



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

Mining Claim Packet

Wyoming



BLM/WY/GI-18/016+

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WYNF-0004: Rockhounding on Public Lands.....	3
WYNF-0005: Where to Get More Information.....	5
WYNF-0008: Requirements for Locating and Maintaining Unpatented Mining Claims.....	7
WYNF-0014: Surface Management Maps.....	9
WYNF-0016: Wyoming County Clerk Offices.....	11



BLM Wyoming Rockhounding on Public Lands

Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Telephone: 307-775-6256
FAX: 307-775-6129
www.blm.gov/wyoming

Where is rock collection permissible?

Rockhounding is recognized as a legitimate recreational pursuit on nearly all of the 18 million acres of public land in Wyoming. These public lands administered by the BLM are open to everyone to take limited amounts of rock material for noncommercial purposes without charge. Maps showing the location of public lands in Wyoming can be obtained from this office or any BLM offices (for addresses see information handout “WYNF-0007, BLM Offices in Wyoming”). Some areas have special designations that restrict access and the type of activities allowed. For example, cave resources are federally protected and may not be altered, damaged or removed, and Abandoned Mine Lands should not be entered under any circumstance. You should check with the closest BLM field office to become familiar with local procedures, policies and areas with authorized restrictions.

No artifacts, please

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the Antiquities Act of 1906 are designed to protect our nation’s cultural resources. These laws prohibit the unauthorized excavation, removal, damage or alteration of any archaeological and historical site or object. Petroglyphs, human graves, old dwellings, pottery, stone tools, arrowheads and other remains of Indians and early inhabitants are protected by law because they may provide important links to our past.

How about fossils?

Fossil collecting has its own set of rules. Vertebrate fossils (which include bones, teeth and footprints) cannot be collected, but invertebrate and plant fossils that are not of special scientific interest may be collected in **reasonable amounts** for personal use. No fossils collected from public land can be sold, traded or bartered. Please see the pamphlet titled “Fossils on America’s Public Lands” available at BLM offices.

A “reasonable amount” refers to quantities limited to a personal hobby collection and/or home display, and obtained via surface collection or the use of nonpowered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface.

May petrified wood be collected?

Collection of petrified wood is allowed but has special rules. For rockhounding purposes, you may collect up to 25 pounds of petrified wood, plus one piece, each day, not to exceed 250 pounds of petrified wood in any calendar year without a permit. You may not combine your allowance with another collector’s to obtain larger pieces of petrified wood. Collections of petrified wood are for personal use, and may not be bartered or sold. Permits may be obtained from a local BLM office for collection of more than 250 pounds a year or for commercial use. Please see the “Fossils on America’s Public Lands” pamphlet (P-406).

Collected but not destroyed . . .

Explosives or power equipment is not an acceptable method of collecting minerals regardless of type addressed in

this pamphlet. Hand tools are the only acceptable method of collection. All disturbances are to be reclaimed after collection. Off-road vehicle use may also be restricted. Also, fossil and/or mineral collecting may be restricted or prohibited in some areas to allow dedication of the land for another purpose. Such restrictions follow official notice in the Federal Register and the areas are posted. Contact the local BLM field office for additional information.

Permits?

Depending on the resource, the BLM grants permits or authorizations to individuals, institutions and organizations to conduct scientific research (such as research occurring at archaeological, historical and paleontological sites) or for commercial use of mineral resources. These permits/contracts are issued and administered by the BLM either at the local field offices (contracts/permits for commercial uses) or at the Wyoming State Office in Cheyenne (permits for scientific uses). Permits for scientific research are given only to individuals who hold advanced university degrees in archaeology, paleontology, or a related field, and are associated with an accredited institution.

Reporting archaeological or fossil sites

All archaeological or paleontological sites, such as prehistoric campsites, buffalo jumps and fossil sites (of any kind) may be of scientific interest. The sites should be reported to the nearest BLM field office for evaluation by archaeologists or paleontologists.

How about gemstones?

Semi-precious gemstones are used in jewelry-making and decorative arts. They are usually rocks that can be faceted or polished and are able to hold a shine. The private collector is welcome to take reasonable amounts of gemstone specimens, as well as common variety minerals from public lands for personal use only. However, a permit must be obtained from the BLM field office if common variety minerals are to be taken in large quantities or for resale.

