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MAR 1 4 2003

MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSIO

MO Land Reclamation Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Dear Land Reclamation Commission:

Time is fast approaching where the LRC must decide on strong regulations to protect Missouri's clear streams from potential damage by unregulated gravel mining.

Missouri is one of the leading producers of gravel in the nation. I have no problem with gravel mining but it must be done in a reasonable manner. The streams of Missouri are a huge resource. Allowing any size operator to continue removing resources without complying with the accepted practices that protect those resources is negligent.

Numerous scientific studies have indicated that gravel mining actually is a negative economic influence when all aspects are considered. The U.S. Department of Interior reported stream fishing accounted for $170 million in direct expenditures in 1996. Just think what kind of revenue was produced from the other tourism resulting from use of Missouri streams.

The streams are a renewable resource. They exist forever without cost IF left in their own environment. Destroying the integrity of the resource with unregulated gravel mining will have a negative impact on the entire area for years, not just the small area with the scar of the mining operation.

As a fisherman I contribute to the resource by releasing most of the fish I catch. I respect the landowners rights and carry out litter whenever possible. I fish according to the applicable regulations. It is through strong regulations that Missouri has an outstanding reputation as a smallmouth fishery. I spend money on equipment, lodging, food, an occasional guide, gasoline and other local expenses. If the streams of Missouri are defiled I will spend my fishing dollars in another state.

Missouri has one of the best conservation departments in the nation but it is at the mercy of others that control the land and streams. Recent improvements in fishing regulations have already started to attract anglers across the nation because of the improved smallmouth bass populations and size in Missouri streams. Don't let such a successful program be undermined by an unregulated industry. Mining and stream use can coexist if there are rules in place that are enforced.

Realistic rules and enforcement will provide for economic stability of the gravel mining industry and protection of water quality and stream resources for future generations. Please enact strong regulations to protect our streams from gravel mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue.

Donald Lesl
6564 Deerwood Dr.
Cedar Hill MO
63016

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MAR 14 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

March 11, 2003

Land Reclamation Commission
C/o Mr. Larry Coen
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Coen,

My name is Karl Larson. I live in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. I frequent allot of one of Missouri most precious resources, Missouri Streams. I am writing to you today to ask that you to oppose the Bill introduced by Senators Sarah Steelman and John Russell that will decrease the regulations of Gravel Mining in Missouri. (Senate Bill 36).

I am not writing to you on behalf of Trout Unlimited, but I am writing to you as an individual member and constituent. By allowing this bill to pass will do nothing to help one of Missouri's precious resources clean clear water. A bill of this nature will and can only allow continued misuse of Missouri's natural resources. Every time I travel to the Ozarks I see the continued misuse of our natural resources such as the removal of timber and logs with no replenishment whatsoever. I am sick and tired of seeing this. There is no excuse for this. I am in favor of creating jobs in this time of economic need in this great state and nation we live in. But please, not at the expense of our Natural Resources. By decreasing the regulations, gravel mining that is not permitted will increase the misuse of our Natural Resources. I have to get a permit to fish, and I release everything I catch. Why should gravel miners be allowed to remove natural resources without a permit? We all know that if gravel miners are allowed to remove gravel and sand from Missouri streams the streams will not be the same because they can't replace what they take.

Again, I am asking you as a citizen of this state and nation NOT to support this bill and ask that the rules be put in place for ALL gravel mining operations that are being permitted now.

We live in a great state and a wonderful nation. Please do not support this bill in anyway. It can only have a continued negative impact on our well being.

Thank you,

Karl A. Larson

Karl A. Larson
1637 David Street
Cape Girardeau, Mo 63701
573-339-7853

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MAR 14 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

MO Land Reclamation Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102.

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Numerous scientific studies have indicated that gravel mining actually is a negative economic influence when all aspects are considered. The U.S. Department of Interior reported stream fishing accounted for $170 million in direct expenditures in 1996. Just think what kind of revenue was produced from the other tourism resulting from use of Missouri streams.

The streams are a renewable resource. They exist forever without cost IF left in their own environment. Destroying the integrity of the resource with unregulated gravel mining will have a negative impact on the entire area for years, not just the small area with the scar of the mining operation.

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Realistic rules and enforcement will provide for economic stability of the gravel mining industry and protection of water quality and stream resources for future generations. Please enact strong regulations to protect our streams from gravel mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue.

