

THE GOLD NUGGET

Jan 2020



2020 Member Dues are now due...pay by mail or cash, card or check at the January meeting....

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



2019 has come and gone. 2020 is here! Are you ready for a new year? Are you ready to enjoy some new Club activities and outings? I hope so. Then buckle up folks, we are gonna get 'em going. We should have the 2020 schedule out in a month or so and will let everyone know when we send out your newsletter.

In this edition, I have included a couple of PLP updates to illustrate the attack against mining, in general. I normally (tongue in cheek) don't try to talk too much about politics but I think it is time to address a few things that are definitely connected to mining and the future of mining. Please read the update from PLP that is included in your newsletter. It seems that the strongest blows against mining began when the Obama Administration made sweeping changes in many of our federal agencies policies and directives. These changes were not made with congressional approval but rather were made through the issuance of Presidential Directives. They were made with the strong support of the liberal folks who control the narrative on climate control and environmental agendas. These groups strongly advocate against any change that affect the environment in whatever degree. They are so narrow minded that they don't see the forest for the trees. I have reprinted many different stories in the last two years about situations, especially in California and in the Northwest, where entities to include the Sierra Club, Earth Guardians and a number of others, have influenced the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Environmental Agency (EPA) through pressure, money and infiltration, to affect unauthorized changes in policy and directives of these federal agencies, to actually lie and totally ignore scientific data contrary to their beliefs and position, and subsequently and directly attack mining and other resource utilizing industries. I have reported on many of these situations in the past and will not repeat them in detail here. But the winds of change began to strongly blow in the election of Donald Trump as President in 2016. Trump began to quietly remove all of the Obama Presidential Directives that had not been approved by congressional majority. In addition to that, while the liberal and democratic left majority has been concentrating on his impeachment from literally day one, Trump has been quietly installing some 200 plus constitutional guardians (judges), replacing those who do not believe in the letter of the constitutional law, to include at least 30 judges in the Northwest 9th Circuit. This is the Circuit that is so anti-Trump and anti-mining and anti-constitutional law. By appointing good people to the heads of those federal agencies, they have been weeding out the ones who have been making unauthorized policy changes and issuing directives that are counter to responsible progress.

Now, I will give you that the Gold King Mine spill (directly caused by an EPA employee) and a couple of other deals that happened across the country, did not help our cause, there have been exponentially more incidents where these federal agencies have misused their power and position and even the law to cause the mining of American resources to suffer huge losses economically. All of this has resulted in China controlling a great number of our mineral resources and Russia getting a significant amount of our uranium reserves (What??). But, thanks to President Trump, we are on the road to bouncing back. Through the efforts of PLP, AMRA, GPAA and a few other organizations, we have taken a new tack which has been received warmly by the Trump Administration, wherein a number of these minerals controlled by China, have been determined to be of such importance due to our shortages and the need for them in so much of our technology, that they have been designated as commodities of Nation Security. This change in direction has helped the mining industry to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Donald Trump was and is, not a Washington Insider. Washington



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has no control over him and he is an unwavering patriot. I firmly believe he will be re-elected and things will continue to improve for the mining industry, one-step at a time!

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be...! And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com. Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato



Hello again, fellow gold prospectors. It's time for the first V.P. Corner Article of 2020. I woke up this morning to find a few inches of fresh snow on the ground. This was something of a surprise to me, as I don't recall seeing that "snowflake symbol" the last time I checked the weather. Oh well, it's that time of the year in our neck of the woods. This is what I call "back to school time" for us prospectors and detectorists. These winter "cold snaps" are the perfect time to hone our skills and take ourselves to the next level in our pursuit of gold. I just added three new books to my prospecting and detecting library that I received as Christmas gifts. Throw in some old VHS tapes, DVD's, and the internet with all of its possibilities. Then you can really turn a winter cold spell into a pleasant and positive "educational experience". I like to split my time between learning about using and maintaining my equipment, and researching areas to prospect. I spend a lot of time using Google Earth Pro, it has been a great asset to me during the last few years. I print out areas that catch my eye and take them along with me when I am out looking for potential gold bearing locations. These print outs help keep me oriented when I am actually walking these areas, and they show the landscape in great detail. A lot of people use GPS coordinates as a part of their research and also to mark places when they are out in the field. I haven't used GPS coordinates as part of my prospecting, but I feel that GPS is a valuable tool to the gold prospector/detectorist. One of my metal detectors has its own built in GPS system but I have never felt the need to use it thus far. I guess that is about all I have for now. I hope that you have a Happy New Year!!, and that you will put these cold winter days to good use by continuing to add to your prospecting and detecting skills. Until next time **MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN!!!!!!** Questions or comments... Call or text me 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato.

