

Gold Mining Claim Secrets

An Easy, Step-By-Step
Guide To Claiming
Gold Mining Rights

GoldMiningClaimSecrets.com

Disclaimer

Just a few words before we get started.

I am not an attorney, nor do I claim to be one. If at any point you are uncertain about anything pertaining to the legal aspects of anything covered in this guide, I encourage you to seek professional advice from a qualified individual.

On that same note, although I am very confident that an individual can make money using the content in this guide, I cannot and do not legally guarantee that anyone will.

Individual results are dependent on multiple variables such as land availability, filing processes, an individual's personal motivation, amount of time dedicated to implementing these techniques, current government process knowledge, and the level of accuracy used when deploying these techniques.

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Introduction

Congratulations on taking the first step in the adventure of staking mining claims!

If you're anything like me, you're very excited to find out everything you can about how to secure your own mining claim, that will give you access to countless valuable minerals including GOLD!

This guide is pretty straight-forward and meant to get you going in the right direction as swiftly as possible.

I won't be covering how to mine for gold. In fact, there are tons of great resources available online and offline that can detail for you the best strategies and equipment to use for gold mining.

I'll keep the focus on the specifics of mining claims.

In fact it still amazes me how many people have no idea that the U.S. Government allows for staking of mining claims to this very day.

It's such a powerful tool to be used for active or passive income that it would be a shame if more people like you weren't shown how to do it.

But, enough about other people...let's focus on YOU and getting YOU up to speed with what this process is all about, and get you on your way to staking YOUR very own mining claim.



Gold

It's been estimated by geologists that only 11% of the gold in the world has been recovered so far.

This is excellent news!

That means that there is still plenty of gold to be mined out there.

Not only that, but the United States is the 3rd largest producer of gold in the world, which means the U.S. is one of the best places to be for mining and recovering gold deposits.

In addition, many people have been able to recover gold from their mining claims in amounts that turn a handsome profit with very little money spent to acquire the claims.

At the time of this writing gold prices have been steadily climbing, and approaching \$900 an ounce. That has made gold prospecting a great moneymaker once again.

So whether you are interested in staking a mining claim as a hobby to keep you busy, or if you plan to find and stake claims with the intent to resale them for a profit, there has been no better than now to do this.



Mining Claims

What Is a Mining Claim?

In 1848 gold was discovered in California. Tens of thousands of people rushed to these areas to stake claims on the newfound treasure.

Then other mineral discoveries were made in other states. There was lead in Colorado, silver in Nevada and more gold in the Dakotas.

The difficulty that came about with these mineral finds was that they were happening on Federal lands. At that time, there weren't any standardized procedures in place to handle the transfer of property from the United States government to the private hands of miners.

To fix this situation for them, the miners decided to develop their own laws and procedures for the ownership and claiming of mineral rights.

In an attempt to remedy this situation, U.S. Congress passed the Mining Law of 1872.

The Mining Law of 1872 grants both citizens and companies the right to explore for hard-rock minerals and establish rights to federal lands without authorization from any government agency. These standards of free access are the basis of the Mining Law, which remains the law of the land today. (With the exception of small amendments made along the way)

The price of getting these rights is surprisingly small. Someone filing a mining claim can acquire outright title to both public land and mineral rights by obtaining a mineral patent at a cost of from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre.

Over the last 100 years all someone had to do to maintain mining rights was to satisfy an annual work requirement.

In 1992 Congress assessed a holding fee of \$125 per year but that appears to be the only fee claimants risk for their mineral speculation.



Any successful claimant does not pay any royalties on minerals pulled from public lands. (This is not meant as tax advice; please consult a tax professional regarding the claiming of profits made from your mining claim).

It's estimated that as of the time of this writing, there are more than 300,000 active mining claims, mostly from large mining firms, on record with the Bureau of Land Management.

One of the most fascinating details about lands claimed for mining is that the sum total of federal lands, excluding National Parks and other protected areas, under claim is less than 2 percent of available land.

Another astonishing estimation is that nine out of ten of these most promising sites will be abandoned as unproductive and never fully mined.

All citizens of the United States 18 years or older (as well as partnerships and corporations) have the right under the General Mining Act of 1872 to locate a lode (hard rock) or placer (gravel) mining claim on federal lands open to mineral mining.

These claims may be located once a discovery of a locatable mineral is made. Locatable minerals include, but are not limited to, platinum, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, uranium and tungsten.

You don't necessarily need a mining claim in order to mine a mineral on an open piece of public land.

However, without a proper mining claim in place, the land remains open to others to mine minerals as well. In other words, you will have a way to secure or defend any rights to that area's deposits.

