

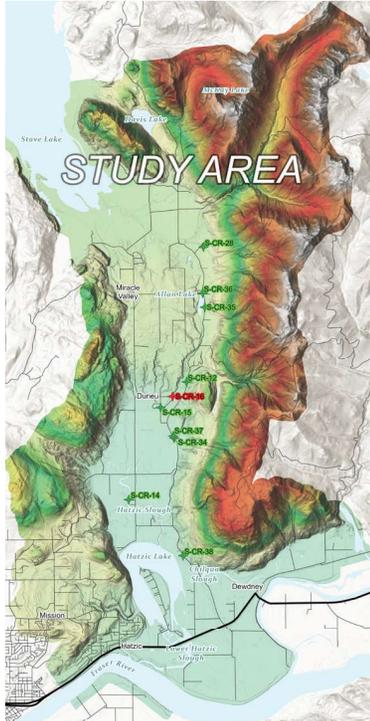
HATZIC VALLEY EMERGENCY WORKS PROGRAM

Newsletter #4 • July 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The 2021 Atmospheric River Event (ARE) caused substantial sediment movement, flooding, and changes through BC's river and creek systems, resulting in extensive damage. In response, the Province of BC, led by the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV), established a program to identify, prioritize, and address sites impacted by the ARE that pose risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, environmental, and cultural features.

As part of this program, emergency response work is currently underway in the Hatzic Valley to remove sediment and repair damage caused by the ARE. Repairs have been underway since 2022, with significant work completed in 2024 and some work scheduled to extend into 2025.



Map showing the Hatzic Valley project site locations. Completed sites (green stars) and planned work for 2025 (red star).

WHAT'S BEEN DONE?

In total, 12 sites were previously identified in the Hatzic Valley for sediment removal and works.

To date, the work has been completed at nine sites (green stars on the map):

- ✓ Pattison Creek – near Sylvester Road (S-CR-12)
- ✓ Carratt Creek – upstream of Sylvester Road (S-CR-28)
- ✓ Davies Creek – east of Sylvester Road (S-CR-38)
- ✓ Eng Creek – near Sylvester Road (S-CR-35)
- ✓ McNab Creek – near Sylvester Road (S-CR-36)
- ✓ Lagace Creek – from Seux Road to Farms Road and Stave Lake Road Junction (S-CR-15)
- ✓ North Herford Creek – near Sylvester Road (S-CR-37)
- ✓ South Herford Creek – near Sylvester Road (S-CR-34)
- ✓ Lagace Creek – select locations between Allan Lake to Pattison Creek (S-CR-14)

Two additional sites were assessed, but it was determined that any works at these locations would result in adverse environmental impacts. This decision allowed the team to focus efforts on other sites within the Hatzic Valley.



Pattison Creek



McNab Creek



Carratt Creek



Eng Creek



Davies Creek

What does the future look like?

Looking ahead, monitoring of project sites will be a key focus over the next several years. Regular monitoring will help assess the effectiveness of habitat enhancements, ensure the stability of repairs, and provide valuable data to inform any necessary adaptive management. This ongoing effort highlights our commitment to the long-term safety, health and sustainability of the Hatzic Valley.



Photo CCby-sa M. Launberg

WHO IS DOING THIS WORK?

A Task Force has been put together, including elected officials, community partners, and rights and title holders and is co-led with the Ministry of Environment and Parks. This team is focused on putting priority plans together and accessing permits and permissions to support flood response efforts.



MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, project updates, and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit bit.ly/SedimentProjectUpdates.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

Since our last update in 2024, this is the construction work that will be transpiring in 2025 (red star on the map):

✔ Lagace Creek (from Seux Road to Pattison Creek) (S-CR-16)

In addition to the sediment removal work planned at our specific sites, we're also required by environmental regulations to help restore natural areas elsewhere in the Hatzic Valley.

This means we'll be taking extra steps to find and improve areas outside of our project sites that could benefit from habitat restoration. These efforts are part of a process called "habitat offsetting"—where we make up for any harm we might have caused to the environment during our work by helping nature recover in other places.

Our goal is to leave the valley better than we found it, by not only managing sediment and increasing public safety but also supporting healthy ecosystems in the broader area.

2024 EFFORTS

As part of the emergency works program following the 2021 ARE, it is estimated that over 37,000 m³ of flood-deposited material—equivalent to more than 3,700 truckloads—has been removed from watercourses in the Hatzic Valley. This removal has significantly increased the capacity of local streams to handle sediment loads during high-flow events, thereby reducing the overall flood risk in the valley.

Here are some examples of some of the work that was carried out in 2024...



Lagace Creek (Seux Road to Farms Road)

We achieved important habitat enhancement outcomes as part of this effort. Design elements incorporated to enhance habitat conditions included:

- Sediment removal in selected locations by creating pools and riffles to support fish during varying flow conditions.
- Using erosion protection measures utilizing vegetation (bioengineering), providing shade, water temperature variability, and nutrient and food sources (insects) to enhance fish habitat.

This project site revealed a robust aquatic environment, with over 20,000 fish salvaged and relocated from the work area. The number of fish demonstrated the vitality and diversity of the local ecosystem. The high number of fish added a dynamic complication to our work, requiring careful planning and coordination to ensure their safe relocation. This effort underscores our commitment to preserving and protecting essential aquatic habitats while executing essential sediment removal and repair work.

The work completed at the site was put to the test during the 2024 ARE event, where the newly enhanced channel capacity successfully accommodated increased sediment infilling, effectively preventing flooding throughout this reach.



North and South Herford Creek

We were successful in completing sediment removal and stream bank repairs for North and South Herford Creeks, located south of the Sylvester Road and Seux Road intersection. This work consisted of:

- Sediment and debris removal.
- Repair of damaged stream banks at select locations, restoring stability, increasing public safety and supporting aquatic habitat recovery.

