

HPA Mineral Prospecting Business Analysis

Task

Determine whether any metal ore mining businesses are subject to the hydraulic code and rules, and if they are, whether they were impacted by HPA rules adopted in 2014.

Methods:

Searched Washington Department of Revenue online business information database at <http://dor.wa.gov/content/doingbusiness/registermybusiness/brd/> for names of individuals issued mineral prospecting HPAs between 2/14/16 and 3/16/17 to determine whether they owned registered businesses, and if so, were these likely to be mineral prospecting businesses impacted by the 2014 rules. Also, using the same database, searched for businesses and prospecting clubs with “Prospecting” in their names.

Requested from Department of Revenue the business and entity names, Uniform Business Identifier, business address, and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) identifier for every business in Washington associated with the metal ore mining industry, NAICS 2122 (used 4-digit NAICS per RCW 19.85.020 “industry” definition).

Records were received on 5/31/2017. Used Google and other common internet tools to research phone numbers for the businesses on the list. Obtained phone numbers for all but one business using this method. Surveys were conducted on 6/1/2017 - 6/2/2017.

Results

We searched the database for the names of fifty-eight individuals. Only one individual had a business license related to mining or prospecting, and the license was not active. We identified several prospecting clubs and businesses with “Prospecting” in their names registered as businesses, but none has submitted applications for individual HPAs.

Of the fourteen businesses identified by the Department of Revenue as associated with the metal ore mining industry, business status was discussed with five. Messages requesting return calls or email were left for three businesses (Davis, Sealand, Hayes), and contact information is not available or was confirmed to be incorrect for five of the businesses. No return calls or emails were received by June 8, 2017.

None of the five businesses contacted qualifies as a business affected by WDFW hydraulic code rules. Four of the businesses turned out to be hard rock mining companies (not placer) that aren't regulated by the hydraulic code. A principal for a fifth company indicated that his business is defunct, and he has not mined in Washington for decades (never in the Nooksack or Suiattle).

Business Name	Legal Name If Different	Phone	UBI	City	County	Business Type	Notes
Chute, Douglas R	D C Prospecting	253-875-0434	600581421	Graham	Pierce	S.P.	Number not in service (6/1/17 at 1430)
Echo Bay Minerals Company	Contact Lauren Roberts	509-775-3157	601050058	Republic	Ferry	Corp.	Echo Bay is part of Kinross. Left Message for Dena Zaker to return my call (6/1/17 at 1445) 6/2/17 at 0855: Dena returned call. Echo Bay minerals is one of several subsidiaries of Kinross, whose only Washington mine is Buckhorn. Over 100 employees.
Davis, James Lowell	Davis Mining & Prospecting	(509) 884-3812	601270029	Wenatchee	Chelan	S.P.	Left Message (6/1/17 at 1450)
Windjammer Gold Corporation	Contact info is for Ross Yeager	206-842-4834	601906181	Bainbridge Island	Clallam	Corp.	6/1/17 at 1455: Talked to a couple at this number - no contact for Windjammer Gold at this number.
Tildon, Michael S	Eagle Mining Co	(253) 845-0959	602257691	Puyallup	Pierce	S.P.	(6/1/17 at 15:00) Talked to Mike for approximately an hour. Hasn't mined in Washington for "decades," has never mined in the Nooksack or Suiattle, and mines in Arizona now. Mr. Tildon has history back to the first Gold and Fish pamphlet for Game Department.
SA Minerals Exploration Inc			602506905	Kirkland	King	Corp.	No contact information available.
International Mining And Minerals Corporation	I2M Corporation (Contact info is for Jeff King jking@Pacific-Environmental.Com)	360-563-0114	602720541	Snohomish	Snohomish	Corp.	6/2/17 0915: person answering phone acknowledged company, said the company hasn't ever mined in Washington.