Another important point to make known is that you can stake a claim on a piece of land that you are hopeful will produce valuable minerals, prior to actually making a discovery.



While this gives you some time to actually start doing some prospecting on the claim, you are only granted what's known as initial possession rights until the time that you actually make a discovery on the land.

Where Can I Stake A Claim?

By now you probably are wondering “what areas are open for mining claims?”

Well, mining claims can be located on two types of lands:

1. Private land
2. Public land

Since this guide focuses on staking claims on public land, we'll spend most of our time on that type of land; in particular because you want to be able to secure rights to land at a minimal cost rather than deal with a private land owner.

Public lands are defined as land owned by the federal government that are open to mining.

Some examples of public lands as defined by the government are as follows:

1. National Parks
2. National Monuments
3. National Grasslands
4. Military Reservations
5. National Forests
6. Indian Reservations
7. BLM Land (Bureau of Land Management)



8. Wilderness study areas

9. Wildlife refuges

10. Wilderness areas

There are some rules concerning mining on these lands that should be noted.

The only public lands from this list that you are able to stake mining claims on are the **highlighted** ones.

To restate, you can **only** stake mining claims on **BLM Land, National Forests, and Wilderness Study Areas.**

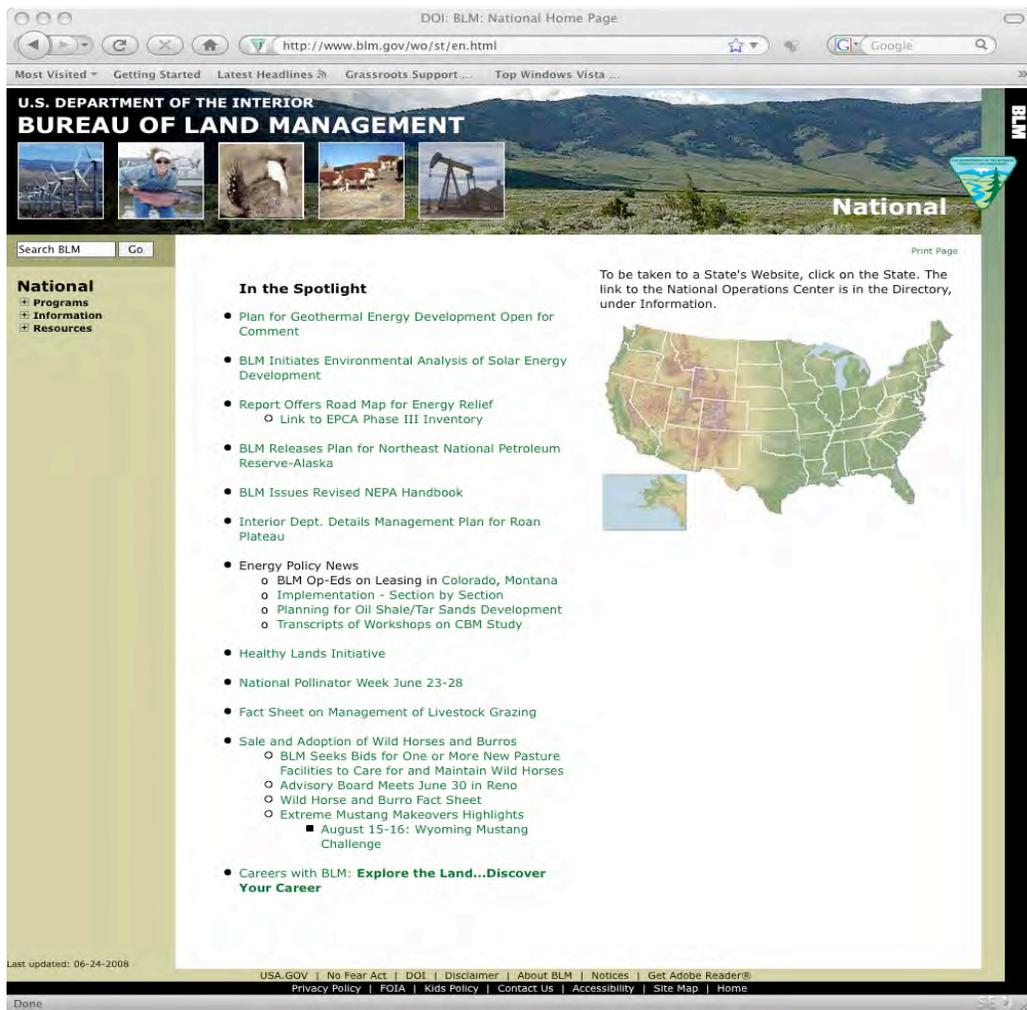


Figure 1 - BLM Main Website at BLM.GOV



The states that have these types of public lands are listed below for reference:

1. Alaska
2. Arizona
3. Arkansas
4. California
5. Colorado
6. Florida
7. Idaho
8. Louisiana
9. Mississippi
10. Montana
11. Nebraska
12. Nevada
13. New Mexico
14. North Dakota
15. Oregon
16. South Dakota
17. Utah
18. Washington
19. Wyoming

Now, if you don't happen to live in one of these states don't be worried.

