

Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Newsletter

Letter from the President

Thank you all for another successful month packed with outings, friends and fun. Seems those who looked for gold, found it. It's the teamwork that impresses me. The club has brought many diverse interests to focus on a common goal. When this happens, everyone wins.

As the seasons change, so will our focus and resolve. We will be co-planning the GPAA Gold and Treasure Show with the Portland Chapter. This will provide another great opportunity to grow together as a team. If you thought last years Gold and Treasure Show was fun wait till you attend the next one.

I look forward every month to seeing you, hearing your stories and seeing your golden smiles. This to me is a priceless treasure.

Thank you.— Randy Harper— President.

OCTOBER 2015



Our Thanks to You

"With warmest thanks, grateful hearts, and deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

My wife and I would love to say and give our sincere thanks for everyone who donated cash to help us in our time of need until I get onto my feet. It feels great to have friends and Association family to care for its members. So glad we're a part of yours.

Richard and Mae Pluff"

OCTOBER EDUCATION

The October Education Program will be a presentation by David Chiara, President of the Portland Chapter of GPAA demonstrating the "gold thumper".

September Education Program Chris Cosby—The Gold Gitter

Chris Cosby of Lewiston, Idaho, has developed a "proto-type" panning tool while working a placer on the North Fork of The Clearwater east of Lewiston. Chris was using a Garrett Super Sluice gold pan and a friend was using a rocker box. The idea was to combine the action of the rocker box with the riffle pattern of the super sluice. The "Gold Gitter" uses a "flat classifier" over the riffles and is open on both ends. Being open on both ends allows concentration to be done by rocking the pan side to side. The "Gold Gitter" has folding handles on both ends which allows use of both hands without getting them wet and cold. The "classifier holes" in the Gold Gitter are 5/16". The side-to-side motion of the Gold Gitter keeps the riffles in constant motion underwater so "heavies" will sink to the center of the v-shaped trough. The unit weighs about one pound so it is ideal for exploring and backpacking. The recovery rate for the Gold Gitter is as good or better than the Garrett Super Sluice pan. The Gold Gitter is priced at \$49.95 per unit plus shipping and handling. The Gold Gitter is classified as a gold pan not a sluice so it can be used in areas where only panning is allowed. Materials are plastic, aluminum and stainless steel and it is manufactured here in the Vancouver area. We appreciate Chris providing a demonstration of the Gold Gitter to SWWGP. Chris can be contacted at 1-208-743-3202 or crosby-clan@cablone.net.



Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

President	Randy Harper	503-849-5109	rh82065@hotmail.com
Vice President	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ken Didier	360-604-2701	ky02kid@peoplepc.com
Secretary	Larry Hellie	360-601-6388	hhrc2@comcast.net
Claims Chair	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Education Chair	Steve Lewin	971-211-5996	goldpan123@yahoo.com
Equipment Mgr	Randy Harper	503-849-5109	rh82065@hotmail.com
Hospitality	The Fests	360-465-2393	famfest@wwest.net
Safety Officer	Ron Koppi	360-254-9309	koppi@comcast.net
Outings	Scott Long	503-754-0612	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
Sunshine	Debbie Witcher	360-635-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com
Website	Dan Shelton	360-442-9577	driv101@comcast.net
Director	David Conti	360-256-0892	user764554@aol.com
Director	Tom Fest	360-465-2393	famfest@wwest.net
Director	David Fritz	503-990-7064	dfritz@unfritz.com
Director	Dale Long	503-665-4717	dalelongsmaill@gmail.com
Director	Scott Long	503-754-0612	mthoodfire74@hotmail.com
Director	Richard Pluff, Jr.	503-957-6884	magicdragon1956@hotmail.com
Director	Waylon St. Clair	360-921-6918	waylonst3@gmail.com
Director	Debbie Witcher	360-695-3215	ddwitcher@yahoo.com

Tip #1: A metal detector can be an excellent tool for gold prospecting for several reasons. 1) modern gold detectors work exceptionally well if you learn how to use them properly. 2) You can locate gold that may have been just inches below the surface, but out of sight from other miners. 3) They work great in areas with limited water where panning, sluicing, and dredging may not be an option.

