

Clean Water Act § 401 Water Quality Certification
Roadrunner Prospectors' Club Placer Mining Claims
Cordes Lakes – Big Bug Creek

1. Authorization

This State Water Quality Certification (WQC) is issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) under the authority of § 401(a) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 49-202. This § 401 WQC will become part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) § 404 permit SPL-2010-00353.

Based on the information provided and identified in Section 3 of this certification, ADEQ certifies that the placer mining activities on Big Bug Creek, near Cordes Lake within Yavapai County, will not violate applicable Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS).

A. Location

ADEQ PLC: 266448 ADEQ LTF: 117583

B. Project Proponent Information

Don Martini, President
Roadrunner Prospectors' Club
P.O. Box 56804
Phoenix, AZ 85079

Authorizing Signature

Josephine Maressa
Deputy Director, Water Quality Division
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Date

2. Project Location

The Roadrunner Prospectors' Club has six placer mining leases on Big Bug Creek, near Cordes Lakes, Yavapai County, in Township 11N, Range 03W.

3. Description of Certified Activities

The Roadrunner Prospectors' Club conducts monthly placer mining events for mining enthusiasts on Big Bug Creek. All operations adhere to the regulations established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit No. 18 – Mining Discharges; and the Bureau of Land Management.

Operations utilize sluice boxes, recirculators, and suction dredges with an inlet no greater than 3-inches. All water and materials are filtered outside the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) before discharging clean water back into Big Bug Creek.

When water flow is dry, prospectors utilize dry washers, recirculators, metal detectors, and vacuums. Members must bring their own potable water for equipment use. Material processing and gasoline engine maintenance are strictly prohibited within the OHWM. Before leaving, the Roadrunners Prospectors' Club will restore the area as closely as possible to its natural, pre-mining landscape.

4. Information Reviewed

In evaluating and issuing this CWA § 401 WQC, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) reviewed the following records on file:

- Current Application: CWA § 401 WQC application package, including all associated plans, maps, and project details submitted by the Roadrunner Prospectors' Club (Attn: Les Glover), received on August 5, 2026.
- Historical Certifications: Background information from previously certified § 401 applications for the Roadrunner Prospectors' Club (Attn: Les Glover) dated August 2008 and December 2022.
- Water Quality & Impairment Standards:
 - Designated Uses: Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 18, Chapter 11, Article 1, Appendix B, Big Bug Creek are Aquatic and Wildlife Warm (A&Ww), Full Body Contact (FBC), Fish Consumption (FC), Agriculture Irrigation (AgI), and Agriculture Livestock (AgL).
 - Impairments: Pursuant to Appendix C of the 2024 CWA Assessment, Big Bug Creek is classified as impaired for Arsenic, Copper, and Lead.

5. Notification Provisions

Mailing Address:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Rosi Sherrill
Surface Water Permits / 401 WQCs
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Direct Inquiries:

Email: sherrill.laurie@azdeq.gov
Phone: (602) 771-4409

Please include the following reference details on all correspondence:

Project Name: Roadrunner Prospectors' Club
USACE File No.: SPL-2010-00353
ADEQ LTF No.: 117583

6. Certification Notes

This WQC applies exclusively to the activities specified in Section 3 of this certification and is based upon the documentation provided in Section 4. As noted in Section 1, this WQC is incorporated directly into USACE § 404 permit SPL-2010-00353 and is valid for the same time period as that permit. Any renewal, extension, modification, or other change to the USACE § 404 permit will require the project proponent to apply for a matching update, extension, or renewal of this WQC.