The good thing is that you don't have to actually be a resident of one of these states to stake a claim in them.



Don't think scarcity, think abundance! Again, geologists have documented that only an estimated 11% of all the gold available has been found so far...that's a whopping 89% still out there waiting to be found!

“This is a tremendous opportunity considering many people are completely unaware that they can even stake these types of claims with the government.”

So, don't let geography worry you. In fact, even if you're in a state with no public lands open to mining claims, chances are excellent that your state has set aside some public land for recreational mining.

This means you can still go out on these lands and mine gold...and keep every last piece for yourself. The only real difference is that you cannot stake a claim for yourself on these lands that would prevent someone else from mining on that area.

There are many books and publications available that list those states and also information about where to go to mine these state owned public lands. I encourage you to do a bit of research on this type of mining if it interests you or your particular situation.



The Two Types of Mining Claims

First off, be advised there are two types of mineral claims open to prospectors: lode claims and placer claims.

A lode claim is the classic vein of valuable mineral in a defined boundary of rock.

Placer claims are all claims not confined in a lode such as loose sand or gravel. The maximum size for a placer claim is 20 acres.

To give a little bit easier explanation, think of lode deposits as those that you can picture a miner using a pick-axe to chip away at the mineral vein in rock.

Placer mining is the type of mining that is usually done either in a stream or along a stream bank. (I.e. the pictures of gold panning come to mind).



Figure 2 - Placer Gold Mining With a Sluice Box



I can't tell you which is better for your particular needs. Just keep in mind when we get to the portion of this guide that addresses the forms you file with the BLM to secure the rights to your mining claim, that there are separate forms for each of these two types of mining claim.



Figure 3 - The Classic Gold Pan Tool

If you would like to learn more about these two types of mining, I would recommend any of the great books that are out there about the actual physical ways to mine gold and minerals. They could do a much better job of detailing them than I could, since this guide is focused on actually staking the actual claim on the land.

In addition, here's a link for some more information about placer mining and lode mining:

