



# Mineral Titles *Information Update*

## No. 2 – Recreational Hand Panning for Placer Minerals

Revision Date: June 9, 2020

The *Mineral Tenure Act* allows individuals who do not hold a free miner certificate (FMC) to hand pan for placer minerals on Crown land for recreational purposes.

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

[Section 11\(1\)](#) of the *Mineral Tenure Act* requires that only a free miner or an agent of a free miner may enter mineral lands to explore for minerals or placer minerals, which includes prospecting activities. The use of a sluice or shaker box, suction dredge, high banker, and any other mechanical device is not included with recreational hand panning.

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*. For this reason, a person may use unrecorded water without an authorization as indicated in section 6(3) of the *Water Sustainability Act* (<http://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14015#section6>).

### **Where can I recreationally hand pan?**

Several areas across the province are identified as recreational panning reserves. The Crown land within these areas are open to the general public to use for recreational hand panning. Maps showing the location of recreational panning reserves, can be accessed at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/mineral-titles/reserves/recreational-panning-reserves>.

### **Where can't I recreationally hand pan?**

Recreational hand panning is prohibited on Provincial heritage sites as defined in Section 1 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

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In the event of a discrepancy between this information and the provisions in the *Mineral Tenure Act* and Regulation, the provisions in the statute and regulations will apply.

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## **Can I pan outside of recreational panning reserves?**

**Yes, but you need permission prior to panning on any of the following areas:**

- On a mineral title, you must get permission from the recorded holder of the mineral title.
- On a placer title, you must get permission from the recorded holder of the placer title.
- Within a park, conservancy, ecological reserve, or protected area, you must get permission from the park warden or administrative agency responsible for the park.
- Within an Indian Reservation or on Treaty Settlement Lands, you must have permission from the First Nation(s);
- On private property you must have the property owner's permission.

Please visit [Mineral Titles Online](#) for more information including online mapping tools to help you locate potential areas for recreational hand panning as well as the location of private land, Indian Reserves, parks, and mineral titles.

For further information or questions, please contact the Mineral Titles Branch.