



PLACER MINING RESOURCE NETWORK

SPRING 2026

NEWSLETTER

DEAR ALASKA PLACER MINERS

The Placer Mining Resource Network (PMRN) is an informal, cooperative network of interested parties (permitting agencies and miners) that was formed to address challenges placer miners and agencies face related to permitting and compliance.

Goals of the PMRN are to:

1. Improve permitting and compliance processes.
2. Improve technical assistance to placer miners related to permitting and compliance.
3. Develop and maintain relationships built on trust and mutual understanding among agencies and between agencies and placer miners.

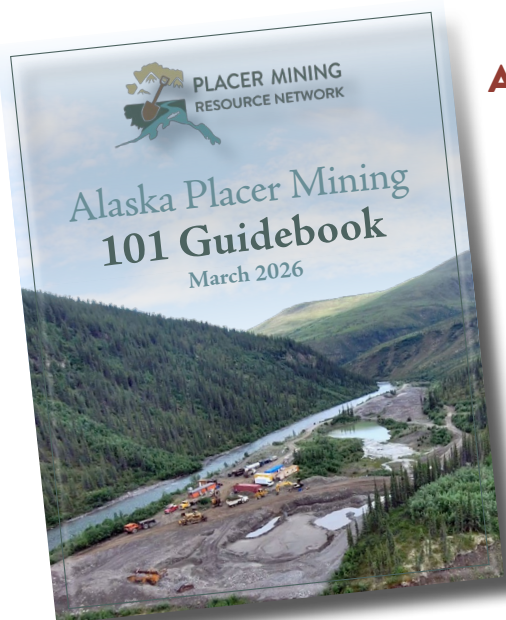
COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (DF&G)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Salcha-Delta Soil & Water Conservation District (SD-SWCD)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

ALASKA PLACER MINING 101 GUIDEBOOK FINALIZED!

We are pleased to announce that the Alaska Placer Mining 101 Guidebook is now available to placer miners. The Guidebook is intended to help placer miners with planning, designing, and permitting successful placer mining operations, recognizing there is no one-size-fits-all approach. The primary focus of the Guidebook is on the following topics:

- Early planning and site assessment
- Exploration and evaluation
- Economic evaluation
- Designing your mine
- Freshwater suction dredging and highbanking
- Reclamation
- Permitting and compliance



Continued on page 2.

ALASKA PLACER MINING 101 GUIDEBOOK FINALIZED!

Continued from page 1.

In addition, the Guidebook includes resources such as agency contact information and links to tools that the PMRN believes will be helpful to both new and experienced placer miners.

Please note that the Guidebook is intended solely to help operators understand existing regulatory requirements. It does not create or impose new permit conditions.

The PMRN would like to thank Shane Lasley and Cody Roan of North of 60 Mining News for their writing and copy-editing contributions, as well as the placer miners

who reviewed a draft of the document and provided invaluable input.

The Guidebook is available electronically on the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [placer mining website](#). A limited number of hard copies will be printed and made available by DNR-Mining. Please contact DNR-Mining at dnr.fbx.mining@alaska.gov for information.



WETLAND RECLAMATION BMPS COMING SOON!

The Wetland Reclamation subgroup of the PMRN has developed a set of core best management practices (BMPs) designed to help miners meet various permit requirements while reducing impacts to water, soils, vegetation, fish, and wildlife that Alaskans value and depend on. These BMPs are a product of a unified approach across agencies and focus on four key areas: planning and site assessment, design considerations, soil management, and vegetation. The BMPs are being compiled into a factsheet that will be available for the upcoming field season. Miners can select practices that best fit their reclamation goals and to help meet many of their regulatory needs—providing flexibility while supporting successful wetland reclamation.

Successful reclamation of a
previously mined area (USACE).



Vegetation transplanting (BLM).

PMRN STREAM RECLAMATION VIDEO SERIES LAUNCHED STARTING WITH VEGETATION TRANSPLANT VIDEO

Alaska placer miners may remember a 2023 PMRN survey asking what kinds of information and tools would be most useful to them. Instructional videos related to stream reclamation best practices were on the list of topics of interest identified by respondents.

