

**IDAPA 20 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS**  
**Resource Protection and Assistance Bureau**  
**20.03.05 – Riverbed Mineral Leasing in Idaho**

**Who does this rule apply to?**

*Individuals wishing to obtain exclusive mineral rights of sections of navigable riverbeds.*

**What is the purpose of this rule?**

*This rule ensures the state is compensated for the extraction of minerals from the beds of navigable waterways.*

**What is the legal authority for the agency to promulgate this rule?**

*This rule implements the following statutes passed by the Idaho Legislature:*

Mines and Mining -

Mineral Rights in State Lands:

- [Section 47-710, Idaho Code](#) – Forms, Rentals, Royalties, and Fees
- [Section 47-714, Idaho Code](#) – Leases of Navigable River Beds Authorized

Public Lands -

Department of Lands:

- [Section 58-104, Idaho Code](#) – State Land Board — Powers and Duties

**Who do I contact for more information on this rule?**

Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6th Street, Suite 103  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0050  
Phone: (208) 334-0200  
Fax: (208) 334-3698  
Email: [rulemaking@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:rulemaking@idl.idaho.gov)  
<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/>

# ***Table of Contents***

---

## **20.03.05 – Riverbed Mineral Leasing in Idaho**

000. Authority. ....	3
001. Title And Scope. ....	3
002. -- 009. (Reserved) .....	3
010. Definitions. ....	3
011. -- 014. (Reserved) .....	4
015. Casual Exploration And Recreational Mining. ....	4
016. Exploration Locations. ....	4
017. -- 019. (Reserved) .....	5
020. Riverbed Mineral Lease. ....	5
021. -- 024. (Reserved) .....	5
025. Public Notice And Hearing. ....	5
026. -- 029. (Reserved) .....	5
030. Rental And Royalty And Late Payments. ....	5
031. Size And Composition Of Leasable Tract. ....	6
032. -- 034. (Reserved) .....	6
035. Assignments. ....	6
036. -- 039. (Reserved) .....	6
040. Bond. ....	6
041. -- 044. (Reserved) .....	7
045. Fees. ....	7
046. -- 999. (Reserved) .....	7

## 20.03.05 – RIVERBED MINERAL LEASING IN IDAHO

### 000. AUTHORITY.

**01. Statutory Authority.** These rules are promulgated by the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners pursuant to Title 47 and 58, Chapters 7 and 1, Sections 47-710, 47-714 and 58-104, Idaho Code. (3-20-20)T

**02. Discretionary Powers.** The Board of Land Commissioners is delegated discretionary power to regulate and control the use or disposition of lands in the beds of navigable lakes, rivers, and streams, to the natural or ordinary high water mark thereof, so as to provide for their commercial, navigational, recreational or other public use; provided that the Board will take no action in derogation of or seeking to interfere with the riparian or littoral rights of the owners of upland property abutting or adjoining such lands. (Section 58-104(9), Idaho Code). (3-20-20)T

### 001. TITLE AND SCOPE.

**01. Title.** These rules are titled IDAPA 20.03.05, “Riverbed Mineral Leasing in Idaho.” (3-20-20)T

**02. Where Applicable.** These rules apply to the exploration and extraction of precious metals, minerals, and construction materials from a placer deposit situated in state-owned submerged lands. (3-20-20)T

**03. Where Not Applicable.** These rules do not apply to the application and leasing of geothermal resources by title 47, Chapter 16, Idaho Code, or to the application and leasing of oil and gas resources covered by Title 47, Chapter 8, Idaho Code. (3-20-20)T

### 002. -- 009. (RESERVED)

### 010. DEFINITIONS.

**01. Available State Lands.** All lands between the ordinary high water marks of a navigable river which have not been located, leased, or withdrawn. (3-20-20)T

**02. Board.** The State Board of Land Commissioners or its authorized representative. (3-20-20)T

**03. Casual Exploration.** Entry and/or exploration which does not appreciably disturb or damage the land or resources thereon. Casual exploration includes, but is not limited to, geochemical and/or geophysical exploration techniques, sampling with hand tools, and entry using wheeled vehicles for transportation to conduct such exploration. Exploration using suction dredges having an intake diameter of two inches (2”) or less are considered casual exploration when operated in a perennial stream and authorized under the stream protection act, Title 42, Chapter 38, Idaho Code. Refer to Section 015 for further clarification regarding casual exploration and recreational mining. (3-20-20)T

