

2015 General ARAP for Recreational Prospecting

Public Comment

As the Tennessee State Representative for the Gold Prospectors Association of America I would like to speak in support of the new draft General ARAP for Recreational Prospecting. Having worked directly with Jonathon Burr and Bruce Ragon on the new general ARAP draft, I feel that this permit reflects the cooperative spirit between prospectors and TDEC. We worked together and agreed to common sense, conservation minded rules that would allow prospectors to continue their hobby with their friends and families that TDEC could support.

There are a few items in the Draft General ARAP that I feel need to be clarification and there are a couple of changes I would like to request on behalf of the Prospectors in TN. These Items were brought to me by various members of the GPAA and other prospectors.

The following are the areas of concern:

Obtaining Permit coverage

2. "Each application shall apply to only one operator and only to qualifying prospecting equipment owned by that operator." **We would like this statement to reflect the need of operators to have someone working with them. We would like this to include operator and immediate family members or operator and 1 other designee.**

Also there should not be an annual maintenance fee for the General ARAP

Under Class 2

We would also like to add the ability for prospecting clubs who obtain General ARAP coverage to obtain a special event waiver for distance between operations and special demonstrations. This would be applied for at least 30 days prior to the event or festival.

Respectfully submitted,

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