

Federal Mining Claims Information for Alaska

Energy and Minerals Branch



Alaska



Mission Statement

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Cover

Clockwise from top left: Prospecting, Placer Mining, Dredging, Reclamation.
Photos by Joe Kurtak/BLM

The mention of any trade names or commercial products in this report does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the federal government.

For more information regarding federal mining claims in Alaska, go to
<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/minerals.html>

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General Overview

Who can file a claim?

Any citizen of the United States may locate a federal mining claim on federal public lands that are available for mineral entry. A corporation organized under state laws may also locate a federal mining claim. The federal government considers corporations to have the same standing as its citizens.



The Claim

A federal mining claim is a particular parcel of federally administered land that is valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits. This is a parcel for which an individual has asserted a right of possession.

The right of possession is restricted to the exploration, extraction, and development of a mineral deposit.

Federal mining claims and sites are considered real property. Interests in these claims may be bought, sold, transferred, leased, rented, willed or inherited. If a claim or site meets all federal and state requirements, the claimant has a possessory right to develop and extract minerals found on the mining claim. A possessory right is much like an easement, where the United States holds paramount title. This remains true until a person is issued a mineral patent, when title to the lands and minerals are passed to the patentee. However, a patent moratorium has been in effect since 1994, and the federal government will not issue any new federal patents until the moratorium ends.



The public has the conditional right to cross mining claims or sites for recreational and other purposes; or to access federal lands beyond claim boundaries. Although this right of access to a mining claim or site across federal lands exists, it does not mean that the claimant has a right to cause undue degradation of the surface resources.

Permanent or mobile structures and equipment storage on a mining claim or site requires prior approval from an authorized federal official.

Mining claim rights are valid against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit.

Valuable Deposit

Although federal statutes do not describe what constitutes a “valuable mineral deposit” under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, several government judicial and administrative decisions adopted an “economic” definition of locatable minerals. This definition resulted in a test, the “prudent man rule,” that makes use of the concept of an “economic ore body.” In 1894, a Department of the Interior Land Decision, *Castle v. Womble*,



19 LD 455 (1894), states “...where minerals have been found and the evidence is of such character that a person of ordinary prudence would be justified in the further expenditure of his labor and means, with a reasonable prospect of success in developing a valuable mine, the requirements of the statutes have been met.”

Since that time, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) significantly refined the “prudent-man test” by defining “presently marketable at a profit.” This definition requires that a claimant “show that at present, considering historical price and cost factors and assuming that they will continue, there is a reasonable likelihood of success that a paying mine can be developed” [*Pacific Coast Molybdenum*, 78 IBLA 16, 29, 90 I.D. 352, 360 (1983)]. This new definition responds to the large fluctuations in mineral commodity prices that occur during the preceding five years. This is why a claimant is not stuck with the latest market price of a commodity, but instead may average prices over time.

Staking the Claim

Federal law simply specifies that claim boundaries must be distinctly and clearly marked and readily identifiable on the ground. Mining laws allow states to establish their own laws for how mining claims and sites are located. When staking a claim, you must comply with both federal and state requirements. Most states have mining claim statutes and regulations that add to the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, and outline the actual staking and recording of mining claims. These staking requirements usually include the placement, size, and acceptable materials for a corner post or discovery monument.



The Alaska Statutes staking requirements include:

1. Posting at the northeast corner of the claim a plain sign or notice containing
 - a. the name or number of the claim;
 - b. the name of the locator or locators;
 - c. the date of the location;
 - d. the number of feet in length and width claimed; and
2. Erecting at each corner or angle of the claim substantial monuments or posts not less than three feet in height nor less than three inches in diameter hewn and marked with the name of the claim, the position or number of the monument and the direction of the boundary lines, and by cutting out, blazing or marking the boundary lines so that they can be readily placed.

You can find these requirements at Alaska Statutes 27:10.030 for lode claims and 27:10.040 for placer claims.

Recording the Claim

You must record mining claims and sites in both the local recording district and the proper BLM state office. You must file your location notice with the BLM no later than 90 (ninety) calendar days after the date of location.

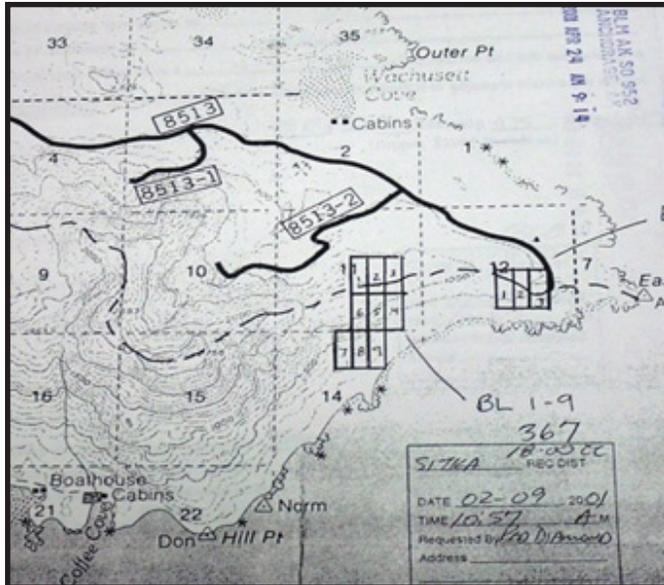
The BLM does not require any specific form for claim information, nor does the BLM produce or distribute a form for this purpose. The information to submit to the BLM must include the date of location, the name and address of the owner(s), the name of the claim/site, the type of claim/site, the acreage claimed, a description of the parcel on the ground (township, range, section, quarter section, and/or a metes and bounds description), and a map. Miners may use the State of Alaska form, since it meets federal requirements, and because the State recorder's office has strict requirements about formatting with a one-inch top margin. This handbook includes an example of a location notice.

Certificate of Location of Placer Mining Claim
 163394
 This is to certify that the undersigned applicant under the laws of the United States who has been mining ground in the Territory of Alaska, has located a 5620' x 6620' placer mining claim in the Territory of Alaska, placer mining claim on Percy Pipe Creek, a tributary of Middle Fork Koyukok in the Fairbanks Mining and Recording District, Territory of Alaska, containing approximately 40 acres and particularly described as follows, to-wit:
 36) The name or number of said claim is Dickens
 37) The name of the locator James Stanish
 38) The date of discovery and of posting of the location notice was the 3rd day of Sept. 1957
 39) Said claim is approximately 2640 feet in length and 662 feet in width.
 40) A particular description of the boundaries of said claim is as follows: Beginning at the world post, which is situated Right limit lower corner 4620' Dickens extending thence in a Southwesterly direction, approximately 2640 feet to Post No. 2, thence in a Easterly direction, approximately 660 feet, to Post No. 3, thence in a Northerly direction, approximately 2640 feet, to Post No. 4, thence in a Southwesterly direction, approximately 660 feet, to the world post and place of beginning.
 41) Said claim is a placer claim, where above-mentioned discovery on the upper part of said creek.
 42) Gold was discovered on said claim on the 3rd day of Sept. 1957
 By the locator, James Stanish

When filing a claim, claimants must pay all fees to the BLM when they file.

