

Fact Sheet

Title: Time-Saving Tips for Prospective Gold Seekers



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Division of Mining, Land & Water
July 2009

“Gold Fever” is synonymous with Alaska -- affecting the would-be recreational miner out for the fun of it, to those interested in striking it rich. No matter what the category you find yourself in, there are a few items you should familiarize yourself with before “heading out”.

- Finding “color” or gold flakes is relatively easy. Most streams originating in the mountains have color in them and by working the stream gravel, usually a few will be found. Precautions need to be taken though -- many streams have claims on them and miners can be touchy, even if you’re just a recreational panner. The gold you pan probably won’t concern them as much as the possible vandalism of equipment, liability, or interruption of the operations.
- Throughout Alaska, there are two sets of mining regulations to be familiar with -- State and Federal. Pamphlets describing the respective requirements of each can be obtained from respective mining information offices of the State Division of Mining, Land & Water or Bureau of Land Management.
- Land status is perhaps the most important item confronting the would-be miner or prospector -- and oftentimes the most frustrating. State, Federal, Native, and private land ownership all affect the miner. Mineral closings could exist. **Check first!** Again, the mining information offices are a good place to start.
- Suction dredging is popular, not only with the recreational miner but with the serious miner looking to make a profit. Here in Alaska, it’s important to check with the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat before operating your dredge in any streams. Permits could be required, they are free! Thousands of streams in the state have been designated as anadromous (a stream where fish, such as salmon spawn) and certain restrictions could apply. Contact the local Fish and Game office for particulars on the area in which you intend to work.
- Other permits could be required depending on who manages the particular area in which you intend to operate. Generally, light, portable, field equipment and hand-held tools, such as pans, picks, and shovels would not require permits; however, the agency managing the area should be contacted to ascertain any requirements. For more involved operations, a one-stop form entitled “Annual Placer Mining Application”, would be used. From this, the miner would receive most permits required to operate. Early submission well in advance of your intended start-up date is required.
- More detailed geological information on much of the state is available through the publications of the State Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys and the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, topographic maps of Alaska are available from specific U.S. Geological Survey offices -- “pick up” and mail orders differ.

Enjoy the trip! Remember to consider the rights of others and leave any area you happen to visit free of litter. Don’t forget the mosquito lotion -- April through September are active times!

Popular points of contact for additional information are included on the reverse side.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

State Mining Information Offices

Anchorage:

Public Information Center
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501-3557
Phone: 907-269-8400

Fairbanks:

Public Information Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
Phone: 907-451-2705

Division of Mining, Land & Water

Anchorage:

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 900B
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
Phone: 269-8400

Fairbanks:

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
Phone: 907-451-2790

NOTE: This office has responsibility for regulatory functions and storage of all State mining claim case files.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game:

Habitat Division

Anchorage:

333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone: 907-267-2342

Fairbanks:

1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551
Phone: 907-459-7289

Juneau:

400 Willoughby Ave., 4th Floor
Juneau, AK 99801-1796
Phone: 907-465-4105

Alaska Miner's Association:

3305 Arctic Blvd. #202.
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 907-563-9229

Bureau of Land Management:

Anchorage:

222 West 7th, #13
(Federal Building)
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599
Phone: 907-271-5960

Fairbanks:

1150 University Avenue
Phone: 907-474-2200
(Mailing)
Bureau of Land Management
District Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844

Note: These offices have the responsibility for Federal regulatory functions and storage of Federal mining case files.

Forty-Mile River:

Bureau of Land Management
40-Mile Resource Area
P O Box 307
Tok, AK 99780
Phone: 907-883-5121

Note: This office has the responsibility for the Fortymile River area in the vicinity of Chicken, Eagle, and the Taylor Highway.

U.S. Geological Survey

(Topographic Maps & Publications)

Anchorage: Pick-up orders only

USGS Earth Science Information Center
Grace Hall, AK Pacific University Campus
4230 University Dr., Room 101
Anchorage, AK 99508-4650
907-786-7011 Fax: 907-786-7050
e-mail: gfdurocher@usgs.gov

Denver, CO: Alaskan maps and publications

U.S. Geological Survey
Branch Distribution
Federal Center, CO 80225

Geophysical Institute (Topographic Maps)

Fairbanks: Pick-up and mail orders

Geodata Center
Geophysical Institute
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
903 Koyukuk Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7320
Phone: 907-474-7487