

# PLACER MINING

## RESOURCE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

February 2024

### DEAR ALASKA PLACER MINERS:

*We welcome you to read this first, biannual newsletter of the Placer Mining Resource Network (PMRN). The PMRN is an informal cooperation of agencies that was formed to help address challenges placer miners face related to permitting and compliance.*



### THANK YOU PLACER MINERS!

In late 2022-early 2023, as part of an effort to improve permitting and compliance services to placer miners, state and federal permitting agencies asked placer miners (via interviews and a survey) about the challenges they face and their suggestions for how agencies could improve services. We recognize the value of your time and input, and we are grateful to those who were able to complete the survey. Your feedback was invaluable and taught us a lot!

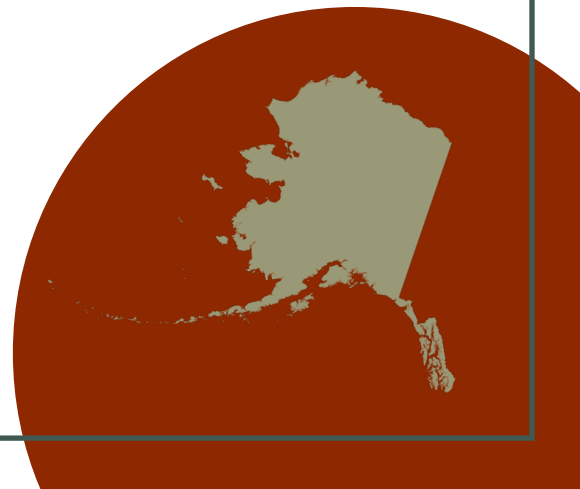
Based on the results of the survey, it is clear that:

- Placer mining permitting is confusing, and agencies need to do what they can to simplify and streamline the process and provide current and timely information.
- There is interest in best management practices and tools to assist placer miners with permitting and compliance.
- Agencies need to have a shared understanding of each other's regulations and be informed about how the placer mining business works.

To turn your input into action, the PMRN has committed to share information and develop products and services to help address the challenges and needs you identified. A few examples of what the PMRN is doing are provided in this newsletter.

### COOPERATING AGENCIES:

- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Salcha-Delta Soil & Water Conservation District
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service





## PLACER MINERS INVITED!

To a special PMRN session at the 2024 Alaska Miners Association Biennial Spring Convention in Fairbanks.

Please join us for an information and idea sharing session to help us provide information and services to better assist you with your permitting needs.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PLACER MINING IN WETLAND AREAS

As Alaska placer miners know well, most placer mining occurs in wetlands, resulting in disturbance of those areas. While wetland regulations vary among agencies, the PMRN is working to develop some agreed upon best management practices (BMPs) to assist placer miners with permit compliance while minimizing impacts to water, soils, vegetation, fish and wildlife. We are focusing on key areas such as planning and site assessment; construction of sound design features; soil and vegetation management; and post-mining wetland construction. We plan on sharing the BMPs in a variety of ways including hard copy and electronic documents, videos, and through social media. We hope to work closely with placer miners in the development and continual improvement of the tools and information we provide to you.



## MULTI-AGENCY FIELD INSPECTOR TRAINING TO BE PILOTED IN 2024

Agencies are developing a multi-agency annual field inspector training program for agency field staff. The purpose of this training is to provide up-to-date information about regulations and current agency contacts so that field inspectors can better assist placer miners in the field or direct them to appropriate people in other agencies. While this is the first year of this training, the hope is that in future years, placer miners would provide input to better educate inspectors about the placer mining business and field operations.



For questions please contact:  
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