

# Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application 'JARPA'

To prospect in this state, one of three things needs to happen:

1. Using hand held and [certain] non-motorized equipment, you may look for gold year-round in any waterway, except lakes and salt water.
2. Following the '**Mineral Prospecting With Timing Restrictions**' rules in the Gold and Fish pamphlet allows you expanded equipment usage, but with timing restrictions.
3. For prospecting outside the allowed timing and equipment, you need to file a JARPA to receive an HPA (Hydraulic Project Approval).

The Gold and Fish pamphlet covers basic equipment and timing. It is the permit needed to mineral prospect in the State of Washington. While not required to be in your possession for #1, you should know the rules and equipment restrictions.

For #2, a copy needs to be with you, on site, while working.

For #3, the pamphlet, along with the written HPA **and** a copy of your JARPA must be on site.

Filling out a JARPA looks intimidating. It isn't. We have some easy steps and a sample to help you. You may fill the JARPA out, using word, print it and mail 2 copies to the WDFW (Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife) 'HPA Coordinator'. Or, print out the PDF copy, fill in the blanks, make at least (3) copies and mail 2 of them in. Keep 1 copy for your records. Remember to sign each one. Signature 'copies' are not legal.

The official 'e-permitting' website for JARPAs:

[http://www.epermitting.wa.gov/site/alias\\_\\_resourcecenter/jarpa\\_jarpa\\_form/9984/jarpa\\_form.aspx](http://www.epermitting.wa.gov/site/alias__resourcecenter/jarpa_jarpa_form/9984/jarpa_form.aspx)

1. Obtain a 'UPI' (Unique Project Identifier) number. It is on the JARPA page at e-permitting.

2. Follow the sample instructions (below) and suggestions, putting in your pertinent information: name, where you plan to prospect, equipment you will use, and sign and date.
3. The sample contains suggested language. You will need to put your own wording in places. S/A: location and type of prospecting and equipment you will use.
4. MAKE 3 COPIES. Two to mail in and one for your records. (Note: Each copy must be signed, after it is copied. An original signature is required.)
5. Mail the original and 1 copy by 'return receipt'. (Costs \$4.??) Keep the receipt from that and the green slip when it arrives. Attach to your copy. This is important! Keep good records.

Mail to:

HPA Coordinator  
WDFW Habitat Program  
600 Capital Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501

6. When you mail the JARPAs, they have, by law, 45 days to:
  - a. Deny your request
  - b. Allow, with conditions
  - c. Allow fully

You should receive your HPA in the mail, and sometimes by email.

Occasionally, WDFW has been telling us the application is 'incomplete'. This puts the 45-day requirement on hold. This may be for missing information on the form, forgetting to sign, site inaccessible to survey (snow), or a host of other issues. While we feel [some of] these reasons lend themselves to a 'delaying tactic', by law they do have this right.

If the time is closing in on 45 days and no HPA or communication from WDFW has occurred, a phone call to the AHB (Area Habitat Biologist) should be made. Or, call Lisa Wood: 360-902-2260. Have your UPI handy.

You may also receive an HPA with conditions you feel obstructive. S/A: 'must dredge in 10' of water or more, only on bedrock, process high-banking material 30' from the water. (Note: they may be very creative, so read the conditions carefully and completely)

Timing is another concern. You may wish to prospect in June. The HPA could show only July or August.

Also, there may be a requirement to contact enforcement 24 hours prior to starting work and 48 hours after. This is a difficult task, especially if there is no cell phone service where you wish to work. Currently, this issue is being debated.

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You have the right to appeal. **But, you only have 30 days to do so.** Make the decision.

However, you may not appeal unless the HPA is issued. An 'incomplete' may not be appealed.

Appeals normally cost nothing. Except time. Currently we are suggesting filling out the appeal form and mailing it to initiate a 'formal appeal'. (Again make copies and take copious notes, of all phone calls (time, date, who, subject and discussion) and correspondence.

You will be contacted for an informal conference. 90% of the time your concerns can be repaired at this meeting with the people who write the HPA. Usually meeting at their local office in the region you wish to prospect.

You then have the option to go with the negotiated rules or continue the formal appeal.

The next step is not to be taken lightly. It will involve court time, in front of an 'Administrative Law Judge', and be bound by court rule. You will be required to present 'discovery' and act as your own attorney, if you don't wish to hire one. This may be expensive. And, be lengthy (several months).

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Mailing in your JARPA as early as possible (January) is recommended. This gives time to iron out any issues that may pop-up before you wish to mine. Waiting until May to apply, you could find yourself appealing or re-applying in July, thus missing the mining season.

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Include a map of the area showing where you wish to prospect. WPMA has claim maps that work just fine. Make a copy, highlight where you will be working and include that with the JARPA.

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