

Justin Hotchkiss

My name is Justin Hotchkiss, I am owner of FarNorth Charters and have been a flyfishing guide on the Upper Columbia since 2006 and I've been fishing the river for 38 plus years. I watched the last project at Black sand beach from start to finish and the beach is black again, just pointing out that the river will just keep washing contamination down every spring with high water. This site will do the same. My opinion is just leave it alone. The removal of soil and rocks will only stir up the contamination affecting habitat down stream. It will kill decades of aquatic insects that the native Red Band rainbows use as subsistence, it will remove native spawning beds for all species of game fish in the upper reaches. There need to be impact studies on these subjects before playing God. This litigation with Teck has put a hurting on this native species of trout with the killing of Thousands of fish using gill nets that no one knew about or had any say in. We still see a sever impact from this. Also encouraging a beach area will only lead to more people /kids drowning. This is not a swimming river and never has been. There are many factors to consider before we just go and stir up a bees hive with not knowing it full impact , just to make someone feel like there making it better.