Location Map

To aid the BLM in determining the location and land status of a claim, the BLM requires a location map that shows the claim. The State of Alaska's "Mining Claim Location/Notice Certificate" form (page 19) has space on the bottom for the claimant to show the location of their claim.



In Alaska, BLM requests that claimants include the Geographical Position System (GIS) coordinates of their claim corners, but there are no legal requirements to provide this additional information.

Please note that the BLM requests copies of officially recorded notices or certificates of location for each claim recorded (or to be recorded) with the State of Alaska. This means the claimant can file a location notice not yet recorded with the State, but should provide the BLM with a copy of the recorded document at a later date.

The Paper Record Process

This is how BLM-Alaska's internal mining claim recording process works:

1. The claimant files location notices, amendments, or other related mining documentation in the Public Information Center (Public Room). You can do this either in person or by mail. The public room date stamps these documents to record the official filing date with BLM-Alaska.
2. BLM sends a copy of the document back to the claimant to show receipt of the filings. For time-sensitive documents, such as small miner waivers or assessment affidavits, the BLM recommends that the claimant send those documents to the BLM by certified mail.
3. Any fees paid are receipted. The receipt(s) and documents are sent to the Mineral Law Specialist, who then adjudicates the filing and claim status. The specialist creates the mining claim case file. Once the BLM determines that the certificate/notice of location meets all requirements, the BLM updates the Alaska Land Information System or ALIS database. The ALIS database is the official electronic record of the mining claim(s). The public can access this data through an external website, the "Alaska Case Retrieval Enterprise System (ACRES)". The Mineral Law Specialist enters the claim locations into the database and retains the case file. You can find ACRES at http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/acres/acres_menu



BLM-Alaska State Office located in Anchorage

Adjudicative Review

The BLM reviews and adjudicates all minerals documents for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process includes, but is not limited to, checking:

- Date of location and filing of documentation, and whether these documents are filed within 90 days of location;
- Name of the claim or site;
- Name, address, and proper signatures of **each** locator;
- Type of claim or site (lode, placer, mill site or tunnel site);
- Legal description of the land where the claim is located, described to quarter section (quarter section, section, township, range and meridian);
- Drawing of claim location/map of claim;
- Correct payment, when applicable;
- Whether the land is under federal jurisdiction and is available for mineral entry;
- Complies with rules for title evidence; and,
- Is this the proper acreage for number of miners.

NOTES:

1. If the mining claim is an association placer, the maximum acreage allowed is 160 acres with at least 8 locators, 20 acres per claimant.
2. A corporation is considered an individual claimant; therefore, as an individual claimant, it is allowed 20 acres per claim.

Fees and Filings

NEW FILINGS: You must pay the following fees when you record a federal mining claim and site:

- \$34 location fee
- \$140 maintenance fee for every 20 acres or portion thereof for association placer claims. All lode claims, mill and tunnel sites are \$140 per claim or site.
- \$15 processing fee.

The assessment year begins and ends on September 1 (from September 1 to September 1 *of any given year*). The maintenance fee applies to the assessment year for locations filed **PRIOR** to September 1, except for claims located **PRIOR** to September 1 at the end of one assessment year; but **FILED** with the BLM **AFTER** September 1 in the next assessment year. In this case, the BLM charges maintenance fees for both the assessment year the claim is located and the assessment year the claim is filed.

If a claimant holds ten or fewer claims nationwide, the claimant may file a waiver for a second maintenance fee, but claimants *must* file the waiver at the same time as filing the location notice. A “notice of intent to hold” must be filed by December 30 of the calendar year immediately following the filing of the maintenance fee waiver.

MAINTENANCE FEE: You must pay all maintenance fees in advance for the upcoming assessment year at the BLM-Alaska Office recording your claim/site, on or before September 1 of each year. You must include a **list of the claim names and BLM serial numbers with the payment**. You can file at one of two BLM-Alaska Public Information Centers:

1. Anchorage, BLM-Alaska State Office Public Information Center, 222 W. 7th Avenue (Anchorage Federal Building and Courthouse, first floor) (907) 271-5960.
2. Fairbanks, BLM-Alaska Fairbanks District Office Public Information Center, 1150 University Avenue. (907) 474-2200.

These two Public Information Centers receive and record documents, filings, and fees for all federal mining claims or sites located in Alaska.

MAINTENANCE FEE WAIVER: Miners with 10 or fewer federal claims or sites *nationwide* may file a **maintenance fee waiver certificate** with the BLM on or before September 1 of each year. You need to file this waiver certificate, like the maintenance fee, in advance for the upcoming assessment year that begins on September 1. If you elect to file this waiver, you must certify that you hold interest in no more than 10 mining claims or sites nationwide on the date your filing is due. In cases where there are multiple owners, each owner must sign the waiver. The BLM will not accept copies of the signed waiver, it must be the originally signed document.

Maintenance fee waiver certificates must be filed with the BLM on or before September 1. If you mail the waiver to the BLM, the agency will only accept it if the postmark is on or before September 1. (See mailing address on page 45)

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WORK: When you file a maintenance fee waiver by September 1, you must also file an “affidavit of annual labor” with the BLM on or before December 30. When you file the affidavit, include a payment of \$10 per claim or site with your filing. You must also record the affidavit of annual labor at the local recording district.

The BLM will not accept mailed affidavits or “notices of intent to hold” unless the postmark shows December 30 or earlier. (See mailing address on page 45)

These are mandated filing deadlines by law and are very unforgiving. If you miss a filing deadline, the BLM issues a decision declaring the claim forfeited by operation of law. This decision is appealable to IBLA, but in most cases, unless the miner can prove a filing was

made on time, the IBLA will normally uphold the decision of forfeiture. If an appeal is filed with the IBLA, the BLM loses jurisdiction of the case. Jurisdiction remains with the IBLA until the IBLA renders a decision for the appeal. At the time of filing, all required fees must be paid, or the documents will not be accepted.

Transfers of Ownership

When an owner of an unpatented federal mining claim sells, assigns, or conveys all or any part of their interest in the claim, it is the grantee's responsibility to file the recorded transfer document (*Transfer of Interest or Quitclaim Deed*) with the proper BLM Office (with the Alaska State Office or Fairbanks Public Room). The BLM will not accept a transfer unless the transfer document was first recorded in the local recording district. This handbook includes an example of a mining quitclaim deed. The transfer document must identify the grantor's name and signature, the name and address of the new owner, the claim or site name(s), and their respective BLM serial number(s). The BLM has a \$10 nonrefundable processing fee per grantee for each claim or site listed on the document.



Amendments and/or Relocation

You can make an amendment to a location filed for an active federal mining claim or site at any time. However, you must file the amendment at the local recording district before filing it with the appropriate BLM Office. The deadline to file is within 90 days of recording. You can create the amendment on the same type of form as you used for the original location notice, with "Amended" added to the title of the location notice. An amended location relates back to the original date that the mining claim or site was located. The BLM charges a \$10 nonrefundable processing fee to file an amendment.