“Locating” Gemstones

Claims may be “located” for gemstones under the general mining laws if location requirements can be met. Collecting gemstone specimens on public land remains an accepted recreational use of the public land, however...

Don’t be a “Claim Jumper”

Care must be taken not to violate the rights of a mining claimant. Patented claims are private land and permission to collect specimens on them must be obtained from the property owner. Unpatented claims, however, are still public lands and rockhounds may pursue their hobby on such lands as long as they do not interfere with mining activities or collect locatable minerals or gemstones for which the claim is located. In other words, if an unpatented claim is located for jade, rockhounds can look for and collect any mineral except jade. The claimant is entitled to the rights to the jade which is, for all practical purposes, their private property. Claimants frequently locate claims for all locatable minerals, in which case rockhounds may not collect any minerals. A claim owner may not legally charge fees for recreational use of unpatented claims. For details on patented and unpatented claims on public land, visit the closest BLM field office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For specific information on the distribution of minerals, rocks and fossils in Wyoming, request a publication catalog from: Wyoming State Geological Survey, P.O. Box 1347, University Station, Laramie, Wyoming 82073, 307-766-2286, www.wsgs.wyo.gov.



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

BLM Wyoming

Where to Get More Information

Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Telephone: 307-775-6256
FAX: 307-775-6129
www.blm.gov/wyoming

FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bighorn National Forest
2013 Eastside 2nd Street
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
307-674-2600
www.fs.fed.us/r2/bighorn

Black Hills National Forest
1019 N. 5th Street
Custer, South Dakota 57730
605-673-9200
www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills

Bridger-Teton National Forest
P.O. Box 1888
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
307-739-5500
www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf

Medicine Bow - Routt National Forest
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070-6535
307-745-2300
www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr

Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadowlane Ave.
Cody, Wyoming 82414-4549
307-527-6241
www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone

Douglas Ranger District
2250 East Richards Street
Douglas, Wyoming 82633-8922
307-358-4690
www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr

Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area

25 West Highway 43
P.O. Box 279
Manila, Utah 84046
435-784-3445
www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fossil Butte National Monument
P.O. Box 592
Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101-0592
307-877-4455
www.nps.gov/fobu

Grand Teton National Park
P.O. Drawer 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012-0170
Information for the Hearing Impaired (TDD) 307-739-3400
www.nps.gov/grte

Yellowstone National Park

P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190-0168
Visitor Information 307-344-7381
Information for the Hearing Impaired (TDD) 307-344-2386
www.nps.gov/yell

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Branch of Distribution
U.S. Geological Survey
(Topographic Maps)
Denver Federal Center
Box 25046
Denver, Colorado 80225
303-236-5900
USGS Employee Information Line
303-236-8961
www.usgs.gov

**Bureau of Indian Affairs
Wind River Agency**
P.O. Box 158
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514
307-332-7810

Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514
307-332-3532

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

National Weather Service
1301 Airport Parkway
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
307-772-2468
www.crh.noaa.gov/cys

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Rd.
Suite 308A
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
307-772-2374
<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov>

Northern Arapaho Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514
307-3322-6120
307-856-3461

**United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service**
11221 US Hwy. 30
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
307-772-2314
www.wy.nics.usda.gov

STATE OF WYOMING - www.wyo.gov/

Wyoming Office of Tourism
5611 High Plains Road
Cheyenne, WY 82007
307-777-7777
www.travelwyoming.com

**Wyoming Board of Outfitters
and Professional Guides**
1950 Bluegrass Circle, Suite 280
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
800-264-0981, 307-635-1589
outfitters.wyo.gov

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82006
307-777-4600 (general info.)
wgfd.wyo.gov

Wyoming State Geological Survey
P.O. Box 1347
Laramie, Wyoming 82073
307-766-2286
www.wsgs.wyo.gov

Department of Agriculture
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0100
307-777-7321
wyagric.state.wy.us

**Wyoming Oil and Gas
Conservation Commission**
2211 King Blvd.
P.O. Box 2640
Casper, Wyoming 82602
307-234-7147
wogcc.wyo.gov

