

2026 IDWR Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and Tributaries Letter Permit Supplement Instructions

Introduction

Power sluicing and dredge mining on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and tributaries requires completion of the *IDWR Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and tributaries Letter Permit Supplement Form* ("Letter Permit Supplement") attached hereto. The Letter Permit Supplement allows operators to obtain a permit to operate a power sluice and/or a small suction dredge (nozzle five inches in diameter or less and equipment rated at a maximum of 15 horsepower) on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and tributaries.

The Mores Creek Sub-basin does not currently meet state water quality standards and is subject to a pollutant budget, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL"). To meet state water quality standards, IDWR must document the number of days of mining on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek and tributaries. The TMDL limits are converted here to allowable hours:

- Grimes Creek: 84 four-hour dredge days (336 hours total) - Applicable to the main stem of Grimes Creek and all tributaries.
- Elk Creek: 11 four-hour dredge days (44 hours total) - Applicable to the main stem of Elk Creek and the tributaries above Eldorado Gulch.
- Mores Creek: 60 four-hour dredge days (240 hours) - Applicable to the main stem of Mores Creek and tributaries (except Grimes and Elk creeks) below Boulder Creek.

Application Requirements

Applicants that fulfill the following IDWR requirements may be authorized to operate mining equipment in Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and all open tributaries:

- submit a **complete** IDWR Small Scale Mining Authorization (Letter Permit; found at www.idwr.idaho.gov or any IDWR office) including fee, signature, and all required information;
- submit a **complete** Letter Permit Supplement (attached), with all required information, including signature, and a map of each location.

Incomplete Letter Permit Supplements will not be accepted.

Permittees that dredge mine on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, and all open tributaries may incur legal consequences as outlined in Idaho Code §§ 42-3809 and 42-1701B for any violation of the conditions of an approved permit.

Other Required Permits

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) permit program. **Anyone operating a small suction dredge on any stream or river in Idaho must contact the DEQ to obtain IPDES suction dredge general permit coverage.** Additional information regarding IPDES permitting may be obtained via DEQ's website: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/permits/water-quality-permits-certifications/general-permitting/> or by contacting the DEQ IPDES Helpdesk: 1-833-473-3724.

See additional agency contact info below. Note: For activity on Mores, Elk, and/or Grimes Creek, the DEQ must receive the required IPDES application by April 1 of each year for the DEQ to permit mining activity in these areas.

The US Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) may require operators to submit a Notice of Intent.

Contacts

Boise National Forest

1249 S Vinnell Way #200
Boise, ID 83709
208-373-4100

Bureau of Land Management

Boise District Office
3948 Development Ave
Boise, ID 83705
208-384-3300

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 03706
208-373-0136
www.deq.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources

322 E Front St
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098
208-287-4800
www.idwr.idaho.gov

IDWR Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, and Tributaries Letter Permit Supplement Form

An IDWR Small Scale Mining Authorization (LETTER PERMIT) must accompany this Supplement, including the appropriate LETTER PERMIT application fee (\$10 for Idaho residents, \$30 for non-Idaho residents).

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED					
I. APPLICANT INFORMATION (bold = required)					
1. Name (Last, First MI)				2. Idaho Resident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Mailing Address (Street or PO Box)		4. City	5. State	6. Zip	
7. Phone No. (include area code)	8. Email Address				
II. LOCATION AND ACTIVITY INFORMATION (bold = required)					
9. Estimated number of proposed dredging days	10. Estimated number of proposed dredging hours per day			11. Estimated volume of material dredged per day (in cubic yards)	
12. Claim Name/Number (if applicable)	12a. Twnshp	12b. Range	12c. Section OR	12d. Latitude/Longitude	
13. Site Access/Directions. Attach a vicinity map—such as a USGS quadrangle or National Forest map—showing the mining location(s) (and claim boundaries, if applicable).					
14. Summary Description of Activity, including equipment to be used (high banker, suction dredge, etc.).					
14a. Dredge Details. Size of dredge nozzle _____ in Horsepower rating _____ HP	14b. Estimated Total Area and Volume of Material(s) to be dredged and discharged below the ordinary high water mark: _____ square feet _____ cubic yards				

FORM CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

III. APPLICANT SIGNATURE (bold = required)

16. I have read and understand the Stream Channel Alteration by Small Scale Mining Activities IDWR Instructions for 2026 and will conduct my operations in compliance with those Instructions, all rules, special conditions, and other requirements. In addition, I will not conduct any in-stream mining activity until submitting a Letter Permit, including the Supplement Application, and application fee to IDWR and maintain copies of these documents while conducting mining operations. Furthermore, I agree to be liable for any violation of the conditions of approval of a permit issued as a result of this application by others operating the permitted dredge.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail this completed and signed application, along with an IDWR Small Scale Mining Authorization (LETTER PERMIT) and application fee, to:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Attn: Stream Channel Protection Section
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098