Amendments:

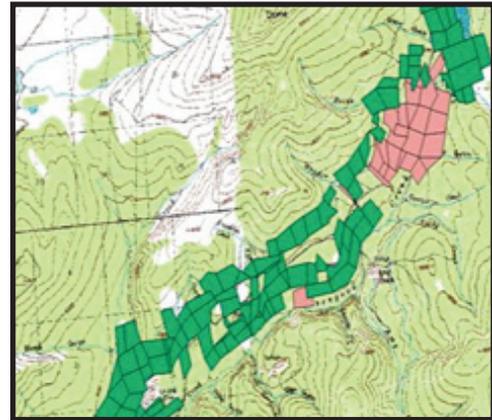
1. Correct or clarify omissions or defects in the original location notice
2. Correct legal descriptions, due to an error made on the original location notice (**the location on the ground cannot be changed**)
3. Change the claim name

A **relocation**, on the other hand, is treated as a new location that essentially covers the same land as a prior mining claim or site. The BLM assigns a relocation with a new serial number and posting date. The discovery date may remain the same as the original notice and may use the original boundary markings and monuments. The fees for a relocation are the same as a new location.

A relocation may not be established by the use of an amended location notice, but requires a new, original notice or certificate as prescribed by state law. This relocation usually occurs when a miner fails to timely file the required annual filings and the claim was on federal land that is available for mineral entry, so the miner wants to re-stake the same claim.

HELPFUL AIDS

There are many helpful databases to help you in determining mining claim locations. The federal website shows federal mining claims on a USGS quad map (figure on right). This database is the Spatial Data Management System or SDMS:
<http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/isdms/imf.jsp?site=sdms>



When using SDMS, be sure to turn on the federal mining claims layer. The SDMS database for mining claims is updated regularly.

The State of Alaska's website shows both federal and state mining claims (see figure on next page). Each time the BLM updates the SDMS, the BLM gives the data for federal mining claims to the State.

Additional websites that may be helpful include:

Investigate that Claim Before Buying, Alaska Division of Natural Resources fact sheet:
http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/mine_fs/investig.pdf

Fact Sheet indices for the Alaska Division of Natural Resources:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/factsht/>

State land records on the State of Alaska website for state and federal mapped claims:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/MapAK/>

Alaska Department of Natural Resources Recorder's Office, also eRecording for some districts:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ssd/recoff/searchRO.cfm>

Alaska Miners Association:
<http://www.alaskaminers.org/>

Hein Online (view *Federal Register* notices and the CFRs):
<http://heinonline.org/HOL/Welcome?collection=cfr>

U.S. Government Printing Office Federal Digital System (view *Federal Register* notices, CFRs, legislation, and more):

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action>

Data portal to research federal plats, abstracts, and the SDMS:

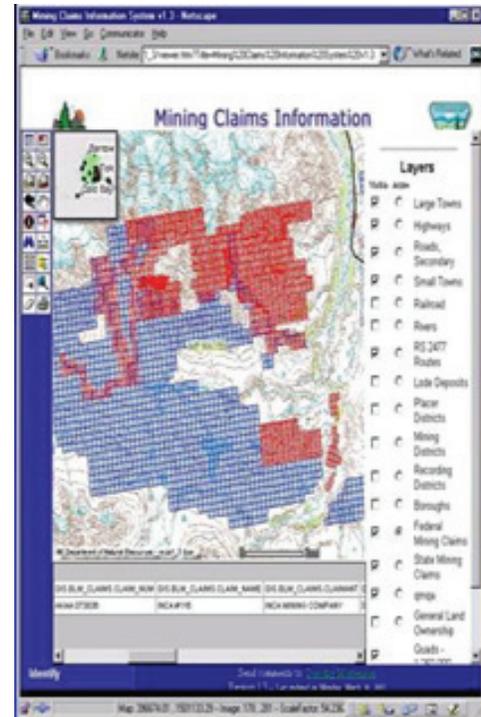
<http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/sdms/>

Alaska Division of Natural Resources Public Information Center:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/index.htm>

Federal website for case abstracts, the Alaska Case Retrieval Enterprise System or ACRES:

http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/acres/acres_menu



Surface Management on BLM Managed Lands

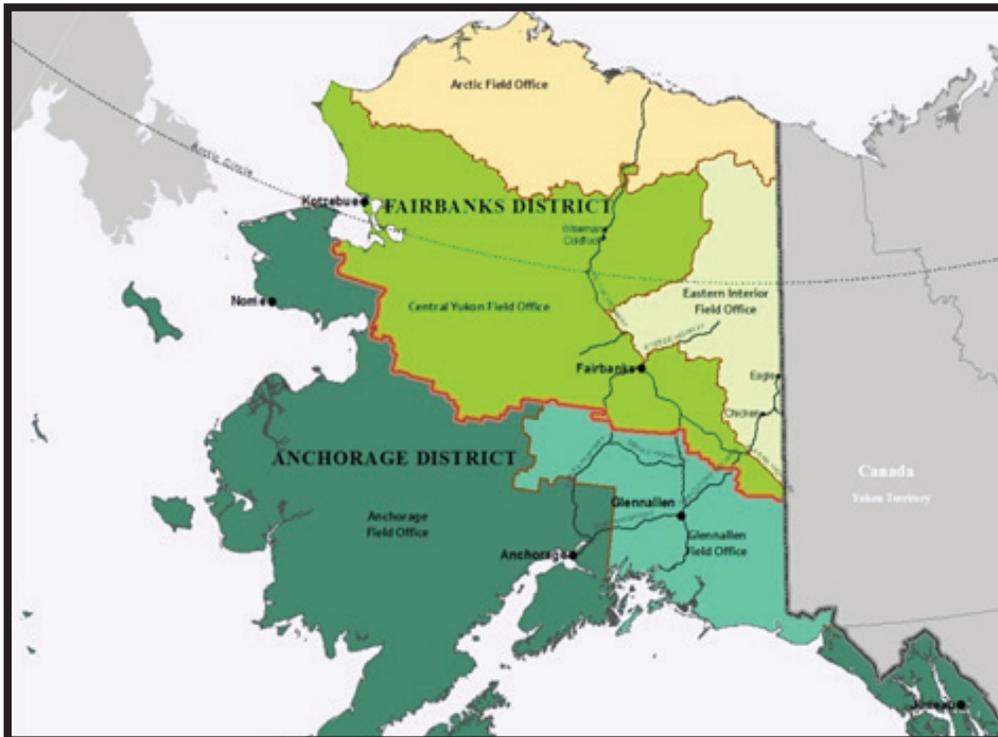
The BLM regulates surface management for mining activity on lands administered by the BLM under 43 CFR 3800 series. If a claim is located within another agency's jurisdiction, such as U.S. Forest Service lands, there are different regulations for surface management and miners need to check with the agency for proper filing procedures.

