

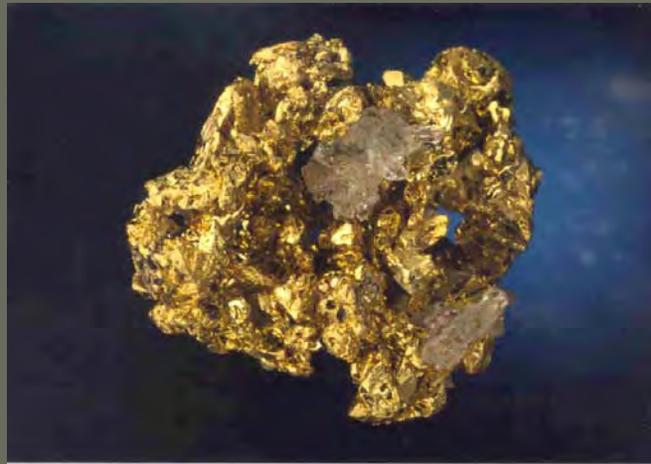
North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

November 20, 2008

*Placer Mining Water Quality
Compliance*

Placer Mining

Placer mining is the extraction of minerals from an alluvial or glacial deposit, as of sand and gravel, containing particles of gold or other valuable minerals. A placer deposit can be in a natural watercourse or an ancient river channel high above a stream.



Historic Placer Mining



Present-Day Placer Mining



Idaho Placer and Dredge Mining Protection Act

- The Idaho Placer and Dredge Mining Protection Act was passed in 1954. Over the years several changes have been made, but the basic components of the 1954 Act still stand:
 - Placer mining requires a permit;
 - Every permit must have a performance bond;
 - Water quality must be maintained and disturbed lands and water courses must be reclaimed;
 - Site inspections to ensure compliance;
 - Penalties for violation of the Act.

Idaho Placer and Dredge Mining Protection Act

- Administered by Idaho Department of Lands, north Idaho contact Jim Brady.
- Any person who disturbs more than one-half acre of land in the process of placer mining must have a permit from the Idaho Department of Lands. Applications are available from the Department of Lands. After submission of an application, and a \$50 fee for each ten acres, the review takes approximately sixty days.
- The Department of Lands, as the lead agency for implementing the antidegradation policy for placer and dredge mining, may solicit comments from the Departments of Fish and Game, Water Resources and Environmental Quality. A site review may be conducted prior to plan approval. Approval is by the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) at a regular Land Board meeting. Permits are transferable and are good for the life of the operation.
- The Act applies to all lands in the State, including private, state and federal [Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS)]. On federal lands, an operating plan may be required by the surface management agency, usually BLM or USFS. Under authority of Memorandums of Understanding with the BLM and USFS, one plan is developed and then submitted to both the state and federal agencies.

Idaho Department of Lands
Dredge and Placer

IDL Home | Bureau of Surface and Mineral Resources | Minerals Home Page | Contact Eric Wilson (208) 334-0200 fax (208) 334-3698

Search this Web Site

- FORMS - Dredge & Placer
- Placer Mining Overview
- Hearing
- Bonding
- Water Quality/Reclamation
- Site Inspections
- Penalties
- Recreational Dredge Mining
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Maps

Mining - Regulatory
Contact **Eric Wilson**

- Abandoned Mines
- Interagency Programs
- Mining BMPs
- Reclamation Projects
- Surface Mining

Mineral Leasing
Contact **Sharon Murray**

- Exploration Locations
- Mineral Leasing
- Gemstone Guide
- Oil and Gas

Other Related Links

Administrative Rules

- IDAPA 20.03.01 - Rules for Dredge and Placer Mining Operations in Idaho

Forms

- Application for Dredge & Placer Mine Permit Approval (PDF)
- Transfer of Dredge and Placer Permit (PDF)
- Dredge and Placer Surety Bond (PDF)
- Collateral Bond (PDF)
- Sample Letter of Credit (WORD)
- Bond Information Sheet (PDF)

Placer Mining Overview

Placer and dredge mining is the extraction of minerals from an alluvial or glacial deposit, as of sand and gravel, containing particles of gold or other valuable minerals. A placer deposit can be in a natural watercourse or an ancient river channel high above a stream. The [Idaho Placer and Dredge Mining Protection Act](#) was passed as an initiative vote in 1954. Over the years several changes have been made, but the basic components of the 1954 Act still stand:

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Internet 100%

start | Inbox - Microsoft ... | Idaho Departmen... | http://www.idwr.i... | Recreational Dred... | NFCDWA_WAGmtg... | NFCDWA_WAGmtg... | 2008_08_12 | 1:39 PM

Mining Techniques



NOTE: This photo is from Canada, and does not reflect environmental standards in Idaho.

