

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Mining Claim Packet





# BLM COSO Mining Claim Packet

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# Notice to Mining Claimants

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Exploration, mining, and mineral processing activities involving locatable minerals on BLM administered land are controlled by the regulations at 43 CFR Subparts 3715 and 3809 and in Wilderness Study Areas, 43 CFR Subpart 3802.

Operators are required by these regulations to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation or avoid impairment of wilderness characteristics. Surface Management Handbook H-3809-1 explains policies, processes and procedures for the implementation of the 3809 regulations. The 3809-2 Handbook Surface Management Bond Processing explains the policies and procedures for processing bonds required under the 3809 regulations.

Any use of the surface for the purpose of mining on an unpatented claim is only allowed by permit. Use of the surface for purposes unrelated to mining is unauthorized and therefore, considered to be in trespass.

The unauthorized use of a mining claim can become a very serious problem for the claimant, particularly when a valuable improvement is constructed or placed on an unpatented claim. A person stands to lose all his/her investment because of such trespass action. In many cases, we have found that unauthorized use began because of the claimant's lack of knowledge of the mining laws. Therefore, we are cautioning owners of mining locations to prevent any future difficulties and to encourage the proper use of Public Lands.



# Lifecycle of Mining Claims and Sites on Federal Land

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1. Is the land accessible? - Access
2. Is the land open to the location of mining claims? - Research
3. Prospect and locate on the ground – Stake the Claim
4. What type of mining claim or site are you locating? – Certificate of Location
5. Where is the mining claim located? – Map
6. Recording new mining claims or sites – County & BLM Recordation
7. Maintain the mining claim or site annually – Annual Filings
8. General upkeep of the mining claim – Other Filings
9. Transferring a Mining Claim or Site – Buying or Selling Mining Claims
10. Planning a mining operation – Are you Ready to Dig?
11. Mining operation approval and financial guarantee – Surface Management
12. Cease mining operation – Reclamation

## 1. Access to Public Lands in Colorado

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More than one-third of Colorado's land area is Federally owned and available for public use. These Public Lands are managed by several Federal and state agencies and local governments. Knowing how to access lands can avoid trespass problems among users and owners of lands, both public and private, in Colorado. This information is intended to promote public awareness concerning access to Public Lands with minimum interference to adjacent private landowners.

### **FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**

The primary Federal land management agencies in Colorado are the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the [U.S. Forest Service \(USFS\)](#) and the [National Park Service \(NPS\)](#).

National Parks and Monuments usually charge a fee for entry. America the Beautiful Passes, the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass series is your ticket to more than 2,000 Federal recreation sites. Each pass covers entrance fees at national parks and national wildlife refuges as well as



standard amenity fees (day use fees) at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the BLM, the Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers. More information on the America the Beautiful Passes is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes> or by calling 1-888-ASK USGS (1-888-275-8747). While camping and many forms of recreation are encouraged, hunting and some other outdoor activities are restricted. Contact local NPS offices for specific information.

The BLM manages 8.4 million surface acres and the USFS manages 14.3 million acres in Colorado. These lands are available for a variety of recreational uses; such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking and camping; along with other authorized uses such as livestock grazing, timber harvest and mineral development.

### **How do I gain access to Federal Public Lands?**

Legal access to Federal land is provided by a system of public and agency roads and trails. Public roads are intended to meet the transportation needs of the public user. Generally, a public road is any Federal or state highway or county road administered by the state or county. BLM and USFS roads and trails are maintained for the administration and use of Federal lands. Although generally open to the public, agency officials may restrict or control the use of these roads. Restrictions may be imposed for protection of sensitive or critical resources or to meet specific management needs. Land management agencies do not always have legal rights-of-way on all access roads or trails entering Federal lands.

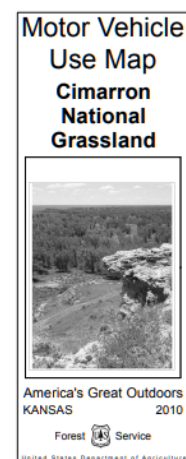
Authorized private use of Federal land, such as livestock grazing, does not allow the lessee to post or sign the land as being private. The lessee of Federal lands cannot deny legal access or charge an access fee for others to use such lands.

### **Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM)**

The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is a requirement of the 2005 Final Travel Management Rule. The MVUM displays National Forest System (NFS) routes (roads and trails) and areas designated as open to motorized travel. The MVUM also displays allowed uses by vehicle class (ex. highway-legal vehicles, vehicles less than 50 inches wide and motorcycles), seasonal allowances, and provides information on other travel rules and regulations.

Routes not shown on the MVUM are not open to public motor vehicle travel. Routes designated for motorized use may not always be signed on the ground but will be identified on the MVUM.

It will be the public's responsibility to reference the MVUM to stay on designated routes for motor vehicle use.



### **STATE TRUST LANDS**

The Public Access Program is a lease arrangement between the [Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#) and the [State Land Board](#) which began in 1993. The Public Access Program allows public access to specific State Trust Lands and has opened to the public over half a million acres of lands which had no public access previously. Most recently, the State Land Board and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife entered a 7-year lease in 2006 to allow public use of approximately 550,000 acres of State Trust Lands with wildlife values for wildlife-related recreation.

Through this lease agreement, these lands are available to the public for a specified time during the year for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related activities. The State Trust Lands leased for this program are not open year-round because they are also leased to other users during the year. The lands may have several lease activities occurring on them during the year which includes farming, livestock grazing, mining and logging.

The public is reminded to respect the rights of other users and lessees on State Trust Lands and to abide by state rules so the lands can remain open for future wildlife recreation. State Trust Lands not leased for this program are not open for public access.

Most of these leased State Trust Lands are not accessible by motor vehicle, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or snowmobiles, and there are restrictions on camping, parking and off-road driving. Hunters should consult the State Trust Lands brochure for rules and property-specific information. Parcels are open only from September 1 through the end of February, unless otherwise stated in the brochure.

The source for the above information on state trust lands can be found by visiting the Colorado Parks & Wildlife website at [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us); continue by selecting the heading titled land and water, then State Trust Lands.

## **PRIVATE LANDS**

Two-thirds of the land area of the State of Colorado is privately owned. It is unlawful to enter private lands in Colorado without permission of the landowner. Colorado law does not require private lands to be marked, fenced or posted in any manner. Depending on the circumstances, trespass in Colorado may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor or as a felony.

Additionally, the Colorado Revised Statutes state that "it is unlawful for any person to enter upon privately owned land or lands under the control of the State Board of Land Commissioners to take any wildlife by hunting, trapping, or fishing without first obtaining permission from the owner or person in possession of such land." It is your responsibility to know whether you are on private or Public Land.

On non-navigable rivers and streams, the adjacent landowners' jurisdiction extends to the middle of the stream or river. Colorado law does allow floating access on a stream or river if



no contact is made with the river bottom or shoreline while passing through (over) private lands.

### **How do I gain access to private lands?**

"ASK FIRST" to get access to private lands and please respect the property of others. Responsible visitors or users always respect the land, whether it is private or public, and take care to leave it the way they found it. The landowner has the right to deny access on or across private lands -and- may charge an access or user fee for the use of those private lands.

SIGNS: Colorado law states that "no person may post, sign or indicate in any way that Public Lands within Colorado, not held under exclusive control or lease, are privately owned lands." It is unlawful to close a legal public access route or sign Federal Public Lands with the intention of restricting public use. The BLM, USFS or Colorado Parks & Wildlife should be advised about access problems and the illegal posting of signs on Federal lands. Until these situations are brought to the attention of agency officials, the problem cannot be corrected.

### **How do I recognize public access routes?**

Major access routes or points of access to Federal Public Lands are usually identified by signs with an agency logo. Most USFS roads and many BLM roads are marked with signs bearing road numbers and white arrows depicting routes open to motorized travel or with signs giving mileage to a geographical location or recreation area. Access routes without signs will require that you have a detailed map showing landownership and roads/trails to identify legal access points.

### **What recourses are available if access problems arise?**

**Federal Agencies:** Report the incident immediately to the nearest USFS Ranger District office, or BLM field office, with specifics of the incident; particularly the exact location where the incident occurred.

**State Agencies:** The Colorado Parks & Wildlife will investigate state land access related problems and complaints which involve actions that are either illegal or contrary to State Land Board regulations and lease terms. If the problem/complaint can be documented and verified, the parties involved will be contacted and requested to immediately correct the situation. Non-compliance with lease terms and related Board regulations is grounds for lease cancellation. Non-compliance with the Board's public rules (such as off-highway vehicle use), vandalism, or property damage on state lands are grounds for arrest by any duly authorized peace officer and prosecution under pertinent Colorado statutes.

[Operation Game Thief](#) is a Colorado Division of Wildlife program, which pays rewards to citizens who turn in poachers. You can call toll-free within Colorado at 1-877-265-6648.

This number is a crime stoppers line strictly for contacting law enforcement personal regarding wildlife violations.

## 2. Research an Area of Interest

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We recommend you research the area and contact the local office BEFORE you prospect/stake/file a mining claim.

### Locate an Area of Interest.

#### Map Options

The full BLM Surface Management Maps are available in digital format free of charge online at <http://www.blm.gov/maps>, search by State: Colorado and a keyword. If you do not know the specific year of the map, do not change the year. The results will appear without selecting a year.

The US Forest Service has several maps, including topographic maps available digitally as well as for purchase at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/visit/maps>. The Motor Vehicle Use Maps identify those roads, trails, and areas designated for motor vehicle use in the forest.

To purchase paper maps, contact the Andy Senti Public Lands Information Center at 303-239-3600. Colorado USGS Topographic Maps, USFS Maps, and BLM Maps available for purchase.


### Research the History of the Land

The General Land Office website at <https://glorerecords.blm.gov> provides digital images of the land entry documents for Colorado. They may be printed free of charge.



To begin your research, select land status records, enter the township and range and print the Master Title Plat.

## LAND STATUS RECORDS (LSR)

<b>Land Status Records</b>	<p><b>Land Status Records</b> are used by BLM Western State Offices to document the ongoing state of a township's Federal and private land regarding title, lease, rights, and usage. These documents include Master Title Plats, which are a composite of all Federal surveys for a township. Other Land Status Records include Use Plats, Historical Indices, and Supplemental Plats.</p>	
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## LAND CATALOG

A new feature of GLO Records is Land Catalog which allows public to search for all documents in a township using the map viewer to zoom into the area. This application displays the PLSS data layer and a drop-down search menu for easy navigation from a State, Meridian, and Township perspective.

<b>Land Catalog</b>	<p>The <b>Land Catalog</b> application allows the public to search for Patents, Surveys, Land Status Records, CDI Documents, and LR2000 Case Recordation &amp; Land Status reports associated with a specific township. This application displays the PLSS data layer for and a drop-down search menu for easy navigation from a State, Meridian, and Township perspective.</p>	
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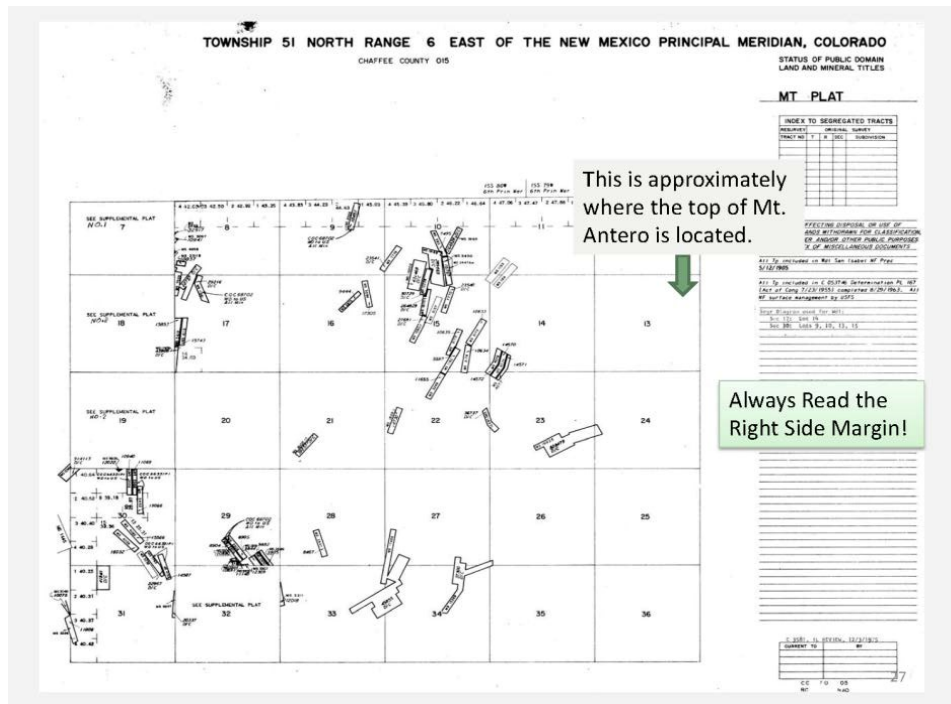
## The Master Title Plat

The **Master Title Plat (MTP)** is a composite diagram of a township depicting:

- Basic survey information (Mineral Survey's)
- Title transfer information (Patents, Sales, Exchanges, Re-conveyance, Acquisitions, etc.)
- Use authorizations (Withdrawals, Segregations, Leases, Permits, Rights of Way, etc.)
- Power site withdrawals.

