

Prescott National Forest

Specific Mitigation Measures for Water Resources



In addition to the general stipulations for placer mining identified in the Plan of Operation (PoO), the following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce impacts to water quality and water resources as well as minimizing disturbance to vegetation.

- Permittee will acquire all required permits (NPDES, CWA 401/404, etc) from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Army Corps of Engineers before beginning work. Adhere to permit conditions during operation. A copy of the permits acquired will be supplied to the PNF Authorized Agent for inclusion in the project record.
- Minimize the length of time that stream specific placer activity occurs. Consolidate channel work and complete the activities without interruption.
- Avoid conducting concurrent site activities that may delay channel work and increase exposure time of disturbance. Ensure that all needed materials, manpower, and equipment are available on-site prior to initiating placer or reclamation activities in the stream channel/floodplain and tributaries.
- Limit stream access points to minimize impact to floodplain vegetation/soils and to maintain stream bank stability.
- Placer activities are allowed below the high-water mark of the stream channel. All excavations must be filled in before leaving the area.
- Restore disturbed streambed to pre-disturbance channel dimensions & gradient.
- OHV/motorized access will be limited to roads and trails designated for motorized use on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). No access on floodplain or in stream.
- Avoid areas of vertical instability.
- No diverting water from the active channel to side channels or floodplain depressions for the purpose of conducting placer activities.
- Permittee will incorporate sediment basin, portable settling apparatus, or utilize existing vegetated depression (scour holes in floodplain) to reduce soil erosion and water quality effects from high banker discharge.
- Permittee will avoid 'glide' stream reaches where colonizing herbaceous riparian vegetation is establishing or is currently established. Glide areas are characterized as slow-moving sections of creeks or rivers; avoid these if vegetation is present.



All persons are prohibited from mutilation, defacing, removing, disturbing, injuring or destroying any natural feature or any property of the United States. (Title 36 CFR 261.9a). Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

- Bucket(s) of soil shall not be removed from premises to be removed for processing off forest.
- Caching of equipment and supplies on the forest is not allowed.
- Do not cut trees, limbs or brush; do not dig up ground cover.
- No trees or shrubs (live or dead) will be removed or undercut in the course of this operation. No riparian vegetation (i.e. cottonwoods, willows, alders, ash, sycamore, rushes & sedges, etc) will be disturbed. Grass and sedge clumps will also be retained in place.
- Placer activities will implement treatment buffers for herbaceous and woody vegetation established in the PNF Standard Placer Mining Operational Standards. The following list provides buffer distances to prevent or minimize disturbance to vegetation adjacent or along creek banks. Distance(in feet) recommended based on vegetation height.

Riparian Vegetation	Buffer radius length
Herbaceous (e.g., grasses and forbs)	1 foot
Woody Vegetation 0-5 feet tall	3 feet
Woody Vegetation 5-15 feet tall	10 feet
Woody Vegetation 15+ feet tall	15 feet