SWWGP Membership Reminder

The September Newsletter was the first one e-mailed to all SWWGP members in five months. In order to continue receiving the SWWGP Newsletter you need to remain an active member of SWWGP. The Membership Committee has worked hard to clean up the Membership Roster. Every month we are adding several new members but at the end of the year we will be losing some members due to non-participation. If you want to remain an active member of SWWGP Club you need to attend three meetings or outings each year or risk being dropped from the Membership Roster. There is still time to stay current with your membership by attending the October, November or December Monthly Meetings or participating in one of the remaining outings or events scheduled between now and the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report for September

Beginning balance for the month was \$6434.52. Income for September was \$804.08. Our expenses were \$406.68 which leaves a balance of \$6831.92 as of 9/30/2015.

Submitted by Ken Didier—SWWGP Treasurer

CHINOOK WINDS CASINO TRIP — OCTOBER 17, 2015

The bus trip to Chinook Winds is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th. The bus will be in the Walmart parking lot on NE 104th Avenue, off of Mill Plain in Vancouver. Need directions? Just call us or you can also google map quest. The bus leaves at 9:00 a.m., so please be there by 8:30. This is a **reservation only trip** so be sure to contact Debbie Witcher 360-695-3215 to reserve your seat. Cost is \$10 which includes the bingo games and a raffle ticket. This is open to you, your family and friends. We should be back around before 6:30 p.m. We will have lots of raffle prizes and lots of fun. The Casino is giving each of us \$10 in free slot play, \$3 meal credit and are donating raffle prizes for us to use. How great is that!!! We had a full bus (53) last time and every one said they had a great time. We would like to have two busses this time. Soooooo get signed up, take a break with friends and family, meet some new people and enjoy a day trip to the beach. I will collect trip fees at the October meeting.

Thank you—Debbie Witcher, Fund Raising Co-Chair 360-695-3215

Major Placer Gold Locations

- 1848-49 California—Trinity/Klamath Rivers
- 1849 Nevada—Gold Canyon
- 1852 Oregon—Grants Pass district
- Montana—Gold Creek
- 1857 Nevada—Six-Mile Creek
- 1858 Arizona—Gila City
- Colorado—Cherry Creek, Ralston Creek, Platte River
- 1858-60 Washington—Blewett Pass
- 1859 Colorado—Clear Creek, Blue River, Arkansas River
- 1860-61 Idaho—Clearwater River, Pierce City, Oro Fino, Elk City, Florence, Warren
- 1862 Montana—Bannock, Alder Creek
- Idaho—Boise Basin
- Arizona—La Paz district
- 1863-64 Arizona—Weaver Creek, Lynch Creek
- Utah—Bingham Canyon
- 1864 Montana—Helena
- 1867 Nevada—Tuscarora district
- New Mexico—Elizabethtown district
- 1874-75 South Dakota—Black Hills, Deadwood Gulch
- 1876-77 Nevada—Copper Mountain (Charleston district), Osceola
- 1881 Nevada—Spring Valley

SWWGP MONTHLY MEETING

The Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors' meetings are the second Sunday of every month beginning at **2:00 pm** at:

Minnehaha Grange Hall #164
4905 Northeast St Johns Road
Vancouver, Washington

All interested parties are invited to attend the monthly meetings. There will be opportunities to learn about prospecting laws, methods and equipment as well as hands-on demonstrations and practice. There are also outings to enjoy the pleasures of gold prospecting and the great outdoors.

Become a member of the Southwest Washington Chapter of the Gold Prospectors' Association of America. GPAA membership is not required to be a member and SWWGP membership is **FREE!**

SWWGP EVENT SCHEDULE

October 2015

- 2, 3, 4 Outing Cape Disappointment
11 SWWGP Monthly Meeting - 2016 President, Secretary and Board of Directors Nominations
17 SWWGP Chinook Winds Casino Trip

November 2015

- 1 Daylight savings time ends
8 SWWGP Monthly Meeting - 2016 President, Secretary and Board of Directors election
11 Veterans Day
26 Thanksgiving Day

December 2015

- 13 SWWGP Monthly Meeting Christmas Potluck - Installation of 2016 Officers
25 Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve—Be Safe