Further inquiry to an MTP notation would require looking at the **Historical Indices (HI's)** for the township. The historical indices provide a chronological history of all land actions in the township, as noted on the MTP. The first land action in the township begins on page 1, and subsequent land actions are documented through to the present day.

The MTP does not show topography, or landmarks, so it's important to use other research material to be ensured you are in the correct area. Notation will generally appear at the bottom in the center of the outline of the lands involved.



When researching the MTP, always read the right-side margin.

When the entire township is managed by one agency, this will be stated in the right-side margin, and no withdrawal line will appear on the MTP.

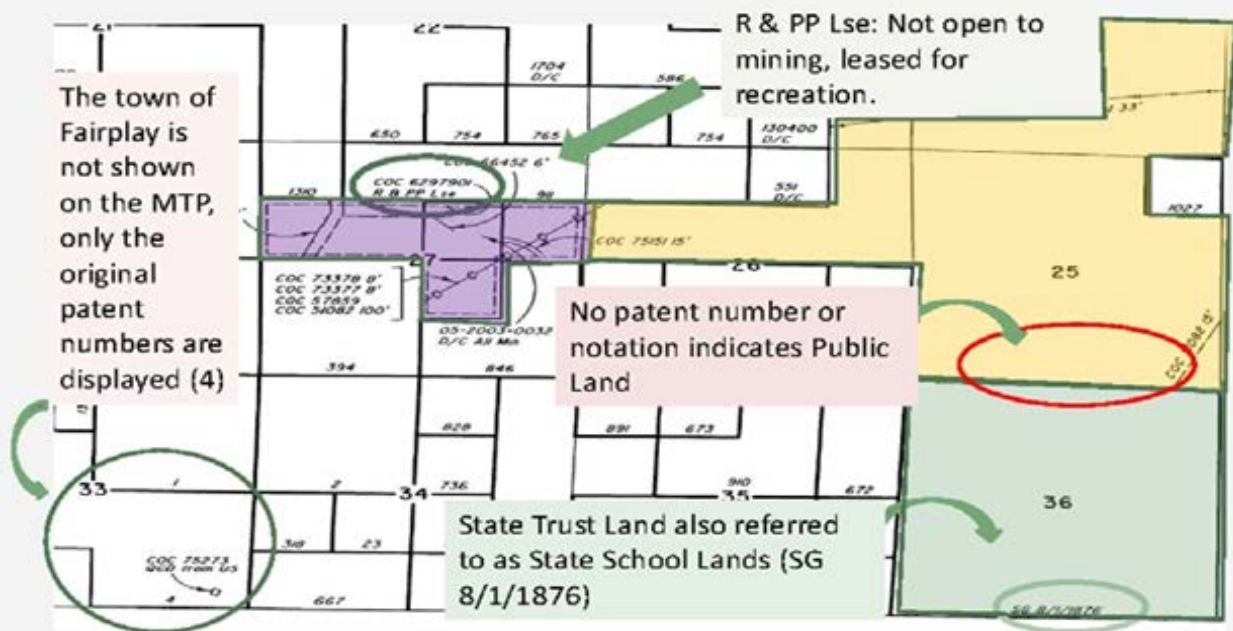
Cities and towns are not noted on MTP's and this can be confusing. The snapshot of part of an MTP shown below, labeled #1 has a colored overlay to highlight this situation. The snapshot labeled #2 explains some of the common abbreviations found on MTPs.

- D/C = a reservation of ditches or canals to US this reservation is an easement for ditches or canals which may be constructed by the US.
- PL 167 = Public Law 167 pertains to administrative jurisdiction by the US over the surface resources on unpatented mining claims and the lands are open to multiple uses. Withdrawal line (— • —) used for US Forest, National Wildlife Refuges, etc.
- Withdrawal line (-----) used for leases, permits etc.
- R&PP - a Recreation and Public Purpose Lease.
- ALL MIN - All minerals are reserved to the US, meaning they remain US property.
- SG - State school grant lands
- QCD from US - is a quit claim deed from the US to convey ownership



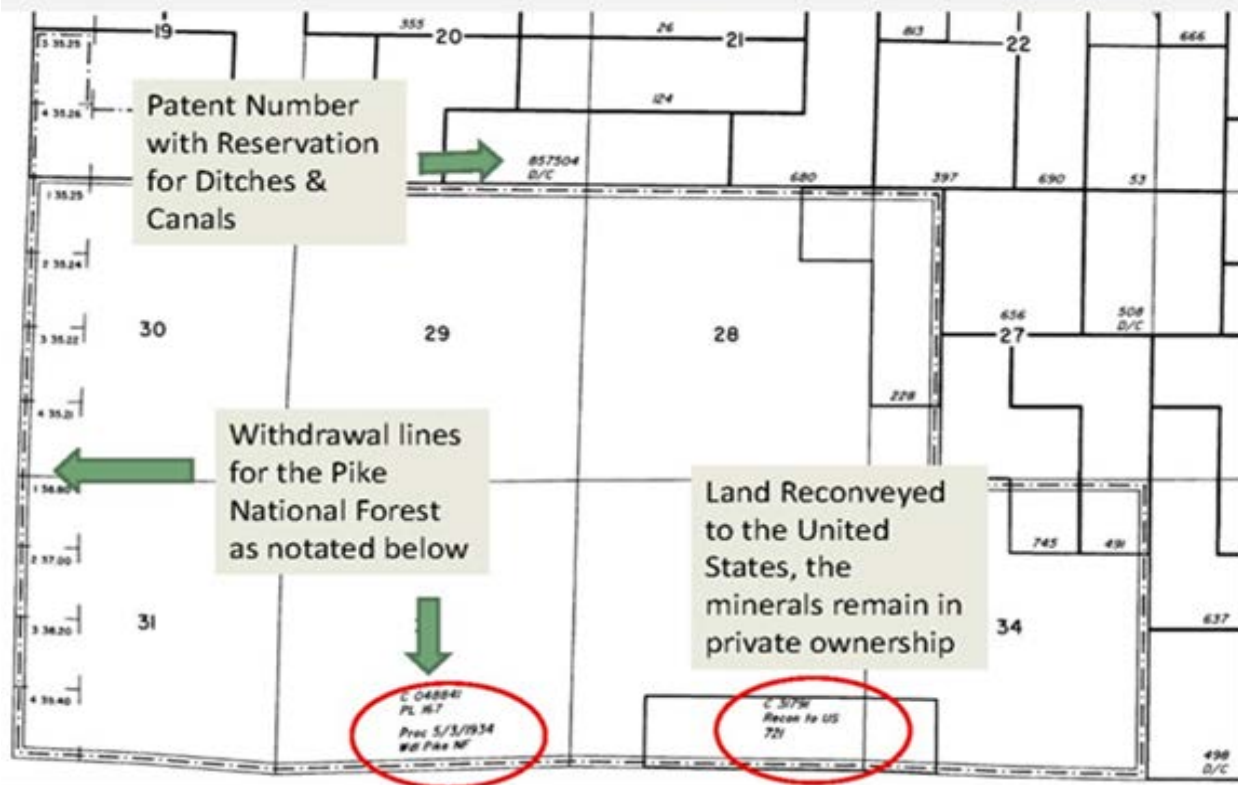
## Master Title Plat with Color Overlay

#1



## Master Title Plat Showing a National Forest Boundary

#2



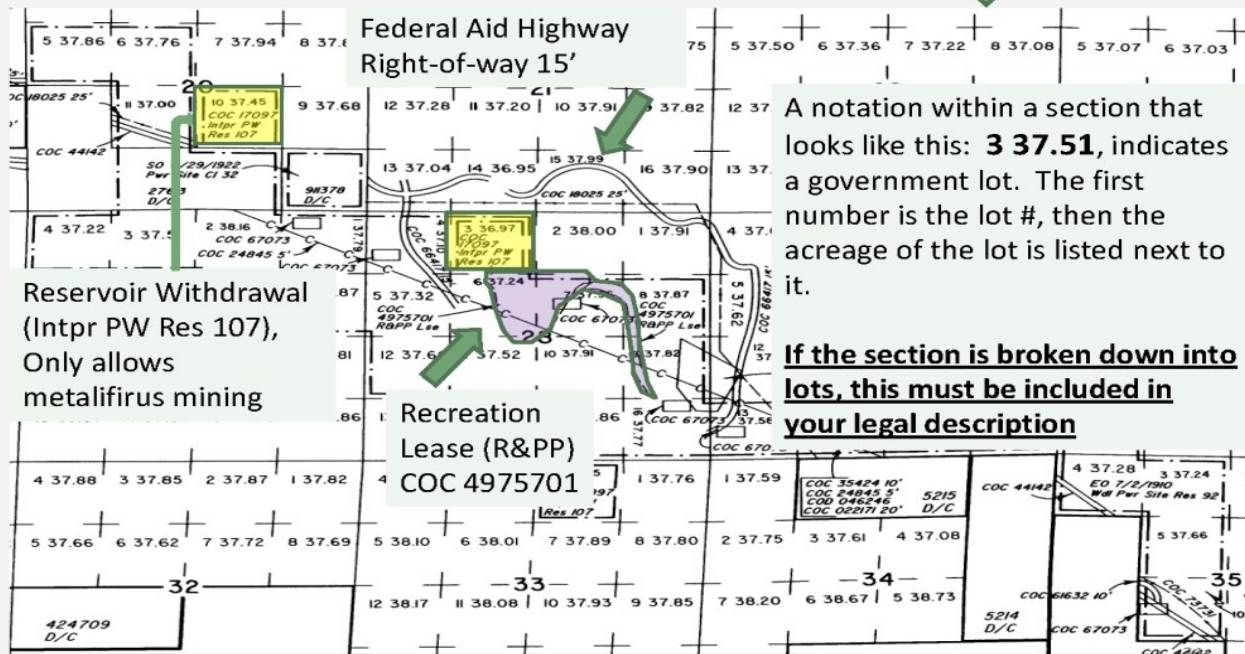
## Abbreviation Definitions

- ## RESERVOIRS

- 14 of 59

different than the power site areas, however sometimes you will find both in the same area.

## Master Title Plat Showing Many Irregular Sections



### Irregular Sections

Protracted townships and sub-divided sections may not be broken down into smaller parcels without a survey, therefore, mining claims or sites in these areas may be described by metes and bounds.

### Additional Rules for Placer Mining Claims Located in Lots

A placer mining claim must be described by PLSS and claim the entire lot. To locate a placer claim on only a portion of a lot, you must describe the claim by metes and bounds. A tie point, and the lot number must also be provided AND the claim can only be in a part of one lot. Meaning one placer mining claim or association placer mining claim MAY NOT be in a portion of two or more lots.

### FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY

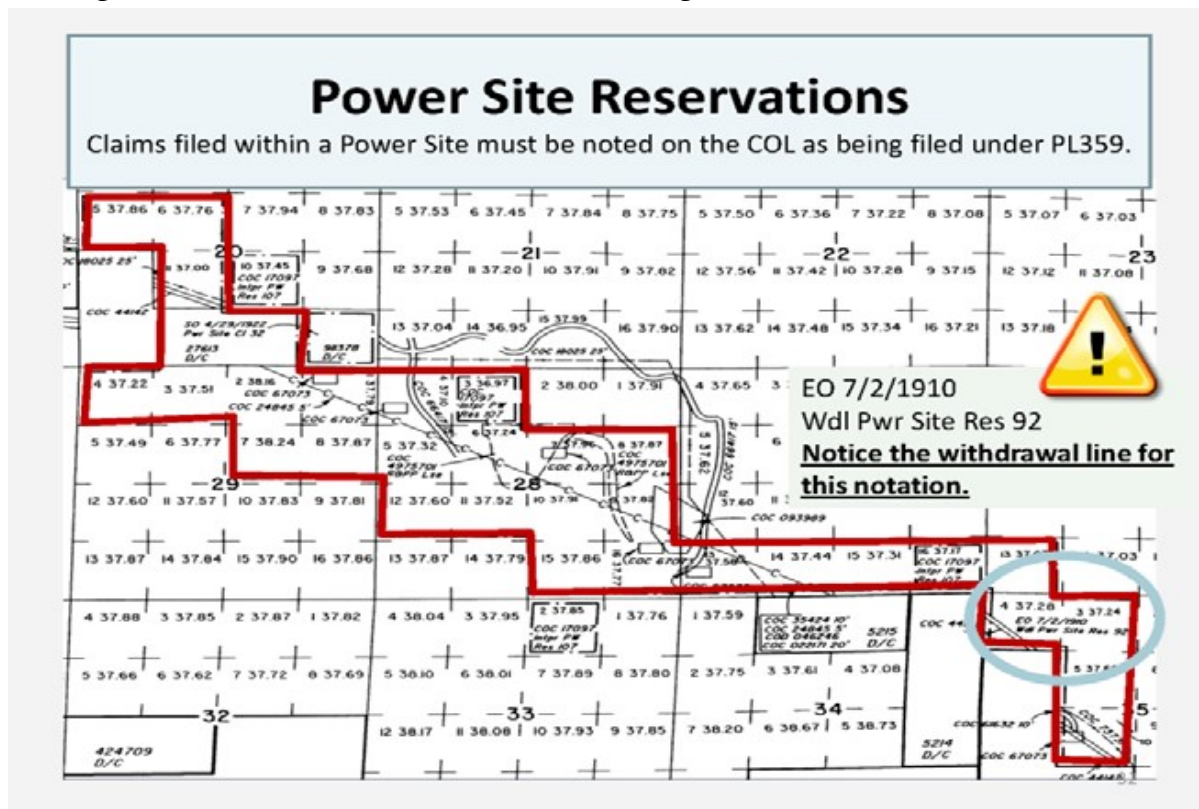
A Federal Aid Highway Right-of-Way will appear like a road on the MTP, with a notation of the serial number, and the width of the right-of-way (COC 18025 25'). Use the Historical Index to determine if that road right-of-way is a Federal Aid Highway. A Federal Aid Highway is not open to mineral entry, and if it runs through a placer claim, it does split the claim into two non-contiguous pieces. Placer mining claims must be contiguous.