Kip Borgschulte
STREAM TEAM #1409
KBorgschulte@charter.net

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MAR 1 4 2003

MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Dear Land Reclamation Commission:

I'm writing to you today to urge you to adopt the version of the instream gravel mining rules proposed by the American Fisheries Society during the recent Gravel Mining Working Group deliberations.

I'm a fisher/hunter that enjoys the wild places of Missouri. I especially enjoy floating and fishing Missouri streams. I have fished many floatable/wadeable streams and Missouri holds some of the most wonderful waters I have ever encountered. If I start a family here in Missouri, I want my children and grandchildren to enjoy Missouri's nationally recognized rivers and streams as I've known them. Present decisions regarding Missouri streams should include conserving and preserving them for future generations.

You recognize that gravel and sand mined from Missouri's streams are economically important commodities ($41 million in 1995). However, fishing and other stream-based recreation also are economically important activities in Missouri; stream fishing alone accounted for $170 million in 1996. This figure does not include the additional economic activity generated by swimmers, canoeists, hunters, and other stream recreationists.

The proposed rules for instream gravel mining were previously in place and followed by gravel miners for two years (April 1995 to April 1997), so claims by miners that the new rules will increase their costs are without basis. There have been no documented negative economic impacts to the Ozark region or the mining industry under the existing regulations.

The negative effects of instream gravel mining are well documented in the scientific research literature. These effects have been documented not only nationally but also in the Ozarks of Missouri and Arkansas. Effects include erosion of streamside private property (and its real estate value), erosion of public property, damage to private and public infrastructure (roads, bridges, pipelines, and utility lines), losses in productivity of our valuable fisheries, and losses to our rich biological diversity. Claims by rules opponents that gravel must be "cleaned out" of our streams to prevent erosion or should be bulldozed against eroding stream banks to protect them are quickly revealed as untrue once these claims are compared to the indisputable facts uncovered by scientists over the last 20 years. In other words, the science speaks for itself.

I've personally witnessed the damage that uncontrolled gravel mining can produce. It leaves a very ugly scour in the stream channel, destroys fish and invertebrate habitat, and alters the dynamics of stream flow. Uncontrolled mining is not only a danger to Missouri's economy, it's also a danger to an important part of Missouri's heritage: laughing children catching their first fish with proud parents looking on.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Horner
Harrisburg, MO

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MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

March 12, 2003

Staff Director
Land Reclamation Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am an avid outdoorsman with a strong interest in environmentally-sensitive management of our terrestrial and aquatic resources. I began fishing as a small child in Wisconsin and anticipate continuing to fish as long as I'm able. As our population increases it is becoming increasingly important to protect Missouri's stream resources, which provide recreational opportunities for a wide array of anglers, canoeists, and folks simply observing fish and wildlife. Therefore I'm writing to you today to urge you to adopt the American Fisheries Society's version of the in stream gravel mining rules as proposed during the recent Gravel Mining Working Group deliberations.

I realize that gravel mining provides an economically important resource for the variety of building and road construction that takes place in Missouri. However, mining needs to be conducted in a manner which reduces impacts to our aquatic resources. While gravel mined in Missouri was valued at over $40 million in 1995, fishing, canoeing, and other stream recreation accounted for $170 million in 1996. In much of Missouri's Ozarks, tourism is the number one industry, and many tourists are drawn by the beauty and uniqueness of our Ozark streams.

The guidelines as proposed by the American Fisheries Society do not prevent gravel mining in Missouri's Ozarks and do not place undue hardship on gravel miners. The guidelines have been in place previously for two years and while possibly causing some inconvenience to gravel miners, did not put them out of business. The negative impacts of in stream gravel mining have been well-documented and in some cases have been devastating. Stream beds and banks are destabilized, causing head-cutting and erosion of banks and bridge supports. In addition, aquatic productivity is reduced, resulting in fewer recreational opportunities for anglers.

At a meeting with gravel miners in St. Louis in the early 1980s, Mr. Winter of Winter Brothers, a large gravel mining company, stated that their company could provide all of St. Louis County's gravel needs for the next 75 years from the floodplain of the Meramec River without needing to remove any further gravel from the stream itself. Gravel can be economically mined from the flood plain of rivers without mining in stream. During the 1980s I had the opportunity to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, gravel miners, and representatives from the Missouri Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation, and got to see first-hand the impacts in stream gravel mining has on Missouri streams.

