



Olde Beau RV Park filling up the Mitchell with Sediment
Update to BRTU members 11/11/2022

This summer our chapter received several reports of an RV park under construction at Olde Beau Golf resort in Roaring Gap that was spilling sediment into the headwaters of the Mitchell River, also known as Thompson creek. The creek is home for wild rainbows and brown trout according to WRC. There were sediment barriers at the time in some areas while others were wide open letting sediment run down the steep slopes into Thompson creek. BRTU informed the department of water quality (DWR) after receiving the tip. We had already filed a complaint with them about the DH section filling up with sediment and being murky during the height of the summer when it runs low and clear. The agricultural fields above the delayed harvest section where the main contributors to the sediment flow into the DH section. DWR inspected the Mitchell River at various location and when they went to the Olde Beau new RV park found that there has been heavy sediment flowing out of RV Park into the Mitchell River. This had been going on all summer long. They referred the case to DEMLR (Division of Energy, Mineral and land resources). Olde Beau had to install mitigation controls and barriers everywhere. However, there are lots that are still



Olde Beau RV Park

open with no barriers and open drain pipes that will carry storm water into the headwaters of the Mitchell. The terrain is very steep on top of the mountain and trying to stop sediment run off into Thompson creek/ Mitchell River will be difficult. If DEMLR approves the RV park erosion and sediment control plan, then Olde Beau will not be liable for any sediment run off. Thus, a card blanch to destroy the river without penalties.



Olde Beau Drainage

Thompson creek/ Mitchell River are both classified as outstanding resource trout water and thus have strict water quality standard that has to be upheld by law. It's usage as a trout stream if affected will also constitute a violation.

Olde Beau resort construction in the 80's led to a similar fate for Laurel creek, a trout stream, filling it with sediment for many miles. The state took Olde Beau golf resort to court to force it and its contractor

to do remediation on Laurel creek and remove the sediment. Years passed and surveys on the creek showed it was improving marginally but never to the quality trout stream it was. That will be the fate of the Mitchell River if the sediment keeps rolling down the hill. As of now there are no violations issued to Olde Beau golf resort or the contractors for violating all the water quality standards of a trout stream.



Olde Beau RV Park Lot 4

BRTU has asked DWR to do a thorough inspection like they have on Ramey creek, which included turbidity sampling, sediment measurement, temperature measurement, benthos studies, inspecting for Oils; deleterious substances; colored or other wastes” (including sediment)

As of early November DWR had informed us that they did turbidity testing at various locations on the Mitchell on October 3rd, and will do Benthos studies in the spring. It is unknown if they have done any of the other inspections. BRTU had asked the DWR to do these tests but have not received any response.



Olde Beau Mitigation

BRTU has also called DEMLR and left couple messages and sent an email request for a copy of the erosion and sediment control plan as well as information on their inspection but have not received a response.

BRTU will keep following up with regulators to uphold the laws governing trout waters quality standards. Soon we will be asking members to get involved in this process to protect our trout waters.



Olde Beau Mitigation