2019 Ken Barker Award Recipient

It is with distinct pleasure that the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies announce the recipient of the 2019 Ken Barker Award as **Donald Bray**.

Donald Bray has been a member of the Club for more than 12 years. He is a career geologist and is still working at his trade. Don has had a love for gold and geology his entire life and is a member of the Colorado Mineral Society and the Gold prospectors Association of America as well as a number of other professional Organizations and Associations. Don always promotes the Club wherever he happens to be and has been a Board Member in the past, even serving as Vice President at one point. Don has managed to volunteer on a number of occasions to lead Outings for the Club which all proved to be very informative and well organized and well run. Don has been deemed to meet the qualifications and has shown that he possesses the spirit and qualities that fit the parameters for the Ken Barker Award.

We are pleased to present Donald Bray with the 2019 Ken Barker Award and will place his photograph into the Ken Barker Gallery on the GPR web site.



From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The January Meeting will feature a nine (9) nugget giveaway which will include a 2.4 gram nugget. Be sure and buy your red tickets for that drawing as well as your blue tickets for the one half ounce Australian Special Nugget drawing. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time which I have at my desk in the back. Hope to see you all there at the meeting!!



Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2019

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Joe Kafka	X	Bobby Manning		Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

There was no Official Board Meeting for the month of December.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the deepest gold mine in existence?

2020 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James 'JJ' Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2017)

Joe Shubert (2018)

1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson II

Bobby Manning

Chris Kafka

Mike Stevens

Past President

Gary Hawley

General Meeting Minutes From Dec 2019

1. Meeting was opened at 6:20 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would follow the Pot Luck Dinner and invited everyone to partake before the Recognition Program would begin.
3. Following dinner, **Pres. Long** opened the Program with appreciation for the fine dinner and complimented everyone who brought goodies to share with the rest of the attending membership. There were a total of 91 members and their family and guests present this evening. A recap was presented of the State of the Club. 2019 showed a membership of 299 members. The years activities included one tour, two panning demos to include a water festival in Aurora with approx. 1400 fifth grade kids and the other a three day event at Highlands Ranch which featured some 1200 second and third grade students. We also had six prospecting outings in the Blackhawk area which were spent digging for gold. The gold proved plentiful this year and led to the winning nugget submitted as the largest gold find of the Year. We participated in the 2019 GPAA Gold Show which came to Denver and the Club hosted a booth at the Show. We also put on two beginner panning and sluicing classes which we hosted in the spring and the fall of the year as well as a metal detecting hunt for members and a Club picnic. A highlight was participating with the Jefferson County Open Space folks in a major trash cleanup in Clear Creek Canyon. Nearly 600 folk from a dozen and more organizations participated in the effort and we also set up a panning booth at the end of the day's work. The whole affair was a tremendous success. In all, the Club arranged for a total of 19 days' worth of field activities for members enjoyment and participation. **Pres. Long** reminded everyone that none of this would be possible if it were not for the many volunteers within the Club who pitched in when needed and helped to man the booths, plan activities, and assist in getting things done in order for everyone to have these opportunities.
4. **Pres. Long** then introduced the 2019 Board of Directors who were instrumental in planning out all the years activities and assisting in making them happen. Recognition was given to **Vice President Joe Fortunato, Secretary/Treasurer Joe Kafka, Board Members Joe Shubert and Andy Doll, Joe Johnston, Brandon Luchtenburg, Bobby Manning, John Johnson, Kris Kafka and Mike Stevens**. Each member was presented to



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the membership for recognition and were also presented with Certificates of Recognition and a small gift from Santa for their efforts and contributions. The Board was then recognized as the incoming Board of Directors for the coming 2020 year.