<http://www.goldminingclaimsecrets.com/mining-types/>



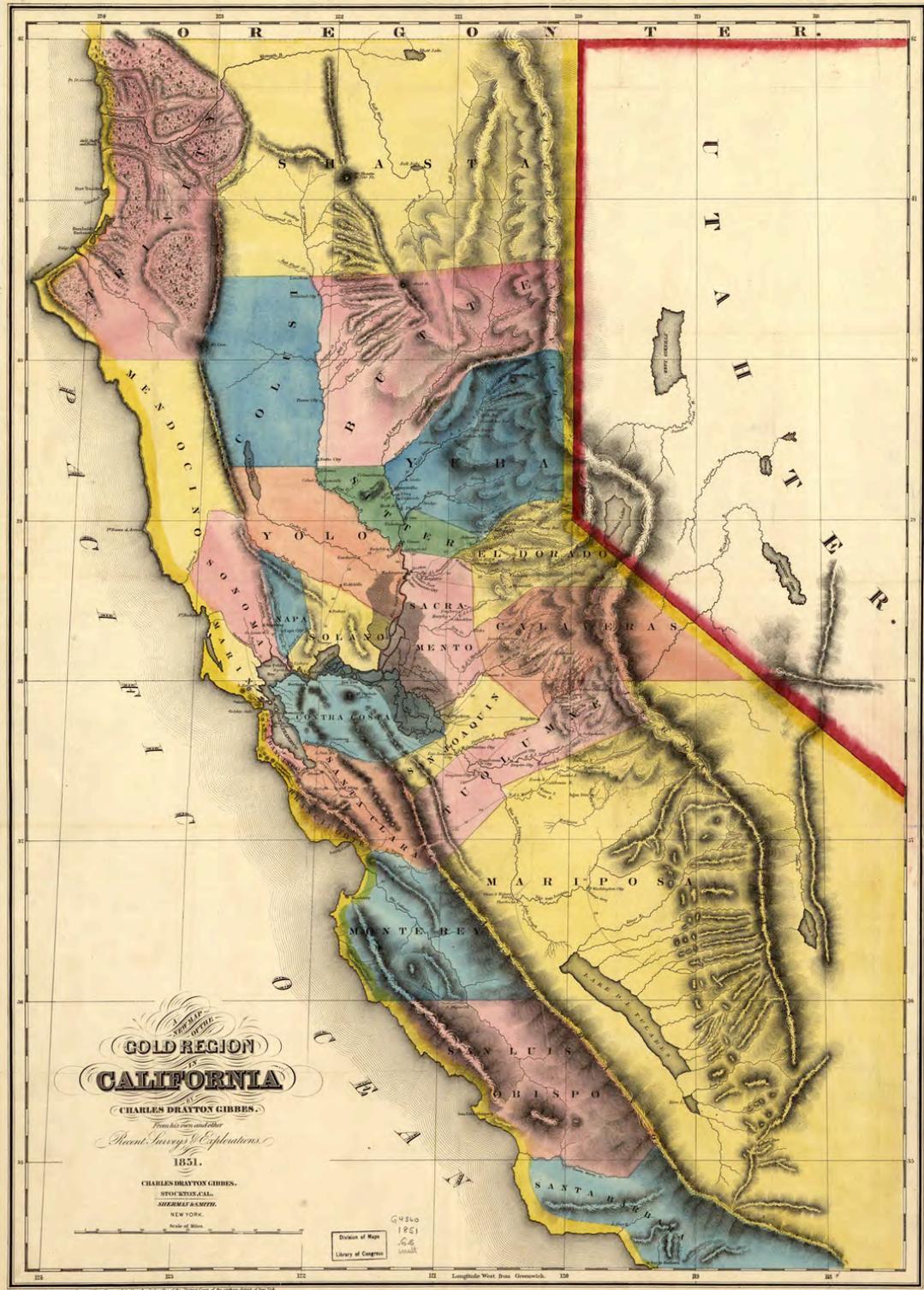


Figure 4 - 1851 Gold Map of California



Mining Claim Research

So, your first step in staking your mining claim involves researching the area or areas that you are interested in.

Start broad, and then refine your area of interest down to an exact section.

I recommend beginning with choosing a state.

At the state level, you will find mining claim information at two agencies:

1. County Recorders Office for the area you are researching (where the claims have been made)
2. The State office of the Bureau of Land Management

Since the BLM manages and maintains the national forest lands, they are the best place to get up-to-date and current information, where the local county recorder's office may be behind in updating their maps and data.

Best of all, at the time of this writing, there is no charge for using the BLM records, so this is really a cost effective way to find your land to claim.

You would be best served to get yourself a BLM Mineral Management Map. Sometimes, it's also referred to as a Surface Management Map. This map can be bought for only a few dollars from your state BLM office, and it will be well worth the investment.

This map will allow you to get a good overview of the areas you are interested in so you can make note of the sections you want to "dig deeper" into to research.

At this point you're still choosing your "areas of interest", so don't be afraid to make a big list. The more areas you have to choose from, the better your chances are that you will be able to find an area that is still open to be claimed.

Once you have your areas of interest list compiled, then you'll need to go to the local office of the BLM to have a look at their mining claim indexes. At



the time of this writing some states have made their mining claim indexes available online, so that can really help speed up the process. If something should change with this convenience, however, then this research can still be done at their office. I've included a list of state BLM websites at the end of this guide for your reference.

Mining Claim Indexes

Mining claim indexes can be somewhat confusing at first glance, but once you understand how the information is laid out, then you'll quickly be able to maneuver through them without any issues.

First thing to make note of, is that the information in the claim indexes are listed in a certain format structure:

1. Geographic location
2. Serial number of the Mining Claim
3. Alphabetical listing by claim name
4. Alphabetical listing by owner name

Again, this index may seem confusing at first, but rest assured it isn't too tough. In fact, I've found the employees at the BLM office to be excellent at guiding first time claim researchers through this index. The first time I went to do research myself, they were very willing to answer all my questions even though I'm sure they had heard them before.



So, let's get back to the claim index. It's easiest to begin your research using the geographic location portion of the index. Mining claims get listed for each section of a township.

Once you've looked at the list of claims, you'll want to find its exact location. You can do this by asking for the case file for the claim and find its original location notice.

There should be a map on the file that will show the precise location of the mining claim.

The point in doing all of this is to start to see the area you are interested in, in relation to the existing mining claims on file. You'll start to see a "pattern" of sorts that will indicate to you where gold has been found already.