Business Name	Legal Name If Different	Phone	UBI	City	County	Business Type	Notes
Green Mountain Mine Operating Company LLC		(206) 451-7105	603078512	Granite Falls	King	LLC	6/2/17 0920: a person identifying herself as the company's accountant answered this call. Green Mountain, a rock mine (not placer), sold their Granite Falls mine about a year ago.
Sealand Mining LLC	(This is contact for North Star Mining Co Inc)	(360) 793-0848	603271107	Sultan	Snohomish	LLC	6/2/17 at 0920: left a message for someone from Sealand Mining to return my call.
Sampson, Bradley	Sampson Resources	(360) 980-9616	603406638	Vancouver	Clark	S.P.	"voice mailbox not set up" (6/1/17 at 1600)
Bazooka Gold Mining Co., LLC		360-202-5953	603414280	Mount Vernon	Skagit	LLC	6/1/17 at 1600. Rodney Bonnifield (partner Donn Lee). Company is for hard rock mining, not placer, not in streams.
Wells, Lawrence D & Wendy E	Broken Shovel Mining	253-279-2384	603515783	Tacoma	Pierce	S.P.	6/1/17 at approximately 1600 hours. Wrong number (no affiliation with Broken Shovel Mining)
Hayes, Nikolas Alsandair	Forethought United	http://nikolashayes.com/	604021848	Bremerton	Kitsap	S.P.	Sent email 6/2/17 at 0840 hours to the "contact us" link on the nikolashayes website.
Parramore Michael	Evergreen Prospecting Supply Co	253-804-4249	604092390	Arlington	Snohomish	S.P.	6/1/17 at 16:10 hours and 6/2/17 at 0900 hours -call didn't connect, so concluding this is an incorrect number.

Script

Following is the script I used for interviews. The script was adapted to suit each situation; in most cases, I first asked to speak to someone representing (or “with”) the company name.

Hello! My name is Teresa Scott at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and I’ve been asked to survey mining businesses to determine how hydraulic project rules we adopted in 2014 may have affected your business.

1. First, can I confirm that you own (or “speak to someone who owns”) the business called [business name]?
2. Does your company mine for gold in lakes, rivers or streams under the WDFW Gold and Fish pamphlet?
3. Does your company work in the Nooksack River or Suiattle River?
4. Does your company employ more than 50 employees?

Note: did not get past the “50 employees” question for any interview.

5. Did the rule changes WDFW adopted in 2014 cost your business more than \$100?

[or 3/10ths of 1% of annual revenue or income or 1% of annual payroll?]

What kind of information do you have that would help WDFW understand those costs?

Would you be willing to share that information with us if it turns out it’s needed?

Is this the best phone number to contact you in the future if we need those documents?

Rule Changes

For reference, following were the rule changes for small scale mineral prospecting adopted in 2014:

- Consolidated mineral prospecting rules spread throughout three rule sections (220-110-200, 201, 202, 206) into WAC section 220-660-300.
- Rules for beach prospecting were added to the Gold and Fish Pamphlet, eliminating the need for beach prospectors to obtain individual HPAs.
- Motorized high banking was added as allowed equipment under the Gold and Fish pamphlet, eliminating the need for people wanting to use this equipment to obtain individual HPAs.
- One change in work windows expanded opportunity for mineral prospecting under the Gold and Fish pamphlet in a section of the Wenatchee River
- Nine pamphlet work windows allowing work under the Gold and Fish Pamphlet were changed to require people to apply for individual HPAs in these areas. There were also changes in Kitsap County, not shown here (no mineral prospecting there).

Location	Changed from	Changed to
Chelan County		
Wenatchee River (45.0030) - Mouth to Hwy 2 Bridge in Leavenworth	Wenatchee River Mouth to Lake Wenatchee July 1 - July 31	July 15 – September 30
Wenatchee River (45.0030) – Hwy 2 Bridge in Leavenworth to Lake Wenatchee	Wenatchee River Mouth to Lake Wenatchee July 1 - July 31	July 15 – August 15
Skagit County		
South Fork Nooksack River (01.0246) mouth to falls at River Mile 30	August 1 - August 15	“Submit Application”
South Fork Nooksack River (01.0246) - from falls at River Mile 30 to Wanlick Creek	July 16 - August 15	“Submit Application”
South Fork Nooksack River (01.0246) - Upstream of Wanlick Creek	July 16 - August 15	“Submit Application”
Suiattle River (04.0710)	August 1 - August 15	“Submit Application”
Whatcom County		
Nooksack River (01-0120)	July 16 - August 15	“Submit Application”
Middle Fork Nooksack River (01.0339) - Mouth to City of Bellingham Diversion Dam	July 16 - August 15	“Submit Application”
North Fork Nooksack River (01.0120) - Mouth to Nooksack Falls	July 16 - August 15	“Submit Application”
South Fork Nooksack River (01.0246) mouth to Wanlick Creek	August 1 - August 15	“Submit Application”
South Fork Nooksack River (01.0246) - Upstream of Wanlick Creek	August 1 - August 15	“Submit Application”