increase in tax income from gravel mining would be at the expense of the tax money already spent on improving the waterways. You'd be robbing Peter to pay Paul, so to speak.

Natural flowing waterways bring a great deal of income to Missouri landowners and businesses. Last year, I fished the Little Piney along side of a busload of fly fishers from Colorado. Missouri is now known as one of the best trout fishing states in the country, and people from all over come here.

Don't destroy this resource.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jerry Spector

Jerry Spector
Licensed Professional Counselor

Tom Hertel
3024 Northern Lights
Arnold, Mo.
63010

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FEB 25 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Mr. Ted A. Smith, Chairman
Missouri Land Reclamation Commission
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri
65102

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am a resident, property owner, and registered voter in the State of Missouri.

By this letter, please be advised that I am ADAMANTLY OPPOSED to in-stream gravel mining.

Please take all possible steps to implement stringent regulations regarding the removal of sand and gravel from streambeds and adjacent locations.

Sincerely,

Tom Hertel

Tom Hertel

"Graham, Marlan"
<mgraham@archwaysales.com>

02/24/2003 03:33 PM

To: nrlarsm@mail.dnr.state.mo.us
cc:
Subject: Gravel Mining Issues

I am a member of Ozark Flyfishersand have seen the effects ot gravel mining on many streams in Missouri. "As a taxpayer and resident of Missouri, I urge you to adopt strong rules

toregulate gravel mining on the streams of our state. It is my belief that

the"workgroup" formed by the DNR on this issue was dominated by gravel

minersand other interests opposed to any meaningful regulation of the gravel

miningindustry, and that its recommendations are far too weak to provide any

significantprotection to the streams of our state.

In order to adequately protect our streams, the DNR should adopt

enforceableregulations, not unenforceable "guidelines," and these

regulationsshould include:

1. A buffer zone requirement.

2. A depth restriction at one foot above water level.

3. Prohibition on gravel mining in OutstandingStateand National

Resource Waters.

4. A requirement that the DNR maintain a list of the location of

endangeredspecies, and that gravel mining be prohibited in those locations.

Such regulations are necessary because indiscriminate gravel mining can lead tobank erosion, channel relocation, and general degradation of the surroundingenvironment. These effects can damage public infrastructure (i.e. bridges, culverts, etc.), private property, and environmental quality both at thegravel mine site, and extending far upstream and downstream of its location. Indiscriminate gravel mining can also reduce aquatic diversity and gamefish populations. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission found a 50% decreasein smallmouth bass numbers downstream from irresponsibly operated gravelmines.

Finally, the environmental and economic costs of unregulated gravel miningmay outweigh any economic benefits produced by the gravel mining industryitself. Missouri's clear Ozark streams are ecological gems which providesignificant economic benefit to the state through fishing, floating, andtourism. They need protection from unregulated and indiscriminate gravel mining. I, personally, fish and canoe on the streams of our state, and I do notwant to see these waters degraded by indiscriminate gravel mining. I urgeyou to adopt strong regulations which will protect this valuable resource."

Regards,

Marlan Graham

February 21, 2003

Land Reclamation Commission
c/o Staff Director of the Land Reclamation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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FEB 24 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for providing notice of progress on the proposed rules regarding the commercial mining of sand and gravel from rivers and streams. Sand and gravel mining is a difficult enterprise to regulate. The commodities mined are needed by everyone, private land and business interests come into play, and the quality of commonwealth resources can under some circumstances be adversely effected.

As a citizen of Missouri, I do not believe that the commercial mining of sand and gravel from rivers and streams should be banned. I do however firmly believe that such mining should be subject to reasonable regulation to avoid abuses by a few that can adversely effect many. I have thought from the beginning that attaching "GP34M" type stipulations to commercial mining permits was reasonable. Additional refinements to the stipulations recommended by the advisory workgroup should make the stipulations even more reasonable. I am less concerned with the final form of the stipulations than the larger issue of proceeding to attach reasonable

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bK

guidelines to commercial permits for sand and gravel mining from Missouri's rivers and streams.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

George Kromrey
9 Karen Ann Circle
Sullivan, MO 63080

FFFTU@aol.com
02/23/2003 10:55 PM

To: nrlarsm@mail.dnr.state.mo.us
cc:
Subject: Gravel Mining

As a taxpayer and resident of Missouri, I urge you to adopt strong rules to regulate gravel mining on the streams of our state. It is my belief that the "workgroup" formed by the DNR on this issue was dominated by gravel miners and other interests opposed to any meaningful regulation of the gravel mining industry, and that its recommendations are far too weak to provide any significant protection to the streams of our state.