State Parks & Cultural Resources
Barrett Bldg. - 4th Floor
2301 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
307-777-6303
wyospcr.state.wy.us

Department of Environmental Quality
200 W. 17th St.
4th Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
307-777-7937
deq.wyoming.gov

Wyoming State Museum
2301 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7022
wyo.museum.state.wy.us

Office of State Lands & Investments
Herschler Bldg. - 3rd Floor - West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
307-777-7331
lands.wyo.gov

Livestock Board
2020 Carey Avenue, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
307 777-7515

Wyoming Department of Transportation
5300 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
307-777-4435 (map info.)
307-777-4375
dot.state.wy.us



BLM Wyoming Requirements for Locating and Maintaining Unpatented Mining Claims

Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Telephone: 307-775-6256
FAX: 307-775-6129
www.blm.gov/wyoming

DETERMINING LAND STATUS

Anyone wanting to locate mining claims must determine if the land they wish to claim is open to location under the mining laws. Visit the local BLM Field Office, or the BLM State Office, and check maps, Master Title Plates, and mining claim records. Mining claim information may be obtained from both the BLM State Office and County Recorders Office. Information on the status of federally owned land in Wyoming may be obtained from the official public land records on file at the BLM Wyoming State Office in Cheyenne.

BLM has no jurisdiction over matters concerning ownership of claims that are top filed over existing claims. Overstaking issues will be determined through civil court actions between rival claimants.

Mining claims located on land that is not open to mineral location are null and void from the beginning, and trespass action may be brought against the claimant.

LOCATING (STAKING) CLAIMS

Post the location notice in a conspicuous place at the point of discovery of locatable minerals as soon as a discovery is made.

Placer claims are monumented at each claim corner to mark the location distinctly on the ground. The maximum size of a placer claim is 20 acres per individual claimant (up to 160 acres).

Lode claims have six (6) monuments, one at each claim corner and in the center of the side lines. Lode claims are limited to 1500 feet in length and 600 feet in width, 300 feet on either side of the centerline.

RECORDING CLAIMS OR SITES

Lodes, placers and sites are to be recorded in the County Clerks Office where they are located within 90 days of the date of location. A county recording fee is required.

Both lode and placer mining claims must be filed with the BLM State Office within 90 days of the date of location.

All new mining claims and sites being recorded must be accompanied by a \$37.00 location fee, a \$155.00 maintenance fee (to cover the assessment year of location), and a \$20.00 processing fee.

Claims not timely filed with the BLM are rejected and void.

FILING MAINTENANCE FEE OR NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD CLAIMS

Claimants holding 10 or fewer claims nationwide may qualify for the small miners waiver. The waiver form must be received on or before September 1st each year. Once a claimant has qualified for the waiver, they must perform assessment work on the claim(s). An assessment document and a \$10.00 per claim filing fee must be recorded with the BLM State office on or before December 30th each year.

The \$155.00 maintenance fee per claim or site must be received by the BLM State Office on or before September 1st of each year.

Any claim or site that has not received the \$155.00 maintenance fee, a waiver form and assessment document to complete the waiver filing will be forfeited and will be closed.

When a deferment of assessment is filed, a notice of intent to hold the claim must be filed at the same time. There is a \$100.00 filing fee for the deferment and a \$10.00 per claim filing fee for the notice of intent to hold the claims.

The maintenance fee document, small miners waiver form and assessment affidavits must be recorded in the County Recorders Office. A county recording fee is required.

TRANSFERRING MINING CLAIMS

Transfers of mining claims and sites (all or part) must be recorded with the BLM State Office within 60 days from the date of transfer of ownership. Transfer documents require a \$10.00 per claim or site processing fee per person receiving interest in the claim or site.

AMENDED MINING CLAIMS

Amendments are filed when correcting information on the original location certificate. See 43 CFR 3830 regulations pertaining to amendments for specific information that may be amended. The amendment must be filed in the county and recorded with the BLM State Office within 90 days from the date of recording. Amendments require a \$10.00 per claim or site processing fee.

ABANDONING OR RELINQUISHING MINING CLAIMS

Although not required, notification to the BLM of abandoned or relinquished claims would be appreciated. Such notification should include the BLM serial number. No filing fee is required.

