

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: SB838

Committee Members,

I built a career in outdoor recreation because of my love for the environment. My summer work as a whitewater raft guide has found me on the Rogue River for literally hundreds and hundreds of trips specifically on the "middle" Rogue between Gold Ray dam and Gold Hill.

During my earlier years guiding (beginning in 1992) there were only a handful of suction dredge miners (about 2-5) along that stretch and the impact was minimal. Following the removal of the Gold Ray dam we anticipated a slight influx in suction dredging as the price of gold was rising and hopes of gold released with the water behind the dam heightened the possibility of more "color" being shown. What we didn't anticipate was the moratorium on suction dredging in California and the resulting rush of new miners on the Rogue.

This caused seasons where I have re-righted 2 dredges that were tied off wrong for the fluctuating water levels (where I saw the clear rainbows of petroleum on the surface of the water). I retrieved several 5 gallon buckets and a couple of fuel containers. The flumes of silt behind two of the dredges have deposited silt in an area where I used to see a pair of otters. I have not seen any otters nor muskrats nor mink since the number of dredges has increased to double digits in this 6.5 mile stretch.

There are now up to 30 suction dredges along this stretch. The ropes have created a hazard for safe passage if someone were out of the boat. The noise has greatly diminished the experience of my guests and in the congested areas causes everyone in the rafts to shout to hear each other. The recurring question I keep hearing from the guests is "Why hasn't anything been done about this?"

We CAN do something. We can pass SB 838. Please move this bill forward so that it can be voted on and we can have a moratorium on suction dredge mining in Oregon.

Fondly,

Arden Prehn
110 South Second St
PO Box 46
Talent, OR 97540
541-227-3173

Recreational Specialist (H2O~falling, frozen, frothing and flowing) Alpine, XCD, Nordic and Snowboard Whitewater Rafting, Fly Fishing