

## **APPENDIX D: CONDITIONS TO ATTACH TO AUTHORIZATION TO MINE ON BONANZA AND LITTLE EL CLAIMS**

All future plan of operation supplements, revisions, modifications and/or amendments shall be submitted, in writing, to the Superintendent for analysis and determination of appropriate action. The operator shall notify the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, prior to operations start up and end of season shut down to enable park staff to meet with the operator and conduct the required monitoring and compliance checks.

The operator will work with park staff in 1) documenting specific sites mined within the claims; 2) conducting field measurements to determine and verify a) water usage; b) volume of material processed; and c) extent of surface area disturbed by operations; and 3) conducting trail reclamation and mitigation activities.

An annual report shall be submitted to the Superintendent by the permittee. The report shall be submitted by November 30 of the year in which operations were conducted. Authorization to continue mining operations the following year is subject to the operator's submitting an annual report. The annual report shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Beginning of season arrival date on claims.
2. End of season departure date from claims.
3. Mining operations startup date.
4. Number of days dredging and highbanker was conducted.
5. Number of days metal detector exploration was conducted.
6. Locations where dredging operations were conducted.
7. Locations where highbanker operations were conducted.
8. Location on claims where exploration was conducted and methods employed.
9. Volume (cubic yards) of material mined.
10. Volume processed by dredge and highbanker.
11. Total linear feet of streambed worked.
12. Total surface area (square yardage) of streambed disturbed.
13. Total surface area (square yardage) of floodplain and uplands disturbed.
14. Average number of hours processing material daily.
15. Map showing locations of areas mined and prospected.
16. Number of dams constructed.
17. Reclamation completed in previously disturbed, unvegetated areas.
18. Number of access trips (from Chicken Creek airstrip to claims) taken.
19. Condition and/or problems with the access route.
20. Mitigation performed on access route.
21. Support facilities maintenance/construction conducted.
22. Volume of fuel used during the season.
23. Volume and location of fuel stored on claims over the winter.

24. Cultural resources found (description and map location) which are not on the maps provided in the environmental assessment, including items discovered during mining operations reported to the Superintendent as required under operating stipulations.
25. Operational changes to the approved plan of operations which occurred and may need to be considered as alterations to the plan of operations.
26. Future mining and exploration plans.

Vehicle (ORV) use shall be restricted to the single most used (disturbed) track on the existing trails. Access to the support camp from the airstrip will not exceed 50 ORV round-trips in support of mining activities per season. Trail mitigation techniques identified by the NPS will be conducted. Additional stipulations include:

1. On the Little El and Bonanza claims, ORV access is restricted to existing trails and to barren-disturbed areas on the floodplain.
2. Use of ORVs is restricted to support of mining operations. Approval from the Superintendent to use ORVs for summer access to Gold Hill from Chisana along the Beaver Lake Trail is required. Recreational or other uses of ORVs is not permitted.
3. Modification or changes in transport vehicle or suction dredge mining equipment requires prior approval, in writing, from the Superintendent.
4. The suction dredge or highbanker may not be used, or setup for use, as a water jet to move gravel or other material.
5. Refueling of the suction dredge shall be done with the use of a large funnel and a catch pan under the fuel can.
6. Fuel storage sites shall be bermed and lined with an impermeable layer such as visqueen. Storage of fuels shall be confined to the support camp and not in areas subject to flooding. Absorbent pads will be kept on site.
7. Fuel storage is not permitted at Chicken Creek airstrip when claimants are not at their mining claims. The maximum fuel storage amount authorized in the Gold Hill area in support of mining operations is 300 gallons.
8. Any leakage or spillage of oil based fuels, onto the ground or into the stream, shall be reported, according to Alaska state regulations to the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Superintendent. Immediate actions shall be taken to confine the spill to the smallest area.
9. Waste oil will be secured in bear resistant containers and stored on-site under the same requirements as fuel until the waste oil is transferred out of the park and properly disposed of.
10. Suction dredge mining operations are restricted to areas normally covered by water within the submerged portions of the active stream channel.
11. When feasible, wash water from the highbanker will be discharged onto barren unvegetated areas.