5. **Pres. Long** then introduced the following individuals who volunteer each month to handle certain aspects of the Club Business that ensures that things get done and without whom we would not be able to function. Certificates of Recognition were then awarded to **Greg and Nancy Knerl** for running the Refreshment Table at each meeting, to **Chuck Cown** for his invaluable assistance to the Treasurer each month, to **Dan and Becki McConnel** who oversee the Registration/Attendance Table each month who manage the membership records, and to Board Member **Mike Stevens** who also runs the Club Store each month.
6. **Pres. Long** then had his elves assist in passing out a small gift to each attendee from Santa, and following this, the 'Gold Elephant' Gift Exchange was conducted and completed. A Drawing was then conducted for an additional 12 special Christmas prizes. Winners of a free Annual Club Membership for 2020 were **Greg and Nancy Knerl, Steve Bustamante and Chuck Cown**. Winners of gold nuggets were **Mike Hurtado, Pam Cutshall and David Ray**. Winners of a prospector silver round coin were **Gordon Smith, Eric Von Halle, and Bob Mahoney**. Winners of a decorative miner's spike were **Silas Hurtado, Josh Rasmussen, and Bob Mahoney**.
7. **Pres. Long** then announced the winner of the **2019 Ken Barker Award** as **Donald Bray**. Don was voted the Award by the membership for all that he does and has done for the Club. Don received a nice Certificate of Recognition as well as a 100.00 bill for his efforts and his picture will be placed in the Barker Hall of Fame on the Club web site.
8. **Pres. Long** then recognized Kris Kafka for all her efforts in organizing the decorative efforts of the Dinner and awarded the centerpieces of each table to a lucky drawing winner at each table along with a special Christmas ornament donated by Chris.
9. This concluded the annual Christmas Pot Luck and Recognition Dinner. **We will see everyone in 2020 and look forward to having another good and active year!**

Happy New Year to All!!!

A Miner's Laugh

A loud pounding on the door awakened an old miner and his wife at 3:00 am. The old man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the old miner, "it is 3 in the morning..!" and he slams the door and returns to bed. His wife asked him who had been at the door and the old boy growled that it was just some drunken guy wanting a push. "Well, did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not help him, it is 3 in the morning and it is raining cats and dogs out there! I am not going out in that." "Well, you certainly have a short memory" she replied. "Can't you remember about three months ago when our car broke down and those two guys stopped and helped us? I would think you should go help him and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too, you know." So the old miner hung his head, got up, and did as his wife told him he should do. He got dressed and went back out into the rain and called out, "Hello...? Are you still out there?" "Yes", came an answer out in the dark. "Well, do you still need that push?" "Yes. Please" came the reply from the dark. "Well, where are you then?" asked the old miner. "I am right over here on the swing under the tree" replied the drunk.!!



(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')

The finds of the Month 2020:

Be sure to bring your finds of the month that you have collected since the November meeting. The judging will start anew for the year 2020 and the November Finds are included in the 2020 contest.

Best Coin –

Best Jewelry –

Best Mineral –

Best Artifact –

Best Bottle –



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Most Raw Gold –

Largest Raw Gold –

Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the membership each month. We would like to know what everyone else is finding so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their names published in the Newsletter. There are seven (7) categories to choose from when entering. Winners of the monthly judging will need to save and return with their winning find next November 2020, when the Finds of the Year will be judged. **DON'T FORGET SAVE THEM for Find of the Year 2020!!!!**

Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section every month or so and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is strictly my opinion, and that is that, like it or not.....j

News from the Public Lands for the People (PLP)