MINING CLAIMS LOCATED ON SPLIT ESTATE LANDS

On April 16, 1993, Congress amended the Stock Raising Homestead Act. New requirements must be met before mining claims can be located on split estate lands. Split estate lands are those lands where the surface has been patented and the minerals were reserved to the United States under the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916. Claimants must record with BLM and the surface owner a Notice of Intent to Locate (NOITL) Mining Claims with the BLM State Office before entering the land or locating mining claims. No mineral exploration or location of mining claims can take place until a NOITL is recorded. Once all the NOITL requirements are met the land is segregated for 90 days for exploration and location of mining claims. There is a \$30.00 nonrefundable service charge for recording a NOITL with the BLM State Office.

FOR SPECIFIC MINING CLAIM INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, CONTACT:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 775-6148



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

BLM Wyoming Surface Management Maps

Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Telephone: 307-775-6256
FAX: 307-775-6129
www.blm.gov/wyoming

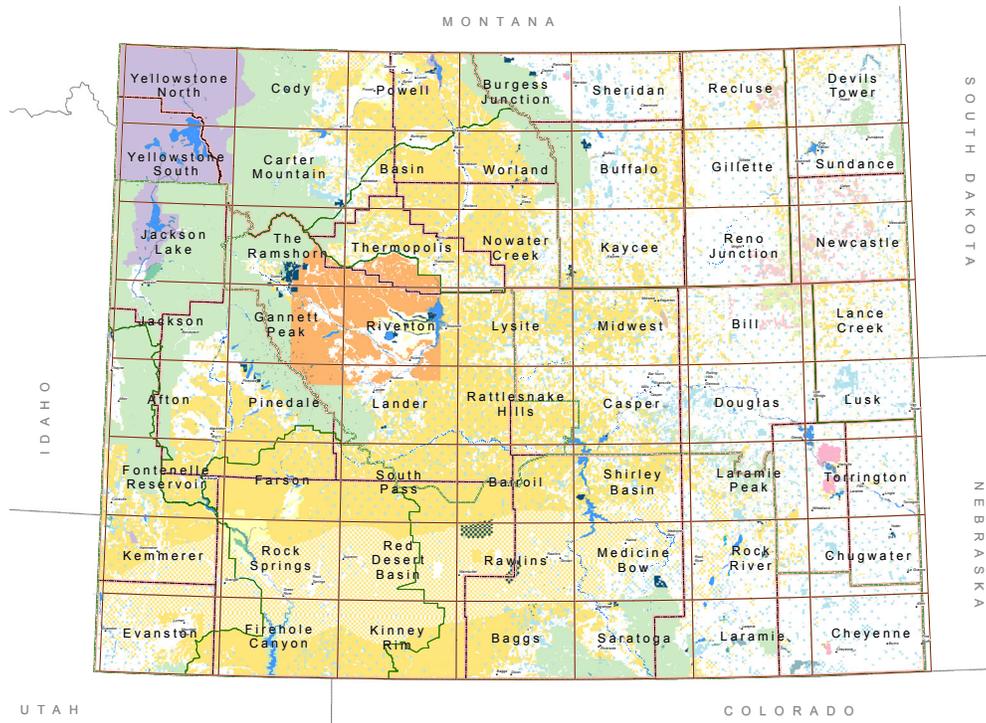
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a Surface Management and a Surface/Mineral Management series of maps available for the state of Wyoming. The maps are a scale of 1:100,000 and cover an area approximately 30 x 50 miles. The maps are color-coded to show land status (Federal, state or private ownership). These maps do not show private land owner names. Other features on the maps are roads, topographic contour and elevation symbols, rivers, streams and lakes. The Surface/Mineral Management maps also show mineral ownership shading.

These maps are available at any Wyoming BLM office for a fee of \$4.00 each.

Map orders can also be placed over the phone or via email using VISA, MASTER CARD, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS. Call (307) 775-6256 or email blm_wy_copywork@blm.gov to place your order. Please be prepared to indicate the name and series your desired maps. See page 2 of this form for a list of map names. Most maps are available in both Surface Management and Surface/Mineral Management series.