## POWER SITE RESERVATIONS

Mining claims filed within a power site reservation have additional filing requirements. The notation on the plat is: Wdl Pwr Site Res – meaning this is a power site reservation withdrawal area, and claims must be filed pursuant to the regulations at 43 CFR 3730.

Mining claims located here are referred to as being “filed under PL-359” and this must be



noted on the COL. Placer mining claims are restricted from mining for the first 60 days while we notify the Surface Management Agency (SMA), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of the new location. The SMA has 60 days to request a hearing if they find the mining claim will substantially interfere with any new power projects planned in the area. No mining may take place until the hearing concludes favorably for the claimant.

## Locate Active Unpatented Mining Claims in an Area.

The only way to determine the actual location of a mining claim or site is to request copies of the COL and map from the official case file by calling the Dockets Library at COSO at 303-239-3615 or by email at [codocket@blm.gov](mailto:codocket@blm.gov).

[BLM Navigator](#) has an active mining claims layer for Colorado which shows mining claims that are within a quarter section, it is not an exact location of the mining claim.



## Mining Claim Reports in LR2000

LR2000 has a new interface, go to: <https://reports.blm.gov>. Click on Land & Mineral System to run reports in the new format of LR2000. The mining claim reports are found by scrolling to the bottom of the page.



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Public Mining Claims Reports". It contains a list of report options, each in a separate row with a light gray background and a thin border. The options are:

- Pub MC Action Code
- Pub MC Claim Name/Number Index
- Pub MC Customer Info
- Pub MC Geo Index
- Pub MC Geo Report
- Pub MC Serial Number Index
- Pub MC Serial Register Page

[LR2000](#) MC Geo Report will list claims within each quarter section of a township

[LR2000](#) Serial Register Page is an automated record of the history of one claim.

The reports are designed with instructions at the top of each page. A step by step instructional guide and reference codes are available at the top right corner of the page for each report.

[? User Guide](#)  
[Reference Codes](#)

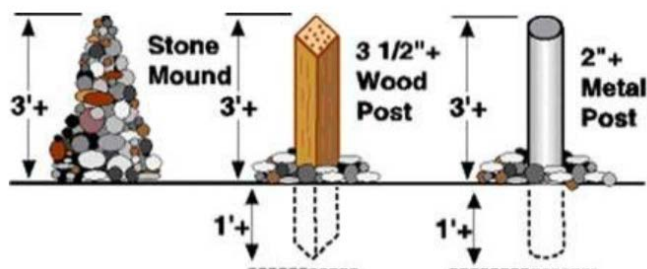
*Contact representatives are available to answer questions from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday at 303-239-3600.*

## 3. Stake and Monument the Corners

Federal law specifies that claim boundaries must be distinctly and clearly marked to be readily identifiable. Most states have statutes and regulations concerning the actual staking and recording of mining claims so claimants should refer to the appropriate state agency for additional requirements before locating a claim.

Stake and monument the corners of a mining claim or site which meets applicable state monument requirements and the size limitations described in 43 CFR §3832.22 for lode and placer claims, 43 CFR §3832.32 for mill sites, and 43 CFR §3832.42 for tunnel sites;

Most State laws require conspicuous and substantial monuments for all types of claims and sites.



## Help Eliminate Hazards to Birds and Other Wildlife

A request to mining claimants to stop using open-pipe mining claim markers which pose a threat to birds or other wildlife is explained in the brochure at:

[https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/IM2016-023\\_att2.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/IM2016-023_att2.pdf)



### State of Colorado Regulations

The Colorado Revised Statutes are available on-line at the [Colorado General Assembly](#) website. The regulations for locating mining claims or sites begins at Article 43. Claims – How Located. These regulations are also summarized in the Circular No. 3; however, it may also contain out of date information.

## 4. Certificate of Location (COL)

Once the mining claim or site is located on the ground, it must be properly documented and described on a certificate of location (COL) and an accompanying map. A separate COL is required for each mining claim or site recorded. Multiple COL's filed at the same time may share the same map. There is no official COL or map form for the State of Colorado, thus using a COL form from another state is acceptable.

The Federal regulations at [43 CFR 3833.11](#), require the following information must be provided on a COL:

- (1) The name or number, or both, of the claim or site;
- (2) The names and current mailing addresses of the locators of the claim;
- (3) The type of claim or site;
- (4) The date of location; and
- (5) A complete description of the lands you have claimed as required in part 3832 of this chapter.

### Example- Certificate of Location

STATE OF COLORADO, County of \_\_\_\_\_.

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, that **\_Claimants Name** the undersigned citizens of the United States, whose legal address to be used for all correspondence regarding said claim is: **(Claimant's Legal Address)** has located and claimed this **\_20\_** day of **\_July\_, 20 .**

Lode claim description by metes and bounds:

Beginning at corner #1, thence 600 feet south at 180° to corner #2, thence 1500 feet east at 90° to corner #3, thence 600 feet north at 0°, to corner #4, thence 1500 feet west at 270° back to corner #1, place of beginning.

Tie Point: Beginning at T3S R72W survey monument for corner of sections 4,5,8,9, thence 3587 feet at 225° to claim corner #1.

Placer claim description by the PLSS:

NE ¼ SW ¼, S15, T 3S, R 75W, 6<sup>th</sup> PM; area **\_40\_** acres.

This claim would be situated in the **\_SW & NW\_** Quarter, of Section **\_8\_**, Township **\_3S**, Range **\_72W\_**, of the **\_6<sup>th</sup>** Meridian.

Said lode was located on the **\_20\_** day of **\_July 20\_**.

**Claimants Name and Address**  
**Signature (not required)**

BLM SERIAL NO.: CMC# **123456**

### Important Reminders for the Certificate of Location and Map

File with the local recording office.

File with the BLM Colorado State Office, paying the processing fees to file

- \$40 Location Fee (refundable)
- \$20 Processing Fee (non-refundable)
- \$165 Maintenance Fee (refundable) \*\*

Total fees for a lode, 20-acre placer mining claim or a mining site is: \$225

\*\*\$165 maintenance fee is due for each 20 acres in an association placer claim.

#### Recordation Deadline:

**BLM**  
90 days

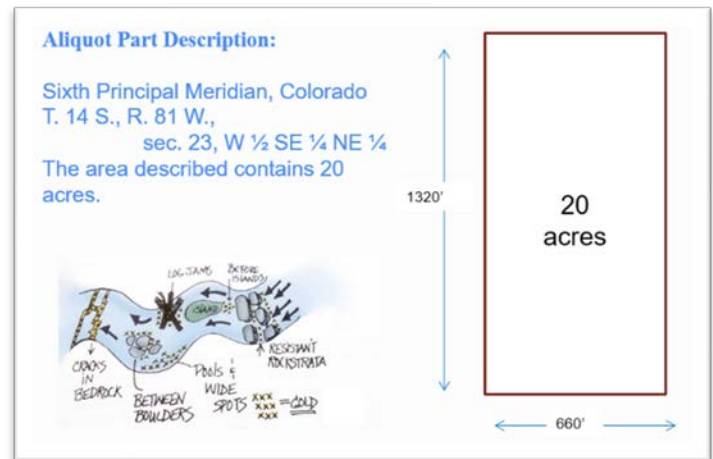
**State of Colorado**  
- 30 days for placer claims  
- 90 days for lode claims & mill/tunnel sites.

The fees are only refundable when a defect cannot be cured and results in a forfeiture of the mining claim such as failing to record within 90 days after you locate it or locating on lands withdrawn from mineral entry at the time you locate it.

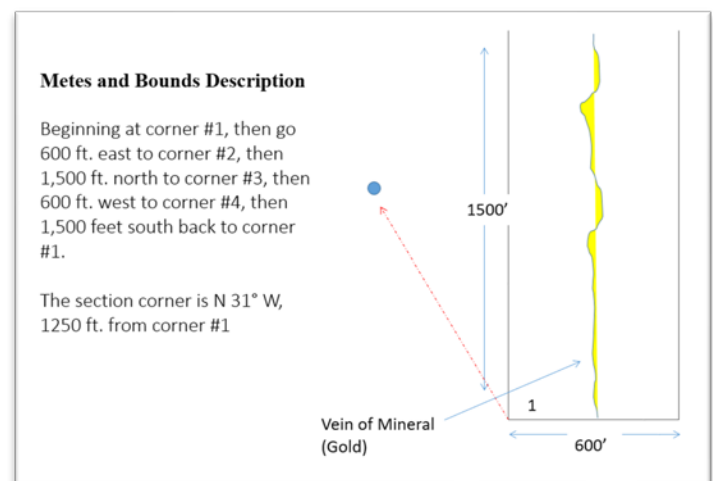
- Only when a claimant files the COL and map with \$225.00 (or more if required) at the BLM Colorado State Office will a CMC number be assigned to the claim, a case file created, and the information entered in LR2000.
- The claimant must record the COL and map with the county clerk and recorder office and provide the BLM state office with proof of recording. The county recordation number will be entered LR2000.

## Types of Mining Claims

**Placer Claim:** Rock not in original place (river sands or gravel); may not exceed 20 acres per individual claimant; maximum size is 160 contiguous acres with at least 8 locators; must be described by aliquot part; if in un-surveyed township must state the quarter section, can be described by a metes & bounds description & must provide a map/sketch describing the location of the claim accurately enough for BLM to locate it on the ground ([43 CFR 3832.12](#) and [3832.21](#)).



**Lode Claim:** Veins, ledges, or other rock in place; not to exceed 1500 ft. by 600 ft. or 20.66 acres; must state the quarter section and be accompanied by a map/sketch describing the location of the claim by a metes & bounds description accurately enough for BLM to identify the claim on the ground. ([43 CFR 3832.21\(a\)](#)).



## Types of Mineral Entries

**Mill Site:** Non-mineral land not contiguous to vein or lode & used for activities related to mineral development of associated lode or placer, or for independent milling or reduction; not to



exceed 5 acres. Description of the location of the site can be by aliquot part or metes & bounds ([43 CFR 3832.33](#)).

**Tunnel Site:** Subsurface right-of-way used for access to lode claims or exploration of undiscovered lodes; not to exceed 3000 ft. in length with a radius of 1500 ft. ([43 CFR 3832.41](#)).

## 5. Map of the Mining Claim or Site

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The regulations state you must file either-

(A) A topographical map published by the U.S. Geological Survey with a depiction of the claim or site; or

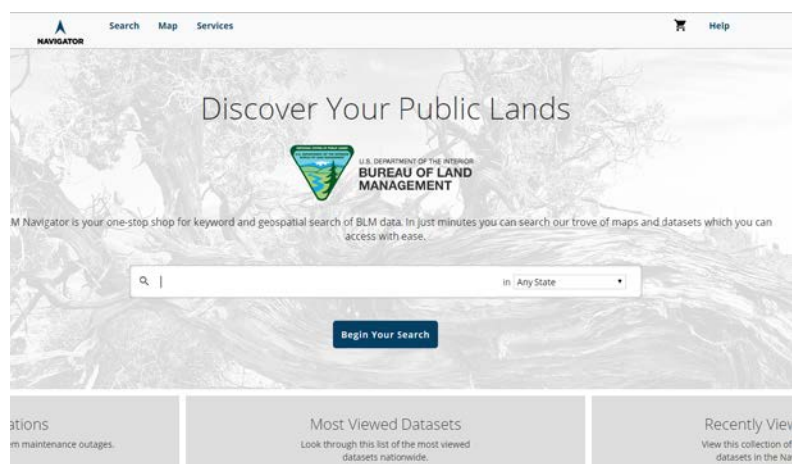
(B) A narrative or sketch describing the claim or site and tying the description to a natural object, permanent monument or topographic, hydrographic, or man-made feature.

(ii) You must show on a map or sketch the boundaries and position of the individual claim or site by aliquot part within the quarter section accurately enough for BLM to identify the mining claims or sites on the ground.