SWWGP IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The time is fast approaching to start thinking about our annual Holiday Potluck on Sunday December 13, 2015. There will be a "Sign Up Sheet" at the October and November General Meetings for volunteer help and for your potluck contribution. Please let Maurine Koppi, Debbie Witcher or Toni Fest know if you can help with the potluck. Thank you, - Debbie Witcher Special Events Committee Chairperson
360-695-3215 or email ddwitcher@yahoo.com

At the November SWWGP Meeting we will be electing a President and Secretary and nine new board members. All board members must be willing to attend scheduled board meetings which are normally held just before the regular monthly club meetings. Board members make decisions which benefit the club and operation of the club. Board members may be asked, or volunteer, to participate on or chair committees. These Board positions do not require a lot of time but they are an important for the club's operation and a great way to help out. Please be thinking about who you would like to have represent your club including yourself. If you would like to run for a Board position please let us know. We will also be accepting nominations for these positions at the October and November meetings.

Thank you,
Debbie Witcher— Membership Committee Chair
360-695-3215 or email ddwitcher@yahoo.com

LETTERS (OR E-MAILS) TO THE EDITOR

Four newsletters done and three left for this year.

In response to my appeals I finally received an e-mail from a SWWGP member. You will find Matt Barner's thought-provoking "Fun as a First Time Dredger" on page 5 of this newsletter (thanks Matt—nice job!). It is nice to have a "member's article" but I still need your input for articles, topics, needs and wants. If you have an article or want a topic researched send me a note "hrc2@comcast.net" or call me (1-360-601-6388.)

Since this is the SWWGP's Newsletter I would encourage you to submit an article, story or comments for publication. Don't worry about the format, grammar or spelling (that is what an editor does). It would also be great to have some additional pictures from your personal gold outing, not just from club outings.

Larry Hellie—Newsletter Editor

SWWGP SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The SWWGP September General Meeting was called to order by Randy Harper at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 2015. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The SWWGP Officers were introduced: Randy Harper—President, Steve Lewin—Vice President, Ken Didier—Treasurer and Larry Hellie—Secretary. Randy Harper welcomed guests.

The Secretary's Report was read as printed in the September Newsletter. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report was read as printed in the September Newsletter. In addition the Treasurer reported an additional new laptop, new printer and two external hard drives were purchased. If any one has signed up for GPAA and not received a card let the Treasurer know. There has been a problem with GPAA with an uncashed check. Protech Toolbox – winner was from Tulsa, OK. Provided alternate prizes so winner could avoid shipping. The toolbox is worth approximately \$1500 so there will be a tax consequence. It was suggested that it be held for the next gold show, or silent auction, or sell it on Craig's List.

TH Claims Chairman reports August 15 Lewisville outing problem with non-member "law breakers". They were turned in to the Forest service and our members proceeded to Copper Creek instead. There will be an October 2-4 beach mining led by Rodney Chavez, at Cape Disappointment on Long Beach peninsula camp ground close to digging site. We'll remove overburden and then collect black sand and take concentrate home to pan. Best beach mining is after winter storm. You'll need a Discovery Pass for staying at the camp ground or using the beach. Discussion of requirements of the Gold and fish Book and use of metal detectors.

Safety Report CPR classes will be held today in the basement following the break. Debbie Witcher, our Sunshine Director reports: sent out get well card; Richard Pluff has a heart problem and we are passing the "gold pan" to help raise money. Raised \$420 by passing the "pan". October 17 is the Chinook Winds bingo trip. There will be an outing (not a Club outing) to "Roaring Camp" May 22 to May 29th next year. Limited number of slots available.

Introduce New Members – Present Packets No new member this month.

Accept Nominations for President, Secretary and Board of Director Positions

Nominations for President: Debbie Witcher,

Nominations for Secretary: Larry Hellie,

Nominations for nine Board Positions:

Education Program Chris Cosby – Lewiston, Idaho Developed a "prototype" panning on N fork of Clearwater. Using a Garrent Super Sluice pan and friend had a rocker box. Using a flat classifier over the riffles. Open on both ends so it can be used and rocked by hand without getting your hands wet and concentrate materials so you can get out very quick.