Building on work already started by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the PMRN hired Alaskan video producer and illustrator, [Dan Redfield](#), to work with us on a stream reclamation video series with placer miners in mind. Using mostly BLM footage and some new footage and illustrations by Dan, we recently finished the first video in the series, which focuses on vegetation transplants. This video ([PMRN Vegetation Transplant Video](#)) is now available for placer miners to use in their planning and reclamation work.

Future videos will cover topics such as an introduction to stream and river processes, stream reclamation basics, floodplain ponds/depressions, and others of interest to placer miners. As each video is completed, we will share the links in the PMRN newsletters and post them on DNR's website on the PMRN page, which is currently in development.

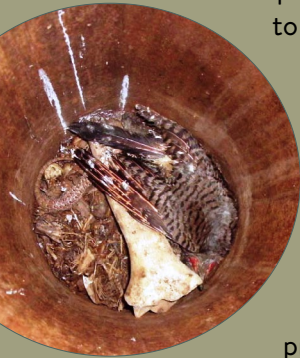
We want to thank the placer miners who reviewed this video and provided helpful feedback. Your input is important, as it directly shapes the development of these resources. If you would like to volunteer to review future videos in this series, please let us know by contacting Matt Varner at mvarner@blm.gov.

FISH & WILDLIFE CORNER

EASY STEPS TO TAKE AT YOUR SITE TO HELP WILDLIFE



Vertical pipes are commonly used at placer mining sites for a variety of purposes, including claim markers, fencing, sign posts, and to vent air or gas. Although these pipes serve a needed function, they can also be deadly for birds and other wildlife. For example, birds looking for a place to nest can fly into the pipes and become trapped. Small mammals and insects can also get stuck and die in uncovered pipes. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ([Cavity Conservation](#)), the problem can be solved easily and inexpensively by covering vertical pipes with caps or screens that can be easily purchased online or at a lawn/garden store, or by filling them with sand or gravel.



Look for the PMRN table at the upcoming Alaska Miners Association Conference and Tradeshow on April 6 - 10, 2026 in Fairbanks.

Top photo: An uncapped vertical pipe is a trapping hazard for small wildlife (NRCS).
Bottom photo: Any open top vertical pipe can be a death trap to birds and other wildlife (Jeff King).



DNR 2014 Annual Reclamation Award – Ted and Jeff Owen.

SHOW US YOUR RECLAIMED WETLANDS!

Show Us Your Wetlands! We'd love to feature your work! If you have high-resolution photos of wetland reclamation projects, please email them to charleen.buncic@fws.gov. Please include:

- A brief description of the photo.
- Details like how you created the wetland and what wildlife it supports.
- (Optional) Your name and location.

Please note: by sending us your photos, you grant us permission for the PMRN to use the photos in the factsheet and other future products. This is a great way to showcase your efforts and help others learn from your success!



AGENCY UPDATES

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-WATER DIVISION

Temporary Water Use Authorizations (TWUAs)

TWUAs can be issued for up to 5 years and cover up to 5 water sources. If your APMA/Plan of Operations is approved for more than 5 years, you must apply for a new TWUA (including application fees) for years 6–10 of your APMA authorization.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DEC Discharge Permit Renewals

Attention placer miners and suction dredgers: The DEC Mechanical Placer and Medium Suction Dredge General Permits expire on 02/28/26. Renewal applications must be expired by all permittees to ensure continued permit coverage. Renewal applications can be completed online at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/edms>. Contact DEC at 907-451-2142 or dec.placer@alaska.gov for more information.

SHARE YOUR INPUT!

The PMRN Interagency Group would appreciate placer miners' input on the following question:

What permitting topics should the PMRN focus on to better support Alaska's placer mining industry?

Please use [this Google Form](#) or QR code to provide your response. Your response will not be associated with your name.

Have a great mining season!



To unsubscribe to the newsletter, please email Dave Charron at david.charron@alaska.gov.



Juneau Mining District Alaska 2020 (DNR).



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