(iii) You may show more than one claim or site on a single map or describe more than one claim or site in a single sketch—

(iv) You are not required to employ a professional surveyor or engineer to establish the location's position on the ground.

The [BLM Navigator](#) is available to the public with up to date geospatial data and a mapping feature.



The township diagram is provided to assist you in documenting the mining claim.

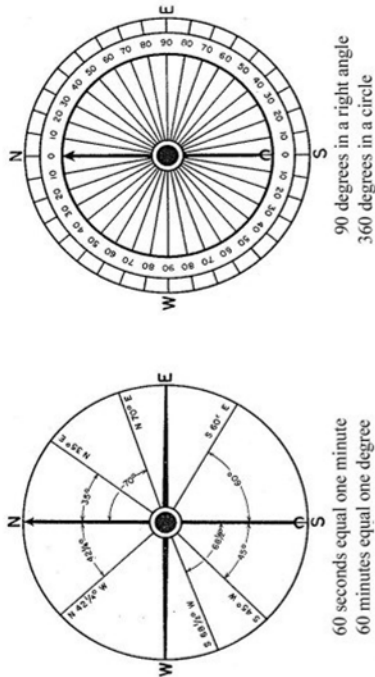
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Township	Range	Meridian	State				
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
	6	5	4	3	2	1	6

\* SCALE: 1 INCH = 1 MILE

# Land Description Diagram

LAND DESCRIPTION DIAGRAM



STANDARD	TSN	PARALLEL	
	T4N		
	T3N		
	T2N		
	T1N		
	T0N		
	T0S		
	T1S		
	T2S		
	T3S		
	T4S		

Diagram showing division of tract into Townships

36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6

Sectional map of Township showing adjoining Sections

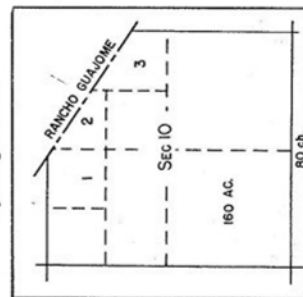


Diagram illustrating division of Fractional Section into Government Lots

## Table of Land Measurements

LINEAR MEASURE	SQUARE MEASURE
1 inch = .0833 ft.	144 sq. in. = 1 sq. foot
7.92 inches = 1 link	9 sq. feet = 1 sq. yard
12 inches = 1 foot	30 1/2 sq. yds. = 1 sq. rod
1 vara = 33 inches	16 sq. rods = 1 sq. chain
2 3/4 feet = 1 vara	1 sq. rod = 272 1/2 sq. ft.
3 feet = 1 yard	1 sq. ch. = 4356 sq. ft.
25 links = 16 1/2 feet	10 sq. chs. = 1 acre
25 links = 1 rod	160 sq. rods = 1 acre
100 links = 1 chain	4840 sq. yds. = 1 acre
16 1/2 feet = 1 rod	43560 sq. ft. = 1 acre
5 1/2 yards = 1 rod	640 acres = 1 sq. mile
4 rods = 100 links	1 sq. mile = 1 section
66 feet = 1 chain	36 sq. miles = 1 Twp.
80 chains = 1 mile	6 miles sq. = 1 Twp.
320 rods = 1 mile	1 sq. mi. = 2.59 sq. kilom.
8000 links = 1 mile	
5280 feet = 1 mile	
1760 yards = 1 mile	

## An Acre is:

43,560 sq. feet.  
165 feet x 264 feet.  
198 feet x 220 feet.

or any rectangular tract, the product of the length and width of which totals 43,560 sq. ft.

## 6. Recording a New Mining Claim or Site

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### County Recordation

The COL and map must be recorded in the local county office (clerk and recorder) where the claim /site is located.

The State of Colorado's deadline for recording a COL in the county clerk and recorder's office from the date the claim is located is 30 days if it's a placer claim, and 90 days if it's a lode claim.

### BLM Recordation

The COL and map must be filed with the BLM Colorado State Office, Federal regulations state a mining claim or site must be filed along with the appropriate fees within 90 days from the date of location at the proper BLM State Office.

### BLM Fees

New mining claim locations submitted to this office without the proper fees will not be serialized and will be returned unrecorded pursuant to the technical final rule published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2019, 84 FR 31219.

The fees to file a new mining claim or site with the BLM Colorado State Office are:

- \$40 Location Fee (refundable)
- \$20 Processing Fee (nonrefundable)
- \$165 Maintenance Fee\*\* (per 20 acres for association placers, see below) (refundable)

Total Fees Required: \$225

The fees are only refundable when a defect cannot be cured and results in a forfeiture of the mining claim such as failing to record within 90 days after you locate it or locating on lands withdrawn from mineral entry at the time you locate it.

### Fees for Association Placer Claims

A required \$165 maintenance fee for each 20 acres or portion thereof is due to locate an association placer mining claim as shown in the table below:

Acreage in the Claim	Maintenance Fee Payment Due
<= 20 acres	\$165.00
> 20 acres and <= 40 acres	\$330.00



> 40 acres and <= 60 acres	\$495.00
> 60 acres and <= 80 acres	\$660.00
> 80 acres and <= 100 acres	\$825.00
> 100 acres and <= 120 acres	\$990.00
> 120 acres and <= 140 acres	\$1,155.00
> 140 acres and <= 160 acres	\$1,320.00

## Adjudication

When a mining claim or site is received, the claim goes through a preliminary adjudication, a review for:

- Obvious acreage errors, mainly with association placers
- Mailing address's listed for numerous claimants
- Missing legal description information on COL or map
- Location date either missing or it is over 90 days from the date of filing

A Notice of Recordation letter is sent to the claimant with copies of the filing, and a receipt.

## Land Status

We do not adjudicate other unpatented mining claims in an area or conflicts between claimants. The BLM Colorado State Office performs a land status determination on the area of Public Land on which the mining claim or site is located. A Notice is issued if a discrepancy exists in the location paperwork. A Decision is issued if the lands are not open to location under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

## Bridge Mining Claims/Sites

A bridge claim is a mining claim that is located close to the annual filing deadline of September 1, because it bridges two assessment years.

When a new mining claim's location date is prior to September 1, but not filed with the BLM until after the annual filing deadline of September 1, two maintenance fees are due. A maintenance fee for the assessment year in which the claim was located and a maintenance fee for the assessment year that was due on the September 1. If a claimant qualifies, the option to file a waiver for the maintenance fee due on September 1 (not the maintenance fee for the year in which the claim is located) is available. This additional requirement must be met at the time of recording the new mining claim or sites.

## 7. Annual Maintenance of a Mining Claim or Site

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### Where to file?

All filings for Federal unpatented mining claims in Colorado may be mailed or walked in to the:

Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215-7076

The Andy Senti Public Lands Information Center will accept walk in filings and payments from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. They may be reached at 303-239-3600 or by email at [blm\\_co\\_info@blm.gov](mailto:blm_co_info@blm.gov). Walk in filings or payments **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** outside these hours. **DO NOT LEAVE FILINGS WITH THE MAILROOM STAFF OR ON THE GUARDS DESK.**

### What if you Miss the Annual Filing Deadline?

Failure to pay the required annual maintenance fee without having timely filed a qualifying request for a waiver on or before September 1, will cause the claimant to forfeit their mining claim/site (43 CFR 3830.91(a)(4)). Meaning, if you miss any annual filing deadline the mining claim will be closed.

The mining claim may be located (filed) again if the land is open to location under the mining law. This requires the COL and map be updated or re-created to meet the regulations.

Mining claims filed under these circumstances are often called re-locations. However, this is mis-leading as mining claims filed under these circumstances become new mining claims and must be filed according to the regulations for new claims (see chapter 4 – 6 of this packet).

Important for those re-filing mining claims or sites purchased from third parties:

- The location date must be within 90 days from the date it is re-filed with the county and the BLM.
- The COL and map must list the correct owner(s) name(s) and address(es) on each document.
- The transfer document from the previous mining claim or site may not be used as the COL or map to re-file.

---

### Important Reminders for the Annual Maintenance Requirement

- ! Annual assessment for the claims/sites is required; either by paying the maintenance fee or qualifying/filing for a small miner waiver & performing \$100 worth of work on the claim.
- ! The annual maintenance requirement is for the next assessment year, not the current year.
- ! The BLM is not required to issue reminder notifications, this is a courtesy and may not happen every year.
- ! The annual maintenance requirement is due on or before September 1 each year.
- ! A copy of the form and/or receipt of maintenance fee payment may be recorded at the county.

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### **County Filing Requirement:**

When you pay the maintenance fee in lieu of performing assessment work on the mining claim(s)/site(s), a statement indicating this and the date of payment, or a copy of the maintenance fee payment form/receipt should be filed at the county.

The Affidavit of Assessment Work or Notice of Intent to Hold must be filed at the county recorder's office (C.R.S. 34-43-114).



**BE ALERT!**

**FILING REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**

As an owner of Federal unpatented Mining claims or sites you are responsible for keeping yourself informed of the changes in the filing requirements and the mining laws. Congress may pass legislation affecting filing requirements and the procedure may change.

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## **Online Maintenance Fee Payment Portal**

<https://payp.blm.gov/epp-mc/start.do>

Tips for Using the Payment Portal:

- The state where the claims are located is required to search for mining claims or sites, therefore if you own claims in multiple states, each state must be paid in separate transactions.

- The customer name field must contain a minimum of three letters to search.
- If a mining claim or site is closed on the official record, it will not appear in the payment portal search.
- No receipt is issued at the time of payment on the portal. The final screen may be printed or saved for your records. The BLM Colorado State Office will mail a receipt to you as soon as possible.

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## BLM Forms

Forms may be filled out online and printed to submit to this office. The most current mining claim forms are available on our website at: <https://www.blm.gov/services/electronic-forms>

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## Maintenance Fees

Due September 1<sup>st</sup>

### Maintenance Fees for Lode Claims or Mining Sites

The claimant must pay the \$165 maintenance fee payment for each lode mining claim or mining site by September 1 of each year.

The claimant may use the new form available titled [Maintenance Fee Payment Form for Lode Claims, Mill Sites, and Tunnel Sites \(Form 3830-5\)](#), or provide a list of the claim/site name(s) and BLM serial number(s) for which the fees are being paid

### Maintenance Fees for Placer Mining Claims

All existing placer mining claims that contain more than 20 acres will pay the annual maintenance fee based on the total acreage in the claim as follows:

Acreage in the Claim	Maintenance Fee Payment Due
<= 20 acres	\$165.00
> 20 acres and < = 40 acres	\$310.00
> 40 acres and < = 60 acres	\$465.00
> 60 acres and < = 80 acres	\$620.00
> 80 acres and < = 100 acres	\$775.00
> 100 acres and < = 120 acres	\$930.00
> 120 acres and < = 140 acres	\$1,085.00
> 140 acres and < = 160 acres	\$1,240.00



Key: <= means "less than or equal to"; > means "more than."

Claimants may use the form available titled, [Maintenance Fee Payment Form for Placer Mining Claims \(Form 3830-5a\)](#), or provide a list of the claim/site name(s) and BLM serial number(s) for which the fees are being paid.

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### Important Reminders about Maintenance Fees

1. The maintenance fee payment is for the next assessment year, not the current year.
2. The maintenance fee payment is due on or before September 1 each year.
3. Lode mining claims, mill or tunnel sites are \$165.
4. Placer claims are \$165 per each 20 acres or portion thereof within the claim.
5. [BLM Forms 3830-005 or 3830-005a](#) are available and should be filed with a payment.

#### Recordation Deadline:

**BLM**  
On or Before September 1

**State of Colorado**  
December 30<sup>th</sup>

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**Only if you own 10 or fewer mining claims or sites nationwide, you may file a Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification (Form 3830-2) (waiver).**

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## Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification

Due September 1<sup>st</sup>

To waive the maintenance fee requirement for mining claim(s)/site(s), each claimant must qualify as a "small miner". This means they and all related parties have an interest in no more than 10 unpatented mining claim(s)/site(s) nationwide, throughout the entire assessment year.

To apply as a small miner, it is **mandatory** that you use an official [Small Miner Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification \(Form 3830-2\)](#), commonly referred to as a small miner waiver. It must be completed and filed with the BLM **by September 1 BEFORE each assessment year you are applying for**. There is no fee requirement.

The information required to be on a small miner waiver is:

- The assessment year dates for which you are filing
- The claim name(s) and BLM serial number(s)

- The owner(s) listed with their current address
- Original signature of each owner (agent may sign with permission)

An agent may only sign for an owner when a notarized designation of agent is/was received by this office.

This office accepts separate small miner waivers for each claim if necessary.

**Notice:** A maintenance fee waiver becomes void if the mining claim or site is transferred to individuals or entities who do not qualify.

When filing a small miner's waiver, you are required to file either an [Affidavit of Assessment Work \(3830-004\)](#) or a Notice of Intent to Hold (NOI) along with a \$15 per claim/site processing fee by December 30 of the calendar year in which the assessment year ends.

