

# HATZIC VALLEY

## EMERGENCY WORKS PROGRAM

Newsletter #1 • August 2023

### 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 Climate Change Strategy (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.

### HOW ARE SITES SELECTED?

The goal of the work is to prevent waterway flow restrictions that can cause more damage to riverbeds, banks, and infrastructure. The Province of BC is prioritizing sites by conducting ground level risk assessments that look at near-term threats to the safety of people, properties, infrastructure, and the environment.

Eligible sites undergo a risk evaluation in the following areas:



**Public Health and Safety** – risk of substantial, long term disruption to the region.



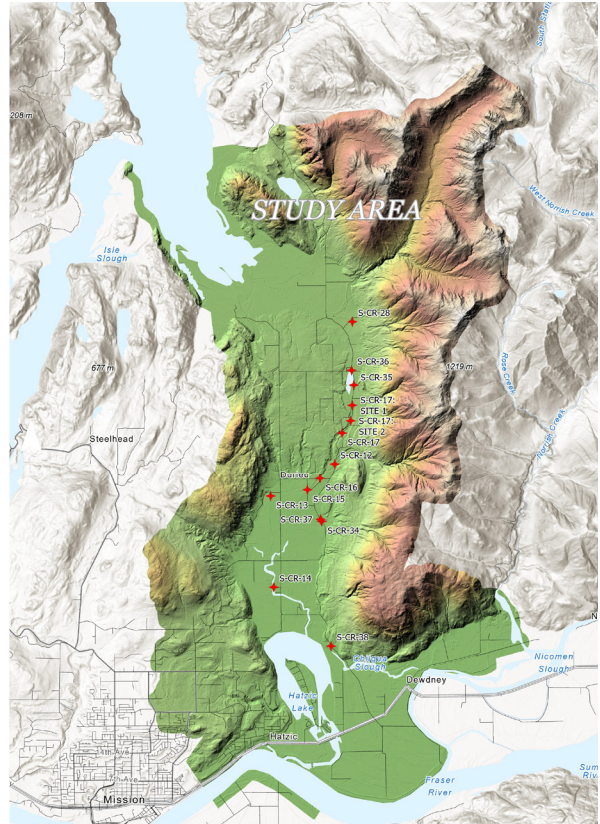
**River Capacity** – risk of flooding, erosion, and scour damage to adjacent land and infrastructure.



**Environmental** – risk of permanent loss or deterioration of important habitat, species, landscapes, or culturally valued sites.



**Infrastructure** – risk of failure or irreparable damage to infrastructure – like roads, culverts, bridges – where repairs are needed to prevent damage before the next freshet.



MAP: Hatzic Valley sites identified for sediment removal.

### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Visit [bit.ly/HatzicEWP-feedback](https://bit.ly/HatzicEWP-feedback) to share your feedback, ask questions, and sign up to be informed about future consultation and engagement opportunities.



## WHERE?

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

The initial step focused on three priority waterways to address immediate issues that presented potential risks to property and life:

- ✓ Pattison Creek – Complete
- ✓ Carratt Creek – Complete
- ✓ Davies Creek – Complete

Design, permitting, and construction for sites in three waterways is planned for the summer and fall of 2023 including:

1. Eng Creek
2. Lagace Creek
3. McNab Creek

Design and permitting works is planned for additional sites in summer 2024.



## WHO?

A team of elected officials, community partners, and rights and title holders have co-lead this initiative with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and are working diligently to address immediate needs. The Task Force team is focused on putting priority plans together and accessing permits and permissions to support emergency response efforts.

With the Task Force focused on immediate sediment removal from the 2021 ARE there is an additional stakeholder group that is focused on addressing longer term watershed challenges.

This work is led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy with funding through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement and Provincial emergency funding.



## MORE INFORMATION?

Newsletters will be published every 3 months updating site progress but for more information, project updates and answers to frequently asked questions visit [bit.ly/DebrisProjectUpdates](https://bit.ly/DebrisProjectUpdates).