

Welcome to

Sixes River Recreation Site

The Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District, Sixes River Recreation Site is open to recreational mining and gold prospecting including panning, sluicing and suction dredging. The Bureau of Land Management created supplemental rules to ensure consistency with Oregon State rules and regulations governing placer mining activities and enhance recreational opportunities and protect public resources.



The Sixes River has attracted gold miners for many years dating back to the mid-1850s when Jake Summers first discovered gold in the area below the mouth of the South Fork of the Sixes River. In 1965 the recreation site was established and the area was withdrawn from mining claims. Today, Sixes River Recreation Site is open to recreational mining and gold prospecting including panning, sluicing and suction dredging.

State of Oregon Rules

Non-motorized equipment such as panning and hand sluicing:

A permit is **not** required for prospecting or other non-motorized activities resulting in removal-fill of **less than one cubic yard** of material at any one individual site and, cumulatively, not more than five cubic yards of material within a particular stream in a single year. Prospecting or other non-motorized activities may be conducted only within the bed or wet perimeter of the waterway and shall not occur at any site where fish eggs are present.

Motorized equipment such as suction dredging, sluicing, and rocker boxes:

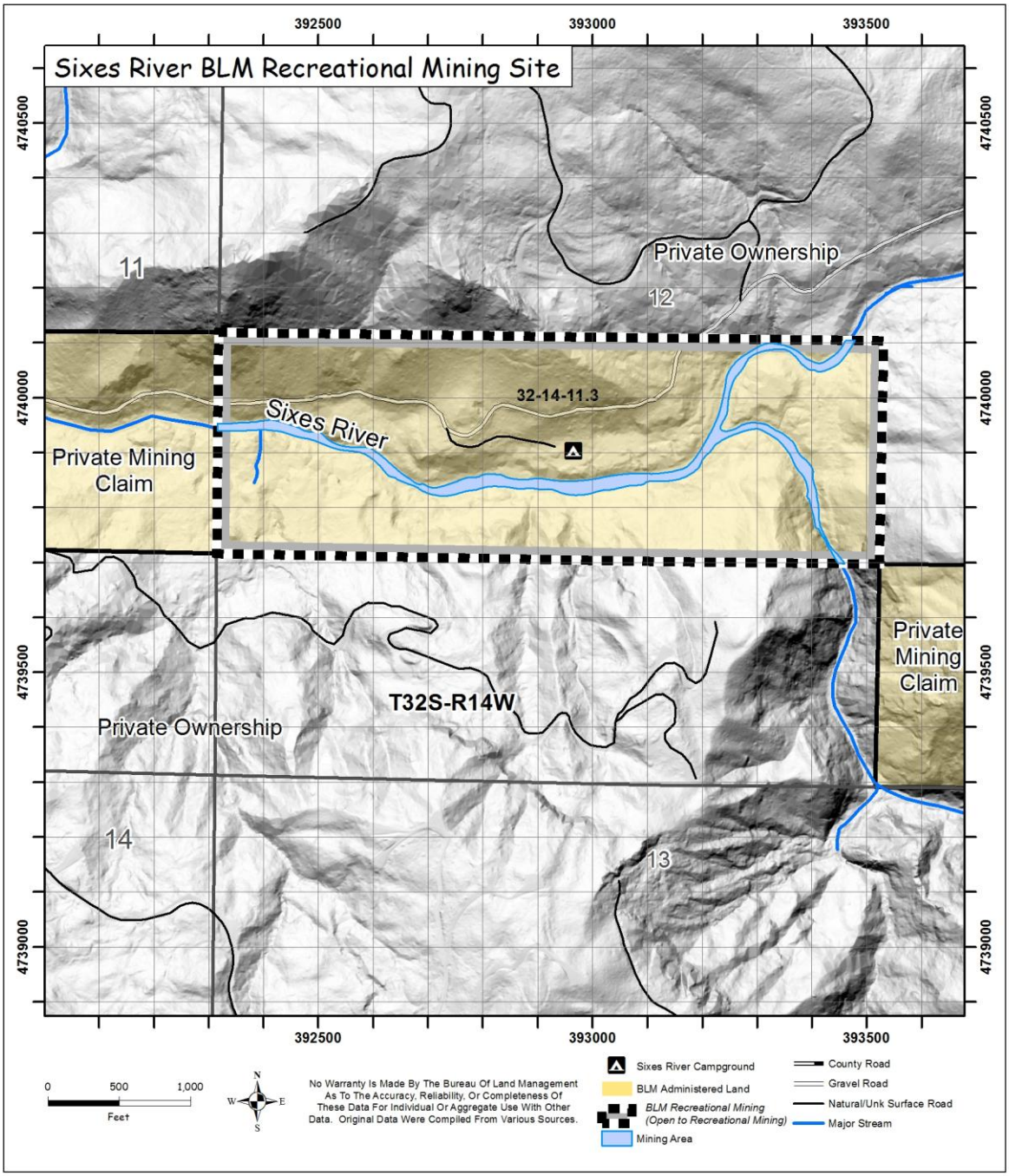
No motorized mining is allowed in the Sixes River due to a Bill that the State of Oregon passed in 2017 that prohibits motorized in-stream placer mining in essential salmon habitat, which includes the Sixes River. **As per existing Sixes River Management Guidelines and Regulations, no motorized mining can occur within the recreation area without the required State permits.**

For more information regarding the ban or permitting contact:
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality,
503-229-5073
and
Oregon Department of State Lands,
503-986-5306

Bureau of Land Management Rules

- There is no trash service, all campers and day use guest must pack out their trash.
- Camping and day use fees must be paid to use the site for mining recreation.
- You must not camp longer than 14 days in any 30 day period, at any one location, including any campground on public land. After 14 days have been reached, you must move at least 30 air miles away from the previously-occupied location.
- You must not sluice or dredge in streambed without the required permit(s) issued by the appropriate State Agencies.
- You must not excavate and processes materials outside the existing wet perimeter. "Wet perimeter" as defined in State rules is that area of the streambed which is under water or exposed as a non-vegetated gravel bar surrounded on all sides by actively moving water at the time the mining activity occurs.
- You must not impound water or excavate to extend the natural wet perimeter existing at the time mining activity occurs.
- You must not remove, disturb or excavate any soil or vegetation within the area outside of the wet perimeter.

Supplementary Information: Authority for the establishment of these Supplementary Rules for the Sixes River Recreation Site and Prohibited Acts is contained in 43 CFR, Chapter II, subpart 8360-3 and 8365.1-6. Person or persons violating or failing to comply with these rules may be subject to penalties provided for in 43 CFR 8360.0 -7 and 43 CFR 9262.1, which include a fine not to exceed $1,000.00 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months (as published in 62 FR 28496 (May 23, 1997)).


Sixes River BLM Recreational Mining Site
392500
393000
393500
4740500
4740000
4739500
4739000
11
12
14
13
Private Ownership
Private Ownership
Private Mining Claim
Private Mining Claim
32-14-11.3
Sixes River
T32S-R14W
0
500
1,000
Feet
N
W
E
S
No Warranty Is Made By The Bureau Of Land Management As To The Accuracy, Reliability, Or Completeness Of These Data For Individual Or Aggregate Use With Other Data. Original Data Were Compiled From Various Sources.
Sixes River Campground
BLM Administered Land
BLM Recreational Mining (Open to Recreational Mining)
Mining Area
County Road
Gravel Road
Natural/Unk Surface Road
Major Stream