PLP Member Wins “No Addition Argument” in CA State Court

For the very first time in California State court a small miner has won the “no addition argument”—this time against the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. As some of you may know, PLP member Godfrey won the issue against the Forest Service and CA Water Board in 2015. This win occurred on appeal at the federal level in US District Court. In this latest case, gold miner Michael Osterbrink was charged by the Sierra County (California) district attorney. They claimed he had “polluted State waters with materials that are deleterious to fish” in violation of section 5650 of the CA Fish & Game code. Michael Osterbrink is a prospector who was operating a gas-powered dry washer and vac-pack in a remote section of Sierra County. This high elevation area was a dry placer gulch for most of the summer and had piles of rocks left over from the work from miners during the gold rush and Depression era. Osterbrink had found some “chunky” pieces of gold with his metal detector, and then decided to work a pay layer within the gulch with his dry washer and vac-pack. This dry placer and gulch, at the time he worked it, was an intermittent stream course for which the CA Fish & Wildlife has regulatory authority.

The case was heard by Judge Yvette Durant in November 2019. PLP's legal researcher, Clark Pearson, provided expert testimony on behalf of Osterbrink. Pearson testified that: ...“no addition occurred in this case to trigger a violation of section 5650 because no foreign substances were added to the waterway” and he went on to say: “...that a violation of section 1602 is troubling because “substantially” used in this criminal regulation should be found void for vagueness by this court because it was not defined in the regulations or statute.” Pearson cited the Godfrey case as precedent to aid Judge Durant in her deliberations over the alleged violation of section 5650.

Locals who read an article in The Sierra Booster learned that Mr. Osterbrink was found guilty of violating CA Fish & Game code section 1602 and was ordered to pay a fine of \$200 by the court (count 1). This is true. The court determined that there was sufficient evidence to show the defendant created a “substantial disturbance” in order to trigger the need for a CA 1602 (substantial stream diversion) permit. (PLP may follow this up and petition the CA Fish & Wildlife for further clarity on the existing 1602 trigger so that other miners do not get caught speculating what “substantial” means to their own work on the ground.)

Most significantly, what the drive-by media did not report is that Mr. Osterbrink was found NOT guilty of violating section 5650 of the CA Fish & Game code which prohibits pollution of state waters with materials that are deleterious to fish and wildlife (count 2).

PLP cannot understate the importance of this legal decision in our present battles with the political powers of the California swamp. This is a really big deal! The swamp in CA believes that miners are polluters—not so fast; how do we pollute if there are no foreign substances added or involved here? Judge Durant said something PLP has been saying for years:

“I really think 5650, the intent of the Legislature there is to deal with situations where a defendant has deposited something new, a foreign substance. ...Here, there doesn't seem to be any dispute that this defendant did not add anything new. So I am going to find Mr. Osterbrink not guilty on count 2.”

You may recall back in 2015, PLP member John Godfrey won the “no addition” argument (count 5) fighting the Forest Service



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See <https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org/accomplishments/>). In that case, the Forest Service even called a so-called “expert” lead engineer from the CA Water Board to testify that what Godfrey had done amounted to pollution—to no avail to the government. Godfrey won in federal court. While others did not recognize the magnitude of this important win, PLP was confident it was a solid argument that could also be won in California state courts. And now Osterbrink has won in California state court.

Osterbrink’s decision will go a long way in helping get suction dredging to legally return to California and Oregon, and can help miners in other western states as well. Now let that sink in.

PLP Assists with US Supreme Court Brief

Recently, PLP has been quietly working to assist, edit and refine the “no addition” argument in Pacific Legal Foundation’s brief to the US Supreme Court in *EOMA & Waldo Mining District v. Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality*. Pacific Legal Foundation has a stellar track record—they do not take on cases unless there is a clear argument and a high probability of winning, and we’ve been honored to help with the legal arguments.

PLP Assists with EPA Petition & Appeal

PLP assisted member Don Smith of Idaho in his appeal and petition to the EPA and Army Corps clarifying that suction dredges (used in stream placer gold mining and reclamation) “do not as a matter of practice constitute a point source discharge of a pollutant namely because they *do not add a pollutant* within the meaning of the CWA.” The goal is to receive clarification from the EPA and Army Corps that suction gold dredges do not trigger the need for a Section 402 EPA permit because they do not add a pollutant

A total of 28 groups (counties, companies, mining clubs and associations) signed a letter of support for Don Smith’s petition. PLP followed up by contacting dozens of companies at the American Exploration and Mining Association (AEMA) tradeshow in Nevada in early December and many of them also signed on as supporters. AEMA signed on to the original letter of support.

