

Additional benefits of small-scale suction dredge mining include:

Measureable improvement in water quality due to removal of wastes left by other users of the waters or that have eroded into the waterways. 100's of pounds of lead fishing weights, bullets, water bottles, sunglasses, car debris, nails, broken glass, etc. are removed from our waterways and camping and recreational sites by miners every year.

There is also the very real economic benefit to local areas where such mining occurs and at a statewide and even national level to consider. On average, small-scale and recreational miners in Oregon spend an estimated \$20+ million annually on equipment, fuel, maintenance, lodging, etc. while mining, and easily recover another \$6-10+ million worth of gold; all-the-while creating and supporting 100's of mining related jobs.

Small scale placer gold mining is also a very important part of the Cultural Heritage of much of Oregon. SW and NE Oregon especially have their roots buried deep in placer gold mining, and thousands of Oregonians have a miner somewhere in their family tree.

There is no evidence that small-scale suction dredge mining has caused any significant harm to the environment. There is ample scientific evidence that demonstrates “convincingly and consistently” that suction dredge mining causes only localized and temporary effects that can produce net beneficial outcomes for the aquatic ecosystem.

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Lead removed from the Umpqua River 2013, more about dredgers removing lead;
<http://outdoorchannel.com/article.aspx?id=16804&articletype=article>