The miner has the right to use as much of the surface of the claim or site as is reasonably necessary for mining and milling purposes, including: (1) access across federally managed surface to and from the claim or site, (2) use of as much of the timber and other surface resources as is necessary for the mining operation, and (3) construction of fences and gates to protect the immediate area of operations and equipment. Also allowed are temporary and permanent structures for storing equipment, housing for full-time employees, and testing and processing facilities.

1. **Casual Use:** The lowest level of mining activity is "casual use," which identifies a miner or weekend prospector who creates only negligible surface disturbance.
2. **Notice-Level Surface Disturbance:** The second level of activity is notice-level surface disturbance, where five (5) acres (or less) is disturbed per year.

The Notice-Level Surface Disturbance level requires a notice advising the BLM of the anticipated work at least 15 days before beginning work. This notice needs to be filed with the appropriate Field Office. Upon receipt within 15 days BLM will notify you if your notice is incomplete. If the BLM does not take any action within 15 calendar days, you may begin. **Bonding is required.**

- Detailed Plan of Operation:** Before beginning any mining operations involving more than five (5) acres, you must file a detailed plan of operation for reviews and approval by the appropriate BLM-Alaska Field Office (see map below). A review and adequacy required under the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA is required for notice and plan-level operations. **Bonding is required to ensure funds are available for reclamation.** If, or when, a mining claim or claims are closed, the surface management file remains open to ensure reclamation is completed and the BLM authorized officer has approved it.



Administrative Boundaries of BLM-Alaska Field Offices

BONDING:

For BLM-managed lands, miners may use the State of Alaska bond pool through the State of Alaska's Alaska Placer Mining Application or APMA for notices and plans. You may also use personal and/or surety bonds. Before applying for the APMA, it is best to contact the local surface manager to help you determine the best approach towards filing a notice or plan for the operation.

You can find the application for the APMA here:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/13apma/index.cfm>

Reclamation



Satisfactory reclamation should emphasize three major objectives:

1. The productivity of the reclaimed land should at least equal that of the pre-mined surface. This does not necessarily mean that the site must be restored to an approximation of its original condition, or that surface uses after mining will be the same as those that existing before mining. As an example, an area used for marginal grazing prior to mining may be reclaimed to a useful and attractive recreational complex or perhaps a housing area.
2. Satisfactory reclamation should leave the mined area in a condition that will not contribute to environmental degradation, either in the form of air or water-borne materials or from chemical pollution.
3. The reclaimed area should be esthetically acceptable and safe for intended uses.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS UNDER 43 CFR 3809:

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

The BLM may issue various types of enforcement orders, including the following:

- A. **Noncompliance order:** *If your operations do not comply with any provision of your notice, plan of operations, or requirement of this subpart, the BLM may issue you a noncompliance order; and*
- B. **Suspension order:** *(1) The BLM may order a suspension of all or any part of your operations*



Problems encountered over the years on these sites include petroleum products left or improperly stored from past operations.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES UNDER 43 CFR 3809:

3809.700 What criminal penalties apply to violations of this subpart?

The criminal penalties established by statute for individuals and organizations are as follows:

- A. **Individuals:** If you knowingly and willfully violate the requirements of this subpart, you may be subject to arrest and trial under section 303(a) of federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)). If you are convicted, you will be subject to a fine of not more than \$100,000 or the alternative fine provided for in the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, or both, for each offense; and
- B. **Organizations:** If an organization or corporation knowingly and willfully violates the requirements of this subpart, it is subject to trial and, if convicted, will be subject to a fine of not more than \$200,000, or the alternative fine provided for in the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:

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

- Mining claimants and operators (if other than the mining claimant) are liable for obligations under this subpart that accrue while they hold their interests.



Improperly stored equipment can cause compliance problems.

General Information Contacts

Public Information Center, *Anchorage* 907-271-5960
Anchorage Federal Building and Courthouse
222 W. 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99513

Public Information Center, *Fairbanks* 907-474-2200 or 1-800-437-7021
1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709

BLM-Alaska Surface Management Contacts

Anchorage State Office Mining Contact:

- Rob Brumbaugh (Anchorage) 907-271-4429

Anchorage District Office Mining Contacts:

- Anchorage Field Office:
James Whitlock 907-267-1284
- Glennallen Field Office:
James Whitlock 907-267-1284
- Nome Field Station:
Tom Sparks 907-443-2177

Fairbanks District Office Mining Contacts:

- Eastern Interior Field Office (Steese and the 40 mile):
Michael Gibson 907-474-2263
- Central Yukon Field Office:
Tim Hammond 907-474-2210

BLM Alaska Mineral Law Adjudicators

Julie Capps (Anchorage) 907-271-3197
Melody Smyth (Anchorage) 907-271-5536

Mining Claim Fee Requirements

MINING CLAIM FEES

DOCUMENT REQUIRED	DUE DATE	FEES (per claim)
Notice/Certificate of Location	Within 90 Calendar days of Claim Location	\$15 - Processing Fee \$34 - Location Fee * \$140 - Maintenance Fee Total Fees Due - \$189 per claim

* All association placer mining claims are subject to the maintenance fee schedule listed on the following page.

NOTES:

1. For those claims located **PRIOR** to September 1, or the end of one assessment year but filed with the BLM **AFTER** September 1, the beginning of the next assessment year; maintenance fees charged will apply to both the assessment year located and the assessment year filed.
2. Forward recorded copies of the Location Notice and the Annual Affidavit of Labor to the BLM for inclusion in the mining claim case file.

WAIVER FROM PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE

(You **must** own 10 or fewer claims per person and/or sites per person - **NATIONWIDE**)

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	DUE DATES (on or before)	FEES (per claim)
Form 3830-2 Small Miner Waiver	September 1	No Fees
Affidavit of Assessment *	December 30	\$10
Notice of Intent to Hold **	December 30	\$10

* Affidavit of Assessment, along with the appropriate processing fee – May be submitted with the Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification.

** Notice of Intent to Hold – Must be filed the first calendar year in which claims are located, and may be submitted with waiver form .

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEE

All maintenance fees must be paid on or before September 1 of each calendar year. **Claimants are responsible for providing a list of claims and a list of the BLM serial numbers with payment of the maintenance fees. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the claim(s). The BLM will not provide a list for claimants.**

ACREAGE IN THE CLAIM	MAINTENANCE FEE PAYMENT DUE
<= 20 acres	\$140.00
<= 20 acres and <= 40 acres	\$280.00
>= 40 acres and <= 60 acres	\$420.00
>= 60 acres and <= 80 acres	\$560.00
>= 80 acres and <= 100 acres	\$700.00
>= 100 acres and <= 120 acres	\$840.00
>= 120 acres and <= 140 acres	\$980.00
>= 140 acres and <= 160 acres	\$1,120.00

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

TRANSFER OF INTEREST / AMENDED NOTICE OF LOCATION

DOCUMENT REQUIRED	DUE DATE	PROCESSING FEE
Copy of Recorded Quitclaim Deed		\$10 per claim, per grantee
Copy of Recorded Amended Notice of Location	Within 90 days of recording Amended Notice in proper recorder’s office	\$10 per claim, per amendment