Beach Placer Mining at Cape Disappointment

The October SWWGP outing was a beach placer mining trip to Cape Disappointment State Park on October 2, 3 and 4. SWWGP members, guests, friends and beach combers participated in the three days of beach mining. Twenty-one hardy souls signed in for the adventure planned and directed by Rodney Chavez (pictured right). Thank you Rodney for a great event.



Congratulations to Steve Lewin on His Appointment as Washington and Oregon GPAA State Director!!!

Steve Lewin, SWWGP Vice President and Claims Chair, (pictured above) was recently appointed as GPAA State Director for the states of Washington and Oregon. Congratulations Steve on being selected to provide such an important service to the GPAA, SWWGP members and gold prospectors in both states. We all wish you "good luck" on a very tough difficult task.

Pictured below are some of the winners from the "Super Raffle" and the September Monthly Raffle. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone for participating in the fund raising for the Southwest Washington Gold Prospectors Club!!!!



FUN AS A FIRST TIME DREDGER

Hello all: - Just wanted to share some "miner details" about some of my experiences thus far and some "miner drama".

Where to start? I was sitting in my room one day not doing anything productive when my mom handed me a newspaper article with a SWWGP feature. She knows all I watch is gold shows on tv so naturally this piqued my interest. I held onto it for months. Finally I realized a meeting was being held on my day off so I decided to attend.

As soon as I showed up I was met with warm smiles and welcome arms. I was told to sign in and from that point while interacting with fellow members, both old and prospective, I was made to feel truly welcome.

Fast forward to my first outing which was at Lewisville Park. I was hoping to learn how to dredge. Upon arriving, we found a few non-member prospectors illegally mining and Steve generously offered to just let us use his claim on Copper Creek instead, so we got back in our cars and left. I get to Copper Creek, with the anticipation of large nuggets filling my pockets. We offloaded the dredge, and in what looked like a scene from Mission Impossible, we rappelled with the dredge down a steep embankment. With the dredge finally secure, we were given the hoses, and, if I can remember correctly, told "good luck." After an hour of trying to prime the dredge, and get the hoses hooked up, we were mining, or so I thought. Every ten minutes we seemed to get a rock jam, but for some reason I was ok with it. I really felt like a modern day gold miner. I had met Clint earlier in the day, and we were attempting to dredge, with some issues. Some fellow members, Mark, and Betty, hopped in the water and started to help out. We encountered some miner drama along the way, hoses blowing off, loose fittings, countless jams, but we began to build a rhythm for dredging. All said and done we got about 6 small flakes, maybe 3 fine pieces. I didn't care how much gold I got, I just was there for the experience. I was given a \$3,000 dredge to use, I was around like-minded people, and I could only think of one thing, why don't more people come try this? I was shocked only 6 or 7 of us came to enjoy the company of others and prospect (only 2 from Vancouver). Now I also wanna let you know, I have been to almost every outing since then, except 1, and this past weekend was no exception (Sept 27th). I was at Copper Creek once again, and was looking forward to dredging. There were some new members from the Portland chapter, and I was asked if I could show them how to dredge; once I heard that, I was elated! I was wondering if people thought I knew maybe, "just enough" to show others what to do. I spent just over 5 hours in water that was 48-50 degrees, showing the few members how to dredge. This being the first time I had used a snorkel, I really felt the part. As I first entered the water, the coldness was a shock to my body, mentally I was fine, but I sort of began to hyperventilate. I could not catch my breathe. I don't tell you this, to scare you, but to let you know once the body acclimates itself breathing is relaxed. Once I had everything under control, I began to show people how to hold the nozzle, classify underwater, and tend the dredge.