#### Example – Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification

UNITED STATES		<b>THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL FORM – DO NOT USE TO FILE WITH THE BLM</b>
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT		
<b>MAINTENANCE FEE WAIVER CERTIFICATION</b>		
This small miner waiver is filed for the assessment year beginning on <b>September 1, 2020</b> and ending on <b>September 1, 2021</b> .		
The undersigned and all related parties owned ten or fewer mining claims, mill, or tunnel sites located and maintained on Federal lands in the United States of America on <b>September 1, 2020</b> .		
The mining claims, mill or tunnel sites for which this waiver from payment of the maintenance fees is requested are:		
CLAIM OR SITE NAME	BLM SERIAL NUMBER	
The owner(s) (claimants) of the above mining claims or sites are:		
<b>Claimants Name</b> (Owner's Name – Please Print)	<b>Claimants or Agents Original Signature</b> (Owner's Signature)	
<b>Claimants Address</b> (Owner's Mailing Address)	<b>Claimants Address Continued</b> (City) (State) (Zip Code)	
<b>THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL FORM – DO NOT USE TO FILE WITH THE BLM</b>		

## Important Reminders about Waivers (small miner waiver)

When claimants file a **Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification (Form 3830-2) (waiver)** they are referred to as “small miners”. This means they and their related parties have an interest in 10 or fewer claims and sites nationwide. A related party is defined at 43 CFR 3830.5 as the spouse, dependent children, or other person who controls or is controlled by or is under common control with the claimant.

By filing the waiver the claimants are opting out of paying the annual maintenance fee in exchange for the performance of \$100 of assessment work on each mining claim. Filing a waiver instead of paying the maintenance fee is only an option for small miners, it is not a requirement.

### Recordation Deadline:

**BLM**  
On or Before September 1

**State of Colorado**  
None

The [Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification \(Form 3830-2\)](#) is due on or before September 1, as a maintenance fee payment would be due. The BLM form [Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification \(Form 3830-2\)](#) is the only form that may be used to file as a small miner. When a current Small Miner Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification (Form 3830-2) is available, this is the only acceptable form. There is no fee to file this form with the BLM.

The [Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification \(Form 3830-2\)](#) is filed in August for the upcoming assessment year, not the current year as it is written on the top of the form.

The claimants and their related parties must only hold interest in 10 or fewer mining claims or sites nationwide throughout the entire assessment year to qualify as a small miner.

If the claimants or related parties file a new mining claim or site, or otherwise obtain interest in any mining claims or sites throughout the assessment year that brings their interest over 10 mining claims or sites nationwide; the waiver will be revoked as they are no longer a small miner. The revocation of the waiver happens immediately. As the waiver is revoked, all maintenance fees for the mining claims or sites must be paid before the end of the assessment year or they will be forfeited and closed.

The [Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification \(Form 3830-2\)](#) must list each person with interest in the mining claims or sites. It must provide their name, current address, and ORIGINAL SIGNATURE. This means you may not file a copy of this form with the BLM COSO, we must have the originally signed form.

There is no county recordation requirement for the waiver form. The affidavit of assessment work and/or the notice of intent to hold must be recorded in the county.

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## Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) Filings

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### Affidavit of Assessment Work

Due December 30<sup>th</sup>

When a small miner waiver is filed for a mining claim, the claimant must perform a minimum amount of \$100 of labor and improvements on the claim IN the assessment year, EVERY year, and file an affidavit of assessment work along with a \$15 per claim processing fee in the BLM State Office by December 30 of the CALENDER year in which the assessment year ends.

There is a new BLM form that may be used titled [Affidavit of Annual Assessment Work \(Form 3830-004\)](#) or claimants may create an affidavit which is defined as *a written declaration made under oath or affirmation before a notary public or other authorized officer, in which the signer swears or affirms that the statements or declarations in the document are true* so long as it has the following required information on the document:

- The statement "the undersigned have performed \$100 worth of assessment work as required by law ([30 U.S.C. 28](#)) for each mining claim listed
- Claimant name and current address
- Claim name(s) and BLM serial number(s)
- Date range in which the work was performed
- Signed by Claimant or Person (s) who performed the work

### **Affidavits should be signed and notarized**

Since 1992, and according to State of Colorado law ([C.R.S. 34-43-114](#)), the claimant may pay the annual maintenance fee per claim or site in lieu of performing the annual assessment work.

Assessment work is work or labor performed in good faith that tends to develop the claim and directly helps in the extraction of minerals. Geological, geophysical, and geochemical surveys may qualify as assessment work for a limited period. However, a requirement for use of these surveys is the filing of a detailed report, including basic findings. Assessment work is not a requirement for owners of mill or tunnel sites.



Performance of assessment work need not occur during the first assessment year of location as the initial maintenance fee is paid when the mining claim or site was located.

However, for claims located between September 1 and December 31, and if the claimant is filing a waiver for the upcoming assessment year, the claimant must file a Notice of Intention to Hold (NOI) the claim with the BLM by December 30 of the following calendar year.

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### **Important Reminders about \$100 Assessment Work Requirement**

A total sum of \$100 of assessment work must happen in the assessment year covered by the waiver for each mining claim listed on the waiver. This is required for every assessment year covered by a waiver.

To document this work, an affidavit of assessment work along with a \$15 processing fee must be filed with the BLM by December 30<sup>th</sup>. The affidavit must also be recorded at the county (recordation fees apply). The affidavit of assessment work is filed in the same calendar year the work is performed.

**Recordation Deadline:**

**BLM**  
On or Before December 30<sup>th</sup>

**State of Colorado**  
December 30<sup>th</sup>

A BLM form [Affidavit of Assessment Work \(Form 3830-004\)](#) is available for your use on our website, however this form is not required.

Whenever a waiver is filed for a claim, an Affidavit of Assessment Work is always due before December 30<sup>th</sup>, regardless of whether you pay the maintenance fee for the upcoming assessment year.

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## **Notice of Intent to Hold**

**Due December 30<sup>th</sup>**

A Notice of Intention to Hold Mining Claim(s)/Site(s) (NOI) must be filed in the following circumstances:

- It is the first year you have located your claim, and a small miner waiver has been filed for the upcoming year (assessment work is not required the first year of location)
- A small miner waiver has been filed on a tunnel or mill site claim (assessment work is not required on mining sites)

- The maintenance fee has been paid for the current year, and a small miner waiver is being filed for the upcoming assessment year (switching from paying maintenance fee to filing as a small miner waiver)
- The BLM has issued a decision granting a deferment of assessment work

There is no BLM form available. Claimants may use template forms from other states or create a form that meets the State and Federal requirements. The NOI form must state:

- BLM serial number(s) and claim name(s)
- Change in mailing address of the claimant(s)
- Statement as to why assessment work is not required
- Signature of claimant(s) or their designated agent(s)

The NOI along with a \$15 per claim/site processing fee is due by December 30 of the calendar year (the same year) that the assessment work requirement would be due.

#### Example - Notice of Intent to Hold

<b>THIS IS NOT AN OFFICAL FORM</b>	<b>NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD (NOI) MINING CLAIM(S)/SITE(S)</b>	<b>THIS IS AN EXAMPLE FORM. DO NOT USE THIS TO FILE WITH THE BLM.</b>				
<p>TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:</p> <p>I (We) intend to hold the claim(s) and/or site(s) listed below for the assessment year <b>2020</b> and has filed or will file a NOI in the country in which the claim is located.</p> <p>The reason for filing a NOI instead of an Affidavit of Assessment Work/Labor (POL) (check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mill Site or Tunnel Site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mining claim(s)/site(s) were located during the current assessment year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The assessment work obligation has not yet come due</p> <p>The Certificate(s) of Location and map(s) for said claim(s)/site(s) is filed in the <span style="background-color: yellow;">          </span> County records.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"><b>Name of Claim(s) or Site(s):</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"><b>BLM Serial No(s):</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">RETIREMENT FUND</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">CMC 555555</td> </tr> </table> <p>A total number of <span style="background-color: yellow;">      </span> claim(s) is being field with this document.</p> <p><b>Name(s) and mailing address (es) of owner(s)/claimant(s):</b></p> <p><span style="background-color: yellow;">Dated this day      of      , 20      .</span>      Signed By: <span style="background-color: yellow;">Owner, Claimant, Agent, Signature</span></p> <p><b>THIS IS NOT AN OFFICAL FORM – DO NOT USE TO FILE WITH THE BLM</b></p>			<b>Name of Claim(s) or Site(s):</b>	<b>BLM Serial No(s):</b>	RETIREMENT FUND	CMC 555555
<b>Name of Claim(s) or Site(s):</b>	<b>BLM Serial No(s):</b>					
RETIREMENT FUND	CMC 555555					

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#### Important Reminders about Notices of Intent to Hold (NOI)

Mill sites and tunnel sites never have a work requirement.

When is an NOI required?

- No assessment work is required
- Switching from paying the maintenance fee to filing a waiver (this includes the maintenance fee paid at the time of locating the claim/site)

There is no official NOI form. However, when you submit a NOI as required in §3835.31(d), you must include the following:

- State on the form why you are filing a NOI instead of assessment work (filed a waiver for the upcoming year)
- The name of the mining claim
- The BLM serial number
- Current name and address(es) for the claimants
- The processing fee of \$15 per claim

**Recordation Deadline:**

**BLM**

On or Before December 30<sup>th</sup>

**State of Colorado**

December 30<sup>th</sup>

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## 8. Switching/Changing Annual Claim Maintenance

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### Switching from Paying Maintenance Fee to Waiver

If you paid the maintenance fee the previous year and are now switching to filing a waiver.

- A Notice of Intent to Hold with a \$15 per claim fee is due by December 30<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year that you filed the waiver.
- The assessment work of \$100 must be completed in the assessment year.
- The Affidavit of Assessment Work with a \$15 per claim fee is due by December 30<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year that the assessment year ends. This would be the assessment year listed on the waiver.

### Switching from Filing a Waiver to Paying the Maintenance Fee

If you filed a waiver the previous year and pay the maintenance fee for the upcoming year, the assessment work is still required.

- The assessment work of \$100 must be completed in the assessment year.

- The Affidavit of Assessment Work with a \$15 per claim fee is due by December 30<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year that the assessment year ends. This would be the assessment year listed on the waiver.

## Annual Filing Requirement Scenarios

### New Mining Claims or Sites

#### Scenario #1

When a new claim is located (location date) prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> and the claim is not filed with the BLM until after September 1<sup>st</sup> it bridges two assessment years (referred to as a Bridge Claim). What is due at the time of filing with the BLM?

Location Date	Filed at BLM	New Location Filing Fees		Additional Requirement
7-1	9-15	\$225	PLUS	\$165 maintenance fee or waiver

#### Scenario #2

A new lode mining claim located and filed with the BLM close to the September 1<sup>st</sup> assessment year deadline, and the claimant pays the maintenance fee every year after location.

Location Date	Date Filed with BLM & Fees	By September 1 <sup>st</sup>	By December 30 <sup>th</sup>	By September 1 <sup>st</sup>	By December 30 <sup>th</sup>
7-1	7-5 \$225	Pays \$165 maintenance fee	No Filing Requirement	Pays \$165 maintenance fee	No Filing Requirement

#### Scenario #3

A new lode mining claim located and filed with the BLM close to the September 1<sup>st</sup> assessment year deadline, and the claimant files a waiver after the first year of location.

Location Date	Date Filed with BLM & Fees	By September 1 <sup>st</sup>	By December 30 <sup>th</sup>	By September 1 <sup>st</sup>	By December 30 <sup>th</sup>



7-1	7-5 \$225	Files a Waiver for the UPCOMING assessment year	A Notice of Intent to Hold	Files a Waiver for the UPCOMING assessment year	Files Affidavit of Assessment Work showing at least \$100 of work performed from 9/1 to 9/1.
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## Existing Mining Claims or Sites

### Scenario #1

A claimant pays maintenance fees on an existing claim, then switches to filing a waiver certification the next year, and then switches back to paying maintenance fees the following year.

By Sept. 1, 2018	By Dec. 30, 2018	By Sept. 1, 2019	By Dec. 30, 2019	By Sept. 1, 2020	By December 30, 2020
Has paid maintenance fees since location & pays maintenance fee for 2019 assessment year	No Filing Requirement	Files a waiver for 2020 assessment year	Notice of Intent to Hold for 2019 is due, because claimant switched to a waiver	Pays the maintenance fee for the 2021 assessment year.	Files 2020 Affidavit of Assessment Work stating at least \$100 of work was completed between 9/1/2019 to 9/1/2020.

### Scenario #2

What happens when a claimant has been filing for the waiver on an existing claim and switches to paying the maintenance fee for the next year and then back to filing for the waiver for the following year.

By Sept. 1, 2018	By Dec. 30, 2018	By Sept. 1, 2019	By Dec. 30, 2019	By Sept. 1, 2020
---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Has filed waivers since location & files a waiver for the 2019 assessment year	Files 2018 Affidavit of Assessment Work showing at least \$100 of work performed from 9/1/2017 to 9/1/2018.	Pays 2020 maintenance fee	Files 2019 Affidavit of Assessment Work showing at least \$100 of work performed from 9/1/2018 to 9/1/2019.	Files a waiver for 2021 assessment year  <b>Continued below...</b>
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<b>By December 30, 2020</b>	<b>By September 1, 2021</b>	<b>By December 30, 2021</b>
A notice of intent to hold for 2020 is due, because they switched to a waiver. No assessment work is due.	Files a waiver for the 2022 assessment year	Files 2021 Affidavit of Assessment Work showing at least \$100 of work performed from 9/1/2020 to 9/1/2021.