In addition, you can look for open "gaps" between claims that will present an opportunity for you to stake your own claim, since you can't claim land that has already been claimed.

Another interesting thing that this researching will uncover is that you can see mining claims that have been "abandoned" or not up to date on their paperwork filing. (When claims are no longer up to date, they become open to being claimed again by someone else)

This is truly where the "easy finds" are at. What better place to stake a mining claim, than where a claim once was?

Think about it. People have hectic, busy lives. They may have had interest in gold mining as a hobby at one point, and went through all the trouble of researching areas, making a discovery, filing the paperwork and whatnot.

But, then their interest falls, and they forget about it. Or maybe, they forgot to file the claim renewal paperwork that you need to do every year.

It's really easy to see how these things can slip away from people, so don't discount the value of taking advantage of the low hanging fruit. Don't do more work than you need to.



Researching Mining Claims Online

The federal government never ceases to amaze me. They've just made my life and yours a whole lot easier when it comes to claim researching.

They recently launched an online locator tool that is AMAZING!

Talk about cutting your research time down to almost nothing, this thing has everything you need at your fingertips.

To get acquainted with it, head over to the department website that has it:

<http://www.goldminingclaimsecrets.com/geo-locator/>

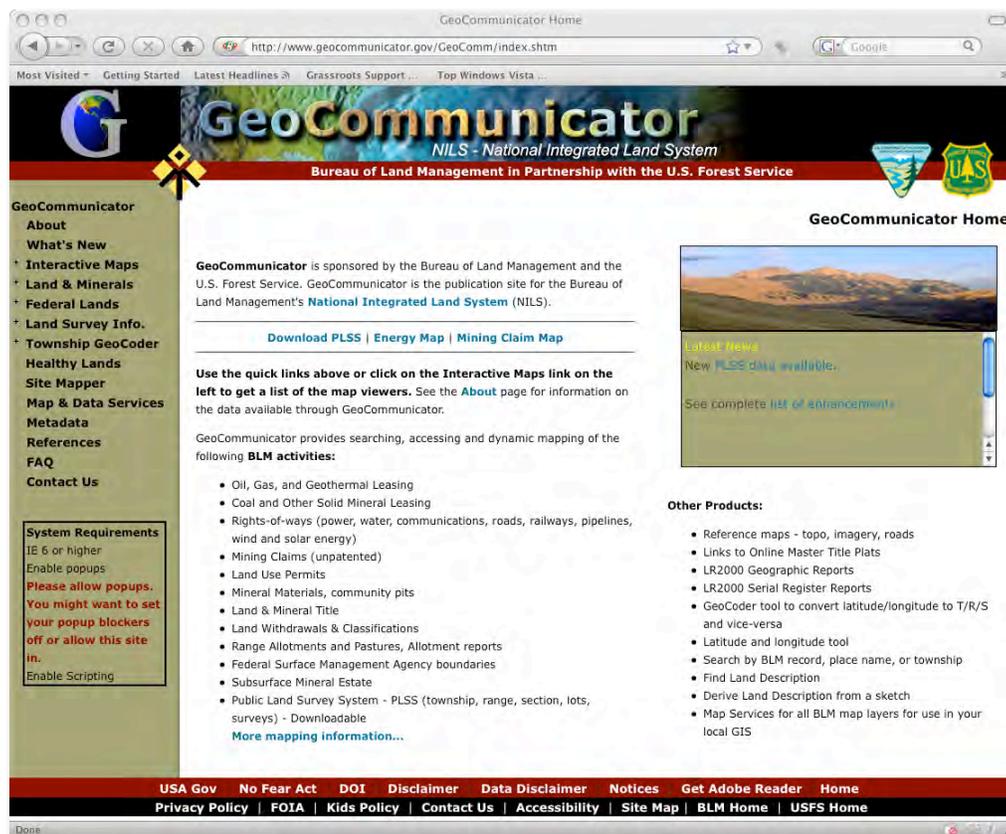


Figure 5 - Locator Tool Homepage



You'll want click on the section that says "Mining Claims Map"

The next thing to load up should be what you see below, which is the tool itself. Pretty neat huh?