The only disappointment I had, was when I was in the water, I looked up, I saw Steve, and realized he and I were the only members from Vancouver. I wish more people would take advantage of these situations, but not take them for granted. This is an amazing opportunity for people. I also want to stress, that when I see new members at meetings, you're welcome to use the dredge, come to outings, don't feel like your not welcome, or allowed to use the equipment. I'll show you how to dredge, breathe underwater, etc. You can even come to hang out, casually pan, whatever works. I really aim to encourage people to come to these events. I drive a fairly lowered car, I seem to be able to navigate the roads to claims fine, and if transportation is an issue, let someone know. I will let people carpool with me, if getting a ride is an issue. Don't have any gear? I bring plenty of stuff to share with others, and others share their gear as well. I really just would love to see more people. I have a hell of a good time every time I go, and I want others to experience what I do. I really want to thank Steve especially; every time I see him, I hear him say, "I am really just here so you guys have a good time, and learn how to gold mine." With members so willing to help you, what's to lose? Nothing but...

The GOLD...!

So long for now, and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting or outing.

-Matt Barner
Kalama, WA

Gold in Southwest Washington

Gold is less abundant in Southwest Washington than in some other parts of the state, but gold can still be found with some hard work. Many of the best prospecting opportunities here will be found along the beaches of the Pacific ocean as well as the banks of the Columbia River. These deposits are widespread and can be found relatively easily in small quantities almost anywhere.

Many people are surprised to hear that there is actually some gold in the Puget Sound as well. Much like the gold found along the beaches of the Pacific Ocean, these deposits are extremely fine textured. Very limited attention has been given to these areas on a commercial scale. Even when they were first discovered, very few miners stuck around to work these limited deposits. Most that did were Chinese immigrants who were satisfied working the lower grade placers.

Placer gold deposits can be found all throughout the beach sands in Grays Harbor County. Very small quantities of platinum have also been recovered there. There have been sporadic mining operations scattered all throughout Grays Harbor from Point Brown to Cow Point. Look for black sand concentrations in the sand throughout the harbor. Other good areas can be found to the north around Oyhut and Moclips. Anywhere along the beach has potential for fine gold. Be sure to use careful panning techniques or specialized equipment to capture the very fine gold and platinum that is present there.

Placers can be found near the headwaters of Silver Creek draining the high country near Mount Rainer. In fact gold can be found in many drainages around the Crystal Mountain Ski Resort. Just to the south along the border of Pierce County and Yakima County several mines and prospects can be found around Pickhandle Point and also just south into Yakima County in the Morse Creek drainage.

All the beaches along the "big water" in Pacific County contain very small particles of gold and platinum. The beaches along the Pacific Ocean will produce gold as well as the beaches near the mouth of the Columbia River. The best method for locating gold in these areas is to identify black sand concentrations. These are often found in thin "paystreaks", sometimes right along the surface of the beach. Prospecting in beach sands is one area that you don't necessarily have to dig deep to find the gold because the gold particles are so fine that they are easily moved by the tide action. Literally anywhere has the potential to produce here including the Columbia River, Long Beach, Ocean Park up to Twin Harbors Beaches. Spotty prospecting has been done throughout the area with similar results; small quantities of fine gold with limited commercial value. Capitalizing on these fine gold and platinum deposits will require excellent fine gold recovery techniques.

The East Fork of the Lewis River is a popular
(continued on page 6)

Gold in Washington

Washington is a great state with plenty of opportunity for gold prospecting. Overall production has been much less than most of the other western states, but several million ounces of gold have still been found here. Recreational miners armed with pans, sluice boxes, and suction dredges will be right at home in Washington, with fine placers found throughout the state. With a few exceptions, most gold here is quite fine, and distributed throughout the creeks and rivers. Metal detecting is generally less productive than other places, since gold is smaller sized and difficult to detect.

The Columbia River is the largest drainage in the Pacific Northwest, and drains all of Washington's waters east of the Cascade Mountains. Its headwaters start in Canada, and it ends at the Pacific Ocean. Placer deposits are throughout the gravels of this river system, generally in the form of very fine flour gold. The same is true of the snake River system which drains into the Columbia in the southeast part of the state. It is worth emphasis that much of this gold is micron in size, so consideration should be given to your prospecting method, since it can be very easy to lose gold that small. On the Columbia, check various gravel bars during low water, as well as beach deposits that may have been worked by the "old-timers". Many Chinese immigrants worked these placers at one time.

All the counties in Washington have produced gold. East of the Cascades the most noteworthy are Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan, Chelan and Kittitas Counties. Stevens County in the far northeast corner of the state has hundreds of mine sites scattered throughout the area. These mines are "lode" mines which produced copper, iron, lead and zinc in addition to gold.