## 9. General Upkeep of the Mining Claim

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### Amendments

#### Recording an Amendment

An amendment to a location for an active mining claim or site can be made at any time. The amendment must be filed with the appropriate county recording office *before* it is filed with the BLM Colorado State Office.

An amendment may be made by creating a new COL and/or map and clearly writing amended at the top. An amendment may also be created by making the necessary changes on a copy of the original COL and/or map and clearly marking it as an amendment at the top. An amended location always relates back to the original location date of the mining claim or site. The BLM requires a \$15 nonrefundable processing fee to file an amended COL.

#### County Filing Requirement for Amendments:

An amended COL must be recorded with the BLM within 90 days after you record the amended COL in the local recording office.

If an amendment is being filed in response to a Notice or Decision issued by the BLM, then you are required to properly file the amended COL within 30 days from the date you receive

the Notice or Decision by certified mail. This means the amended COL must be recorded in the local recording office and then with the BLM Colorado State Office within the 30 days granted.

**Amendments are used to:**

- Correct or clarify omissions or defects in the original location certification;
- Change legal descriptions due to an error made on the original certificate (the location on the ground cannot be changed); and
- Change the claim name.

Amended COLs must be recorded at the proper county recorder's office prior to recordation with the BLM (43 CFR 3833.22). You must record amended COLs with the BLM within 90 days after you record the amendment in the county recording office. BLM will not recognize any amendment to your mining claim until you file it properly.

## Address Changes

To change the address of a claimant, submit a note/letter identifying the claim or site name(s), the BLM serial number(s), the owners' name, and the current address and the new address you are reporting. There is no charge to file this document.

A change of address may also be made when filing the annual paperwork. Please make a note on the paperwork of the address change.

## Abandonment (Relinquishment) of a Mining Claim

Upon abandonment of a claim or site (relinquishment) to the Federal Government, file a notice of relinquishment with the county recorder's office and the BLM CO State Office. No form is required; a letter is acceptable.

The name and address of the claimant, date of relinquishment (if different than the filing date), claim or site name, and the BLM serial number should be listed on the document. The relinquishment document may list multiple claims or owners as needed. All owners who are abandoning their interest must sign the document. There is no charge to file this document.

# 10. Buying or Selling Mining Claims or Sites

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## Transferring interest in a mining claim or site.

An unpatented mining claim is considered real property of which a person's interest may be transferred, purchased or conveyed to another. State laws govern transferring mining claims or sites (43 CFR 3833.32).

When an owner of an unpatented mining claim sells, assigns, or otherwise conveys all or any part of his interest in the claim they must file a transfer document with the county recorder's office and with the BLM Colorado State Office. The date the transfer document is signed and notarized (executed) is the effective date for the transfer according to state law (C.R.S. 38-30-113 (2015)).

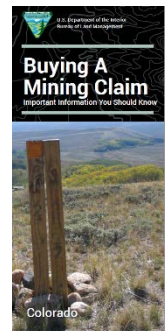
In Colorado, the transfer document shall identify (C.R.S. 38-30-113 (2015)):

- Grantor's name
- Grantee's name and address
- Mining claim name and BLM serial number (legal description is helpful as well)
- County name where the mining claim is located
- Consideration – the actual purchase price paid
- Grantor's Signature
- Signature of a notary public (C.R.S. 38-35-101 (2015))

### Buying a Mining Claim, Important Information You Should Know

Federal unpatented mining claims or sites are sold in various ways, including online. This brochure provides general guidelines to help one understand what they are purchasing. It is important you investigate the mining claim or site and the location on Public Land before purchase.

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/mining-and-minerals/about/colorado>



### County Filing Requirements for Transfers of Interest:

State law governs the transferring of mining claims or sites. A transfer is effective in the manner and on the date provided by state law. In Colorado, instruments affecting title to real property must be properly executed and filed in the county (C.R.S. 38-35-101).

County recording fees will vary, and the BLM has a \$15 nonrefundable per claim/ per grantee processing fee due at the time of filing with the BLM. This means if two grantee's purchase one claim, the fee is \$30.

### Transferring Association Placer Mining Claims

You may transfer, sell, or otherwise convey an association placer mining claim at any time to an equal or greater number of mining claimants.



If an association placer claim is transferred to an individual or association (group of people/entities) that is smaller in number than the current owners, you must:

- A. provide a mineral report documenting the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit before the transfer; or
- B. you must reduce the acreage of the claim, so that you meet the 20-acre per claimant/owner limit.

Per 43 CFR 3830.5, a discovery means that you have found a valuable mineral deposit. Any association placer claim transferred that does not meet these requirements is not a valid mining claim.

### Transferring Mining Claims Held by a Maintenance Fee Waiver

If you currently hold mining claims under a waiver and you purchase, inherit, or otherwise obtain mining claims or sites that are subject to a waiver:

1. All claimants and related parties must only hold interest in 10 or fewer claims/sites nationwide throughout the entire assessment year to continue to hold any of the claims under a small miner waiver.
2. If you or related parties on the claim/site do not qualify for the waiver, the annual maintenance fee for the current assessment year must be paid by the September 1 for all claims held by a waiver owned by that individual or related parties, following the date the transfer became effective under state law.

## 11. Are You Ready to Dig?

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The BLM is responsible for ensuring the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of Public Lands by operations authorized by the mining laws. Anyone intending to develop mineral resources on the Public Lands must prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land and reclaim disturbed sites (43 CFR 3809.1).

**A mining claimant without an approved Notice or Plan of Operations, is considered a visitor of the BLM Public Lands.** Further, the use and occupancy will be different on US Forest Service lands. The local office of the Federal agency who manages the surface where a mining claim is located will have policies and procedures applicable to any surface disturbing activity within their jurisdiction.

Visitors may occupy the land no longer than 14 days in any 90 day period within a 25 mile radius of the initially occupied site unless the BLM has concurred with a proposed extended Use and Occupancy request (43 CFR 3715). Any occupancy on the Public Lands longer

than this allowable timeframe, for the purposes of conducting activities under the Mining Law, must be conducted under an approved Notice or a Plan of Operations with a concurrence for Use and Occupancy.

You may not construct permanent structures, mobile structures, store equipment or vehicles or use unauthorized roads or trails without prior approval from the agency. Further, intermittent or casual mineral exploration and development does not normally justify the use of such structures or travel off designated routes or any rights to camping or occupancy beyond the time period allowed for the general public.

Mining on Federal land is also subject to local and state rules and regulations dealing with mining.

### **Mine Permitting Requirements for the State of Colorado**

The [State of Colorado, Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety \(CO DRMS\)](#) coordinates education and training to ensure safety while mining and provides permit forms on their website. There are permits for mineral prospecting as well as operations. Activities must be approved and bonded with both the BLM (or other surface management agency) and CO DRMS prior to any surface disturbance.

To conduct prospecting activities in the State of Colorado, a person or organization must file a Notice of Intent to conduct Prospecting Operations (NOI or Prospecting Notice) and provide a financial warranty for the prospecting operations to the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB or Board). All prospecting operations must comply with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act, as amended (34-32-101 et seq. C.R.S.), and the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board Hard Rock/Metal Mines Rules and Regulations 2 CCR 407-1 and amendments to those rules (“Rules”). This NOI form is for all minerals except coal and construction materials. The Division shall determine (where there is a question) if an operation is prospecting or mining.

“Prospecting” is defined in Rule 1.1(43) of the Hard Rock/Metal Mining Rules and Regulations as the act of searching for or investigating a mineral deposit. “‘Prospecting’ includes, but is not limited to, sinking shafts, tunneling, drilling core and bore holes and digging pits or cuts and other works for the purpose of extracting samples prior to the commencement of development or extraction operations, and the building of roads, access ways, and other facilities related to such work. The term does not include those activities which cause very little or no disturbance, such as airborne surveys and photographs, use of instruments or devices which are hand-carried or iii otherwise transported over the surface to make magnetic, radioactive, or other tests and measurements, boundary or claim surveying, location work, or other work which causes no greater land disturbance than is caused by the ordinary, lawful use of the land by persons not

prospecting. The term does not include any single activity which results in the disturbance of a single block of land totaling 1600 square feet or less of the land surface, not to exceed two such disturbances per acre; except that the cumulative total of such disturbances will not exceed five acres statewide in any prospecting operation extending over 24 consecutive months” (Rule 1.1.43).

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Minerals Program has established Memorandums of Understanding with multiple agencies regarding mining activities. They may be found at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/drms/memorandums-understanding>.

If State laws or regulations conflict with this subpart regarding operations on public lands, you must follow the requirements of this subpart. However, there is no conflict if the State law or regulation requires a higher standard of protection for public lands than this subpart (43 CFR 3809.3).

The amount and type of disturbance created by the activities of an operator, or the cumulative disturbance caused by the proximity of several operators, ultimately determines how the BLM will classify and manage an activity.

## 12. Classifying Mining Operations

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Prior to beginning operations, we strongly advise operators to contact the BLM Field Office with jurisdiction for the area where the operation is proposed to determine what classification your operation falls under. For operations conducted on United States Forest Service (USFS) land, you must contact the appropriate USFS office for regulations applicable to locatable mineral operations.

## 13. Reclamation

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### **Reclamation Requirements**

You are required to reclaim all areas disturbed by your activities on lands encompassed by your mining claims. After you complete the reclamation, you must notify the authorized officer of the appropriate surface managing agency so that the authorized officer may conduct a final site inspection and determine whether you may be released from liability. If you fail to reclaim the land to the satisfaction of the authorized officer, the surface management agency may cite you for noncompliance under its surface management regulations.

For land administered by the BLM, failure to reclaim the land to the satisfaction of the authorized officer as required in 43 CFR Subpart 3809, the BLM will issue an order of noncompliance under 43 CFR 3809.601(a). If you fail to comply with the noncompliance order, the BLM may take further action under 43 CFR 3809.604. Failure to conduct reclamation is a prohibited act that may subject you to criminal penalties. See 43 CFR 3809.605(h) and 43 CFR 3809.700.

If your occupancy has been terminated and you fail to remove structures, material, equipment, and any personal property in accordance with the regulation in 43 CFR 3715.5-1, BLM may dispose of the property. In accordance with 43 CFR 3715.5-2, you will remain liable for the costs BLM incurs in removing and disposing of the property.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What rules apply to gold panning?**

Answer: Gold panning is allowed on BLM lands without special permits, unless expressly prohibited. Gold panning is considered casual use. Casual use is defined as those activities that cause little or no surface disturbance (43 CFR 3809.5(1&2)).

There may be special rules that apply to certain areas including, but not limited to, the Arkansas River area. Contact the Surface Management Agency's field office with jurisdiction over the area where you intend to gold pan for further guidance before you begin.

### **I want to go rock hounding on Public Land; do I need a mining claim to legally collect?**

Answer: No.

### **I have a favorite place on Public Land where I dig for minerals, but I don't find many that I take with me. Does this activity still qualify as rock hounding?**

Answer: It may qualify as casual use according to BLM regulations. Check with the appropriate Federal Surface Management Agency and the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety for guidance.

### **Does an active mining claim guarantee me rights to extract minerals without a bond?**

Answer: No.

Prior to conducting surface-disturbing activities, contact the appropriate Federal Surface Management Agency and the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety to ensure the proper paperwork is filed and the appropriate financial guarantees are secured.

### **Do I need a mining claim to suction dredge on Public Land?**

Answer: No.

If you intend to conduct suction dredging activities on Federal land it is in your best interest to contact the local BLM field office or FS ranger district to determine how you should proceed and what paperwork you may need to file.

A mining claim gives the claimant the exclusive right to the minerals being claimed. It is a standard industry practice to locate and file a claim to obtain exclusive rights to the minerals that are being explored and developed.

**Is a patented mining claim private property?**

Answer: Yes.

**Is an unpatented mining claim considered real property?**

Answer: Yes.

The discovery of a valuable mineral deposit within the limits of a mining claim located on Public Lands in conformance with state and Federal statutes validates the claim; and the locator acquires an exclusive possessory interest in the mineral deposits within the claim. Further, the claim is property in the fullest sense of that term; and may be sold, transferred, mortgaged, and inherited without infringing any right or title of the United States...so long as he complies with the provisions of the mining laws [*United States Supreme Court case of Wilbur v. U.S. ex rel Krushnic, 280 US 306 (1930)*].

The owner of an unpatented claim is entitled to mine, remove and sell all valuable mineral deposits within his claim boundaries provided he follows the regulations for Surface Management under 43 CFR 3809, and is entitled to such surface rights necessary for mining operations.

**Can I file a mining claim to get my own land in the mountains?**

Answer: No.

A mining claim on Public Lands is a "possessory mineral interest." This means that a mining claimant has a limited right to the location for mining or milling purposes only. No deed accompanies this right.