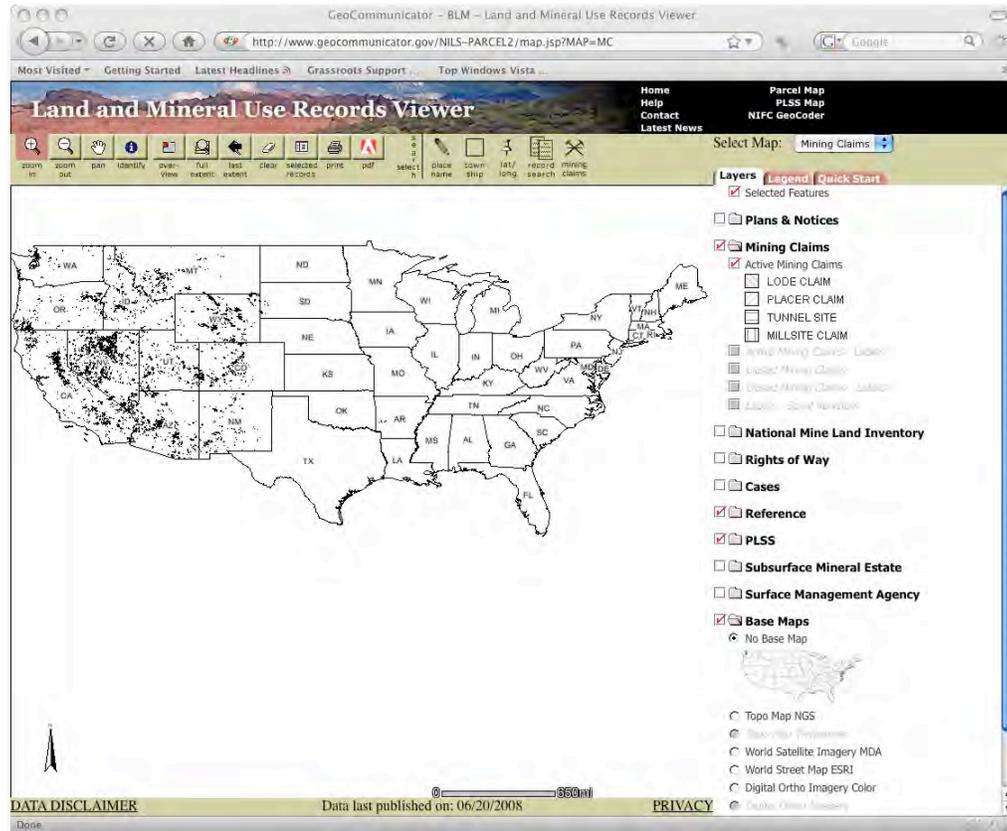


Figure 6 - Records Viewer Tool

They even include a very nice instruction manual you can download that teaches you all about the tool and how to use it best.

You can view the instruction manual at the link below:

<http://www.goldminingclaimsecrets.com/LM-2007-Guide/>



So, go ahead, play around with the search tool. Have a look in the areas you had your eye on already.

You can activate extra map details on the right hand column to allow it to even show you the names of the mining claims that are listed, as well as another check box you can select to show you where mining claims used to be that have expired.

The sooner that you feel comfortable with navigating around on this tool, the sooner you'll be able to quickly find areas you want to stake claims on and then transfer the data the tool gives you onto the claim staking forms to file.



Mining Claim Locating

So now that you have done your research, the next step is to actually go out and mark your claim. Just keep in mind, while this doesn't have to be perfect, your markers do need to be as close to the public survey system lines as possible.

Making a proper notice of your claim is really important. It shows to others that they are not able to mine on your claim, as well as provides visual boundaries for yourself if you choose to mine on the claim yourself. In addition, your 4 post markers define the corners of your claim.

There are three typical forms of marking a claim. They are a location monument, corner posts, and a discovery monument.

Here are the rules for them:

1. If using a rock cairn, it needs to be at least two (2) feet high
2. If using a wooden post, it must be at least 3.5 inches in diameter and stand above the ground a minimum of 3 feet.
3. A PVC or metal post can be used, and it does not need to be 3.5 inches in diameter. However, it does need to still be a minimum of 3 feet tall.

The rules on marking a claim vary from state to state, so be sure to check with your actual location to find out what they require.