In order to adequately protect our streams, the DNR should adopt enforceable regulations, not unenforceable "guidelines," and these regulations should include:

1. A buffer requirement.

2. A depth restriction at one foot above water level.

3. Prohibition on gravel mining in Outstanding State and National Resource Waters.

4. A requirement that the DNR maintain a list of the location of endangered species, and that gravel mining be prohibited in those locations.

Such regulations are necessary because indiscriminate gravel mining can lead to bank erosion, channel relocation, and general degradation of the surrounding environment. These effects can damage public infrastructure (i.e. bridges, culverts, etc.), private property, and environmental quality both at the gravel mine site, and extending far upstream and downstream of its location. Indiscriminate gravel mining can also reduce aquatic diversity and game fish populations. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission found a 50% decrease in smallmouth bass numbers downstream from irresponsibly operated gravel mines.

Finally, the environmental and economic costs of unregulated gravel mining may outweigh any economic benefits produced by the gravel mining industry itself. Missouri's clear Ozark streams are ecological gems which provide significant economic benefit to the state through fishing, floating, and tourism. They need protection from unregulated and indiscriminate gravel mining. I, personally, fish and canoe on the streams of our state, and I do not want to see these waters degraded by indiscriminate gravel mining. I urge you to adopt strong regulations which will protect this valuable resource.

David Haas
1957 Beacongrove Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146-3636

February 17, 2003

Staff Director of Land Reclamation Program/Land Reclamation Commission
MO Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to urge you to adopt the version of the instream gravel mining rules proposed by the American Fisheries Society during recent Gravel Mining Working Group deliberations. We own a farm in northern Boone County on which we harvest timber, fish and hunt. Conservation of Missouri's valuable natural resources are of utmost importance to us. We want our two children and their future children to enjoy Missouri's nationally recognized streams as we've known them.

Although gravel and sand mined from Missouri's streams certainly have some economic value to our economy, the economic benefits of that mining come nowhere close to the positive economic impacts generated in our state by stream fishing, canoeing, hunting, etc. The federal government reports that in 1996, stream fishing alone generated more than $ 170 million to our state's economy! Rules for gravel mining have been in place and used by miners in previous years (1995 - 1997) with no documented negative economic impacts, disputing the claim by some miners that they are being over-regulated.

Fisheries scientists have shown that gravel mining 1) causes erosion of streamside real estate (private & public), 2) damage to public roads, bridges, pipelines, and utility lines, 3) degrades stream fish populations, and 4) damages biological diversity. Scientific reports also debunk as nonsense the myth perpetuated by some miners that stream gravel must be cleaned out or pushed to the sides of streams.

We are tree farmers, so we appreciate the benefits of harvesting/extracting renewable resources in a responsible manner. However, instream gravel is not a renewable resource. Instream mining of it is not a responsible practice. We have witnessed the damage caused by this practice. Instream gravel mining is not only a losing proposition economically, but it also threatens our proud conservation heritage and our natural resources. Please help protect our streams so that our children can grow up experiencing a Missouri tradition: canoeing and catching fish on a beautiful Ozark stream.

Sincerely,

Cindy DiStefano
Bob DiStefano

Cindy and Bob DiStefano
6700 Stidham Road
Harrisburg, MO 65256

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FEB 2 1 2003

MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

February 18,2003

Land Reclamation Program,
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Dear Staff Director,

We don't believe there is any reason to have rules or regulations on sand and gravel mining. We believe it will hurt our economy more and won't help our streams or rivers.

My wife, daughter and myself came here nine years ago and bought a place a few miles from Bryant Creek. Every year we fish, swim and float a lot of the creek in Douglas County. We catch different kinds of fish and the water is clear as a crystal just beautiful.

