www.idahoconservation.org

Idaho Conservation League
PO Box 844, Boise, ID 83701
208.345.6933

February 5, 2016

Via web submission: dmabe@noaa.gov and darthaud@noaa.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act request –Idaho Suction Dredge Mining Documents and Correspondence

Dear FOIA Officer:

I am requesting documents under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that relate to permitting of small-scale mining operations in Idaho.

I hereby request, pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the following records:

1. Specific documents describing the effects of suction dredge mining in Idaho in the South Fork Clearwater River or other critical habitat that were generated in response to dredge mining that occurred in 2015.
    a. In particular, I am interested in an email document and attachment that was shared via email on 9/24/15 from NOAA employee Mr. David Arthaud. Attachment file name: Site Visit Report SFCR SD 150813.docx
    b. Other assessments or documentation that been prepared by, or is in the possession of, NOAA, after August 24, 2015 (the effective date of ICL's previous FOIA request) that relates to dredge mining in the South Fork Clearwater River during the summer of 2015.

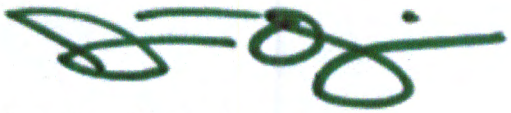
To the extent practicable, we prefer these documents to be released in electronic format, via email or on a CD.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), I seek a fee waiver for the search and production costs associated with this request. Idaho Conservation League is a non-profit organization with no commercial interest in the requested information. Further, disclosure of the information will contribute significantly to public understanding of the NOAA-Fisheries engagement with the issue of suction dredge mining in Idaho. The public, and the Idaho Conservation League

in particular, has maintained a long-term interest in the protection of water resources in Idaho. Release of the requested information will significantly contribute to the public's understanding of the NOAA-Fisheries' actions and efforts to protect and manage public resources. The requested information consists of internal agency documents not previously made available to the general public. Thus, the only means by which the public may obtain such information is through release of the requested documents. I will use the information subject to this request to gain an understanding of the actions of NOAA-Fisheries or affiliated management entities; and to educate the public about the NOAA-Fisheries' actions, findings and recommendations. The Idaho Conservation League has substantial ability to disseminate such information to the public, both through publications such as our quarterly newsletter, and through postings on our Internet website, www.idahoconservation.org. Accordingly, I am entitled to a full fee waiver for this request.

Please feel free to call me to discuss any aspect of this request. As required by the Freedom of Information Act, a response to this request must be made within **20 working days** of your receipt of this letter (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i)). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Jonathan Oppenheimer
Senior Conservation Associate