



Mineral Titles

Information Update

No. 2 – Recreational Hand Panning for Placer Minerals

Revision Date: May 2, 2016

The *Mineral Tenure Act* allows individuals who do not hold a Free Miners Certificate (FMC) to hand pan for placer minerals in a watercourse as a recreational activity.

Hand panning means to wash mineralized earth and gravel by agitation in a hand held pan so as to separate and recover placer minerals having the greatest specific gravity. Recreational hand panning is strictly limited to the following tools: hand pan and shovel.

The use of water for recreational hand panning and hand placer mining is considered to be 'prospecting for a mineral as defined in section 1 of the Water sustainability Act. A person may use unrecorded water without an authorization as indicated in section 6(3) of the Water Sustainability Act (<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14015#section6>).

Hand panning must **not** be carried out:

1. On a valid mineral or placer title unless the person has permission from the recorded holder of the mineral or placer title (Section 9(2) of the *Mineral Tenure Act*);
2. Within a park, conservancy, ecological reserve, or protected area, unless permission from the park warden or administrative agency responsible for the park is first obtained;
3. On a Provincial heritage site as defined in Section 1 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*;
4. On an Indian Reservation or Treaty Settlement Lands, unless permission is first obtained from the First Nation(s);
5. On private property without the owner's permission.

The Ministry has created a number of recreational panning reserves around the Province that are open to the general public to use for recreational hand panning:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/mineral-titles/reserves/recreational-panning-reserves>

For further information, please contact Mineral Titles.