If the surface use is not otherwise encumbered, anyone may enter upon a claim on Public Lands for any purposes other than mining locatable minerals.

**If I file a mining claim can I eventually obtain title (patent) to the land?**

Answer: No.

As of October 1, 1994, Congress imposed a moratorium on spending appropriated funds for the acceptance or processing of mineral patent applications that had not yet received First Half Final Certificate (FHFC) or were not in Washington, D.C. for Secretarial review of FHFC on or before September 30, 1994. Until the moratorium is lifted, the BLM will not accept any new applications.



**Who can locate a mining claim?**

Answer: United States Citizens and those who have filed an application for citizenship as well as business entities organized under the laws of any state (43 CFR 3830.3) can locate a mining claim.

**Is the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended still in effect?**

Answer: Yes.

The General Mining Law of 1872 as amended regulates mining on Public Land. Budget Acts by Congress, portions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, and the Surface Resources Act of 1955 affect this law.

Further, the Federal regulations for unpatented Mining claims or sites on Public Land may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under Title 43 "Public Lands," Section 3802, 3809, and 3830.

**I want to locate a mining claim or site on US Forest Service (USFS) land; do I follow the same procedure to locate?**

Answer: Yes.

The regulations and procedures to locate and maintain a mining claim or site on Federal land are the same for BLM and USFS land. However, the regulations and procedures to begin mining operations are different depending on the Surface Management Agency (BLM or USFS). Contact the appropriate Federal Surface Management Agency and the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety office prior to conducting surface-disturbing activities on your mining claim.

**Is there information on the location of unpatented Mining claims or sites available on-line?**

Answer: Yes.

Current information on unpatented mining claims may be found by searching the LR2000 database. A query for active or closed Mining claims or sites may be run by selecting a report under the title "Public Mining Claim Reports." If you have questions regarding running a LR2000 report, contact the Andy Senti Public Lands Information Center at 303-239-3600, Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm.

**Is it possible to determine the exact location of a claim using LR2000?**

Answer: No.

The exact location of the claim can be found by locating the claim markers on the ground. Requesting a copy of the certificate of location and map from the official case files kept in the Dockets Library, may be helpful as a guide to locating the claim markers.

All documents within an official mining claim case file may be copied for the public. A fee of \$0.15 per page is assessed for copy work (additional fees for oversize documents). The documents may also be scanned for \$0.15 per page and emailed to you. Contact the BLM Colorado Dockets Library at 303-239-3615 or by email at: [codocket@blm.gov](mailto:codocket@blm.gov) for more information.

**How can I get information on mining claims that date back to the early 1800's or 1900's?**

Answer: Research the General Land Office Records website or Federal Land Records on microfiche in the Andy Senti Public Lands Information Center.

Historic mining claim information may be found online at the General Land Office Records website ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)) or by contacting the Andy Senti Public Lands Information Center at 303-239-3600.

In order to do an effective search, you will need to have some basic information on the mining claim, such as legal description, Mineral Survey number, or the original patent serial number. Records of official surveys as well as original patents are available.

**Will I need a bond for my mining operation?**

Answer: Yes, if the level of activity of your operation is anything other than casual use. In addition, the bond will be determined by the location and activity level of your operation. Contact the appropriate Federal Surface Management Agency and the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety office prior to conducting surface disturbing activities.

**Who do I contact if I have questions about my mining operation?**

Answer: Contact the BLM field office or USFS ranger district office that has jurisdiction over the location where you propose surface-disturbing activities. In addition, you must contact the State of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.

**What is involved in reclamation of a mining claim?**

Answer: *Reclamation* generally, is the rehabilitation of mined land in order to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of mining. Some components of reclamation include: the isolation, control, or removal of acid-forming, toxic, or deleterious substances; the regrading and reshaping to conform with adjacent landforms, facilitating revegetation, controlling drainage, and minimizing erosion; the rehabilitation of fisheries or wildlife habitat; the placement of growth medium and establishment of self-sustaining revegetation; the removal or stabilization of buildings, structures, or other support facilities associated with an exploration or mining project; the plugging of drill holes and the closure of underground

workings and ancillary facilities; and providing for post-mining monitoring, maintenance, or treatment of disturbed or impacted areas.

**If I file a mining claim or site over a historic mining site, do I have any rights to the abandoned equipment?**

Answer: No.

If a Federal unpatented mining claim is located over the remains of a previous mining operation (abandoned mining claim) and the new mining claimant removes damages or uses property left on the abandoned claim, he/she may be subject to civil and criminal liability. Unauthorized removal and/or sale of property abandoned by a prior locator on an unpatented mining claim can constitute a criminal act under 18 USC 641.

**If the boundaries of private land or a withdrawn area such as a wilderness area are not marked on the ground, am I still responsible for trespassing?**

Answer: Yes.

In the State of Colorado, there is no law that landowners must mark the boundary of their land. It is the claimant's responsibility to determine their location in relation to the private property or withdrawn land to avoid trespassing. You are responsible for knowing your location.

The extraction of minerals on BLM land is generally identified by three levels of surface-disturbing activity as well as by any intended commercial use (sales). Please refer to section 31 titled "Classification of Operations – BLM Colorado" and to 43 CFR 3809 for additional information.

**As the BLM and the USFS are both Federal agencies, are their regulations for mining operations the same?**

Answer: No.

The regulations for mineral activity on Federal land are issued by each Federal Surface Management Agency. This means the Federal regulations will be different according to the Federal agency who manages the surface estate.

**Are there additional State of Colorado regulations for prospecting and mining operations on Federal land?**

Answer: Yes.

We recommend you discuss your exploration and mining plans with the [State of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety](#) prior to any activity.

In addition to state regulations, there may be other agencies with whom you should contact prior to mining, depending on the location and activity you are proposing.



### **What is Sustainable Development?**

Answer: The idea that we develop today to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## **Regulations - Locate and Maintain a Mining Claim**

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### **[3730](#)**

#### **PUBLIC LAW 359; MINING IN POWERSITE WITHDRAWALS: GENERAL**

§ 3730.0-1 Purpose; lands open.

§ 3731.1 Power rights retained in the United States.

§ 3734.1 Owner of claim to file notice of location and assessment work.

§ 3736.1 Placer locator to conduct no mining operations for 60 days.

§ 3736.2 Hearing; notice of protest.

§ 3737.1 Mining claim and mill site use.

§ 3738.1 Bond or deposit required.

§ 3738.2 Restoration of surface condition.

### **[3810](#)**

#### **LANDS AND MINERALS SUBJECT TO LOCATION**

§ 3811.1 Lands: General.

### **[3830](#)**

#### **LOCATING, RECORDING, AND MAINTAINING MINING CLAIMS OR SITES; GENERAL PROVISIONS**

§ 3830.2 What is the scope of these regulations?

### **Who Can Locate?**

§ 3830.3 Who may locate mining claims?

### **What are Locatable Minerals?**

§ 3830.11 Which minerals are locatable under the General Mining Law?

§ 3830.12 What are the characteristics of a locatable mineral?

**What are the Fees?**

§ 3830.21 What are the different types of service charges and fees?

§ 3830.25 When do I pay for recording a new notice or certificate of location for a mining claim or site?

§ 3830.95 What if I pay only part of the service charges, location fees, or first year maintenance fees for newly recorded claims or sites?

§ 3830.24 How do I make payments?

§ 3830.23 What types of payment will BLM accept?

**What if I fail to comply with these regulations?**

§ 3830.91 What happens if I fail to comply with these regulations?

§ 3830.93 When are defects curable?

§ 3830.94 How may I cure a defect in my compliance with these regulations?

§ 3830.22 Will BLM refund service charges or fees?

§ 3830.100 How do I appeal a final decision by BLM?

**3832**

**LOCATING MINING CLAIMS OR SITES**

§ 3832.1 What does it mean to locate mining claims or sites?

§ 3832.11 How do I locate mining claims or sites?

**Locating a lode or placer mining claim.**

§ 3832.21 How do I locate a lode or placer mining claim?

§ 3832.22 How much land may I include in my mining claim?

**Locate a mill site.**

§ 3832.31 What is a mill site?

§ 3832.32 How much land may I include in my mill site?

§ 3832.33 How do I locate a mill site?

§ 3832.34 How may I use my mill site?

**Locate a tunnel site.**

§ 3832.41 What is a tunnel site?

§ 3832.42 How do I locate a tunnel site?

§ 3832.43 How may I use a tunnel site?

§ 3832.44 What rights do I have to minerals within my tunnel site?

§ 3832.45 How do I obtain any minerals that I discover within my tunnel site?



## [3833](#)

### **RECORDING MINING CLAIMS OR SITES**

§ 3833.1 Why must I record mining claims or sites?

§ 3833.11 How do I record mining claims or sites?

§ 3830.8 How will BLM use the information it collects and what does it estimate the burden is on the public?

§ 3830.9 What will happen if I file a document with BLM that I know contains false, erroneous, or fictitious information or statements?

#### **How to amend a mining claim or site**

§ 3833.21 When may I amend a notice or certificate of location?

§ 3833.22 How do I amend my location?

#### **How to transfer a claimant's interest in a mining claim or site**

§ 3833.31 What is a transfer of interest?

§ 3833.32 How do I transfer a mining claim or site?

§ 3833.33 How may I transfer, sell, or otherwise convey an association placer mining claim?

§ 3833.92 What happens if I do not file a transfer of interest?

§ 3835.20 Transferring, selling, inheriting, or otherwise conveying mining claims or sites already subject to a waiver.

## [3834](#)

### **REQUIRED FEES FOR MINING CLAIMS OR SITES**

§ 3834.11 Which fees must I pay to maintain a mining claim or site and when do I pay them?

§ 3834.12 How will BLM know for which mining claims or sites I am paying the fees?

§ 3834.21 How will BLM adjust the location and maintenance fees?

§ 3834.22 How will I know that BLM has adjusted location and maintenance fees?

§ 3834.23 When do I start paying the adjusted fees?

§ 3834.14 May I obtain a waiver from these fees?

## [3835](#)

### **WAIVERS FROM ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEES**

§ 3835.1 How do I qualify for a waiver?

§ 3835.10 How do I request a waiver?

§ 3835.11 What special filing and reporting requirements pertain to the different types of waivers?

§ 3835.12 What are my obligations once I receive a waiver?

§ 3835.13 How long do the waivers last and how do I renew them?

§ 3835.14 How do I submit a small miner waiver request for newly recorded mining claims?

§ 3835.15 If I qualify as a small miner, how do I apply for a waiver if I paid the maintenance fee in the last assessment year?

§ 3835.16 If I am a qualified small miner and I obtained a waiver in one assessment year, what must I do if I want to pay the maintenance fee for the following assessment year?

### **How to file annual FLPMA documents (Affidavit of Assessment & Notice of Intent to Hold)**

§ 3835.31 When do I file an annual FLPMA document?

§ 3835.32 What should I include when I submit an affidavit of assessment work?

§ 3835.33 What should I include when I submit a notice of intent to hold?

### **What is considered a defective annual filing?**

§ 3835.91 What if I fail to file annual FLPMA documents?

§ 3835.92 What if I fail to submit a timely waiver request?

§ 3835.93 What happens if BLM finds a defect in my waiver request?

## **3836**

### **ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR MINING CLAIMS**

§ 3836.11 What are the general requirements for performing assessment work?

§ 3836.12 What work qualifies as assessment work?

§ 3836.13 What are geological, geochemical, or geophysical surveys?

§ 3836.14 What other requirements must geological, geochemical, or geophysical surveys meet to qualify as assessment work?

## **3837**

### **ACQUIRING A DELINQUENT CO-CLAIMANT'S INTERESTS IN A MINING CLAIM OR SITE**

§ 3837.11 When may I acquire a delinquent co-claimant's interests in a mining claim or site?

§ 3837.21 How do I notify the delinquent co-claimant that I want to acquire his or her interests?

§ 3837.22 How long does a delinquent co-claimant have after notification to contribute a proportionate share of the assessment work, expenditures, or maintenance fees?

§ 3837.23 How do I notify BLM that I have acquired a delinquent co-claimant's interests in a mining claim or site?

§ 3837.24 What kind of evidence must I submit to BLM to show I have properly notified the delinquent co-claimant?

§ 3837.30 Disputes about acquiring a delinquent co-claimant's interests.

## [3838](#)

### **SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR LOCATING AND RECORDING MINING CLAIMS AND TUNNEL SITES ON STOCKRAISING HOMESTEAD ACT (SRHA) LANDS**

§ 3838.1 What are SRHA lands?

§ 3838.2 How are SRHA lands different from other Federal lands?

§ 3838.10 - § 3838.14 Procedures for locating and recording on SRHA lands.

## **Regulations - Mining Operations & Surface Management on BLM Land**

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### [3809 – Surface Management](#)

#### **What regulations apply to the operation of my mine?**

§ 3809.10 How does BLM classify operations?

§ 3809.31 Are there any special situations that affect what submittals I must make before I conduct operations?

§ 3809.116 As a mining claimant or operator, what are my responsibilities under this subpart for my project area?

