

# Reminders for Permittees Operating Under the 2019 MPDES Suction Dredging General Permit

**Always keep a copy of the General Permit and your authorization letter on site.**

- The General Permit is not valid without a current authorization letter from DEQ.
- Read the General Permit and Authorization Letter. Contact DEQ if you have questions.
- You may only operate within the location and timeframe identified on the authorization letter.

**This General Permit provides coverage for portable suction dredging operations.**

- This permit does not authorize processing material from areas outside of the wetted stream channel - If it is not covered with water, it cannot be dredged.

**If you plan to suction dredge with a group or if you own multiple dredges:**

- Because your name is on the authorization, you must be present for the dredging operation.
- You may only operate one suction dredge at a time.
- If a different permittee is also dredging in the same area, be sure to keep a distance of 500 feet or greater between operations.

**Review the Effluent Limits on page 5 of the General Permit.**

- This includes Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are developed to protect water quality.

**Review Sections II and III of the General Permit.**

- Sections II and III have monitoring, reporting, and record keeping requirements, special conditions, and standard conditions.

**Other Agency Requirements:**

- DEQ is not the only authorizing agency permittees are accountable to. Review the additional requirements on the reverse side of this reminder sheet.

**Thank you for protecting Montana's water quality!**

## Additional Required Permits

- **Local Conservation Districts (310 Permit):** Contact the conservation district with jurisdiction in the area where dredging is planned and apply for a permit.
- **U.S. Corps of Engineers (Section 404/Section 10 Permits):** A Section 10 Permit is required for dredging in sections of the Missouri, Yellowstone, or Kootenai Rivers.

## If Dredging on Agency Property:

- **U.S. Forest Service:** Submit a Notice of Intent to Operate to the District Ranger of the area where the planned activity will be conducted. A Plan of Operation may be required.
- **U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM):** Contact BLM in advance to determine whether it is necessary to submit a notice or plan, or if the activities constitute casual use.
- **Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC):** If dredging on State School Trust Land, the operator must have an approved "State of Montana Metalliferous Mineral or Gem Mining Release," which requires a performance bond.
- **Other State Agencies:** If dredging on non-navigable waters located in areas owned by other state agencies, you must first contact the agency involved regarding their requirements.

## Other Requirements

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):** Avoid "illegal take" of federally threatened species, such as bull trout. This includes actions that have potential to adversely affect bull trout or their designated critical habitat.
- **Montana DEQ:** Permittees covered under the 2019 Portable Suction Dredging General Permit authorization are not typically required to obtain additional DEQ permits. This includes Section 318 (Turbidity) or the Small Miners Exclusion Statement.
- **Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP):** Water based equipment used in the waters of Montana requires an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection if it is being transported into the state or is transported west over the Continental Divide. All equipment must be clean, drained, and dry. Dredge equipment can receive an inspection at any watercraft inspection station or the AIS program can be contacted to coordinate an inspection. Visit [www.CleanDrainDryMT.com](http://www.CleanDrainDryMT.com) or call (406)444-2440.