A Plan to Fix the Dredge Permitting Scheme

We completely understand the frustration of suction gold dredgers—many of our members (and members of the PLP board) are dredgers too.

Some organizations and individual miners believe the answer is to demand a permit from states like California, but we respectfully—and strongly—disagree. Surrendering to a California pollution permitting scheme when there is no such pollutant involved is accepting extreme restrictions and huge fees, plus opening yourself up to liability - not to mention compromising responsible mining rights. Some federal and state agencies have teamed up with environmental groups to use this current pollution permit requirement to limit the number of dredges, to restrict work locations, nozzle sizes, work hours and more. They dislike miners in general, while hiding the facts that modern miners add no pollutants while reclaiming heavy metals and cleaning the environment!

Groups like the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) use the current pollution permit requirement to file civil lawsuits and the group is currently suing AMRA president Shannon Poe personally under this permit premise. Poe applied for a State of Idaho dredging permit in his case but declined to apply for a federal permit. The ICL is asking for fines in excess of \$37,000 per day and “reasonable litigation costs and expenses, including attorney and expert fees, incurred in bringing this action” from Poe for suction dredging without a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in 2014, 2015 and 2018.

While we completely appreciate and respect the efforts and enthusiasm of Poe and AMRA, we disagree with the strategy. Defending yourself by claiming you weren’t properly served a cease and desist notice from ICL will not make a case go away; it will only result in the service of another notice. (And the judge ruled he *was* properly served.) You must have a defensible position and plan in place before taking this type of action, and expert witnesses who are qualified in the eyes of the court are a must.

PLP has demonstrated these cases can be won in federal and state courts if approached properly, and you must be able to properly argue the case so all of us don’t suffer from bad court precedent. Ignoring the current pollution permit requirement will likely get you sued or cited; requesting a pollution permit that should not apply to suction dredging may lead to unbearable restrictions and fees and can still result in a lawsuit even if you inadvertently wander outside the restrictions.

Getting the “addition” requirement clarified at the federal level will fix this pollution permitting scheme. We made 7 week-long trips to Washington, DC in 2019 for meetings with federal agencies and members of Congress. We’ve been



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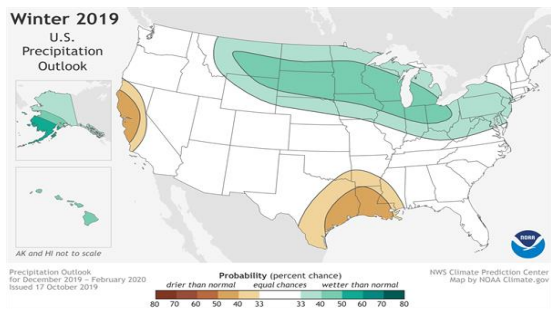
encouraged by the support we've received from the Trump administration and their willingness to work with us on these issues. With your help and support, we'll be back in DC in 2020.

(Having served in the law enforcement profession for 39 years, I completely understand the differences here between the AMRA and Poe, and the PLP. I whole heartedly agree with PLP in their take and the direction they should go. While I support Poe and the AMRA, they chose the wrong tact and it could cost them dearly. The mining community will suffer everywhere when the wrong decisions are made without thinking things through...an old adage says 'the many often suffer from the actions of a few..!' ...and it is so.....JJ)

How 2019 Winter Weather Conditions May Affect Prospecting in Your Area

by **KEVIN HOAGLAND** Executive director of Development, GPAA

As featured in the December/January 2020 Pick & Shovel Gazette By Aaron Debee



Winter is here and along with it all of the seasonal changes we tend to expect for our respective regions. As enthusiasts of an outdoor interest like gold prospecting, though, we may want to consider some environmental conditions that typically go unnoticed by those with simple plans to spend their time inside this winter.

