

## Letter: Mining degrades the river

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I'm responding to The Columbian's Nov. 17 story "[Quarry rattles neighbors.](#)"



In 1978, my husband and I purchased rural acreage near La Center with about 250 feet of frontage on the East Fork of the Lewis River. Our property is downstream a bit from the old Stoughton's Landing, which used to be the end of the line for steamboats using the river to move logs.

When we purchased our property, the river had a bed of sand and river rock and hosted four runs of steelhead a year. Crawdads and trout were plentiful. We held Fourth of July picnics along the bank starting that first year.

Unfortunately, about 12 years ago, the river bottom started filling up with silt from the Storedahl gravel mining operating and now the silt is more than a foot deep, the fish are no more, and the river continues to be degraded more and more rapidly as Storedahl hauls in gravel from other mines to wash at its site. The 12-foot-high berms built to mask the activity don't hide the noise. Where is the department of environmental quality on this? Now Storedahl has been prepping a huge new site down the road from its Daybreak operation. It is truly tragic.