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Suction Dredging Regulations for the Tenmile and Elk City Mining District- 2017

Seasons:

Mainstem of South Fork Clearwater River - July 15 - Oct.31, 2017

All tributary streams to the SFCR - July 15 - Sept. 30, 2017

Regulations:

- 1. This permit is a supplementary requirement in addition to the IDWR General Letter Permit for Stream Channel Alterations by Suction Dredging. This permit is exclusive in its coverage for the described operations on valid federal mining claims within the boundaries of the Tenmile and Elk City Mining District and serves as an alternative to the SFCR Special Supplement created by IDWR. This permit is for valid Federal Claim holders, their operatives or contractees only. No dredging operations will be allowed without this Permit within the boundaries of the Tenmile or Elk City Mining Districts in 2017.
- 2. A dredging location plan containing, at the least, a map of approximate locations of dredging operations and the planned dates of operations, shall be submitted to the offices of the Tenmile Mining District along with the application for this permit. (These locations may be subjected to review by a fisheries biologist before permit is approved if the scope of the operation will affect normal fish migrations or create significant alterations to the morphology of the stream.) Any operator desiring to add additional sites to their operation, will, first, submit a map showing these approximate locations and dates of operations to the offices of Tenmile Mining District prior to starting operations at those locations. This information will remain confidentially within the offices of the Tenmile Mining District.
- 3. Suction dredging may only occur below the Ordinary High Water Mark and may not be conducted in such a way as to create undue erosion of the stream bank or

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to alter the direction of the stream channel in a way that causes undue erosion of stream banks above the mean high water mark.

- **4.** In the mainstem of the South Fork of the Clearwater River dredging below the ordinary High Water Mark will only be authorized for the period of the established dredging season of July 15 to Oct 31. In all tributary streams an operational season of July 15 to Sept 30 will apply.
- 5. These operational seasons have been created to restrict dredging activities during possible spawning cycles and alevin rearing periods in the waters of the Tenmile and Elk City Mining Districts. If any active Redds are encountered during operations, operator must not operate any equipment within 300 feet up stream or 50 feet downstream of the Redds location. This applies only to occupied Redds. (occupied being defined as the presence of adult fish, eggs or alevins.)
- **6.** Incidental fall back and/or other discharges from dredges and/or any other types of concentrators or sluices, shall not be concentrated in a stream channel in such a manner as to create new deposits of fine silty sediment in excess of 0.5 inches in any stream reaches below the ordinary high water mark.
- 7. Natural pools or pools created by dredging activities will not be backfilled or reduced in depth by the dredging operations. These pools provide critical thermal refuge and protection from predation for aquatic speicies. Natural current flows will adjust the morphology of the stream channel and bedding composition seasonally.
- **8.** Operator shall not constrict or dam the stream channel to the extent to cause a structural barrier to upstream and downstream movement of salmonids or other aquatic species. Any dikes, jetties or other, operator created diversions, altering the flow of water in any reach of the stream to facilitate dredging operations shall be removed or reduced to a natural state by the end of the dredging season or at the conclusions of operations in that stream reach whichever comes first.

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- **9.** Any large boulders that cannot be moved without mechanical aid will not be completely removed from the stream channel unless they are creating a safety hazard to operators or the general public and where practicable will be returned to the stream channel.
- **10.** To the extent practicable, where such does not create a safety hazard to operators, woody debris or boulders extending from the bank and situated in a manner as to originate above the ordinary high water mark shall not be removed or dislodged from their location in order to prevent undue erosion of stream banks.
- 11. In the mainstem of the South Fork of the Clearwater River this permit authorizes, a single dredge with an 8" or smaller intake nozzle, or any number of dredges with smaller than 5" intake nozzles may be used in any one operation under this permit, as long as operations are in compliance with statutory water quality standards and all other conditions of this permit.
- **12.** To protect the resource, no dredges with intake nozzles greater than 5" will be allowed to operate in any tributary waters of the SFCR in any operations below the normal high-water mark under this permit.
- **13.** Any hazardous materials recovered during operations shall be disposed of only in compliance with state, local and federal laws for the disposal of such materials.
- 14. Operators shall not use any chemical agent, mineral or refined substance to aide in concentrating or separating minerals below the high water mark in any stream on the Tenmile or Elk City Mining District.
- **15.** All fuel, oil and other hazardous materials shall be stored in ANSI, UL approved fuel containers. In stream fueling operations shall utilize spill resistant fuel containers containing 2 gallons or less of fuel when transferring fueling liquids.

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- **16.** Operators will provide spill kits of suitable size to handle fuel volumes in all storage containers kept within 100' of any open waterway. Spill kits will be kept available on site for each operation.
- **17.** Operator shall not operate any equipment that leaks fuel, hydraulic fluid or other pollutants.
- 18. To prevent the threat of aquatic invasive species, suction dredges, tools incidental to their operations and all other associated equipment shall be inspected and certified at an IDEQ approved or other certified inspection site. In lieu of that inspection, dredges and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to use. Operations using equipment not inspected and certified at an inspection station must sign an affidavit certifying their equipment was properly cleaned and sanitized prior to using on the Tenmile or Elk City Mining District.
- **19.** Where practicable, dredge platforms or in-stream concentrators or free standing sluices shall be secured without stringing wire, cable, chain or ropes across the stream channel in such a way as to create a hazard for other users on the stream.
- **20.** Operators will maintain a minimum spacing of 100 feet between each permitted operation.
- 21. Operations conducted within 500 feet of any campground shall be done in compliance with state, county or local noise ordinances and shall not be done in a manner to create a significant disturbance to occupants of the camp ground. (Significant being defined as consistent with state laws for civil obedience and federal multiple use policies for public lands.) Operations within 500 feet of campgrounds will only be conducted between the hours of 10:00am and 5:00pm.
- **22.** Operators will follow BMPs (Best Mining Practices) using MATP (Most Appropriate Technologies and Practices) as determined by the Tenmile Mining District and

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recommended by the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council when operating under this permit.

- **23.** Operations will be in compliance with the applicable portions of the state water quality standards found at IDAPA 58.01.02.
- **24.** Failure to comply with any of the conditions of this permit can result in the cancelation of, or specific restrictions being placed on, the operators permit and/or other civil actions as deemed necessary by the voting of the Board of Directors of the Tenmile Mining District.
- **25.** Any operator having a permit cancelled or restricted by the offices of the Tenmile Mining District will only be able to apply for future permits once a suitable performance bond has been approved by the Board of Directors of Tenmile Mining District from that operator.
- **26.** This permit does not authorize trespass and does not guarantee or imply rights to access. Access is the responsibility of the operator to negotiate and obtain any permissions needed.