12. Mining and exploration activities will not cause deterioration of Bonanza Creek (or tributary) waters exceeding State of Alaska DEC water quality standards.
13. Mining operations will be conducted to insure that vegetated areas outside the approved area of operations, areas of cultural significance, and/or stream banks are not subject to increased erosion.
14. If more than one suction dredge is operating simultaneously those mine sites will be separated by a minimum of 1,000 feet. Likewise the water discharged from the highbanker will not occur within 500 feet of a suction dredge operation.
15. Construction of small dams to provide sufficient water depth to keep the suction dredge intake nozzle beneath the water is permitted if the dam construction does not significantly reduce water flow downstream or cause increased streambank erosion. Maximum dam height is restricted to 2.5 feet.
16. Construction of water diversions are not permitted. Water pumping in support of suction dredge and/or highbanker operation is permitted as these practices essentially return water immediately to the stream and/or floodplain.
17. Water impoundments will not utilize any material from historic features nor will their construction or use impact any cultural features.
18. Care will be taken during mining operations, including the moving or storage of equipment, while near or adjacent to cultural features or isolated cultural objects to insure no damage to those items would occur. Areas of cultural significance depicted, will be avoided and no mining operations will be conducted in those areas.
19. Utilization of the historic structures is permissible only in support of the approved mining plan of operations. Repairs and alterations to the structures will be in keeping with the *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* with oversight and technical assistance provided by NPS. Care will be taken to avoid impacts to the historic cultural features in the vicinity of the support camp. Artifacts located at historic structures will be left as found.
20. During all phases of the mining operation, all federal laws and regulations protection cultural resources will apply. Known cultural resources occurring within the vicinity of the claims under review will not be altered, destroyed, or collected. In the event that concealed cultural and/or scientific resources are encountered during mining operations, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, will be notified immediately. The discovery will be left intact and steps will be taken to protect it.
21. Reclamation at the end of the season will include spreading the gravel used in dam construction, and any accumulated piles of processed gravel, on the stream bottom to eliminate any obstruction to the stream. Excavated pits will be filled with tailings. Original stream gradients will be reestablished. Reclamation of all dams, mined areas and prospect pits upon cessation of operations at that site and by the end of the season, is required.

22. Mine and prospect excavation will be reclaimed when operations cease at that site. All debris from the mining operation will be removed from along the streambed each season.
23. Annual reclamation will consist of: a) leveling the tailings piles to conditions that approximate the contours and slopes of the adjoining land, floodplain and stream channel and reestablishing the original gradient of the stream in the mined areas; b) filling in pits and mine cuts/dredged areas to conditions that approximate the contours and slopes of the adjoining land, flood plain and stream channel; c) reclaiming and spreading out the gravel used in dams constructed for the purpose of operating the dredge; d) eliminating any barriers that were constructed to allow for the natural flow of water and free passage of macro and microfauna and stream biomass; e) stabilization of the tailings to prevent their erosion due to subsequent normal occurrences, such as heavy rains or floods; f) placing tailings and fine material in a manner which facilitates natural revegetation of the disturbed area; g) replacing the substrate with a mix of material (gravel, rubble, and/or boulders) to form a streambed that approximates original conditions; h) insuring that reclamation of disturbed areas prevent erosion of the streambank and stabilizes the area to minimize downstream turbidity; and i) upon completion of dredging activities, reclamation will insure that the channel width and depth are similar to natural conditions and allow for normal stream discharge.
24. Final reclamation at conclusion of approved mining operations will consist of: a) removing all equipment (ORVs, mine equipment, fuel, and camp support material) from the mining claims; b) removing and disposing at an approved location all garbage, refuse or waste, broken or unused equipment transported to the claims in support of approved operations; and c) operator will notify the NPS as to when reclamation has been or will be completed. A field inspection with the operator present will be conducted to evaluate the completed reclamation. Failure to accomplish reclamation in accordance with the approved plan will result in forfeiture of the performance bond.
25. Any large animal causing a nuisance, and/or the death of a large mammal or bird of prey occurring in the vicinity of the mine site will be reported to the Superintendent and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as soon as possible. All state and federal game regulations will be adhered to.
26. Refuse generated by the operator and/or his employees and coworkers will be removed from the claims and disposed of in accordance with state and federal law. Handling and disposal of all solid waste material will be conducted according to Alaska State regulations.
27. All food, perishables, and organic trash will be secured from bears in bear proof containers. Burnable trash will be burned. Non-burnable trash will be backhauled outside the park at the end of the season.
28. The operator will obtain all necessary State of Alaska and Federal permits prior to commencing operations, and keep them current during the life of the operation.
29. Compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations is required.

30. Authorization to continue mining operations is contingent on Bonanza and Little El claims being maintained as valid existing unpatented mining claims with the BLM.
31. A performance bond has been posted and maintained with the NPS bonding officer at the Alaska Regional Office in the amount of \$2,500. The performance bond will be increased to reflect any changes in operations or adjustments for inflation.