Although I don't have any children of my own, I have had the opportunity to introduce youngsters to the joys of fishing. The future health of our children depends upon their continued interaction with and appreciation of the outdoors. We have an opportunity to protect Missouri's unique aquatic resources for those kids and their kids, while at the same time ensuring that Missouri remains a magnet for and example to people from other parts of the country. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Alan Buchanan
1001 S. Johnmeyer Lane
Columbia, MO 65203

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MAR 1 4 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Staff Director
Land Reclamation Commission
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo 65102

March 10, 2003

Dear Land Reclamation Commission:

I am writing in support of the instream gravel mining rules proposed by the American Fisheries Society (AFS) during the recent Gravel Mining Working Group meetings. I support regulating gravel mining as a canoeist, fisherman and conservationist, who also farms,to protect Missouri streams from degradation due to unregulated gravel mining. I want future generations to enjoy the beauty and health of our streams as I have for the last 25 plus years. Gravel mining is an important industry in some portions of Missouri and helps many smaller communities utilize a product for roads and construction materials. A very good friend of mine is a gravel miner and in talking with him he mined gravel when it was regulated by the Corps of Engineers. He had no problem compiling with the regulations and it did not interfere with his business or livelihood in mining gravel. I assume my friend was no different than most small businessmen who mined gravel and if he did not mind the regulations then why are so many gravel miners upset now with a rule that they have previously had to comply with?

The negative impact of gravel mining is well documented in several case studies as published in peer reviewed scientific literature. Unregulated gravel mining impacts include excessive stream bank erosion, destruction of riparian corridors, head cutting of streams that cost taxpayers and landowners thousands of dollars in loss of soil and in the worst case threatens the integrity of bridges, roads and buildings. All of these threats impact fish and other aquatic life in our streams.

I feel that with the regulations recommended by AFS that we can still mine gravel, not impact the livelihood of gravel miners and protect Missouri streams from excessive destruction.

On the same stream that my friend mines gravel I have witnessed the action of other gravel miners who have not been regulated and saw the stream widen with every flood as trees along the riparian corridors fall in as head cuts move upstream from the gravel mining area. The same area once produced excellent fishing and swimming by local children now support only a desert of gravel piles wrought by unregulated gravel mining.

Sincerely,

Ron Dent

Ron Dent
RR2 Box 202
Cole Camp, MO 65325

To: Land Reclamation Committee

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MAR 1 4 2003
MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

From: Citizens of Texas County, State of Missouri, USA

Dear Sirs,

By the guidelines of the National Environment Protection Act, " Texas County citizens developed a Land Use Management Plan. It gives guidance for democratically elected officials of Texas County to implement this plan. The primary goal is to protect the customs, culture and environment of its citizens. It is to protect private property, facilitate a free market economy and establish a process to encourage self-determination by local communities and individuals.

The indigenous citizens of Texas County use gravel from their land. "The custom and culture associated with agriculture production in Texas county is necessary for the livelihood and well being of its citizens – thereby protecting private property rights with free market conditions."

The gravel is here and so are the gravel roads. To hinder these cultural and traditional practices would create an economical burden in an already economically strapped county. It is an economical burden to the citizens that are forced to pay the Department of Natural Resources for a permit to mine gravel from their own county; even when it is given to them by a individual property owner! Our streams and rivers are congested with debris of sand and gravel bars. Our gravel industry supplies townships, cement manufacturers, school buses, dairy industry, building contractors. Our citizens should not be forced to carry the burden of paying the extra expense for gravel to be imported from distant counties, due to regulations imposed by D.N.R. The extra expense of insurance and additional maintenance of trucks and State Highways would be economically unwarranted.

As the population expands throughout our county, we continue to expand our roads. We, the citizens of Texas County, have been managing our land and rivers and we have one of the most diversified wild species population and best fishing streams and rivers in the United States. If we are to be restricted to manage our natural resources, our rivers and streams will meander all over the land destroying cropland, pastureland, gravel roads, fords, causeways, and bridges. Our roads will become unusable, population will decrease, industry will decrease, and our towns will become unpopulated.

The removal of sediment mounds of sand and gravel can be used as a sustainable agricultural product. The Texas County Management Plan has elected officers to manage their Sustainable Human Development for the betterment of their sustainable agricultural resources, ecology, economy, and its citizen's welfare.

The following text was edited from the Army Engineering Manual about **water drainage.** It explains the effects of water flow in creeks, streams, and rivers. The following guidance is used for the maintenance of riparian areas to preserve the cropland, pastureland, gravel roads, fords, causeways, and bridges to enhance a "Sustainable Human Development".