Ferry County is one of Washington's biggest gold producers. It contains the Republic district 25 miles south of the Canadian border. The vast majority of the gold found has been from lode mining. Placers in Ferry county produce primarily "flour gold".

Okanogan County was the largest gold producer in the state. Much of the gold came from lode mines in the Blewett, Chelan Lake and Wenatchee Districts; but numerous placer operations have also been in place since the mid 1800's. The Golden King Mine is in the Wenatchee District and is one of the largest lode gold producers in the United States. Creeks and rivers throughout the area should also produce placer gold for the recreational gold prospector.

In Kittitas County you will find one of the best known prospecting areas in Washington. Although overall gold production was not nearly as high as in other counties the area has a history of producing coarser gold including nuggets of several ounces in size. Near the historic town of Liberty there are numerous lode and placer mines worthy of investigation. Williams and Swauk are the best producers. They are also well known for the unique "wire gold" specimens that have been found.

West of the Cascade Mountains there are also ample opportunities for gold prospecting. All counties have produced at least some gold in the past. A few of the most noteworthy include Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King and Pierce.

Gold can be found throughout Skagit County along the Skagit River and its tributaries. Snohomish County has produced a lot of gold mainly in the Monte Cristo and Silverton Districts. King County is also a large gold producer in the state but nearly all sizeable operations have been lode mines. Exploring creeks near these lode areas may produce fine gold. In Pierce County most activity is found at the far eastern part of the county where it borders the Yakima County line.

All counties along the Columbia River, as well as the ocean beaches, have produced very fine "flour gold". The key indicator is "black sand" deposits which must be carefully sampled to find the extremely fine-textured gold.

Be aware that many of the waters in Washington contain salmon and steelhead and the rules and regulations regarding prospecting vary throughout the state. The Washington Department of Fish and Game prints a "Gold and Fish" pamphlet that covers the prospecting regulations in the state. There will be different regulations associated with private, state, federal and tribal lands so it is always important to check with the various agencies associated with the area that you intend to prospect for the most current information.

Source: BLM Publications

Gold in Southwest Washington

(continued from page 5) area to prospect for gold in Clark County. Although the placers found here aren't noted as being particularly rich, it is an accessible place for prospectors who live in the Vancouver and Portland areas, and are generally considered better paying than most other areas within an hour of the Portland area. Fine gold can be found all throughout the river down to its confluence with the Columbia River near Woodland. There are also reports of fine gold in the creeks around Brush Prairie south of Battle Ground.

Another popular area for prospectors who live in the Portland/Vancouver area is a few creeks in Skamania County that contain placer gold deposits. One good area to explore is around McCoy Creek, a tributary to Yellowjacket Creek in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Campo Creek is located on the southwest flank of Juniper Peak and flows into McCoy Creek. There are many small drainages around McCoy Peak, Langille Peak, Juniper Peak and Sunrise Peak that are worthy of further investigation.

Gold occurrences are limited in Lewis, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties with the exception of very fine deposits along the Columbia and Cowlitz Rivers. This area gets limited attention from most prospectors. The same can be said for Thurston, Mason and Kitsap Counties, which only produce limited quantities of very fine gold. Prospectors who live in this region are probably better off focusing their attention on the better known gold occurrences to the east in Peirce and Skamania Counties in the Cascade Mountains.

Source: "Start Finding Gold—A Guide to Prospecting in Washington" - an e-book by Gold Rush Nuggets

Tip #2: When searching for a location to start gold panning you don't necessarily have to get your material at the water's edge. There is lots of placer gold far away from the creek sometimes discarded in waste piles or within beach deposits that have never even been mined before.

Gold and Fish Rules and Regulations for Mineral Prospecting and Placer Mining in Washington State

Common Questions and Answers about Permits

Do I need a permit to placer mine or prospect for minerals in Washington?