**04. Commercial.** The type of operation that engages in the removal of construction materials or uses suction dredges with an intake diameter larger than five inches (5”) or attendant power sources rated at greater than fifteen (15) horsepower and/or other motorized equipment. (3-20-20)T

**05. Construction Materials.** Sand, gravel, cobble, boulders, and other similar materials. (3-20-20)T

**06. Director.** The Director of the Idaho Department of Lands or his authorized representative. (3-20-20)T

**07. Motorized Exploration.** Exploration that may appreciably disturb or damage the land or resources thereon. Motorized exploration includes, but is not limited to, drilling, trenching, dredging, or other techniques that employ the use of earth moving or other motorized equipment, seismic operations using explosives, and sampling with suction dredges having an intake diameter greater than two inches (2”) when operated in a perennial stream. When operated in an intermittent stream, suction dredges are considered motorized exploration regardless of the intake size. (3-20-20)T

**08. Natural or Ordinary High Water Mark.** The line that the water impresses upon the soil by covering it for sufficient periods to deprive the soil of its vegetation and destroy its value for agricultural purposes. (3-20-20)T

**09. Person.** (3-20-20)T

- a. An individual of legal age; (3-20-20)T
- b. Any firm, association or corporation qualified to do business in the state of Idaho; or (3-20-20)T
- c. Any public agency or government unit, including without limitation, municipalities. (3-20-20)T
- 10. Recreational Mining.** Mining with a suction dredge having an intake diameter of five inches (5") or less, and attendant power sources, rated at fifteen (15) horsepower or less, pans, rockers, hand tools, hand operated sluices and other similar equipment. (3-20-20)T
- 11. River Mile.** Five thousand two hundred eighty (5,280) feet of contiguous riverbed as measured along the approximate center of the river. (3-20-20)T
- 12. Navigable River.** A natural water course of perceptible extent, with definite bed and banks, which confine and conducts continuously flowing water, and the bed of which is owned by the state of Idaho in trust. (3-20-20)T
- 13. Submerged Lands.** All state-owned beds of navigable lakes, rivers, and streams between the natural or ordinary high water marks. (3-20-20)T
- 011. -- 014. (RESERVED)**
- 015. CASUAL EXPLORATION AND RECREATIONAL MINING.**
- 01. Lands Open.** All beds of navigable rivers that have not been located, leased or withdrawn in accordance with statute or the terms of these rules, are free and open to casual exploration and recreational mining on a nonexclusive and first come basis. (3-20-20)T
- 02. Equipment Limitations.** Mining equipment for casual exploration that may occur prior to the filing of a location or lease application is limited to suction dredges with a two (2") inch intake or less, pans, rockers, hand tools, hand operated sluices and other similar equipment. (3-20-20)T
- 03. No Approval for Casual Exploration Required.** No written approval is required from the Director for casual exploration. (3-20-20)T
- 04. Recreational Mining Equipment.** Mining equipment for recreational mining is limited to suction dredges with an intake diameter of five (5") inches or less with attendant power sources rated at fifteen (15) horse power or less, pans, rockers, hand tools, hand operated sluices and other similar equipment. (3-20-20)T
- 05. Department of Water Resources Permits.** Possession of a valid Stream Protection Act Permit issued by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and a Recreational Mining Permit issued by the Idaho Department of Lands constitutes the Board's waiver of bond, waiver of royalty, and written approval to engage in recreational mining under Section 47-704(6), Idaho Code, and Title 47, Chapter 13, Idaho Code. (3-20-20)T
- 016. EXPLORATION LOCATIONS.**
- 01. Lands Open.** The beds of navigable rivers that have not been located or withdrawn, or are not under application to lease, in accordance with statute or the terms of these rules, are available for exploration location; provided that salable minerals are not subject to exploration location. Details of exploration locations on state lands can be found in Title 47, Chapter 7, Idaho Code. (3-20-20)T
- 02. Size of Location.** Each exploration location is limited to one-half (1/2) mile in length. (3-20-20)T
- 03. Record Keeping Requirement.** A locator must keep a record of all minerals recovered during exploration operations and must pay to the state a royalty of five percent (5%) of the gross value of the minerals recovered. Payment must be made each year with the filing of the assessment work report. (3-20-20)T