1. When a riparian area becomes too shallow, fish, reptiles, and animal predators of fish will either die or try to relocate.
2. Rain storms fill creeks, streams, and rivers with debris thereby creating shallowness.
3. When these riparian areas become too shallow, rain storms can channel out new water channels thereby damaging pastures, crop land, structures and roads.
4. A uniform flow of water is fashioned when the height of water is parallel to the bottom of the channel (FM5-335, Pg. 6-6). When water channel radius is increased, the velocity decreases. When the water channel is widened and the bottom deepened, the radius is increased (Pg. 6-20).
5. Water flowing over land carries sediment into water channels. This sediment fills the deeper areas of this channel thereby decreasing the channel radius and increasing the current. When the water velocity exceeds the maximum soil resistance, the soil and gravel bank will erode thereby endangering the water channel itself. Erosion can be prevented by lessoning the velocity of water below the soil erosion velocity (Pg. 6-19).

Therefore it would be advisable to take out all obstacles that make rivers narrower producing faster currents. To increase the radius will enable a greater volume of water and slower current that will retard erosion and flooding. (see map on Pg. 3)

6. There are many fords, causeways, and bridges in Texas County. Most of the roads are gravel. These roads extend across fords, causeways, and bridges. A ford is a place in a water channel bottom that permits the passage of vehicles, cattle, and pedestrians.
a.) The characteristics of a good ford: slow current – less than three miles an hour. b.) Low sloping banks. c) A uniform bottom depth with a firm bottom material.
A desirable location for a ford is in the water channel's REACH of the stream or river. In this reach, the channel is between the bends where the water is shallow. This is where it is readily adaptable for maintenance (FM5-335, Pg. 10-2).
In mountainous areas, sudden floods transport sediment of rocks and sediment thereby filling up low areas in riparian areas. (Pg. 10-4).

The citizens of Texas County request that the Land Reclamation Committee acknowledge and coordinate their plans according to The Texas County, State of Missouri, Land Use Management Plan.

Robert L Green, Chairman Texas County Land Use Planning Commission

Jack L. Watson, Chairman of Texas County Advisory Board President of Cass Township

Betty Adams - Vice President of Property Rights Congress of America

Richard D Dellerman Army National Guard Trg + Redirect

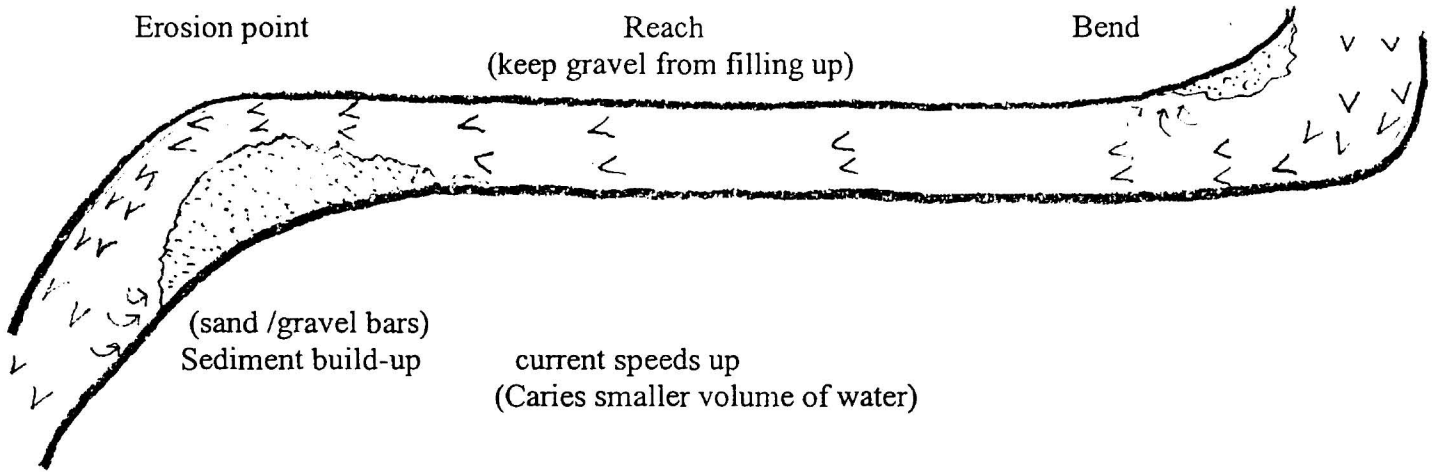
The citizens of Texas County request that the Land Reclamation Committee acknowledge and coordinate their plans according to The Texas County, State of Missouri, Land Use Management Plan.

