



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
P.O. BOX 188
WHISKEYTOWN, CA 96095-0188

Gold Panning

Permits and Fees

Gold panning is a fun and relaxing way to enjoy the creeks within Whiskeytown.

A gold panning permit is required for each person 17 years of age or older.

The permit, which costs \$1 and expires one year from date of purchase, may be purchased at the visitor center. The center is open every day from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is a unit of the National Park Service. An entrance pass is required to access the park. Entrance passes can be purchased at the visitor center or online at www.YourPassNow.com.

Regulations

Legal gold panning activities in the park are limited to the attempted or actual removal of gold from a stream by using:

- A metal or plastic gold pan.
- A trowel, spoon or other digging implement having a blade surface not exceeding 4 inches in width and 8 inches in length.

The following are PROHIBITED under the Code of Federal Regulations:

- The use of metal detectors for any purpose.
- The use of suction devices, crevice cleaners, screen separators, view boxes, sluice boxes, rockers, dredges, and any other mechanical or hydraulic devices.
- The use of skin-diving equipment such as snorkels, masks, or wetsuits.
- The use of any toxic substance or chemical, including mercury.
- Sale or commercial use of any mineral recovered by any person involved in gold panning.
- Digging above existing stream water levels or disturbing the ground surface.
- Undermining any vegetation, historical feature, or bridge abutment.

Gold panning is prohibited along Clear Creek from the access bridge over Clear Creek at the Whiskeytown Environmental School (also known as NEED Camp) to the mouth of Paige Bar Creek. This restriction is necessary to keep park visitors from disturbing educational programs at the school.