AFFIDAVITS OF ASSESSMENT AND QCD’S MUST BE NOTARIZED PRIOR TO RECORDING WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA

NOTES:

1. For each mining claim or site transferred, the cost is \$10 per claim per grantee/transferee.
2. Quit Claim Deeds and Amendments must be recorded at the local **recording district in which the claims are located before filing with the BLM.**

Examples of Mining Claim Forms

Revised 2/10
DNR 10-162V
MTRSC

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE MINING LOCATION NOTICE / CERTIFICATE
(FOR MTRSC CLAIMS ONLY)



CLAIM NAME/NUMBER: Must be included

DISCOVERY DATE: _____

LOCATOR INFORMATION:

(The locator is the owner. Print the Name / Address below where correspondence should be sent):

POSTING DATE: ***** _____

SIZE OF CLAIM ****** (check one)

1. Owner's Name: Legal name only

FULL Quarter Section (160 acres):: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Quarter-Quarter Section (40 acres) _____

City, State Zip: _____

RECORDING DISTRICT: _____

Contact Phone: Important information

ADDITIONAL LOCATOR'S / OWNER'S (PRINT)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Give the complete legal description below.

2. Owner's Name: _____

Meridian: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Township: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Range: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Section: _____

3. Owner's Name: _____

Quarter Section: Required by regulations

Mailing Address: _____

Qtr-Qtr Section (if 40 acres) _____ of _____

City, State Zip: _____

CREEK NAME: (optional)

Contact Phone: _____

ALL OWNERS OR THEIR AGENTS MUST SIGN:

CLAIM SKETCH:

I hereby certify that, on the date above, a location notice was posted on the monument at the NE corner of this claim, to the best of my knowledge, in accordance with applicable State statutes and regulations.

(See instructions on reverse side.)

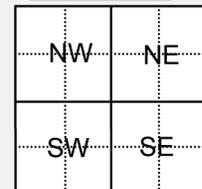
Optional In place of the claim sketch below, a separate map showing the location of this site is:

1. Owner / Agent: _____

Attached to this certificate.

Claim Sketch

2. Owner / Agent: _____



3. Owner / Agent: _____

Attached to the certificate for the following claim:

Print

Agent's Name: _____

1 IN = 1 MI

Attach an extra sheet for Additional Owners and Signatures

- \$140.00 Qtr Section of a Township First Rental.
 - \$ 35.00 Qtr-Qtr Sec. of a Township First Rental.
- Due Within 45 Days Of Posting.**

Div of Mining, Land & Water Use:

ADL

* POSTING DATE: **Must be filed with BLM within 90 days of this date**

** SIZE OF CLAIM: **Acreage or dimensions must be identified**

You may download State forms from <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>

Be sure to indicate the type of claim, federal regulations require a legal description to the quarter section:

- See “Mining Claim Fee Requirements” for fees
- The BLM will accept a document that has (or will be) recorded with the State of Alaska. If recorded after filing with the BLM, please provide the BLM with a copy of the recorded document.
- These descriptions must be filed with the BLM WITHIN 90 calendar days of claim location.

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE MINING LOCATION NOTICE / CERTIFICATE
(FOR MTRSC CLAIMS ONLY)



CLAIM NAME/NUMBER: _____

DISCOVERY DATE: _____

LOCATOR INFORMATION:

(The locator is the owner. Print the Name / Address below where correspondence should be sent):

1. Owner's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

POSTING DATE: _____

SIZE OF CLAIM (check one)

FULL Quarter Section (160 acres): _____

Quarter-Quarter Section (40 acres) _____

RECORDING DISTRICT:

ADDITIONAL LOCATOR'S / OWNER'S (PRINT)

2. Owner's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

3. Owner's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Give the complete legal description below.

Meridian: _____

Township: _____

Range: _____

Section: _____

Quarter Section: _____

Qtr-Qtr Section (if 40 acres) _____ of _____

CREEK NAME: (optional)

ALL OWNERS OR THEIR AGENTS MUST SIGN:

I hereby certify that, on the date above, a location notice was posted on the monument at the NE corner of this claim, to the best of my knowledge, in accordance with applicable State statutes and regulations.

1. Owner / Agent: _____

2. Owner / Agent: _____

3. Owner / Agent: _____

Print

Agent's Name: _____

Attach an extra sheet for Additional Owners and Signatures

CLAIM SKETCH:

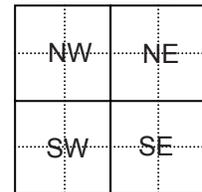
(See instructions on reverse side.)

Optional In place of the claim sketch below, a separate map showing the location of this site is:

Attached to this certificate.

Attached to the certificate for the following claim:

Claim Sketch



1 IN = 1 MI

<input type="checkbox"/> \$140.00 Qtr Section of a Township First Rental.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35.00 Qtr-Qtr Sec. of a Township First Rental.
Due Within 45 Days Of Posting.

Div of Mining, Land & Water Use:
ADL

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MAINTENANCE FEE WAIVER CERTIFICATION

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 1004-0114
Expires: August 31, 2013

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2

1. This small miner waiver is filed for the assessment year beginning on September 1, _____ and ending on September 1, _____.
2. 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 September 1, _____.
3. The undersigned have performed the assessment work required by law for each mining claim listed prior to filing this waiver and understand that by filing this form, the undersigned must file an affidavit of assessment work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by the December 30th following the filing of this waiver.
4. The undersigned understand that if the assessment work obligation has not yet come due under 30 U.S.C. 28 (for those claims in their first assessment year only), a notice of intent to hold reciting this condition must be recorded by the December 30th following the filing of this waiver.
5. The undersigned understand that mill and tunnel sites may also be listed on this waiver and be waived from payment of the maintenance fee, and that a notice of intent to hold for these sites is required to be filed with the BLM by the December 30th following the filing of this waiver.
6. The undersigned understand and acknowledge that pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1212 and 18 U.S.C. 1001, the filing or recording of a false, fictitious, or fraudulent document with the BLM may result in a fine of up to \$250,000, a prison term not to exceed five years, or both.
7. 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 RECORDATION SERIAL NUMBER
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

The owner(s) (claimants) of the above mining claims and sites are:

_____	_____
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
_____	_____
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)

_____	_____
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
_____	_____
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)

_____	_____
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
_____	_____
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)

_____	_____
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
_____	_____
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Continued on page 2)

(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)
(Owner's Name - Please Print)	(Owner's Signature)
(Owner's Mailing Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)