Water table elevations and annual precipitation totals, for instance, can have a significant impact on the amount of gold exposed in streams and larger waterways, which can affect the probability that it will show up in our pans. Below we take a look at some areas that have been affected by unusual weather events this year and what to expect in these areas as

winter approaches. We'll also talk about what this means for your prospecting opportunities.

THE MIDWEST

As there are no El Niño or La Niña patterns active this year, the likelihood that winter weather will stray dramatically from average expectations is slim. In the absence of these patterns, winter weather temperatures and conditions are influenced by more routine climate patterns such as the Arctic Oscillation, which determines when and how many arctic air masses will reach down into the northern United States from the North Pole and Canada. The downside of such a winter weather dynamic, though, is that it reduces how far ahead weather and temperatures can be predicted, which may add an element of uncertainty to advance plans for prospecting in the north, especially the northern Midwest.

Major flooding, centered mostly around the Missouri River and its tributaries, occurred in the spring of 2019 in the midwestern section of the United States. During this unusual flooding, a significant amount of running water washed over massive tracts of land typically undisturbed by intense erosion events. Floodwaters can wash away loose layers of topsoil, which can sometimes expose rock and small mineral and metal deposits below. It is this combination of water and friction that creates the perfect opportunity for extracting previously inaccessible gold through panning and sluicing. As a result of this flooding, sediment-heavy areas in states like Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota, Iowa, and Kansas may have experienced an injection of fresh tracer gold into the area streams and rivers.

The western Great Lakes and Northern Plains areas have an equal chance of having a slightly cooler or slightly warmer winter overall, and will fluctuate with the presence or the absence of arctic air masses from the north. This region is expected to experience a wetter-than-average winter, though, so we can expect waterways to maintain a healthy flow where and when it is not obstructed by freezing.

THE SOUTHEAST

Despite a very wet early start to the year across most of the middle and eastern portions of the country, significant drought conditions developed over late summer and early autumn, particularly in the southeast, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Resulting low water levels may have left tracer gold stranded in dry sediment and under crusted earth, concealing it from panners and sluicers trying their luck in these drought-stricken areas. All hope is not lost, however, as steady or heavy winter rains and melts expected in these areas, which include Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky, have the potential to release benched gold deposits and transport it back into running streams for panning and sluicing.

Most of the southeastern United States is expected to experience warmer-than-average temperatures this year, as is the entire Eastern Seaboard reaching westward to the eastern Great Lakes, according to NOAA. This may translate into fewer



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frozen waterways and a shorter prospecting off-season for those who prefer not to brave the harsher winter conditions. To the immediate west in Louisiana and eastern Texas, however, drier-than-average conditions are expected to continue, potentially leaving smaller waterways dry.

THE WEST, ALASKA, AND HAWAII

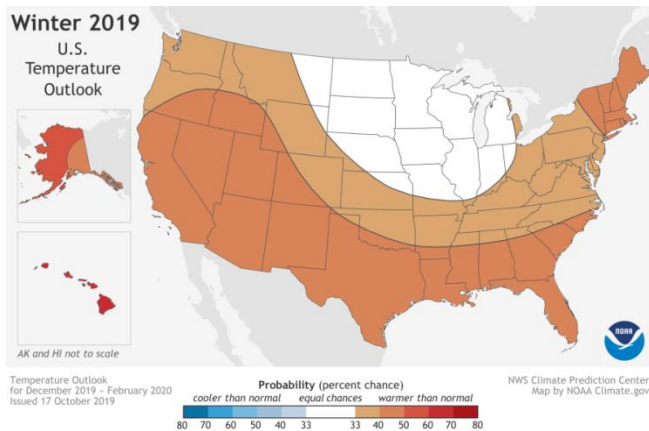
The Rocky Mountains, California, Alaska, and Hawaii, are particularly likely to experience a warmer-than-average winter. Eastern Montana, Hawaii, and Alaska are expected to experience a wetter-than-average winter, while most of central and northern California are expected to remain drier-than-average. The remainder of the western United States can expect an average amount of rainfall along with warmer-than-average temperatures, potentially increasing successful panning and sluicing opportunities.

