

Placer Mining Spill Prevention and Maintenance Plan

I. Objectives and General Information

The purpose of this spill prevention plan is to protect the forest lands, water quality and the surrounding watershed during placer mining. These general processes and procedures will be followed by the operator. Based on the approved Plan of Operation (PoO), the types of spills that might be encountered should be minimal amounts of petroleum products (fuels, oil, and lubricants).

- Only enough materials required to do the job at hand will be located at the mining claim.
- Materials will be stored in a neat and orderly manner in appropriate containers with approved lids (or sealed), placed on a waterproof barrier, and protected by water resistant covering, as needed.
- Petroleum products will be stored in the shade, 100 feet or more away from any stream or drainage.

All operators will keep a log of time, day, and location of any spill of petroleum products that may have occurred and will report the spill immediately. Photographs will be taken to document the extent of the spill and condition of the area after cleanup.

II. Preventative Maintenance and Refueling

Well-maintained equipment will be used to perform the work required during this project. When practicable, equipment maintenance will be performed offsite. Equipment will be checked for leaks, and all leaks will be repaired prior to the start of operations each day. Equipment will be removed from the stream when refueling, so that fuel does not need to be carried out into the stream. A funnel will be used while pouring, and absorbent material will be placed under the fuel tank to catch any spillage from fueling operations. Operators will have a copy of this plan with them while operating on or visiting any claim in the Prescott National Forest.

III. Source Identification

To minimize accidental spillage, petroleum products will be stored in approved, regulated, plastic or metal spill-proof containers, placed on a waterproof barrier, and protected by water resistant covering, as needed. Petroleum products will be stored in the shade, 100 feet or more away from any stream or drainage. Petroleum products will be limited to:

- No more than 10 gallons of fuel on site at any time.
- No more than 4 quarts of oil on site at any time.
- No more than 14 ounces of grease on site at any time.

No materials (including, petroleum products, hydraulic fluids, human waste, food, trash, etc.) will be stored on any claim for any length of time. These materials will only be present during the time that an operation or site visit is under way. All materials will be removed and disposed of in the proper facilities away from forest lands when operations and/or site visits are completed. Operators will not store any materials on any claims for any reason for any length of unsupervised time.

IV. Spill Contingency Plan

Quick and correct actions are important to mitigate a hazardous material spill. A spill kit will be carried along with dredge equipment in case of accidental spillage. A spill kit will contain: 5-gallon bucket, nitrile gloves, polyethylene mats, paper towels, oil-absorbing product, and polypropylene bags.

In the event of a petroleum spill, cleanup will be conducted as soon as possible. If the spill is on compacted soil, an oil-absorbing product, such as kitty litter or Absorb[®], may be applied. Once the cleanup product has absorbed the spill, the product will be placed into watertight buckets or bags, labeled, stored, and disposed of according to federal, state, or local regulations. If the spill occurs on uncompacted soil, the contaminated soil will be removed, managed, and disposed of according to federal, state, or local regulations. Any soil or absorbent material contaminated by spilled petroleum products will be excavated to the depth of saturation and will be removed and disposed of properly outside of the Prescott National Forest. Photographs will be taken to document the extent of the spill and condition of the area after cleanup.

If mercury is discovered during mining operations, operations will cease and the Forest Service will be notified. No mercury, cyanide, or other hazardous or refined substance will be used by an operator to recover or concentrate gold.

V. Spill Reporting

A description of the spill, cause, cleanup measures, and disposal method will be documented and reported as appropriate. As soon as possible, but within 12 hours of an identified spill, the operator, or a designated representative, will notify the Forest Service and state agency.

- United States Forest Service - Prescott National Forest Dispatch: **(928) 777-5700**
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ): **1-800-234-5677** | 602-390-7894 (emergency) 602-771-2330 (non-emergency)

Specific information to be forwarded to these agencies includes the following:

- Name of operator reporting release.
- Location, type, and approximate amount of the spill (GPS coordinates, if possible)
- Potential threats to public safety.
- Possibilities of release entering waterways, drainages, etc.
- Cleanup procedures implemented for spill remediation.
- Defined follow up procedures to be used to satisfy health, safety, environmental, and regulatory requirements.

VI. Additional Information

Operators will never use large amounts of petroleum products or hazardous chemicals on any operation within the Prescott National Forest. Placer operations are recreational in nature and are not in any way to be operated as, or considered as, commercial mining operations.