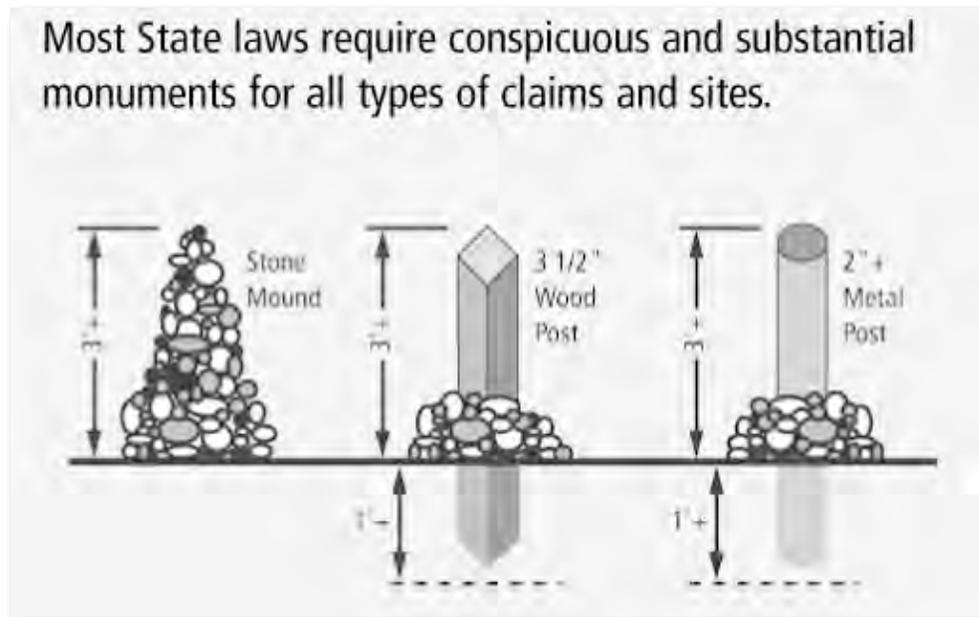


Figure 7 - Example of BLM Recommended Monuments

Some states want all four corners to be posted with signs naming each corner (SW, NW, NE, and SE), some only require a single location monument, while others may require both.

Something that is common to all though, is that once you have your post(s) in place, you will need to attach a small container to house your official “Notice of Location” paperwork. It would be best if you chose a plastic, water-tight container for your notice to be stored in. I’ve seen quite a few people use 35mm film containers for this, that they duct tape to the post. It’s a cheap and effective solution, in my opinion.



Your notice of location needs to include some specific information, listed below for reference:

1. Name and address of locator or locators
2. The name of your claim (the name you chose for it)
3. Date of location (it's the same as the posting date)
4. Amount of acreage claimed
5. The meridian, township, range, section and location within the section, county, mining district (if available) and state.

Again, if you have any questions about the exact requirements for the state that you're staking a claim in, be sure to refer to the BLM office and they will tell you exactly what needs to be listed on your Notice of Reference.



Making Official Record of Your Claim

The last step in this claim staking process is filing the required paperwork with the appropriate agencies.

There are two entities that you must file your Notice of Location with:

1. The County Recorders office in the county where your claim is located.
2. The State Office of the BLM

The following Document contains no Personal Information
as defined by NRS 603A.040

**CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION
PLACER MINING CLAIM**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The locator hereby certifies that he has caused to be located the _____ Placer Mining Claim in the following quarter sections(s):

1/4	Section	Township	Range	Meridian

RECORDER'S STAMP

in _____ County, Nevada, on the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Name and mailing address of locator is: _____

The Placer Claim is approximately _____ feet in the _____ direction. Said Placer Claim contains _____ acres, more or less. The monument of location is located on the north boundary of the Claim, as follows: _____

The number, location and markings on each corner monument are as follows:

	Location	Markings	Description
No. 1:	_____	_____	_____
No. 2:	_____	_____	_____
No. 3:	_____	_____	_____
No. 4:	_____	_____	_____

As erected on the ground, each corner monument is marked as described above by _____ (e.g. metal tags, paint on posts).

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20__.

NAME OF LOCATOR: _____

By _____
 Owner, Claimant, or Agent Name (printed)

Suggested Form - Nevada Division of Minerals (REV. 11/29/2007 LV)
 Nevada Placer Certificate of Location - NRS 517.110
 Not Located by Aliquot Part of Rectangular Survey

Figure 8 - Example State BLM Location Form (Nevada)



Now, just to point out, when filing the Notice of Location with these entities make sure that you enter the exact same information on the paperwork with these two entities as it reads on the Notice you have on location at the claim. This way, you are certain that no “clerical” errors may cause you headaches down the road if any questions should arise over your rights to the mining claim.

Also, there are specific timeframes that these forms must be filed in order for your claim to be valid.

Once you locate a claim you have anywhere from 30-90 days to file your paperwork with the County Recorder and the office of the BLM. Some states allow the 90 day timeframe, but just to be on the safe side, make sure you check with the particular state you’ll be staking in for their requirements.

One stipulation that the BLM requires from you when you file your claim is either a topographical map that shows the boundaries of your claim, or a drawing/sketch with a narrative depicting its location using visual landmarks and other geographical identifiers.

In my opinion, it’s far easier to just submit a topographical map with your paperwork, and have your boundaries outlined on it for reference. That way you leave as little as possible to be open to dispute further down the road.