**04. When No Written Approval Required.** No written approval is required from the Director for exploratory activity on an exploration location when such exploration is limited to mining equipment such as suction dredges with a five (5") inch intake diameter or less and attendant power sources rated at fifteen (15) horsepower or less, pans, rockers, hand operated sluices, and other similar equipment; provided however, that recreational mining activity performed under a Recreational Mining Permit as authorized under Section 015 does not serve to establish any basis for an exploration location. (3-20-20)T

**05. When Written Approval Required.** Written approval is required from the Director prior to entry for operators conducting motorized exploration except as allowed in Subsection 016.04. Approved operations must be bonded as outlined in Subsection 040.03. (3-20-20)T

**017. -- 019. (RESERVED)**

**020. RIVERBED MINERAL LEASE.**

**01. Limitations on Suction Dredges.** Operators may not use suction dredges with an intake diameter larger than five inches (5") or attendant power sources rated greater than fifteen (15) horsepower, except under lease. (3-20-20)T

**02. Approval Required Before Operations.** Prior to entry upon navigable rivers, operators are required to have written approval from the Director. (3-20-20)T

**03. Bonding.** Approved operations must be bonded as outlined in Subsection 040.01. (3-20-20)T

**04. Simultaneous Filings.** Two (2) or more lease applications received on the same date and hour, covering the same lands, are considered simultaneous filings. Simultaneous filings will be resolved by competitive bidding. (3-20-20)T

**021. -- 024. (RESERVED)**

**025. PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING.**

**01. Publication of Notice.** Upon receipt by the Board of an application to lease any lands that may belong to the state of Idaho by reason of being situated between the high water marks of navigable rivers of the state, the Board will cause at the expense of the applicant, a notice of such application to be published once a week for two (2) issues in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which said lands described in said application are situated. (3-20-20)T

**02. Public Hearing.** The Board may order a public hearing on an application if it deems this action is in the best interest of the public. (3-20-20)T

**03. Petition for Hearing.** The Board or its authorized representative will hold a public hearing on the application, if requested in writing no later than thirty (30) days after the last published notice by ten (10) person whose lawful rights to use the waters applied for may be injured thereby, or by an association presenting a petition with signatures of not less than ten (10) such aggrieved parties; provided that the Board may order a public hearing in the first instance. The Board will consider fully all written and oral submissions respecting the application. (3-20-20)T

**026. -- 029. (RESERVED)**

**030. RENTAL AND ROYALTY AND LATE PAYMENTS.**

**01. Minimum Annual Rental.** The minimum annual rental is one hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for any area up to one hundred sixty (160) acres, and one dollar (\$1) for each additional acre. (3-20-20)T

**02. Minimum Annual Royalty.** In addition to the annual rental, the commercial lessee pays an annual

minimum royalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year and all other lessees pay an annual minimum royalty of three hundred forty dollars (\$340) per year. (3-20-20)T

**03. Deduction of Royalty.** The annual minimum royalty and the annual rental for any year is deducted from the actual production royalty as it accrues for that year. (3-20-20)T

**04. Royalty Schedule.** The appropriate Board approved royalty schedule for the commodity mined must be attached and made a part of the mineral lease. (3-20-20)T

**05. Late Payments.** Rental or royalty not paid by the due date is considered late. A twenty-five dollars (\$25) late payment charge or penalty interest from the due date, whichever is greater, will be added to the rental or royalty amount. The penalty interest is one percent (1%) for each calendar month or fraction thereof. (3-20-20)T

**031. SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF LEASABLE TRACT.**

**01. One Mile Limitation.** A riverbed lease may not exceed one (1) contiguous river mile in length or all the riverbed within one (1) section should all the available state lands within the section exceed one (1) river mile. (3-20-20)T

**02. Construction Materials.** Leases for construction materials may be limited to a smaller size tract at the Board's discretion. (3-20-20)T

**032. -- 034. (RESERVED)**

**035. ASSIGNMENTS.**

**01. Prior Written Approval.** No location or lease assignment is be valid until approved in writing by the Director, and no assignment takes effect until after the first day of the month following its approval. (3-20-20)T

