LEGAL AUTHORITY:  NRS 503.425; Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

PERMIT REQUIREMENT:  NRS 503.425  While being used, each dredge must have a permitted operator.

1. Before a person may use any vacuum or suction dredge equipment in any river, stream, or lake of this State, he must submit an application to the Department. The application must be accompanied by a fee of $15.00 and must specify the type and size of equipment to be used and its location. If the Department determines that the operations will not be deleterious to fish it shall issue a permit to the applicant.

2. A permit issued pursuant to subsection 1 does not authorize the recipient to use any equipment in any navigable body of water unless the recipient has obtained the appropriate permit for such use from the State land registrar. (Carson City: 775-687-4363)

3. It is unlawful for any person to:
   (a) Conduct dredging operations without securing a permit pursuant to subsection 1;
   (b) Operate any equipment other than that specified in the permit; or
   (c) Conduct a dredging operation outside the area designated on the permit.

WHERE TO OBTAIN APPLICATION: Applications are available at any Department of Wildlife office or on the website at www.ndow.org under the License Office section.

DENIAL OF APPLICATION: Whenever an application is denied, the Department shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason for the denial.

PERTINENT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

NAC 503.820 Expiration, scope, use, transferability and cancellation of permit. (NRS 501.105, 501.181)
1. A dredging permit:
   (a) Expires on December 31 of the year in which it was issued;
   (b) May authorize the use of not more than three separate dredges; and
   (c) Will only authorize the operation of a dredge which has a maximum intake that is 4 inches or less in diameter.

2. A dredging permit may include authorization to operate a dredge in not more than 10 different bodies of waters.

3. The period authorized for dredging on each body of water will be determined by the Department within the following dates, based upon the spawning season of the species of fish present in that body of water:
   (a) If there are no species of fish present in the body of water, between January 1 and December 31.
   (b) If the body of water contains species of fish that spawn in both spring and fall, between June 1 and September 30.
   (c) If the body of water contains species of fish that spawn only in the spring, between June 1 and December 31.
   (d) If the body of water contains species of fish that spawn only in the fall, between March 1 and September 30.

4. The Department will not authorize dredging in a body of water or any portion of a body of water which contains species of fish classified by the Federal Government as endangered, threatened or sensitive, or classified by the Department as protected, if the Department determines that the dredging may be deleterious to the species of fish.

5. A holder of a dredging permit shall immediately return substrata gravel and sands removed during the dredging to the streambed from which the gravel or sand was removed and restore, as closely as possible, the original contour of the streambed.

6. A dredging permit:
   (a) Is not transferable; and
   (b) May be canceled at any time by the Department for a violation of any term, condition or restriction of the permit.
WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION AND FEES

Mail or submit your application and the required fee to the appropriate Department office in the region where the dredge will be primarily operating:

Western Region
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Special Licenses and Permits
1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV 89512
Telephone: (775) 688-1500
Counties: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, Washoe

Southern Region
Nevada Department of Wildlife
4747 Vegas Dr.; Las Vegas, NV 89108
Telephone: (702) 486-5127
Counties: Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye

Eastern Region
Nevada Department of Wildlife
60 Youth Center Road; Elko, NV 89801
Telephone: (775) 777-2300
Counties: Elko, Eureka, Lander, White Pine