

**From:** Sharon Smith [<mailto:sharon@smittybelts.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 4:38 PM  
**To:** Reiley Beth  
**Subject:** Suction Dredging on the Rogue River.

We live on the Rogue River very close to the famous "Hardy Ripple". The first year that California put in a moratorium against Gold Dredgers, they moved up into our back yard. We saw an article that the 49ers had written and had a picture of our back yard as the best place to dredge for gold. That year we had **19** dredgers behind our house from day light to dark and almost every day for their season. We saw them filling their dredgers mid stream, pulling up their pants coming out of our bushes, tying up their dredgers to our bank, leaving trash in the bushes on the bank and fouling up neighbors irrigation systems.

**We have continued to have from 3 to 14 dredges at one time in our back yard.** Many are come from out of state as far as Chicago. They are rude, noisy and leave a dirty, trashy mess where they camp across the river from us where many of them put their dredgers in. We don't see the wild life that we use to when they are here. They yell and scream to each other all day long as well as play their radios late into the evening. Our house is very well insulated but we can still hear them. The dredgers are so loud that when our son was dying from brain cancer and wanted to go out and sit by the river, he couldn't. There was too many and too loud. We tried to talk with some of them to please give us some time for our son but they were rude and didn't care.

We watched and reported all of this along with them **dredging in the Salmon beds.** When we have taken pictures and called the authorities about an incident, it may be hours or days before they can come due to the short staff. By then, the Dredger is gone. I am glad they will have to have their permit number on the dredge. That might help with some of the rule breakers that we have seen over the years. A real enforcement presence in the field will help.

They have dredged up so many rocks in the river looking for Gold that you can walk across the river now. We feel it is only time when we will see a **boating accident** when the bottom of a boat is ripped out due to rocks only about 2 to 3" below surface in many places.

Their **local and out of state permits are cheaper than our local fishing licenses.** We are unable to fish from our bank during dredging system even though **we pay a higher price for a fishing permit,** pay high taxes for the privilege of living on the river, support the community all year versus their tourist money spent in a few months.

We support Senator Bates amendments. They won't cure the whole problem the Dredgers create but it is a start.

Thank you

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