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President, WA:TER (Wetland Alliance: The Ecological Response)
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Canada

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Dear Dr. Bell,

I am aware of a proposed 400,000 sq ft SmartCentres shopping centre on a floodplain at the mouth of the Salmon River in Salmon Arm, British Columbia. I am adamantly opposed to the development of the riparian land and I would like you to share my concerns at any and all public hearings about the proposed development.

The Salmon River is an important ecosystem, providing critical spawning habitat for three species of Salmonid (sockeye, chinook, coho), as well as feeding habitat for fish and birds, and food sources for fish-eating birds such as mergansers, (red listed) Western Grebes, and (blue listed) Great Blue Herons.

Floodplains provide essential ecological services. The proposed development of the Salmon River floodplain would impact hydrology and nutrient dynamics, not only during the construction phase but also post-construction, with the additional impact of light, noise, and air pollution and surface water contamination. Not only would this affect salmon behaviour and spawning but it might increase nutrient loading in Shuswap Lake, causing eutrophication.

Thank you for helping me voice my concerns regarding the SmartCentres shopping centre proposal.

Yours truly,



Lauchlan Fraser, PhD
Professor and Canada Research Chair in Community and Ecosystem Ecology