18 U.S.C. 1001 and 43 U.S.C. 1212 make it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This certification is made under the provisions of 43 U.S.C. § 1744 and 30 U.S.C. §28-28k and the regulations thereunder (43 CFR Part 3830).
2. The claimant(s) must fill in the dates in paragraph 1 for the beginning and ending of the assessment year for which this waiver is sought.
3. The claimant(s) must fill in the date in paragraph 2 for the beginning of the assessment year for which this waiver is sought.
4. All claim and site names and BLM serial numbers must be listed for the mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites for which the waiver is sought.
5. All owners of the mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites and their addresses must be given.
6. This waiver form must be signed by all the claimants or their designated agent, in original form. If an agent is designated, a notarized designation of agent, signed by all of the claimants with proper address given, must be submitted with this waiver.
7. This form must be filed no later than September 1st for the upcoming assessment year in the BLM State Office where the mining claims or sites are recorded, or the waiver cannot be granted by the BLM. (Example: To obtain a waiver for the assessment year 2012, which begins on September 1, 2011, you must qualify for and file for a waiver no later than September 1, 2011, in the proper BLM State Office.)
8. For all mining claims which require assessment work, you must record an affidavit of labor on or before the December 30th immediately following the filing of this waiver. For all other mining claims or sites waived, you must record a notice of intent to hold on or before the December 30th immediately following the filing of this waiver.
9. Mill and tunnel sites may also be listed on this waiver and be waived from payment of the maintenance fee. A notice of intent to hold for these sites is required to be filed by the December 30th following the filing of this waiver.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NOTICES

The Privacy Act and 43 CFR 2.48(d) require that you be furnished the following information in connection with the information requested by this form.

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3835 permit collection of the information requested by this form.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: The BLM will use the information you provide to verify that the owner(s) (claimants(s)) of a mining claim has/have complied with 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3835 and is/are entitled to perform assessment work in lieu of paying the maintenance fee for the mining claims listed on this form.

ROUTINE USES: The BLM will only disclose this information in accordance with the provisions at 43 CFR 2.56(b) and (c).

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION: Disclosure of the requested information is required by 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3835 for those claimants qualified to request the small miner waiver allowed. Failure to submit all the requested information or to complete this form will delay the BLM's processing of the form and may preclude the BLM's acceptance of the maintenance fee waiver request, which may result in forfeiture of the mining claim or site by the claimant.

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires us to inform you that:

The BLM collects this information to determine whether or not you are qualified for waiver of maintenance fees.

Submission of the requested information is necessary to obtain or retain a benefit.

You do not have to respond to this or any other Federal agency-sponsored information collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

BURDEN HOURS STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. You may submit comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (1004-0114), Bureau Information Collection Clearance Officer (WO-630), Mail Stop 401 LS, 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

You may download the Maintenance Fee Waiver Certification form from:

[http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/ak/aktest/minerals/minerals_pdfs.Par.23996.File.dat/BLM_3830-2_9-2010\[1\].pdf](http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/ak/aktest/minerals/minerals_pdfs.Par.23996.File.dat/BLM_3830-2_9-2010[1].pdf)

You may download this form from the State of Alaska website:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>

- See “Mining Claim Fee Requirements” for fees
- Filing Deadline, Close of Business December 30
- The BLM will accept a copy of the affidavit that has been, (or will be) recorded with the State of Alaska. If recorded after filing with the BLM, please provide the BLM with a copy of the recorded document.
- Mailed affidavits will only be accepted by the BLM if the postmark is on or before December 30.

AFFIDAVIT OF ANNUAL LABOR FOR MINING



This affidavit of annual labor is for the assessment year, which ended at noon on September 1, 20_____.

Correspondence should be sent to:

Recording District: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Meridian: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Twn: Rng: Sec(s) _____

City, State Zip: _____

Twn: Rng: Sec(s) _____

Twn: Rng: Sec(s) _____

Names of Mineral Locations:

ADL Numbers:

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Work was performed on the following dates: _____ Number of person days worked: _____

Description of work performed: _____

Declared value of work performed during this labor year, not including claim maintenance: \$ _____

Value of excess work (credit) to be applied from previous labor year(s) (if applicable): \$ _____

Amount of any cash payment made to the state instead of performing labor: (if applicable)
(NOTE: Cash payments made to the state in-lieu-of performing labor must be received prior to September 1. This affidavit must still be timely recorded.) \$ _____

Name(s) and address(es) of person(s) who did the work:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

City, State Zip: _____

I, _____, swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true.
(Print Name)

Notary Block

Subscribed and sworn before me

x _____
(Signature of Affiant)

this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Signature of notary: _____

My commission expires: _____

*You may download this form from the State of Alaska website:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>

- See “Mining Claim Fee Requirements” for fees
- All transfers/QCDs must be recorded in the local recording district prior to filing with the BLM.

You may use the following **optional** forms when paying maintenance fees for placer or lode claims and tunnel or mill sites.

There are no recording requirements for these forms in Alaska.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
**MAINTENANCE FEE PAYMENT FORM
FOR PLACER MINING CLAIMS**

Remitter Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Check here if this is a change of address.

FOR COUNTY RECORDER'S USE

No. of claims _____

Total due BLM \$ _____

1. The maintenance fee may be paid by cash, check, money order, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Declining Deposit Account, or credit card (VISA, American Express, Discover, or MasterCard). Payments must be remitted to the BLM State Office where your claim or site is recorded and received on or before September 1. If the payment is mailed, the envelope must be postmarked by a bona fide delivery service on or before September 1 and received at the proper BLM State Office within 15 calendar days after the due date. Payments may also be made by telephone using a credit card. A complete listing of BLM State Offices with their addresses and phone numbers can be found at <http://www.blm.gov>.
2. The maintenance fee for the following claim(s) applies to the assessment year _____.

CLAIM NAME	BLM SERIAL NO.	ACRES IN CLAIM	PAYMENT DUE TO THE BLM (See Instructions on Page 2)

Use a separate sheet for additional claim names, serial numbers, and claimant names and addresses.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This is an optional form that may be used to satisfy the requirements for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the provisions of 43 U.S.C. §1744 and 30 U.S.C. §28f and the regulations thereunder (43 CFR part 3834). Since local and State laws may vary, you should contact your local and State agencies where the claims are located to ensure all applicable laws and requirements are satisfied.
2. This form should be used to pay the maintenance fee for placer mining claims only. To pay the maintenance fee for lode mining claims, mill sites or tunnel sites, use Form 3830-5.
3. Complete the section for the number of claims and the amount being remitted to the BLM.
4. Enter the year in paragraph 2 for the applicable assessment year.
5. List all mining claim names and the BLM serial number associated to the claim if the BLM has notified you what the serial number is. Every attempt should be made to include the current BLM serial number for each claim listed. List the acreage for each claim and the amount due based on the acreage. See the chart below for amounts due.
6. The maintenance fee for placer mining claims is paid for every 20 acres of the claim **or portion thereof**. When making a maintenance fee payment for your placer claim, you should make your payment in accordance with the following chart:

Number of acres in the claim	Maintenance Fee Payment Due Per Claim
20 acres or under	\$140
21 acres – 40 acres	\$280
41 acres – 60 acres	\$420
61 acres – 80 acres	\$560
81 acres – 100 acres	\$700
101 acres – 120 acres	\$840
121 acres – 140 acres	\$980
141 acres – 160 acres	\$1,120
Over 160 acres	Contact the BLM

7. The name and current mailing addresses of the person paying the maintenance fee(s) should be listed at the top of the form. If this is a change of address for a claimant, that should also be noted.
8. If needed, an additional sheet can be used to continue listing claim names, BLM serial numbers, acres in claim, payment due or the name and current mailing address of additional claimants.
9. If paying by credit card, you must complete the following credit card information on page 4: (a) exact name on the face of the credit card; (b) amount paid; (c) type of card; (d) credit card number; (e) expiration date of the card; and (f) telephone number. You must also sign page 4 to show authorization to charge the credit card.

