



**Natural Resources Division
Minerals Section**

EXPLORATION PLAN OF OPERATION

The following information must be submitted to, and approved by the Department prior to initiating exploration activities on Arizona State Trust land. The plan will only be approved for a period of one year corresponding to the effective date of the Exploration Permit. Any change in the described operations must first be approved by the Department.

Plan evaluation and approval may require 30 to 60 days.

Permit Number(s) _____ **Permittee** _____

Operator Name _____

Operator Address _____

Operator Telephone and E-Mail _____

Name of Field Representative (If different than operator include address, telephone, and e-mail)

1) **Land Description and Map**

Attach as **Exhibit A** to this Plan, a topographic map with the referenced property identified on the map.

County _____ Township _____ Range _____ Section(s) _____

County _____ Township _____ Range _____ Section(s) _____

2) **Period of Operation**

The operation is proposed to begin on _____ and end on _____.

If exploration operations are proposed to exceed one year, an addendum to this plan must be filed prior to the plan expiration date.

3) **Access**

Identify on **Exhibit A** the existing and proposed entry routes. Describe in detail the extent of all improved or newly constructed access. Note any locked gates and include any landmarks which will assist in locating the property.

4) **Vehicles and Equipment**

List by type and size all vehicles and equipment which will be used in connection with the operation. Include the capacity of concentrators for placer operations.

5) **Scope of Operation**

Describe in detail the type and extent of the operation to be performed. Include the estimated area of disturbance and provide detailed information for any earth moving or site clearance operations. For placer type exploration include the amount of material to be processed from each test site, and the dimension of test sites. This is for non-drilling activities. The specifics for drilling activities can be described below.

Estimated area of disturbance: _____

6) **Affected Land**

Indicate the location of all proposed areas of surface disturbance on **Exhibit A**.

7) **Drilling**

For all drilling operations indicate the type of drilling operation, drilling medium (air, water e.g.) hole diameter, ground elevation, proposed total depth, and coordinates (latitude & longitude or NAD 1983, UTM Zone 12N).

Hole Identification	Elevation	Total Depth	Coordinates
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Conditions for Approval of the Exploration Plan of Operation

Ingress and Egress:

- Off-road use of ATVs shall be for mineral exploration purposes only and operated so as to cause the least ground disturbance.
- Vehicles (including ATVs) used to access the permitted areas shall be restricted to established roads and existing jeep trails, unless otherwise authorized by the ASLD.
- All reasonable attempts shall be made to avoid conducting exploration activities during inclement weather, so as to avoid excessive damage to the land surface and roads.
- Any gates or other improvements belonging to grazing lessees shall be repaired or replaced if damaged during the course of the mineral exploration.
- Any existing ranch roads utilized to access the permitted area will be maintained, however, no blading of the roads shall be completed without approval by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD).

Geophysics:

- Prior to completing any geophysical surveys, details of the proposed surveys including the type of survey and a topographic map illustrating the survey location(s) shall be submitted to the ASLD for review and approval.

Drilling:

- The drillholes shall be completed at the locations identified within the approved Exploration Plan of Operation, if it is necessary to relocate the drill sites, the ASLD shall be contacted for reevaluation of the need for Archaeological and Native Plant surveys.
- *A Notice of Intention to Drill, Deepen, Replace or Modify a Well (NOI) (ADWR form 55-40 or Notice of Intention to Drill and Abandon an Exploration/Specialty Well (ADWR form 55-43) must be filed with ADWR before commencing drilling.*
- The permittee or legal designee must sign the compliance statement at the bottom of the NOI and must include a copy of the approved/signed ASLD Exploration Plan of Operation when submitting the NOI (ADWR will not accept the NOI without ASLD approval documents).
- Upon completion, if the ADWR form 55-40 was filed, then an ADWR *Notice of Intent to Abandon a Well* (ADWR form 55-38) must be filed.
- Upon termination of the mineral exploration permit, other than by issuance of a mineral lease, the following information derived from drill holes completed within the permit area shall be submitted to the ASLD:
 - a. Total depth of the drill hole.
 - b. Lithologies and depths of lithologic boundaries encountered in the hole.
 - c. Logs of all surveys completed within the hole including gamma ray, resistivity, caliper and/or deviation surveys

Drill hole information shall be confidential for one year after termination of the permit, and such period of confidentiality shall be extended for an additional year upon request.

Trenching/Excavations:

- Upon excavation and sampling of any trench, it shall be completely reclaimed before starting the next excavation.
- Any proposed holding and settling ponds are to be utilized for storage of clean water and/or process water discharged from the trommel or sluice box. No chemicals or other contaminants shall be added to the water. Excavated pits shall be backfilled, when dry, at the conclusion of the exploration. The reclaimed area shall match the original contour of the land surface.

Water Use:

- If water is needed for exploration activities, the Permittee must supply the water. If the Permittee would like to use an existing onsite well, they are required to get the ASLD's approval prior to the use.

Royalty:

- If gold, or other precious metals, are recovered during the exploration trenching/excavation activities, a royalty payment shall be sent to the ASLD for all gold and precious metals recovered. This royalty payment shall be submitted within a period of no more than 60 days after completion of the exploration field activities. The following information will be provided with the royalty payment:
 - The dates when the exploration of each trench was completed,
 - The length, width, and depth of the trenches completed,
 - The volume of material excavated,
 - The volume of material processed,
 - The amount of gold or precious metals recovered,
 - A royalty must be calculated at 10% of the published price times the number of Troy ounces or fraction thereof, recovered, and
 - All information provided must be signed, dated, and notarized.

Cultural and Plant Resources:

- All travel and exploration activities shall be restricted to the area for which the archaeological survey has been completed. Should access to any of the remaining permitted land be required for further mineral exploration that includes additional surface disturbance, archaeological and plant surveys shall be completed for those areas and reports submitted to the ASLD for review and approval.
- If any previously unknown human remains, funerary objects, sacred ceremonial objects or objects of tribal patrimony, archaeological, paleontological or historical site or object that is at least 50 years old are encountered during surface disturbing activities, Lessee shall cease operations immediately and report the discovery to the ASLD and to the Director of the Arizona State Museum pursuant to A.R.S. §41-844.
- All work completed shall comply with the provisions of the Arizona Native Plant Law (A.R.S. § 3-901 et seq., or any successor statutes) and with Arizona laws relating to archaeological discoveries (A.R.S. § 41-841 et seq., or any successor statutes). Lessee shall not disturb any cacti or other protected native plants nor disturb any ruins, burial grounds or other archaeological sites except as may be permitted by these laws.

Program Completion:

- The ASLD shall be notified within 10 working days of the completion of the approved exploration plan.
- A report providing a detailed description of completed reclamation accompanied by (pre and post exploration) photo documentation shall be submitted upon completion of the exploration program.

The Permittee agrees to abide by the Conditions for Approval and the methods and extent of the operations described herein.

PERMITTEE: _____
Signature and Date

Plan must be signed by the permit holder, statutory agent (i.e. must have a power of attorney on file with the Department), or be a duly authorized representative of the company.

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Plan Number(s): _____

Bond Amount: _____

Approved for the period: Beginning _____ Expiring _____

Approved By: _____ Date _____

E-mail: _____ Phone 602-542- _____

Date Permit Issued: _____

Denied By: _____ Date _____

Remarks:
