



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

5001 Southgate Drive

Billings, Montana 59101-4669

www.blm.gov/mt

In Reply Refer

NOTICE

MINING CLAIMS UNDER THE GENERAL MINING LAWS SURFACE MANAGEMENT – RECLAMATION BOND

Please be advised that on January 20, 2001, the regulations at 43 CFR 3809 require all BLM Notice-level and Plans of Operation to provide a reclamation bond for their surface disturbance. This notice applies only to mining claims located on BLM-Administered land. See regulations at 36 CFR 228A for surface management and bonding regulations on Forest Service lands.

Anyone intending to develop mineral resources on the public lands must prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land and reclaim disturbed areas. If your activity does not qualify as casual use, you must submit a notice or plan of operations.

BLM classifies casual use, for which an operator needs not notify BLM, as the following:

Casual use generally includes the collection of geochemical, rock, soil, or mineral specimens using hand tools; hand panning; or non-motorized sluicing. It may include use of small portable suction dredges, the use of metal detectors, gold spears and other battery-operated devices for sensing the presence of minerals and hand and battery-operated drywashers. You must reclaim any casual use disturbance that you create.

Casual use **does not include** the use of mechanized earth-moving equipment, truck-mounted drilling equipment, motorized vehicles in areas when designated as closed to "off-road vehicles", chemicals, or explosives. It also does not include "occupancy" or operations in areas where the cumulative effects of the activities result in more than negligible disturbance.

Notice-level operations and Plans of Operation must be submitted for review or approval to the local BLM Field Office having jurisdiction over the lands involved **prior to any exploration or mining causing surface disturbance greater than casual use.**

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Miles City, MT 59301-0940
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North Dakota Field Office
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Butte Field Office
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Lewistown Field Office
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(406) 538-1900

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