I can not understand why you want to fix something that isn't broken.

We better start helping our farmers. I don't think the third World will be able to supply all our food yet!!

Sincerely

Ray Moore
Ray Moore

Carol Moore
Carol Moore

February 10, 2003

Land Reclamation Commission
Missouri DNR
P.O. BOX 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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FEB 1 1 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Re: Stream Protections

Dear Land Reclamation Commission:

I am writing to urge you not to weaken the existing guidelines governing gravel mining in Missouri's streams. Senator Sarah Steelman has proposed Senate Bill 360, which would eliminate the regulation of most gravel miners in the state. I find this bill extremely discouraging. Please do not be persuaded by the gravel mining industry that Missouri should forsake it's natural inheritance to future generations for their financial benefit. Please maintain strong guidelines that will protect Missouri's natural environment.

For years, gravel miners have been regulated by reasonable guidelines established by the Department of Natural Resources. These guidelines prevented miners from digging huge holes in streams, required that a small buffer be left at the water's edge and excluded toxic materials from the floodplain. Even with these protections in place, many streams were destroyed because some miners ignored the guidelines, or were exempted by loopholes in state law.

Missouri has a tremendous natural heritage. This includes numerous Ozark streams that millions of people have visited for floating, fishing and other outdoor recreation. Our continued prosperity depends on maintaining these resources for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Christopher Rowley, Ph.D.

J. BOTWINICK
811 Westview Drive
University City, MO 63130

Feb. 2, 2003

Land Reclamation Commission
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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FEB 10 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am disturbed by the excessive gravel mining by commercial operators in our state and feel we need more guidelines that are enforceable. I believe there should be more control of government operations also.

Please don't put our streams at risk.

Sincerely,
(Mrs) Joan Botwinick

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FEB 1 8 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

882 Lionsgate Dr
St Louis, MO 63130
February 13, 2003

Department of Natural Resources
Land Reclamation Commission for the Establishment of Regulations for the Sand and Gravel Mining Industry in Missouri
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commission:

Because I and my friends love the outdoors in the Ozarks, and float and hike in the area, I am very concerned that Ozark streams be kept in as natural a state as possible. I am also concerned about habitat for animals and birds.

I feel there have been too many compromises made as the regulations were altered from the set presented in 1994-5. These alterations have weakened the ability of the regs to protect the streams and habitat of various animals and birds. The regs need to follow practices that are accepted as good for forests, and ensure that further restoration of stream areas that have been degraded take place! Spawning seasons for native fishes should be respected, by regulating in which months gravel mining is allowed!

The Commission should not allow commercial interests to perform work that, in the long run, causes permanent damage to the environment and thus, decreases the possibilities for other uses of the streams. You should not put short term financial gain for a few ahead of the desire of the many to prevent long term degradation of the natural environment. This environment is very valuable for the future of tourism in the state.

I feel that too many votes were given to those who have vested interests in various companies that desire to mine gravel from streams, while individuals who will receive no financial gain from preserving and restoring streams were not adequately heard.

I understand that, under the proposed regulations, specific individuals will be allowed to request "site specific" guidelines, and thus evade the overall purpose of the regulations, to preserve and restore streams. This is certainly not acceptable.

I further understand the regs will allow gravel bars that contain 6- 10 year old willow and sycamore trees to be taken out. I cannot understand the rationale behind removing such natural growth!! I thought the idea was to allow "stabilized" gravel bars to remain in place?? How long do trees have to be in place for the bar to be "stabilized"?

I also think that a 25 foot buffer zone is not enough to prevent the work from endangering species that live in the area.

The current regulations do not ensure that stream banks will be returned to their former natural state after gravel mining is complete. Nor is the wording strict enough to ensure that, where the construction of a road was allowed, the area becomes natural again, and no further incursions by powered vehicles are allowed.

The regulations do not make it clear that, if a contractor does the work, s/he is also required to follow the regulations!

Please ensure that the interests of those of us who use the natural areas (and contribute our tourist dollars) are not ignored to allow short term financial gain to a few!

Sincerely yours,

Neville Rapp

Neville Rapp