**02. Partition.** A location or lease may be assigned to any person qualified to hold a state location or lease, provided that in the event an assignment partitions leased lands between two (2) or more persons, both the assigned and the retained part created by the assignment contain not less than one-half (1/2) mile length of river bed land. (3-20-20)T

**03. Segregation of Lease.** If an assignment partitions leased lands between two (2) or more persons, it must clearly segregate the assigned and retained portions of the leasehold. Resulting segregated leases continue in full force and effect for the balance of the term of the original lease or as further extended pursuant to statute and these rules. (3-20-20)T

**036. -- 039. (RESERVED)**

**040. BOND.**

**01. Minimum Bond.** Concurrent with the execution of the lease by the lessee, lessee must furnish to the Director a good and sufficient bond or undertaking on a Department form in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for commercial operations and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for all other operations, in favor of the state of Idaho, conditioned on the payment of all damages to the land and all improvements thereon which result from the lessee's operation and conditioned on complying with statute, these rules and the lease terms. This bond is in addition to the bonds required by the Idaho Dredge and Placer Mining Protection Act (Title 47, Chapter 13, Idaho Code). (3-20-20)T

**02. Statewide Bond.** In lieu of the above bond, the lessee may furnish a good and sufficient "statewide" bond conditioned as above in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in favor of the state of Idaho, to cover all lessee's leases and operations carried on under statute and these rules. (3-20-20)T

**03. Motorized Exploration.** Motorized exploration on a site under location is subject to a minimum bond in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750). A larger bond not exceeding seven hundred fifty dollars

(\$750) per acre may be required by the Department depending on the size and scope of the operation. (3-20-20)T

**041. -- 044. (RESERVED)**

**045. FEES.**

The following fees apply: (3-20-20)T

**01. Nonrefundable Application Fee for Lease.** Fifty dollars (\$50) per application. (3-20-20)T

**02. Nonrefundable Fee for Advertising Application.** Forty-five dollars (\$45) per application. (3-20-20)T

**03. Exploration Location Fee.** Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per location. (3-20-20)T

**04. Application Fee for Approval of Assignment.** Fifty dollars (\$50) per lease or location involved in the assignment. (3-20-20)T

**046. -- 999. (RESERVED)**

# Subject Index

- A**  
Assignments 6  
    Partition 6  
    Prior Written Approval 6  
    Segregation of Lease 6  
Authority 3
- B**  
Bond 6
- C**  
Casual Exploration & Recreational  
    Mining 4
- D**  
Definitions 3  
    Available State Lands 3  
    Board 3  
    Casual Exploration 3  
    Commercial 3  
    Construction Materials 3  
    Director 3  
    Motorized Exploration 3  
    Natural or Ordinary High Water  
        Mark 3  
    Navigable River 4  
    Person 3  
    Recreational Mining 4  
    River Mile 4  
    Submerged Lands 4  
Department of Water Resources  
    Permits 4
- E**  
Equipment Limitations 4  
Exploration Locations 4  
    Lands Open 4  
    Record Keeping Requirement 4  
    Size of Location 4  
    When No Written Approval  
        Required 5  
    When Written Approval  
        Required 5
- F**  
Fees 7  
    Nonrefundable Application Fee for  
        Lease 7  
    Nonrefundable Fee for Advertising  
        Application 7
- L**  
Lands Open 4
- M**  
Minimum Bond 6  
Motorized Exploration 6
- N**  
No Approval for Casual Exploration  
    Required 4
- P**  
Public Notice & Hearing 5  
    Petition for Hearing 5  
    Public Hearing 5  
    Publication of Notice 5
- R**  
Recreational Mining Equipment 4  
Rental & Royalty & Late Payments 5  
    Deduction of Royalty 6  
    Late Payments 6  
    Minimum Annual Rental 5  
    Minimum Annual Royalty 5  
    Royalty Schedule 6  
Riverbed Mineral Lease 5  
    Approval Required Before  
        Operations 5  
    Bonding 5  
    Limitations on Suction  
        Dredges 5  
    Simultaneous Filings 5
- S**  
Size & Composition Of Leasable  
    Tract 6  
        Construction Materials 6  
        One Mile Limitation 6  
Statewide Bond 6
- T**  
Title & Scope 3