Mining Techniques



Recreational Suction Dredge Mining

Program regulated by Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) under the authority of the Stream Channel Protection Act.

Recreational Dredge Mining Permit - For suction dredges with nozzle size of **5 inches in diameter or less**, and equipment rated at **15 horsepower or less**.



http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/water/stream_dam/sca/sca4.htm

Recreational Dredge Mining Permits - Idaho Department of Water Resources - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DEO

http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/water/stream_dam/sca/sca4.htm

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Recreational Dredge Mining Permits - Idaho Departme...

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Idaho Department of Water Resources

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Water Management
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Geographic Information
Water Resource Board

News
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Search IDWR website Go

Need Help or Assistance?
E-mail the IDWR stream channel alteration specialist in your area:

- Northern Region
- Western Region
- Southern Region
- Eastern Region

>>Stream Channel Protection Program

Recreational Dredge Mining Permits

Many people enjoy the challenge of searching for gold in Idaho's streams and rivers by means of recreational dredge mining. Recreational dredge mining is defined as those mining activities in which miners use power sluices, small recreational suction dredges with a nozzle 5 inches in diameter or less and equipment rated at a maximum of 15 horsepower. Recreational dredge mining is regulated in Idaho by the Stream Channel Protection Act. This statute requires dredge miners to obtain a permit from the Idaho Department of Water Resources before any recreational dredge mining can be done. State regulations also specify the streams where recreational dredging is prohibited.

WARNING: It is a misdemeanor in Idaho to dredge without the permit or to violate the conditions of the permit. You can be fined from \$150-\$500 per day for violations. Also, it is important to understand that an IDWR permit does not allow you to do recreational dredge mining on private lands or on another person's mining claim or lease. Mineral removal from streams on private lands requires permission or a mineral lease from the owner.

Where Can I Do Recreational Dredge Mining?

In general a valid permit allows you to do recreational dredging in any stream on state or federal land where it is not specifically prohibited. Your permit will specify the streams or parts of streams where recreational dredging is not allowed for all or parts of the year.

If you plan to work in streams that flow only intermittently, or in dry streambeds that never carry water, you will not need to obtain a permit. But a caution! Some side channels of a continuously flowing stream may appear to be dry streambeds at times of low water but are actually still considered part of the continuously flowing stream. So it's a good idea to first check with IDWR to be sure a permit is not needed for the area where you plan to do your dredge mining.

Ownership of minerals on state lands in the beds of navigable rivers belongs to the State of Idaho and no removal is allowed without a mineral lease from the Department of Lands. Your permit will provide a list of streams considered navigable by the State of Idaho. The Department of Lands also has authority over dredge mining in Idaho lakes.

How Do I Get A Permit?

Visit any IDWR office to get a copy of the 2008 Recreational Dredging application instruction booklet and a four-part carbonless application form. You can download a copy of the instruction booklet from this web page and view a SAMPLE copy of the application form. Because multiple copies of the application are needed to process your request, you will have to obtain a copy of the carbonless application form from an IDWR office. A copy of the application and instruction booklet will be mailed to the address on record for dredgers that had a 2007 dredging permit. These should be in the mail by mid-March 2008.

Rules

[Rules Governing Stream Channel Alterations\(PDF\) 36 pages.](#)

Permits & Applications

Read the instructions carefully before filling out the forms. Mail or fax your request to the nearest address on the form (or see our [locations page](#)).

[Joint Application For Stream Channel Alteration Permit.\(PDF\)](#)
This joint application is from Idaho Department of Water Resources, Corps of Engineers, and Idaho Department of Lands.

[Emergency Permit\(PDF\)](#)
Be sure to send ALL pages of the form when you apply. A fee is generally not be required for emergency permit applications.