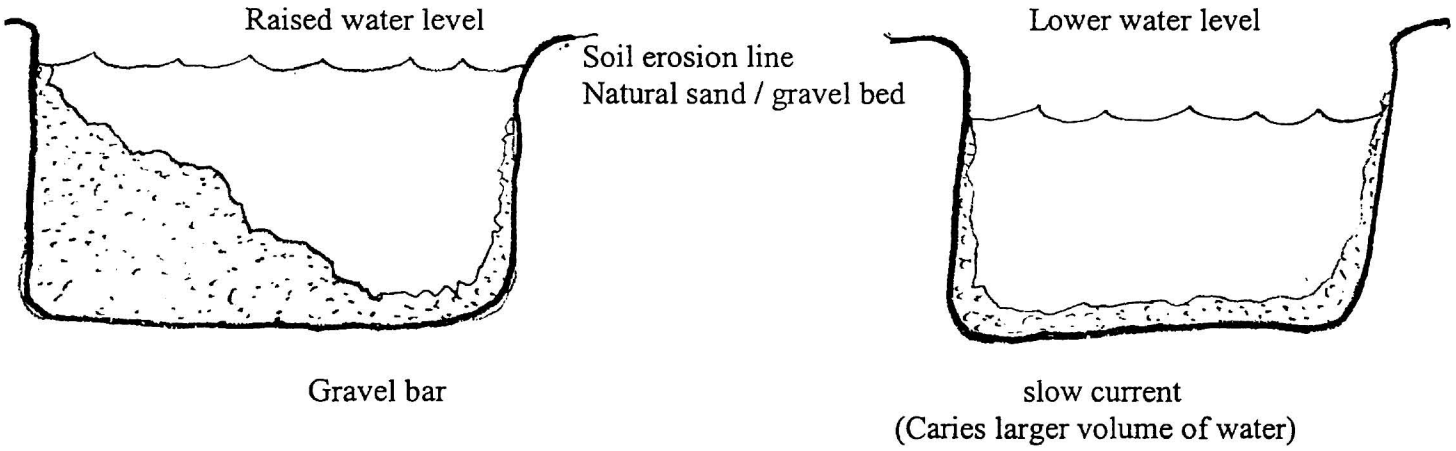
At the March 11, 2003 meeting, the Board of Directors Of Texas County Farm Bureau unanimously voted to endorse this letter and we oppose turning the guidelines into regulations.

Members present:

Richard Bost
Gus C Adams
Treatas Keaney
Joyce Jackson-Stark
Janie Fink
Donald Suessen
Bob Parker
Gerald Campbell

Riparian Areas: *Water Channels*





Maintenance: Take out all sand and gravel, referred as ' Sand Bars' from creeks, streams, and rivers without disturbing the 'soil erosion line' nor contaminating the soil and water. All townships or area stewardships are to over see this maintenance. All mining contractors are to get permission, from these township or stewardship personnel responsible of this function, before every time they are to mine gravel.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180

Telephone: 573/751-4115 ▲ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TDD)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

March 13, 2003

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MAR 1 4 2003

MISSOURI LAND
RECLAMATION COMMISSION

Mr. Larry Coen
Department of Natural Resources
Land Reclamation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Coen:

This correspondence is in reply to a letter received from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Land Reclamation Program, requesting comments on proposed excavation standards for in-stream gravel mining operations. At the request of DNR, the Department of Conservation served as an advisory agency during a number of recent stakeholder meetings.

The Department of Conservation is a member of DNR's Land Reclamation Commission. As a result, we have reviewed the packet of "preferred alternatives," developed by stakeholder groups, distributed at the January 30, 2003, meeting. We look forward to hearing discussions scheduled for March 26, 2003, and anticipate working with the Commission to consider all available information.

If you have any questions, Bob Ziehmer of my staff can be reached at (573)751-4115, extension 3601.

Sincerely,

John Hoskins

JOHN D. HOSKINS
DIRECTOR

COMMISSION

STEPHEN C. BRADFORD, Cape Girardeau
ANITA B. GORMAN, Kansas City
CYNTHIA METCALFE, St. Louis
HOWARD L. WOOD, Bonne Terre