NOTICES

THE PRIVACY ACT and 43 CFR 2.48(d) require that you be furnished with the following information in connection with the information requested by this form.

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3834 permit collection of the information requested by this form.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: The BLM will use the information you provide to record the annual maintenance fee payment for the claims listed and to verify that payment has been made in accordance with 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3834.

ROUTINE USES: The BLM will only disclose this information in accordance with the provisions at 43 CFR 2.56(b) and (c).

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION: Disclosure of the requested information is required by 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3834 for claimants paying the annual maintenance fee. The use of this specific form when paying the maintenance fee is optional. However, when paying the maintenance fee, it is the requested information on this form that is required to be submitted along with the fee. Failure to submit all the required information will delay the BLM's processing of the information and may preclude the BLM's acceptance of the maintenance fee payment, which may result in forfeiture of the mining claim(s) by the claimant.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS:

Exact name as shown on credit card: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Type of Card: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiration Date: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Signature: _____

Title 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 43 U.S.C. 1212 make it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

NOTE TO BLM EMPLOYEES: DETACH THIS PAGE BEFORE FILING THIS FORM IN APPLICABLE CASE FILES.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
**MAINTENANCE FEE PAYMENT FORM FOR
LODE CLAIMS, MILL SITES, AND TUNNEL SITES**

Remitter Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Check here if this is a change of address.

FOR COUNTY RECORDER'S USE

No. of claims/sites _____
x \$140 per claim/site
Total due BLM \$ _____

1. The maintenance fee may be paid by cash, check, money order, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Declining Deposit Account, or credit card (VISA, American Express, Discover, or MasterCard). Payments must be remitted to the BLM State Office where your claim or site is recorded and received on or before September 1. If the payment is mailed, the envelope must be postmarked by a bona fide delivery service on or before September 1 and received at the proper BLM State Office within 15 calendar days after the due date. Payments may also be made by telephone using a credit card. A complete listing of BLM State Offices with their addresses and phone numbers can be found at <http://www.blm.gov>.
2. The maintenance fee for the following claim(s)/site(s) applies to the assessment year _____.

CLAIM/SITE NAME	BLM SERIAL NO.

Use a separate sheet for additional claim/site names, serial numbers, and claimant names and addresses.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This is an optional form that may be used to satisfy the requirements for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the provisions of 43 U.S.C. §1744 and 30 U.S.C. §28f and the regulations thereunder (43 CFR part 3834). Since local and State laws may vary, you should contact your local and State agencies where the claims are located to ensure all applicable laws and requirements are satisfied.
2. This form should be used to pay the maintenance fee for lode mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites only. To pay the maintenance fee for placer mining claims, use Form 3830-5a.
3. Complete the section for the number of claims and the amount being remitted to the BLM.
4. Enter the year in paragraph 2 for the applicable assessment year.
5. List all mining claim or site names and the BLM serial number associated to the claim or site, if the BLM has notified you what the serial number is. Every attempt should be made to include the current BLM serial number for each claim or site listed.
6. The name and current mailing addresses of the person paying the maintenance fee(s) should be listed at the top of the form. If this is a change of address for a claimant, that should also be noted.
7. If needed, an additional sheet can be used to continue listing claim and site names and BLM serial numbers, or the name and current mailing address of additional claimants.
8. If paying by credit card, you must complete the following credit card information on page 3: (a) exact name on the face of the credit card; (b) amount paid; (c) type of card; (d) credit card number; (e) expiration date of the card; and (f) telephone number. You must also sign on page 3 to show authorization to charge the credit card.

NOTICES

THE PRIVACY ACT and 43 CFR 2.48(d) require that you be furnished with the following information in connection with the information requested by this form.

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3834 permit collection of the information requested by this form.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: The BLM will use the information you provide to record the annual maintenance fee payment for the claims and sites listed and to verify that payment has been made in accordance with 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3834.

ROUTINE USES: The BLM will only disclose this information in accordance with the provisions at 43 CFR 2.56(b) and (c).

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION: Disclosure of the requested information is required by 30 U.S.C. 28f and 43 CFR part 3834 for claimants paying the annual maintenance fee. The use of this specific form when paying the maintenance fee is optional. However, when paying the maintenance fee, it is the requested information on this form that is required to be submitted along with the fee. Failure to submit all the required information will delay the BLM's processing of the information and may preclude the BLM's acceptance of the maintenance fee payment, which may result in forfeiture of the mining claim(s) or site(s) by the claimant.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS:

Exact name as shown on credit card: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Type of Card: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiration Date: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Signature: _____

Title 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 43 U.S.C. 1212 make it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

NOTE TO BLM EMPLOYEES: DETACH THIS PAGE BEFORE FILING THIS FORM IN APPLICABLE CASE FILES.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet: *Investigate that Claim Before Buying*



Division of Mining, Land & Water
January 2011

All of a sudden you have the opportunity to invest in a gold mine – in Alaska yet! Gold! Alaska! The Last Frontier! A dream come true! Sounds great, **BUT...**

At the risk of shattering your aspirations, we suggest taking the time to sit down, collect your senses, and most of all, **hold on to your money** until you have educated yourself as to what you may be getting into. If you don't, your dream could become a nightmare!

As a prospective claim buyer or investor, **investigate the facts!** Gold fever always sparks a lot of interest and it's a seller's market. Keep in mind the old Latin phrase: "caveat emptor" – Let the buyer beware.

First of all:

- Realize there is no occupation man is so anxious to enter into, with so little knowledge, as mining!
- In Alaska, there are two sets of mining regulations to become familiar with, State and federal, depending on who manages the land on which a claim may be located. **Regulations differ considerably** and can be confusing.
- Alaska land status is complex and can lead to problems also. Besides State and federal ownership, you may encounter private and Native Corporation ownership of land.
- Easily accessible areas, with a history of mining, are, for the most part, already claimed – some more than once! The "unexplored frontier", often associated with Alaska, is largely a myth.

Help is available! Several State and federal agencies offer assistance to the would-be miner. Initially, the best sources of information are the State's Department of Natural Resources Public Information Center (Anchorage and Fairbanks), or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Information offices. Hopefully you haven't made that investment yet and still have time to investigate a few facts. To do this, gather some basic information:

ASK THE SELLER:

1. Is the claim state or federal? What is the claim name and number?
2. Who is the owner of record? Claims can have more than one owner. In such cases, remember if only the interest of one owner is being transferred, you will be a partner with other owners of record.
3. Ask for a **recorded copy** of the claim location certificate. All claims must be recorded in the State Recording District Office in which they are located within 45 days after staking. A recorded copy of the claim location certificate would have on it the Recording District Office stamp, date of recording, document number or book and page number.