WHEN WE PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

If we consider the weather events of this past year with this winter’s regional temperature and precipitation predictions, prospecting conditions for various areas of the country can be anticipated. The south-central and southeastern United States, after experiencing flash drought conditions, promise to remain comparatively dry and to experience a warmer-than-average winter, according to NOAA. While these mild conditions may make it pleasant to be outdoors, adequate water levels needed for panning and sluicing may be difficult to find.

The exact opposite may be true in the northern Midwest where an already wet year may end with additional precipitation and average winter temperatures. The most significant change in conditions may be experienced in areas like Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia, where warmer-than-average winter temperatures and greater-than-average winter precipitation may swell waterways, liberating trace gold previously stranded in ground dried by the flash drought of late summer and early autumn.

Aaron DeBee is a freelance writer and travel guide based in Wisconsin.

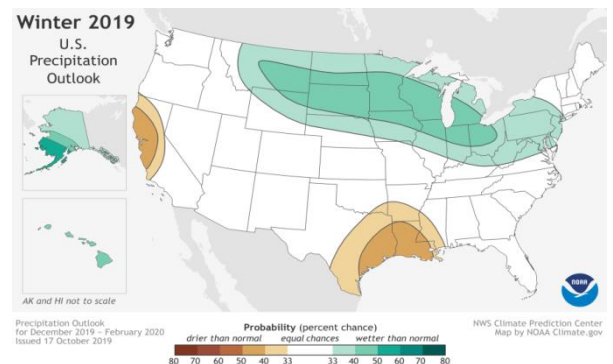


This 2019-20 Winter Outlook map for temperature shows warmer-than-average temperatures are likely for much of the U.S. this winter. (Source NWS Climate Prediction Center | Map by NOAA Climate.gov)

This 2019-20 Winter Outlook map for precipitation shows wetter-than-average weather is most likely across the Northern Tier of the U.S. this coming winter. (Source NWS Climate Prediction Center | Map by NOAA Climate.gov)

RESOURCES:

1. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/winter-outlook-warmer-than-average-for-many-wetter-in-north>
2. <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/flash-drought-engulfs-us-southeast-september-2019>



Let Weather Be Your Guide

By Kevin Hoagland

Executive Director of Development GPAA



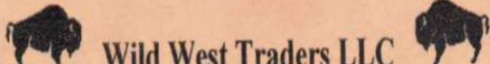
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When you look at the weather trends for the fall and winter of 2019 moving into the spring and summer 2020 mining seasons, remember that these are the best opportunities that prospectors will have had in a long time. Take advantage of these up and downs in the weather to prospect, prospect, prospect to create your mining plans. In areas where high water is expected, get out and watch the water flow. Seeing the high-water events is key to knowing where gold actually drops out. Watch the flow lines around every boulder and tree, watch where the flows slow down, rather than trying to find them after the fact. Always remember that the “Gold is in the inside bend where the water is slowest” is a rule of thumb and not the be-all-end-all law of prospecting. In drier-than-average climates, follow the trends of brief but powerful weather events. In Southern California, follow the Santa Ana wind trends.

Santa Ana winds originate in the Great Basin area. As these strong downslope winds push south into Southern California and into Baja, they strip and scrub a great deal of surface material away. This wind-driven movement of top sands can make all the difference in the world. That one target, the one you’ve been detecting to find for years, is suddenly detectable where it wasn’t just weeks ago.

Weather, no matter what, is a tool that you, as a prospector should be using daily. Not just to know if it is going to be a hot or cold day in the field, but to know what nature is doing for you to help you in your quest for gold. Generations of prospectors before us would watch lightning to find an area that had a multitude of strikes then head out in hopes of finding iron-rich deposits to prospect these areas for gold. It worked out very well for many a prospector. Look at some old mining maps and see how many mines are named or associated with some sort of weather event.

Have a safe and happy holidays, and we’ll see you out there!



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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2020

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921
[\(https://www.wmmi.org/\)](https://www.wmmi.org/) (Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 National Freedom Day
2 Groundhog Day Super Bowl	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18	19 GPR Club Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Ash Wednesday	