



## Fact Sheet: Time-Saving Tips for Prospective Gold Seekers

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“Gold Fever” is synonymous with Alaska – affecting the would-be recreational miner out for fun to those interested in striking it rich. No matter what category you find yourself in, there are a few items you should familiarize yourself with before “heading out”.

- Finding “color” or gold flakes is relatively easy. Most streams originating in the mountains have color in them and by working the stream gravel, usually a few will be found. Precautions need to be taken though – many streams have claims on them and miners can be touchy, even if you’re just a recreational panner. The gold you pan probably won’t concern them as much as the possible vandalism of equipment, liability, or interruption of the operations.
- Throughout Alaska, there are two sets of mining regulations to be familiar with – State and Federal. Pamphlets describing the respective requirements of each can be obtained from respective mining information offices of the State Division of Mining, Land & Water or Bureau of Land Management.
- Land status is perhaps the most important item confronting the would-be miner or prospector – and oftentimes the most frustrating. State, Federal, Native, and private land ownership all affect the miner. Mineral closings could exist. Check the status of the area you plan to visit or mine at local information offices before heading out.
- Suction dredging is popular, not only with the recreational miner but with the serious miner looking to make a profit. Here in Alaska, it’s important to check with the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat before operating your dredge in any streams. Permits could be required and are often free. Thousands of streams in the state have been designated as anadromous (a stream where fish, such as salmon spawn) and certain restrictions could apply. Contact the local Fish and Game office for particulars on the area in which you intend to work.
- Other permits could be required depending on who manages the particular area in which you intend to operate. Generally, light, portable, field equipment and hand-held tools, such as pans, picks, and shovels would not require permits; however, the agency managing the area should be contacted to ascertain any requirements. For more involved operations, a one-stop form entitled “Annual Placer Mining Application” is required. Early submission well in advance of your intended start-up date is required.
- More detailed geological information on much of the state is available through the publications of the State Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys and the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, topographic maps of Alaska are available from specific U.S. Geological Survey offices – “pick up” and mail orders differ.
- Remember to consider the rights of others and leave any area you happen to visit free of litter.

Popular points of contact for additional information are included on the reverse side.

## **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

### State Mining Information Offices

#### Anchorage:

Public Information Center  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1360  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561  
Phone: 907-269-8400

#### Fairbanks:

Public Information Center  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699  
Phone: 907-451-2705

### Division of Mining, Land & Water\*

#### Mineral Property Management (Mining Claim Info)

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 900B  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577  
Phone: 907-269-8400

#### Mine Permitting (Statewide)

3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699  
Phone: 907-451-2736

**\*NOTE:** This Division has responsibility for regulatory functions and storage of all State mining claim case files.

## **ALASKA MINER'S ASSOCIATION**

3305 Arctic Boulevard # 202  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone: 907-563-9229

## **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

### Habitat Section

#### Southcentral Region:

333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
Phone: 907-267-2342

#### Northern Region:

1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551  
Phone: 907-459-7289

#### Southeast Region:

802 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Douglas, AK 99824  
Phone: 907-465-4105

## **US BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

#### Anchorage:

222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue # 13  
(Federal Building)  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599  
Phone: 907-271-5960

#### Fairbanks:

1150 University Avenue  
Phone: 907-474-2200  
(Mailing)  
Bureau of Land Management  
District Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844

**Note:** These offices have the responsibility for Federal regulatory functions and storage of Federal mining case files.