Yes. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was given authority by the Washington State Legislature to regulate anyone that "desires to construct any form of hydraulic project or perform other work that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of any of the salt or fresh waters of the state" when it passed the Hydraulic Code (Chapter 75.20 RCW). Mineral prospecting and placer mining activities that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of waters of the state qualifies as "other work" and you must have a valid permit from WDFW to legally conduct that activity. Other types of mining that will not affect waters of the state are not required to obtain a permit from WDFW, but you will need other permits from other agencies. Contact Washington Departments of Natural Resources and Ecology for more information

Gold and Fish Rules and Regulations for Mineral Prospecting and Placer Mining in Washington State

Definitions of Terms

The following definitions apply to mineral prospecting activities conducted under authorization of this pamphlet and the Hydraulic Code. Terms in these definitions that are highlighted in **bold** are also defined in this section.

Aggregate - A mixture of minerals separable by mechanical or physical means.

Bank - Any land surface above the **ordinary high water line** that adjoins a body of water and contains it except during floods. Bank also includes all land surfaces of islands above the ordinary high water line that adjoin a water body and that are below the flood elevation of their surrounding water body.

Bed - The land below the **ordinary high water lines of state waters**. This definition shall not include irrigation ditches, canals, storm water run-off devices, or other artificial **watercourses** except where they exist in a natural watercourse that has been altered by man.

Bed materials - Naturally occurring material, including, but not limited to, gravel, cobble, rock, rubble, sand, mud and aquatic plants, found in the **beds** of state waters. Bed materials may be found in deposits or bars above the **wetted perimeter** of water bodies.

Boulder - A **stream** substrate particle larger than ten inches in diameter.

Concentrator - A device used to physically or mechanically separate and enrich the valuable mineral content of **aggregate**. **Pans, sluice boxes** and **mini-rocker boxes** are examples of concentrators.

Entirely artificial watercourse - Irrigation ditches, canals, storm water run-off devices, highway ditches or other watercourses that were never and are not now part of a natural stream channel, altered or otherwise.

Excavation site - The pit, furrow, or hole from which **aggregate** is being removed for the processing and recovery of minerals.

Fish life - All fish species, including but not limited to **food fish, shellfish, game fish**, and other nonclassified fish species and all stages of development of those species.

Fishway - Any facility or device that is designed to enable fish to effectively pass around or through an obstruction without undue stress or delay.

Food fish - Those species of the classes Osteichthyes, Agnatha, and Chondrichthyes that shall not be fished for except as authorized by rule of the director of the department of fish and wildlife.

Freshwater area - Those **state waters** and associated **beds** below the **ordinary high water line** that are upstream of **river** mouths including all **lakes, ponds, and streams**.

Game fish - Those species of the class Osteichthyes that shall not be fished for except as authorized by rule of the fish and wildlife commission.

Glide - Calm water flowing smoothly and gently, with moderately low velocities (10-20 cm/sec), and little or no surface turbulence.

Gold and Fish pamphlet - A pamphlet which details the rules required to be followed when conducting **small scale prospecting and mining** activities as well as other prospecting and mining activities and which serves as the **Hydraulic Project Approval** for certain mineral prospecting and mining activities in Washington State.

Hand-held tools - Tools that are held by hand and are not powered by internal combustion, hydraulics, pneumatics, or electricity. Some examples of hand-held tools are shovels, rakes, hammers, pry bars and cable winches.

Hatchery - Any water impoundment or facility used for the captive spawning, hatching, or rearing of **fish** and **shellfish**.

Highbanker - A stationary **concentrator** capable of being operated outside the **wetted perimeter** of the water body from which water is removed, and which is used to separate gold and other minerals from **aggregate** with the use of water supplied by hand or pumping, and consisting of a **sluice box**, hopper, and water supply. Aggregate is supplied to the highbanker by means other than **suction dredging**. This definition excludes **mini-rocker boxes**.

Highbanking - The use of a **highbanker** for the recovery of minerals.

Hydraulic Code - Chapter 75.20 of the Revised Code of Washington This code authorizes Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue and condition **Hydraulic Project Approvals** for the protection of **fish life**.

Hydraulic project application - A form provided by and submitted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife accompanied by plans and specifications of the proposed **hydraulic project**.

Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) - In the case of mineral prospecting and mining, an HPA is either:

(a) A written approval for a **hydraulic project** signed by the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), or the director's designates; or

(b) A "Gold and Fish" pamphlet issued by WDFW which identifies and authorizes specific hydraulic project activities for mineral prospecting.

