

# Proposed Suction Dredging Rule Changes

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# Definition changes

(36) "Dredging" means removal of bed material using other than hand-held tools. This does not include subsurface hard rock mining.

(37) "Dryland dredge" means a suction dredge with a nozzle capable of introducing water under pressure from the suction dredge pump to the tip of the nozzle.

(140) ~~"Suction dredge" means ((a machine used to move submerged aggregate by hydraulic suction. The aggregate is processed through an attached sluice box to recover gold and other minerals))~~ any motorized or nonmotorized device that removes aggregate from the bed, banks, or uplands by means of vacuum created by water flowing through a tube or hose. Bulb sniffers are not considered suction dredges. See Figure 10.

# Eliminating Suction Dredging from Gold and Fish Pamphlet

**WAC 220-660-300 Mineral prospecting. (1) Description:** Mineral prospecting projects excavate, process, or classify aggregate using hand-held mineral prospecting tools and mineral prospecting equipment. When prospectors locate valuable minerals through prospecting, they may attempt to recover larger quantities of the minerals using a variety of (~~small motorized~~) equipment, including suction dredges, high bankers, and heavy equipment. The rules in this section apply to using hand-held mineral prospecting tools and (~~small motorized equipment~~) a variety of small mineral prospecting equipment. Suction dredging is not authorized in this section. See WAC 220-660-305 for suction dredging rules.

# Eliminating Suction Dredging from Gold and Fish Pamphlet

~~(v)) Power sluice/suction dredge combinations, when configured and used as high-bankers or power sluices, that have riffle areas totaling ten square feet or less, including ganged equipment; (~~suction intake nozzles with inside diameters that should be five inches or less, but must be no greater than five and one-quarter inches to account for manufacturing tolerances and possible deformation of the nozzle;~~) and pump intake hoses with inside diameters of four inches or less (~~. The inside diameter of the dredge hose attached to the suction intake nozzle may be no greater than one inch larger than the nozzle size. See Figure 5)~~); and~~

# Eliminating Suction Dredging from Gold and Fish Pamphlet

**Table ((3)) 1**  
**Authorized Work Times ((and Mineral Prospecting Equipment Restric-  
 tions)) by Specific State Waters for Mineral Prospecting and Placer  
 Mining Projects**

<b>Washington Counties and            State Waters (Water            Resource Inventory Area            (WRIA) in parentheses)</b>	<b>Mineral Prospecting is            Allowed Only Between            These Dates</b>	<b><del>((State Waters (and            tributaries, unless            otherwise indicated) in            Which a Person May Use            Mineral Prospecting            Equipment With a Four            and One Quarter Inch            Maximum Suction Intake            Nozzle Inside Diameter</del></b>	<b><del>State Waters (NOT            including tributaries) in            Which a Person May Use            Mineral Prospecting            Equipment With a Five            and One Quarter Inch            Maximum Suction Intake            Nozzle Inside Diameter</del></b>
<b>Adams County</b>	<b>July 1 - October 31</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>–</b>

# Permitting for Suction Dredging

## NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-660-305 Suction dredging.** (1) **Description:** Suction dredging projects excavate, process, and classify aggregate using small motorized or nonmotorized equipment that removes aggregate from the bed, banks, or uplands by means of vacuum created by water flowing through a tube or hose. Bulb sniffers are not considered suction dredges. The rules in this section apply to using motorized and nonmotorized suction dredges. See WAC 220-660-300 for mineral prospecting with equipment other than suction dredges.

# Permitting for Suction Dredging

## **(3) General requirements:**

(a) Before conducting any suction dredging activity, a person must obtain the approval of the department through the issuance of a standard single site written HPA or standard multisite written HPA as described in WAC 220-660-050. The department must deny an HPA when, in

(b) When seeking a single site or multisite standard HPA, a person must identify the upstream and downstream extent of each suction dredging location within a stream. The location of each site can be no greater than the length contained within a registered mining claim, if the project occurs on a claim, or one thousand three hundred linear feet of stream, if the project does not occur on a claim.

# Dryland Dredge Requirements

(e) When operating a dryland dredge:

(i) A person may not excavate, collect, or remove aggregate from the toe of the slope. A person also may not excavate, collect, or remove aggregate from an unstable slope or any slope that delivers, or might deliver, sediment to the wetted perimeter or frequent scour zone. See Figures 2 and 3.





# Dryland Dredging Requirements

(ii) A person must process aggregate collected from upland areas landward of the frequent scour zone only at an upland location landward of the frequent scour zone. A person may not allow tailings or wastewater to enter the wetted perimeter or frequent scour zone.

(r) A person may use pressurized water only for redistributing dredge tailings within the wetted perimeter, for crevicing using a dryland dredge, or for introducing water under low pressure to an excavation site from the nozzle of a dryland dredge. No other use of pressurized water is permitted.