§ 3809.5 How does BLM define certain terms used in this subpart?

#### **Do I also have to contact the State?**

§ 3809.200 What kinds of agreements may BLM and a State make under this subpart?

§ 3809.201 What should these agreements address?

§ 3809.203 What are the limitations on BLM deferral to State regulation of operations?

#### **What kind of paperwork is required before I begin mining?**

§ 3809.11 When do I have to submit a plan of operations?

§ 3809.21 When do I have to submit a notice?

§ 3809.202 Under what conditions will BLM defer to State regulation of operations?

#### **Notice Level Exploration Operations**

§ 3809.301 Where do I file my notice and what information must I include in it?

§ 3809.312 When may I begin operations after filing a complete notice?

§ 3809.313 Under what circumstances may I not begin operations 15 calendar days after filing my notice?

#### **Plan Level Exploration Operations**

§ 3809.401 Where do I file my plan of operations and what information must I include with it? § 3809.415 How do I prevent unnecessary or undue degradation while conducting operations on Public Lands?

§ 3809.420 What performance standards apply to my notice or plan of operations?

### **Financial Guarantee for a Mining Exploration Operation**

§ 3809.500 In general, what are BLM's financial guarantee requirements?

§ 3809.503 When must I provide a financial guarantee for my notice-level operations?

§ 3809.551 What are my choices for providing BLM with a financial guarantee?

§ 3809.552 What must my individual financial guarantee cover?

§ 3809.553 May I post a financial guarantee for a part of my operations?

§ 3809.555 What forms of individual financial guarantee are acceptable to BLM?

### **Inspection and Enforcement of a Mining Exploration Operation**

§ 3809.600 With what frequency will BLM inspect my operations?

§ 3809.601 What types of enforcement action may BLM take if I do not meet the requirements of this subpart?

§ 3809.602 Can BLM revoke my plan of operations or nullify my notice?

§ 3809.603 How does BLM serve me with an enforcement action?

§ 3809.604 What happens if I do not comply with a BLM order?

### **What are Prohibited Acts?**

§ 3809.605 What are prohibited acts under this subpart?

§ 3809.700 What criminal penalties apply to violations of this subpart?

§ 3809.701 What happens if I make false statements to BLM?

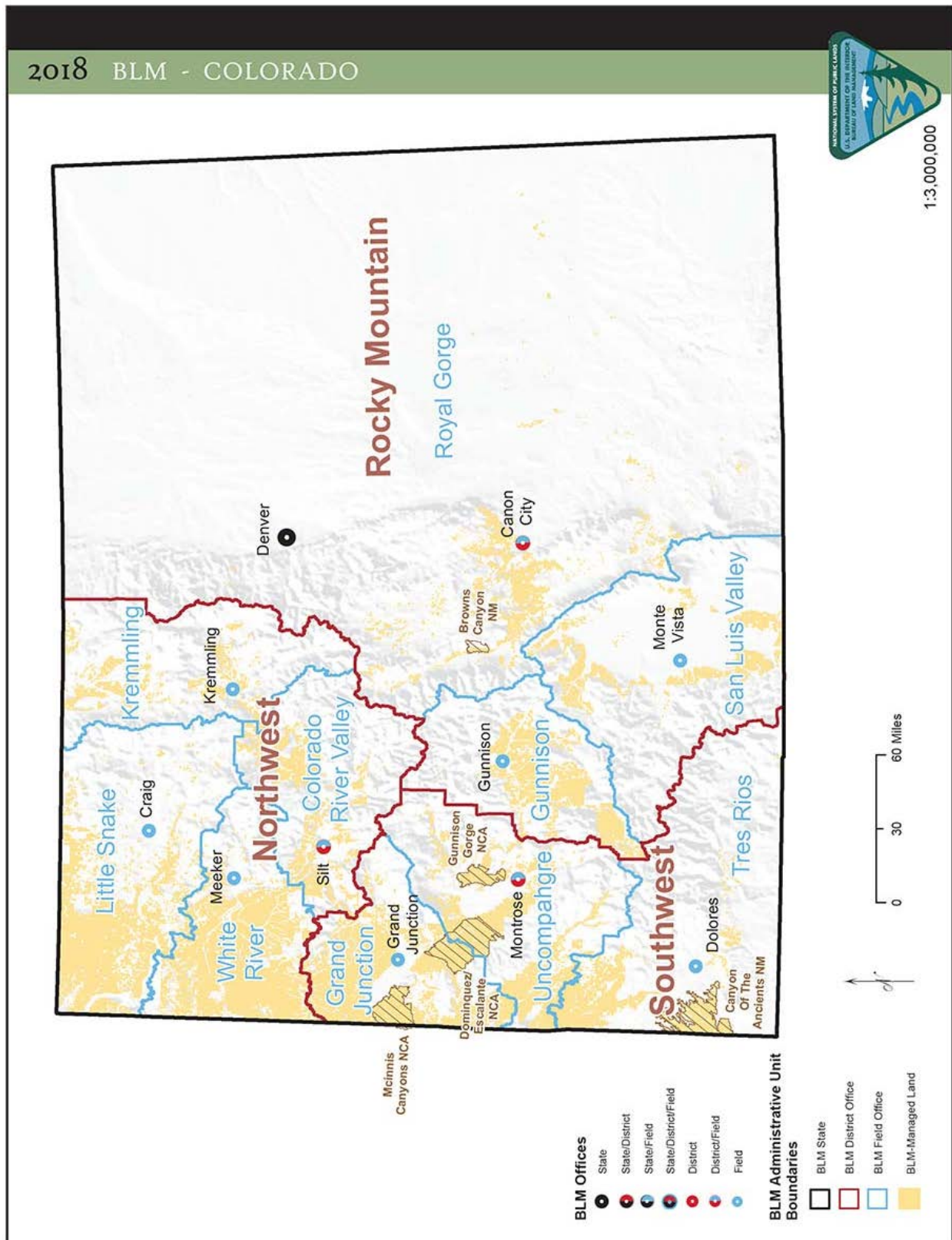
§ 3809.800 Who may appeal BLM decisions under this subpart?

§ 3809.801 - § 3809.809 When may I file an appeal of the BLM decision with OHA?

### **Public Visits to Mines.**

§ 3809.900 Will BLM allow the public to visit mines on Public Lands?

# BLM Colorado





## **BLM Colorado District and Field Offices**

### **Northwest District Office**

#### **Colorado River Valley**

2300 River Frontage Rd.  
Silt, CO 81652  
970-867-9000

#### **Kremmling Field Office**

2103 E Park Ave  
PO Box 68  
Kremmling CO 80459  
970-724-3000

#### **Little Snake Field Office**

455 Emerson Street  
Craig CO 81625  
970-826-5000

#### **White River Field Office**

220 East Market St  
Meeker CO 81641  
970-878-3805

### **Rocky Mountain District Office**

#### **Gunnison Field Office**

210 W. Spencer Ave., Ste. A  
Gunnison CO 81230  
970-642-4940

#### **Royal Gorge Field Office**

3028 East Main Street  
Canon City CO 81212  
719-269-8500

#### **San Luis Valley Field Office**

1313 East Highway 160  
Monte Vista CO 81144  
719-852-7074

### **Southwest District Office**

#### **Grand Junction Field Office**

2815 H Road  
Grand Junction CO 81506  
970-244-3083

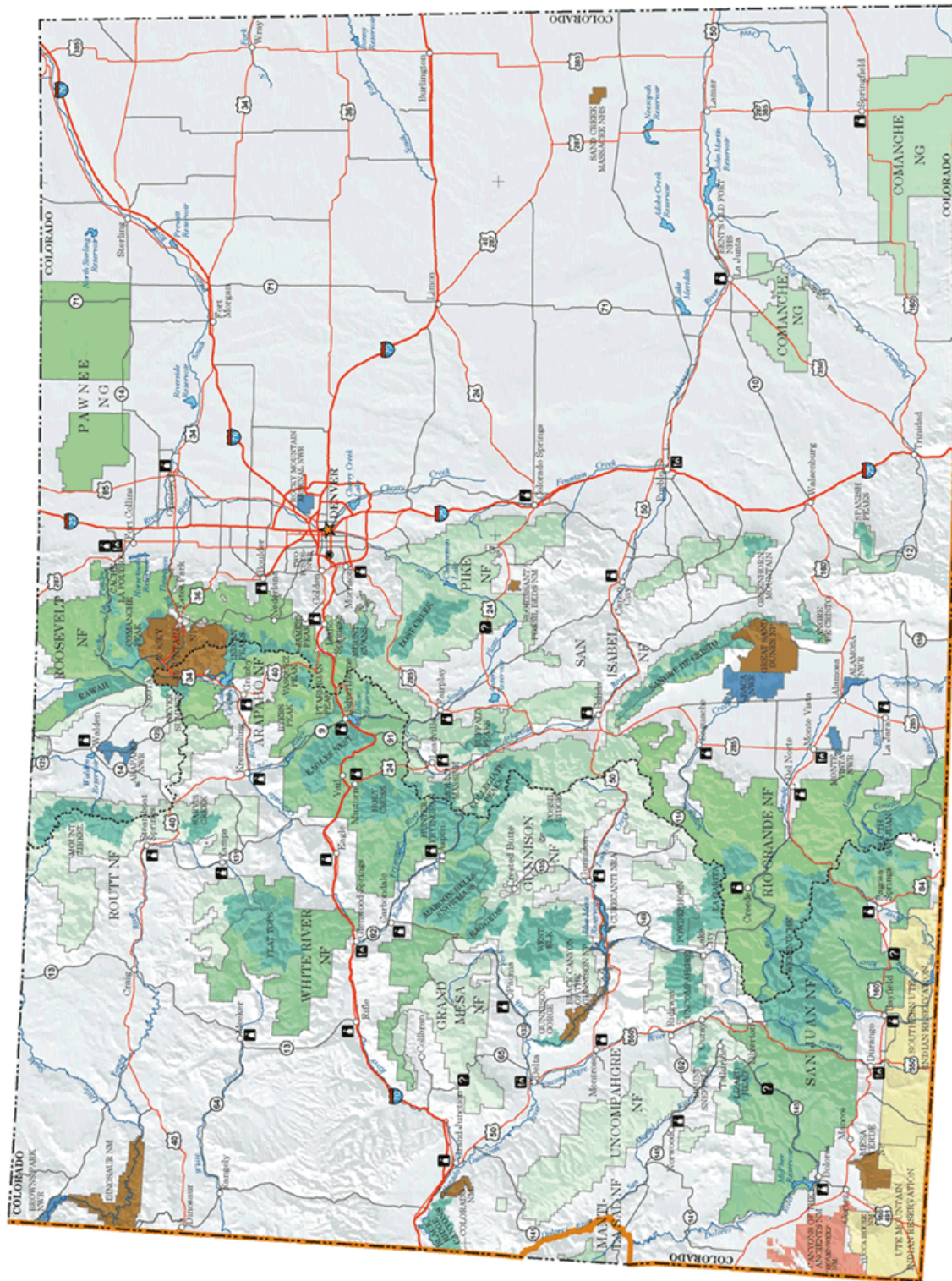
#### **Tres Rios Field Office**

29211 Hwy 184  
Dolores CO 81323  
970-882-7296

#### **Uncompahgre Field Office**

2465 South Townsend Ave  
Montrose CO 81401  
970-240-5300

# US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region Colorado



## **USDA Forest Service**

### **Rocky Mountain Region**

#### **Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest**

2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. E  
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8119  
970-295-6600

#### **Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests**

2250 Hwy 50 (2250 South Main St, Delta CO 81416-8723)  
Delta, CO 81416-8723  
970-874-6660

#### **Pike, San Isabel National Forests**

2840 Kachina Drive  
Pueblo, CO 81008  
719-553-1400

#### **Rio Grande National Forest**

1803 W Hwy 160  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
719-852-5941

#### **Medicine Bow - Routt National Forest**

925 Weiss Drive  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487-9315  
970-870-2299

#### **San Juan National Forest**

15 Burnett Court  
Durango, CO 81301  
970-247-4874

#### **White River National Forest**

900 Grand Ave.  
Glenwood Springs CO 81601  
970-945-2521

**Mining Claim Packet**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**[Colorado State Office](#)**  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215-7076

**[Andy Senti Public Lands Information Center](#)**

**“Public Room”**

**Hours:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. MST M-F

**Phone:** 303-239-3600

**Fax:** 303-239-3933

**TTY/Federal Relay System:** 1-800-877-8339

**E-mail:** blm\_co\_info@blm.gov



***Andrew J. (Andy) Senti***

***67 years of Federal Service***

***1925-2015***

The Contact Representatives are available to answer questions about the process of locating and maintaining mining claims or sites. They respond to customer requests by telephone, walk-in, or email. When time allows, they will help you navigate online systems such as LR200 or GLO Records.

**Colorado State Office**

**Dockets Library**

**Hours:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. MST M-F

**Phone:** 303-239-3615

**E-mail:** codocket@blm.gov

The Dockets Library staff are not trained to help with questions about locating a mining claim or site. They manage the official case files for BLM Colorado and fill copy work requests for both internal and external customers.