

combined cumulative total of one percent of the average daily flow or one cubic foot per second, whichever is less, unless:

(a) The Water Resources Department, the State Parks and Recreation Department, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of State Lands unanimously agree to exceed that amount; and

(b) Exceeding that amount will not significantly impair the free-flowing character of these waters in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife.

(13) Before authorizing an appropriation that will reduce streamflows within a scenic waterway in amounts up to but not exceeding the amounts described in subsection (12) of this section, the Water Resources Director shall find:

(a) That the appropriation will not significantly impair the free-flowing character of these waters in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife.

(b) That the appropriation is consistent with provisions pertaining to water appropriations and water rights under ORS chapters 536 and 537 and the rules adopted thereunder.

(c) That construction, operation and maintenance of the appropriation will be carried out in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in ORS 390.805 to 390.925.

(14) No placer mining shall be permitted on waters within scenic waterways other than recreational placer mining.

(15) No person shall be required to obtain a permit for recreational prospecting resulting in the fill, removal or other alteration of less than one cubic yard of material at any one individual site and, cumulatively, not more than five cubic yards of material from within the bed or wet perimeter of any single scenic waterway in a single year. Recreational prospecting shall not occur at any site where fish eggs are present.

(16) No provision of this section shall be construed to exempt recreational placer mining on a scenic waterway, other than recreational prospecting not requiring a permit, from compliance with the provisions of ORS 196.800 to 196.825 and 196.845 to 196.870 or rules adopted pursuant to ORS 196.800 to 196.825 and 196.845 to 196.870.

(17) Recreational placer mining, other than recreational prospecting not requiring a permit, shall not:

(a) Dam or divert a waterway or obstruct fish passage;

(b) Include nozzling, sluicing or digging outside the wet perimeter of the stream, nor extend the wet perimeter;

(c) Include movement of boulders, logs, stumps or other woody material from the wet perimeter other than movement by hand and nonmotorized equipment;

(d) Involve the disturbance of rooted or embedded woody plants, including trees and shrubs, regardless of their location;

(e) Include excavation from the streambank;

(f) Fail to level pits, piles, furrows or potholes outside the main channel of the waterway upon leaving the site;

(g) Include operation of a suction dredge without a suction dredge waste discharge permit from the Department of Environmental Quality including, but not limited to, a prohibition against dredging during periods when fish eggs could be in the dredging site gravel;

(h) Be conducted on federal lands except as allowed by agencies of the federal government;

(i) Impede boating;

(j) Include operation of a dredge between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. within 500 feet of a residence or within 500 feet of a campground except within a federally designated recreational mining site; or

(k) Include operation of a dredge within the marked or posted swimming area of a designated campground or day use area except within a federally designated recreational mining site.

(18) As used in this section:

(a) "Bed" means the land within the wet perimeter and any adjacent nonvegetated dry gravel bar.

(b) "Prospecting" means to search or explore for samples of gold, silver or other precious minerals, using nonmotorized methods, from among small quantities of aggregate.

(c) "Recreational placer mining" includes, but is not limited to, the use of nonmotorized equipment and motorized surface dredges having an intake nozzle with an inside diameter not exceeding four inches, a motor no larger than 16 horsepower and a muffler meeting or exceeding factory-installed noise reduction standards. "Recreational placer mining" does not include recreational prospecting that does not require a permit.

(d) "Wet perimeter" means the area of the stream that is underwater, or is exposed as a nonvegetated dry gravel bar island surrounded on all sides by actively moving water at the time the activity occurs. [1971 c.1 §4; 1973 c.756 §1; 1977 c.671 §2; 1985 c.673 §177; 1989 c.320 §1; 1993 c.99 §1; 1995 c.223 §1; 1995 c.719 §1; 1997 c.223 §1; 1997 c.478 §1; 2001 c.499 §1]