NOTE: These maps are designed and published as a planning and management tool. They are prepared from the best available information. The user is cautioned against the use of the ownership information shown on the maps of a specific tract of land for anything except casual use. The official land records in appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management should be checked for accurate and up-to-date status on any specific tract of land.

1:100,000 Scale Maps



Surface Sur/Min Name of Map

- Afton
- BaggsLusk
- BairoilLysite
- Basin
- Bill
- Buffalo
- Burgess Junction
- Carter Mountain
- Casper
- Cheyenne
- Chugwater
- Cody
- Devil's Tower
- Douglas
- Evanston
- Farson
- Firehole Canyon
- Fontenelle Reservoir
- Gannett Peak
- Gillette
- Jackson
- Jackson Lake
- Kaycee
- Kemmerer
- Kinney Rim
- Lance Creek
- Lander
- Laramie

Surface Sur/Min Name of Map

- Laramie Peak
- Lusk
- Lysite
- Medicine Bow
- Midwest
- Newcastle
- Nowater Creek
- Pinedale
- Powell
- Rattlesnake Hills
- Rawlins
- Recluse
- Red Desert Basin
- Reno Junction
- Riverton
- Rock River
- Rock Springs
- Saratoga
- Sheridan
- Shirley Basin
- South Pass
- Sundance
- The Ramshorn
- Thermopolis
- Torrington
- Worland
- Yellowstone Natl Park-N
- Yellowstone Natl Park-S



Wyoming County Clerk Offices

Wyoming State Office

5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Telephone: 307-775-6256

FAX: 307-775-6129

www.blm.gov/wyoming

Albany County Clerk

525 Grand Ave, Suite 202
Laramie, WY 82070
(307) 721-2541

Hot Springs County Clerk

415 Arapahoe
Thermopolis, WY 82443-2783
(307) 864-3515

Sheridan County Clerk

224 S. Main St., Suite B-2
Sheridan, WY 82801-4855
(307) 674-2500

Big Horn County Clerk

P.O. Box 31
Basin, WY 82410-0031
(307) 568-2357

Johnson County Clerk

76 N. Main St.
Buffalo, WY 82834-1883
(307) 684-7272

Sublette County Clerk

P.O. Box 250
Pinedale, WY 82941-0250
(307) 367-4372

Campbell County Clerk

P.O. Box 3010
Gillette, WY 82717-3010
(307) 682-7285

Laramie County Clerk

P.O. Box 608
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0608
(307) 633-4268

Sweetwater County Clerk

80 W. Flaming Gorge Way, Suite 150
Green River, WY 82935
(307) 872-3732

Carbon County Clerk

P.O. Box 6
Rawlins, WY 82301-0006
(307) 328-2668

Lincoln County Clerk

925 Sage Ave. Suite 101
Kemmerer, WY 83101
(307) 877-9056, Ext. 303

Teton County Clerk

P.O. Box 1727
Jackson, WY 83001-1727
(307) 733-4430

Converse County Clerk

107 N. 5th St., Suite 114
Douglas, WY 82633-2448
(307) 358-2244

Natrona County Clerk

P.O. Box 863
Casper, WY 82601-0863
(307) 235-9217

Uinta County Clerk

P.O. Box 810
Evanston, WY 82930-0810
(307) 783-0306

Crook County Clerk

P.O. Box 37
Sundance, WY 82729-0037
(307) 283-1323

Niobrara County Clerk

P.O. Box 420
Lusk, WY 82225-0420
(307) 334-2211

Washakie County Clerk

P.O. Box 260
Worland, WY 82401
(307) 347-3131

Fremont County Clerk

450 N. 2nd St., Room 220
Lander, WY 82520-0090
(307) 332-2405

Park County Clerk

1002 Sheridan Ave.
Cody, WY 82414-3589
(307) 527-8600

Weston County Clerk

1 W. Main
Newcastle, WY 82701-2121
(307) 746-4744

Goshen County Clerk

P.O. Box 160
Torrington, WY 82240-0160
(307) 532-4051

Platte County Clerk

P.O. Drawer 728
Wheatland, WY 82201-0728
(307) 322-2315