Hydraulicizing - The use of water spray or water under pressure to dislodge minerals and other material.

Incidental Take Permit - A permit issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service which authorizes the incidental **take** of a species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Job site - The space of ground including and immediately adjacent to the area where work is conducted under the authority of a **Hydraulic Project Approval**. For mineral prospecting and placer mining projects, the job site includes the **excavation site**.

Joint Aquatic Resource Permits Application (JARPA) - The application used to apply for a written **Hydraulic Project Approval**.

Lake - Any natural or impounded body of standing freshwater, except impoundments of the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Large woody material - Trees or tree parts larger than four inches in diameter and longer than six feet and rootwads, wholly or partially waterward of the **ordinary high water line**.

Mean higher high water or MHHW - The tidal elevation obtained by averaging each day's highest tide at a particular location over a period of 19 years. It is measured from the MLLW = 0.0 tidal elevation.

Mean lower low water or MLLW - The 0.0 tidal elevation. It is determined by averaging each day's lowest tide at a particular location over a period of 19 years. It is the tidal datum for vertical tidal references in the saltwater area.

(Continued in the November Newsletter)

Tip #3: Sometimes small prospects that only look like a small pit dug into a hillside can be very rich with gold. Don't be afraid to seek out the lesser known mines and prospects that are a bit off the beaten path.

These are places that are often overlooked by other prospectors. Remember that it took a LOT of gold to keep the early-day miners interested. A location that may have been considered "worked out" by the old-timers may still be exceptionally rich by today's standards.

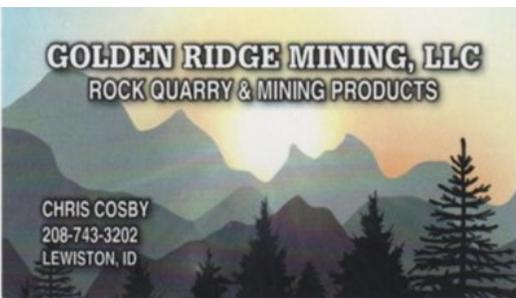


Thanks to these companies for supporting SWWGP activities. SWWGP members may advertise free by submitting a business card.

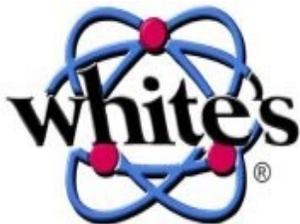


D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales Inc.

13809 SE Division Portland, OR 1-503-761-1521

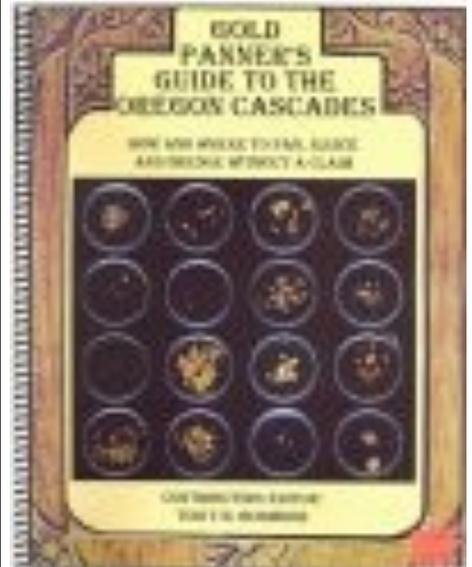


E-mail: cosbyclan@cablone.net
 Www: gold-gitter.com



PLEASE SUPPORT THESE SWWGP CLUB SPONSORS

- 9 Cent Copies
- Avon Products—Bug Guard (Steve Lewin)
- Chinook Winds Casino
- D & K Prospecting & Detector Sales
- Designs of All Kinds
- Gold Rush Nugget Bucket
- Lemar Advertising
- McCord's Vancouver Toyota/RV Center
- Northwest Detector Sales
- Pro Caliber
- Quick Badge and Signs, Inc
- Red Lion—Inn at the Quay
- Steel Security & Safety Systems
- Thunder Reef Diving



Books available from Northwest Detector Sales

