

WYOMING OFFICE OF STATE LANDS AND INVESTMENTS

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POLICY

Effective Date
March 1, 2014

Gold Panning, Dredging and Sluicing

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has developed a document to be used as a guideline for Gold Mining and Exploration. It can be found on the DEQ website, <http://deq.state.wy.us/lqd/>, and is titled Guideline No. 16 (DEQ Guideline). The information in the DEQ Guideline should be referred to when determining whether or not the placer gold panning, dredging, and sluicing is recreational or needs a small or large mining permit. Failure to comply with the conditions listed within the DEQ Guidelines is grounds for a Notice of Violation and a fine of up to \$10,000 per day as long as the condition resulting in the violation persists.

Requests for Placer Gold Panning, Dredging, or Sluicing on State Trust Land shall be handled by the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) as follows:

1. **Recreational Gold Panning Only**: Panning for gold by hand (no equipment of any kind except the pan) shall be considered casual day-use recreation and allowed under the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners' Rules and Regulations, Chapter 13; Public Hunting, Fishing and General Recreational Use. No permit will be required from OSLI. The activity will be under the purview of applicable DEQ Guidelines.
2. **Recreational Gold Panning, Dredging or Sluicing**: Any recreational gold panning, dredging or sluicing using certain types of portable (non-mechanized) equipment which only causes minor surface disturbance, as provided for in the DEQ Guideline, will require a temporary use permit from OSLI. Before consideration of preliminary approval by the Director of OSLI for a temporary use permit, evidence must be submitted to OSLI that the Registration Form for Recreational Placer Gold Dredging and Sluicing, provided by DEQ, has been filed with DEQ along with DEQ determination of exemption from permitting and bonding requirements. The Director of OSLI may require additional bonding in an amount sufficient to protect and indemnify the State of Wyoming from any liability caused by the activities noted above should it be deemed necessary.
3. **Commercial Gold Mining Operations**: Any operation that does not meet DEQ Guidelines for Recreational Placer Gold Panning, Dredging or Sluicing will only be allowed via a Metallic and Non-Metallic Mineral Lease, and will be subject to lease requirements such as wildlife habitat and cultural stipulations, bonding, minimum lease payments and royalties. Before consideration for approval by the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners, evidence must be

submitted to OSLI of an approved mining permit from DEQ as well as posting of appropriate bonding with DEQ and/or OSLI.

Authority/Justification

W.S. 36-2-107 and 36-6-101(b)
Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners' Rules and Regulations
Chapter 13, Section 4, Section 9
Chapter 14
Chapter 24

<u>Effective Date:</u> March 1, 2014	<u>Revision/Review Date:</u> March 1, 2019
<u>Summary of Revision/Review:</u> To Be Completed In 2019	<u>Supersedes Existing Policy:</u> Any policy and/or documentation prior to March 1, 2014