# Permitting for Suction Dredging

**Table 1**

**Authorized Work Times and Suction Dredge Restrictions by Specific State Waters for Mineral Suction Dredge Projects**

<b>Washington Counties and State Waters (Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) in parentheses)</b>	<b>Suction Dredging is Allowed Only Between These Dates</b>	<b>State Waters (and tributaries, unless otherwise indicated) in Which a Person May Use Suction Dredges With a Four and One-Quarter Inch Maximum Suction Intake Nozzle Inside Diameter</b>	<b>State Waters (NOT including tributaries) in Which a Person May Use Suction Dredges With a Five and One-Quarter Inch Maximum Suction Intake Nozzle Inside Diameter</b>
<b>Adams County</b>	July 1 - October 31	X	–
Crab Creek (41.0002)	July 16 - February 28	X	X

# Annual Reporting of Suction Dredging Activity

**(8) Suction dredge activity reporting.** By February 1st of each year, a person issued a suction dredge HPA must report to the department regarding the date, amount, type, and location of any suction dredging activity conducted during the preceding calendar year for which the HPA is in effect.

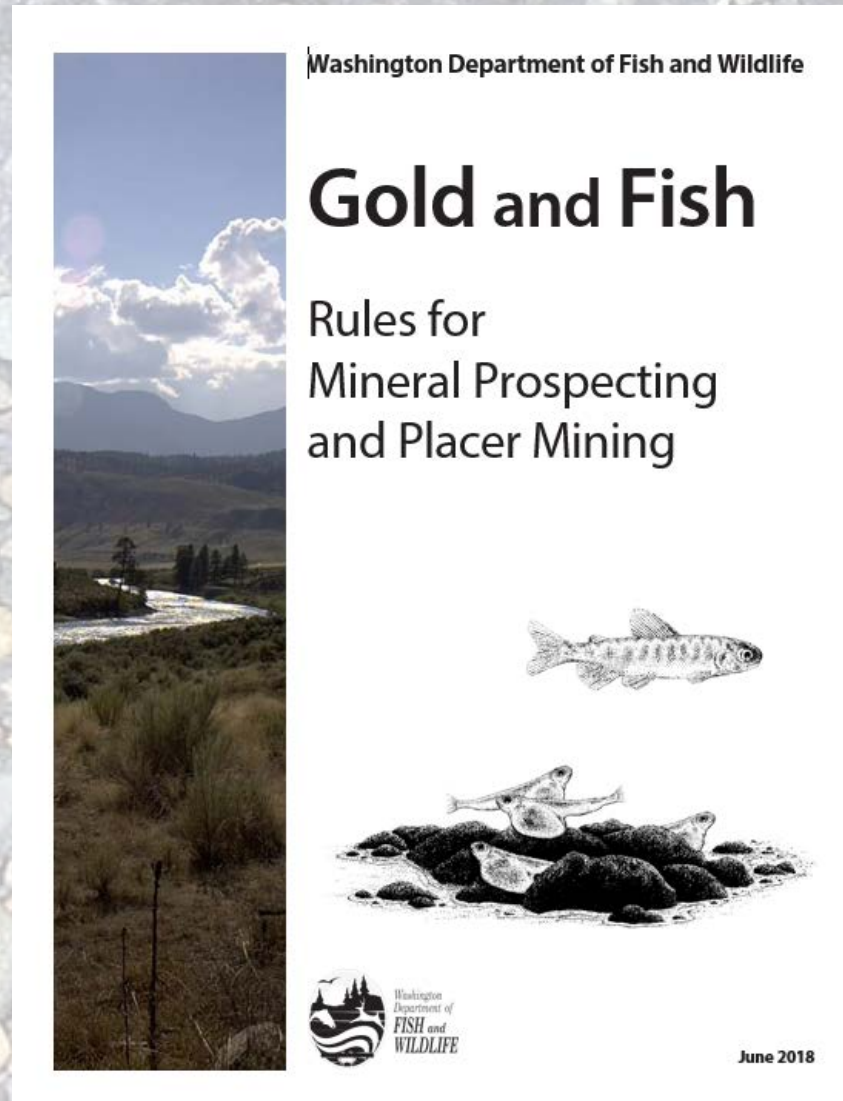
# Aquatic Invasive Species

## (4) **Aquatic invasive species prevention:**

(a) All suction dredge equipment that has been used in waters outside of Washington state must be inspected for the presence of aquatic invasive species by an authorized department employee or agent before being used in waters of the state.

(b) All suction dredge equipment used in any water of the state must be decontaminated according to department specification prior to use in a different water of the state.

# New Gold & Fish Pamphlet



Information is subject to changes and amendments over time

April 5-6, 2019 WDFW Commission Meeting Presentation

# Questions?



Photo by William Meyers