From this basic information you will have an idea whom to contact for further information. The current status of a State mineral location can be determined by contacting the Department of Natural Resources Public Information Center in Anchorage or Fairbanks. These offices maintain all case file records for mineral properties located on State or State-selected land in Alaska. If the mineral location is federal, contact the Bureau of Land Management Public Information Office in Anchorage if the claim number is preceded with an "A" or "AA"; or in Fairbanks if the claim number is preceded with an "F" or "FF". (See agency points-of contact page.)

These offices can inform you whether or not the claim is in good standing administratively by reviewing existing computer data or by existing paperwork available for review in the case file records; however, other factors enter into claim validity – factors that are often challenged in a court of law, especially if claim conflicts exist. These could include:

1. Whether the claim was established following the guidelines of appropriate State or federal regulations, including:
 - Whether a "discovery" of a locatable mineral actually took place. The seller should be able to prove what type of discovery took place, i.e. geochemical sampling, panning, or drilling. If a visit to the location is possible, obtain permission to do your own sampling.
 - Whether actual claim staking took place. Are posts or monuments erected? Are boundary lines brushed or flagged? Or, was the claim "paper-staked"?
 - Whether the claim was properly recorded within 45 days of the date of staking in the District Recorder's Office in which it was located.
2. Whether annual cash rental has been paid in a timely manner. On State mining claims the rental year begins at noon on September 1 and ends at noon on September 1 of the following year. Payments must be received no later than November 30 of the same year. Annual rental amounts vary. For a Traditional Location it is \$35 per year for the first five years; \$70 per year for the second five years; and \$170 per year thereafter for up to 40 acre mining claims. The rental for an MTRSC Location (160 acres) is \$140 per year for the first five years; \$280 per year

for the second five years and \$680 per year thereafter. The penalty for failure to make a timely payment is abandonment of the location.

NOTE: A word of caution, if the staking date of a mining claim on State land is prior to September 1 of a particular year, two annual rental payments will be required. The first is due no later than 45 days after the staking date of the location, and the second, no later than November 30. An Annual Rental “Fact Sheet” is available from the Public Information Center in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

On federal claims, a \$140 per claim rental fee is required for existing claims on or before August 31 of each year. Rental fees for new claims are due when they are filed with the Bureau of Land Management. Contact the BLM for details.

3. Whether Annual Labor or assessment work has been accomplished on a continuing basis; was acceptable; and has been properly recorded and filed according to State or federal regulations. (NOTE: Again, regulations vary considerably here! Detailed information can be obtained by contacting the appropriate information source for State and federal claims.) *****Be careful of claims offered for sale after September 1. This is the end of the annual labor year on both State and federal claims. Assessment work must have been accomplished for any specific year prior to that date and recorded no later than November 30th for the State claims and December 30th for federal claims. Have the seller show you, in writing, a properly recorded affidavit.**

4. Whether the claim is in conflict with other mineral locations. Claim conflicts do occur and often end up in court when the parties involved cannot resolve the problem themselves.

AS THE BUYER:

There are other important concerns you should be aware of or have clarified before taking the big plunge of investing:

1. Is the seller legitimate and reputable? What is their mining, prospecting, or geological background? Is it documented? If so, how can it be verified?
2. Have any valuable minerals ever been produced or found on the land? Historical and geological reports on most areas in the State are available through the State Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey or the U.S. Geological Survey. (See agency points-of-contact page.)
3. Can the seller produce proof that he has operated on the claim? Depending on the type of equipment used, permits are normally required before any type of mining operation can begin. Operators who have submitted Annual Placer Mining Applications (APMAs) for intended mining activity involving mechanized equipment can be confirmed through a State Division of Mining, Land and Water Permitting Office.

4. Be aware of what rights you have with a mining claim! A common **misconception** is that the **buyer is actually buying the land. This is not true**, unless the mining property has been patented under federal law and the owner has title to the land. (Patents are not issued under State mining laws.) Without a patent, the seller is only transferring their actual interest in the mining claim to you. Ownership of the land remains with the State, federal, or local government. As a claim owner, you have the right to possession and extraction of the minerals; but,:

- You may not use a mining claim for purposes other than mining. Incompatible uses would include residential use, placing any surface improvement on the claim without written approval; and use of the claim to pursue recreational or business interests such as hunting, fishing, trapping, guiding, or outfitting.
- You may not restrict public access without written approval from the land manager.
- If a third party has interest in the surface estate of a State mining claim, such as a grazing lease for example, you could be required to reimburse the lessee for damages caused by the use or development of the location.

5. Is the claim compatible with the type of mining you intend to do? For example, you intend to conduct suction dredging activities and the claim is located on a salmon spawning stream. If this is the case, be aware of the time frame restrictions as to when actual dredging can take place – generally from May 15 to July 15 annually. Note that on federal lands (federal mining claims), suction dredging is authorized at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. Consultation with the specific field office of jurisdiction for the area of interest is recommended before suction dredging decisions are made.

6. Access – Are you familiar with the claim’s general location? Is it reasonably accessible? If travel “cross country” is involved, check land status. Native corporation land, parks, refuges, stream crossings, area plans, type of equipment, time frame for intended travel, restrictive right-of-ways, etc., are potential problem areas. Charter flights to a “fly-in” only area can be expensive.

7. Water Rights – Are existing water rights associated with the claim? Water rights are registered with the State of Alaska and a certificate issued by the State’s Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, and Land & Water. Will they be transferred as part of the purchase? What is the availability of water in that particular stream during the course of a mining season?

8. What permitting requirements are there for mining activities, which include transportation of equipment; exploration; or actual mining, in Alaska? It’s important to know any such activity must be fully permitted before “start-up” can begin.

9. Can mining even be conducted on your claim? In recent years, lawsuits against the State and federal governments have restricted or stopped mining activity altogether in certain areas.

This information should assist a potential claim buyer in making a logical decision as to what they might be getting into. Further assistance concerning specific subject areas can be obtained by contacting the agencies listed below.

SUBJECT AREA	STATE CONTACT	FEDERAL CONTACT
Mining Information Claim status Land status Forms General information	Department of Natural Resources Public Information Center 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1260 Anchorage, AK 99501-3557 Phone: 907-269-8400 3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699 Phone: 907-451-2705	Bureau of Land Management Public Room 222 West 7th Ave., #13 Anchorage, AK 99513-7599 Phone: 907-271-5960 Fairbanks District Office 1150 University Avenue Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844 Phone: 907-474-2251
Mine Permitting	Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land & Water 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900B Anchorage, AK 99501-3577 Phone: 907-269-8647 3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99503-5935 Phone: 907-451-2788	Bureau of Land Management Anchorage District Office 4700 BLM Road Anchorage, AK 99507-2591 Phone: 907-267-1246 Fairbanks District Office 1150 University Avenue Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844 Phone: 907-474-2251
Water Rights	Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land & Water 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1020 Anchorage, AK 99501-3577 Phone: 907-269-8600	None - all water rights are issued through the State's Department of Natural Resources.