Local
IDWR
Contact:
Greg
Taylor

<http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/>

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the USDA Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.fs.fed.us/geology/>. The website header includes the USDA Forest Service logo and the tagline "Caring for the land and serving people". A search bar is located on the left side of the page. The main content area features a welcome message and several links to various resources, including "Abandoned Mine Lands: A Decade of Progress", "Reclaiming Hardrock Mines", "Energy Leasable Minerals", "Energy Policy Act Section 390", "Administrative Category Exclusions for Oil and Gas Activities", "Locatable Minerals", and "36 CFR 228A, Federal Register Notice". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including "Inbox - Microsoft Out...", "USDA Forest Service...", and "NFCDA_WAGmtg_No...".

Local
USFS
Contacts:

Mindy
Vogel

Jeff
Johnson

<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/mining.html>

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the address bar containing the URL <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/mining.html>. The browser's title bar reads "Minerals - Mining Law Requirements - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DEQ". The page content is from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website, specifically for Idaho. The header features the BLM logo and the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Idaho". Below the header is a navigation menu with "Idaho", "Programs", "Information", and "Resources". The main content area is titled "Mining Law Requirements on Federal Lands" and includes a sub-section "Locating New Mining Claims, Mill Sites and Tunnel Sites". The text in this section discusses the requirements for filing location notices, including a \$170 per claim/site fee and a \$125 maintenance fee. A "Maintaining Claims and Sites" section is partially visible at the bottom, mentioning a \$125 maintenance fee. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including "Inbox - Microsoft Out...", "Minerals - Mining Law ...", and "NFCDA_WAGmtg_No...". The system clock in the bottom right corner indicates the time is 1:47 PM.

Minerals - Mining Law Requirements - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DEQ

<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/mining.html>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho

Search BLM Go

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Programs
Information
Resources

BLM > Idaho > Programs > Mining Law Requirements Print Page
Programs

Mining Law Requirements on Federal Lands

See the Idaho Information Guide: [Locating Mining Claims](#)

Locating New Mining Claims, Mill Sites and Tunnel Sites

New Location Notices/Certificates must be filed with the BLM Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho, 83709, within 90 days from the date of location. In Idaho, you must record with the County Recorder within 90 days from the date of location. Notice must include township, range, section, and quarter section in which the claim is located, location date, type of location, claim name, and claimant(s) name and address. Also, submit a map showing the boundary of the claim within a section.

A \$170 per Claim/Site Fee is required at the time of recordation with BLM. This fee covers the \$15 recordation fee, the \$30 location fee, and the \$125 maintenance fee for the assessment year in which the claim/site is located. If the processing fee is not submitted in full at the time of filing, the location notice will be returned without further action.

If the location notice/certificate is not received or postmarked within the 90-day filing period, the new location will be declared abandoned and void by operation of law.

Location Date: Date discovery monument is erected and location notice is posted on the ground.

Assessment Year: Begins at 12:00 noon September 1 through 12:00 noon September 1.

If the claim/site is located before September 1 and filed with BLM on or after September 1, you must pay \$170 plus an additional \$125 maintenance fee for the current assessment year. If you qualify, you may submit a Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification (Form 3830-2) rather than pay the \$125 maintenance fee for the current assessment year.

See regulations (43 CFR 3838) for locating claims on private land patented under the Stock Raising Homestead Act, or if disposal of the minerals is authorized under this Act. A Notice of Intent to Locate must be filed prior to locating a claim. BLM processing fee is \$25.

Maintaining Claims and Sites

A \$125 Maintenance Fee or a Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification must be filed annually on or before September 1



Caller reported sedimentation, and DEQ investigated Nov. 2008.

We found a nice grab bag of water quality issues.

Agencies and miners are working to improve conditions in these historically damaged watersheds.



Road washout
among many
sources of habitat
degradation and
sediment.

High-banking and undercutting of stream banks.





Undercutting banks leads to slumping and bank failure.



Construction of
“temporary” dams.



Accidental discharge of fine sediment and turbidity leaching through porous, historically mined substrate. Discharge has been stopped.



Success
stories in
reclamation

Many times, reclaimed conditions
can be improved compared to
existing conditions.



Another
reclaimed site



**Challenging
conditions!**



Our goal...