

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Operation of pumps, electrical generators, and other equipment powered by internal combustion engines results in emissions of minor amounts of fumes during dredging, highbanking and processing of aggregate. Minor amounts of gasoline might be spilled during fueling engines resulting in fumes in the vicinity and discharge of fuel to ground or surface waters. Noise is generated by the operation of small engines.

Tailings containing rocks of varying size, settleable and suspended sediment, will be discharged to state waters and to upland areas.

Prospectors report that they routinely encounter mercury in streams during operations. They recover an unknown proportion of that mercury. If not recovered during operations, mercury will be redistributed within streambed sediments as a result of excavation and processing of aggregate.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life? Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish or marine life are:

The proposed rules provide that live, rooted, woody vegetation may not be disturbed by project actions. Nonrooted woody and any nonwoody vegetation, including aquatic vegetation, may be disturbed under provisions of the proposed rules. Fish and wildlife may be displaced by the presence of humans and their activities around streams. Fish and wildlife displacement will be temporary; projects conducted under the proposed rules generally are short term (a few days) and in-water work is restricted to daylight hours. Marine life will not be affected by projects being proposed under authority of the Gold and Fish Pamphlet since the proposed rules do not provide for prospecting or mining in saltwater. Marine mineral prospecting projects proposed as exceptions to the pamphlet would be required to undergo separate permitting and SEPA review.

Fish could be affected by prospecting and mining activities if unregulated. The proposed rules avoid most impacts and mitigate for those that are unavoidable. Migration of some species could be temporarily delayed by the presence of prospectors in streams. Instream work is limited to daylight hours, allowing fish and wildlife migration at night. Instream prospecting activity, including any production of sediment to streams, is restricted to times when fish are not at the most sensitive stage of life (egg to fry life stages). The proposed rules provide that if fish life is observed to be in distress, or killed, project operations immediately cease. The project shall immediately notify Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division of the observation. Work may not resume until WDFW gives approval. WDFW may require additional measures in individual site specific HPA to mitigate project impacts.

Cumulative impacts of project operations will be avoided by restricting each individual worker to one mineral excavation site, and by requiring a separation of 200 feet between active operations.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy and natural resources? Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Petroleum products will be used during operation of motorized equipment while collecting or processing aggregate, and if a motor vehicle is used to access the work site. Mineral prospecting is directed toward extracting gold and other minerals from the earth. Minerals could be depleted locally unless replenished through natural erosion or other means. Depletion of natural resources that support fish life, such as water, or water quality, will be avoided by the restrictions included in the proposed rules or by requirements of other permitting agencies for these projects.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened and endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Prospecting activities will be allowed in all state waters except that prospecting in lakes, saltwaters and waters within national park, state park, and wilderness boundaries will require individual site specific HPA. Proposed rule provisions attempt to mitigate the impacts of mineral prospecting on fish life. There may be localized, short-term and minor disturbance of some sites. A number of streams are closed to activity without a separate site specific HPA because the presence of particularly vulnerable fish species or habitat requires individual proposed project review prior to approval.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

The proposed rules cover prospecting directed at discovering and recovering minerals from placer deposits. Surface disturbance of streambeds, and at times adjacent land, is required. The proposed rules limit the extent of disturbance possible by requiring: 1. Much of the work is to be conducted with hand tools. 2. Limits on the daily time period of work. 3. Restricting the number of excavations a single worker may perform at one time. 4. Return of disturbed boulders to approximate original position prior to abandoning the site.

In some cases, activities allowed through the proposed rules may be in conflict with existing plans issued by other agencies. Nothing in the proposed rules supersedes these plans, however. Additional permits may be required by other agencies before prospecting operations can begin. Because other regulatory agencies cooperated in development of these rules, they are aware of them and of the potential for conflict.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services or utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

N/A

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

We do not anticipate that the proposed rules will conflict with other laws: The rules were developed in cooperation with other federal, state and local agencies.