Also, it bears to mention that by merely filing these forms, it does not make your mining claim valid. The BLM is not in the business of checking your claim against existing claims to make sure they do not overlap, or that your claim meets all the requirements under mining law (such as discovery or assessment).

Since these mining claims take place on State or Federal lands, any disputes that could arise pertaining to claim validation, claim jumping, etc. are handled in either State or Federal court.

The bottom line is, a little extra effort in the beginning to do the proper research and paperwork filing, can save you tons of headaches later down the road should you decide to sell your claim, or begin mining the area at a good pace.



Figure 9 - Near Gold Mining Areas in Central Arizona



Filing Fees Associated with Mining Claims

It's amazing how minimal the fees are to claim these government lands. In fact that was the thing that really got me excited when I started this adventure in the first place.

The specific fees actually vary somewhat, but here's a good idea to use as a guideline:

1. County Recorder:

Fee varies quite a bit, but can range from \$5 on up. I haven't heard of someone paying more than \$30 though, so best to check with the local County Recorder for the area you'll be staking a claim in to see what their fee schedule is.

2. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

At the time of this writing, the BLM charges a \$15 filing fee as well as a \$30 location fee. Other than those two fees, they also collect your first year's maintenance fee which is \$125. I still can't believe that you can claim government land for as little as \$170, but it's true.

Table 1. List of Fees for Filing Mining Claim and Site Document with the BLM (October 2006)

New Location Notice (per claim/site) a total of \$170 that includes:	
Service Charge (recording fee)	\$15
Location Fee	\$30
Initial Maintenance Fee	\$125
Notice of Intent to Locate Mining Claims	
on Stockraising Homestead Act Lands (each notice)	\$25
Amendments/Transfers of Ownership (per claim/site).	\$10
Notice of Intent to Hold (per claim/site)	\$10
Affidavit of Annual Assessment Work (per claim/site)	\$10
Annual Maintenance Fee	\$125
Petition for Deferment of Assessment Work (per petition)	\$90
Mineral Patent Application	
10 claims or less	\$1,260
11 or more claims.	\$2,520

Figure 10 - BLM Filing Fees as of Oct. 2006



Once your mining claim has been processed and approved, you then have rights to remove minerals from the land. You aren't permitted to do other things with the land; however there are some provisions set aside that you *can* do that relate to the mining of the land:

1. You can build houses for full time mining employees
2. You can build fences on the property
3. You are also permitted to use as much timber on the land as needed for the mining operation.



One of the most attractive benefits of owning a mining claim is that it is treated as real property. This means the mining claim can be:

1. Bought or Sold
2. Transferred to another party
3. Lease to another person or company
4. Rented to another person or company
5. Willed to someone
6. Inherited from someone else.

Another great thing about the yearly \$125 maintenance fee is that you can file to have the fee waived so long as you meet a few requirements:

1. You own fewer than 10 mining claims (so called small-miner waiver)
2. You show that you have made improvements to the land during the year such as land surveying, performing sampling, drilling, or road construction.

This is truly one of the last few ways that almost anyone can take possession of rights to government owned land for almost pennies. Not only that, but you are then granted the right to sell, lease, or will the rights to others.

How much better could this get?



Buying or Selling Mining Claims

At some point, you'll want to explore the option of selling your mining claim. Or, you might decide you would rather buy someone else's claim so you can get started quickly mining.

Either way, you must be very cautious and do the proper research necessary. For instance, there have been many instances of people attempting to sell mining claims that they don't even own.

Just keep in mind that there are bad and good people everywhere. In addition, anytime large sums of money get mixed into things, then there's always the risk that someone will try to pull a fast one to make a quick buck or two.

The BLM and County Recorder's offices will be your first stop to research a certain claim prior to you making any purchase. Make certain that the person trying to sell you the claim is actually the one listed as the true owner of it.

If the amount of money changing hands is large enough to make you feel uncomfortable, I would recommend having an attorney look over all the documents prior to closing the deal. It never hurts to have a professional double check all the details.

Here's a link to a pretty popular spot online to see listings of mining claims that are for sale:

<http://www.goldminingclaimsecrets.com/claims-for-sale/>



Online Auctions

In addition to that site, there are a lot of listings on eBay. Even if you have no interest in buying a claim (I personally wouldn't, since you now know how easy it is to do on your own), eBay is a great place to advertise your claim if you decide to sell.

I know of a few folks that have turned this into their own business; staking good claims, then filing the paperwork and then selling the claims off on eBay. Take a look at the picture below for an example of a recent eBay auction to get an idea of what these claims sell for.

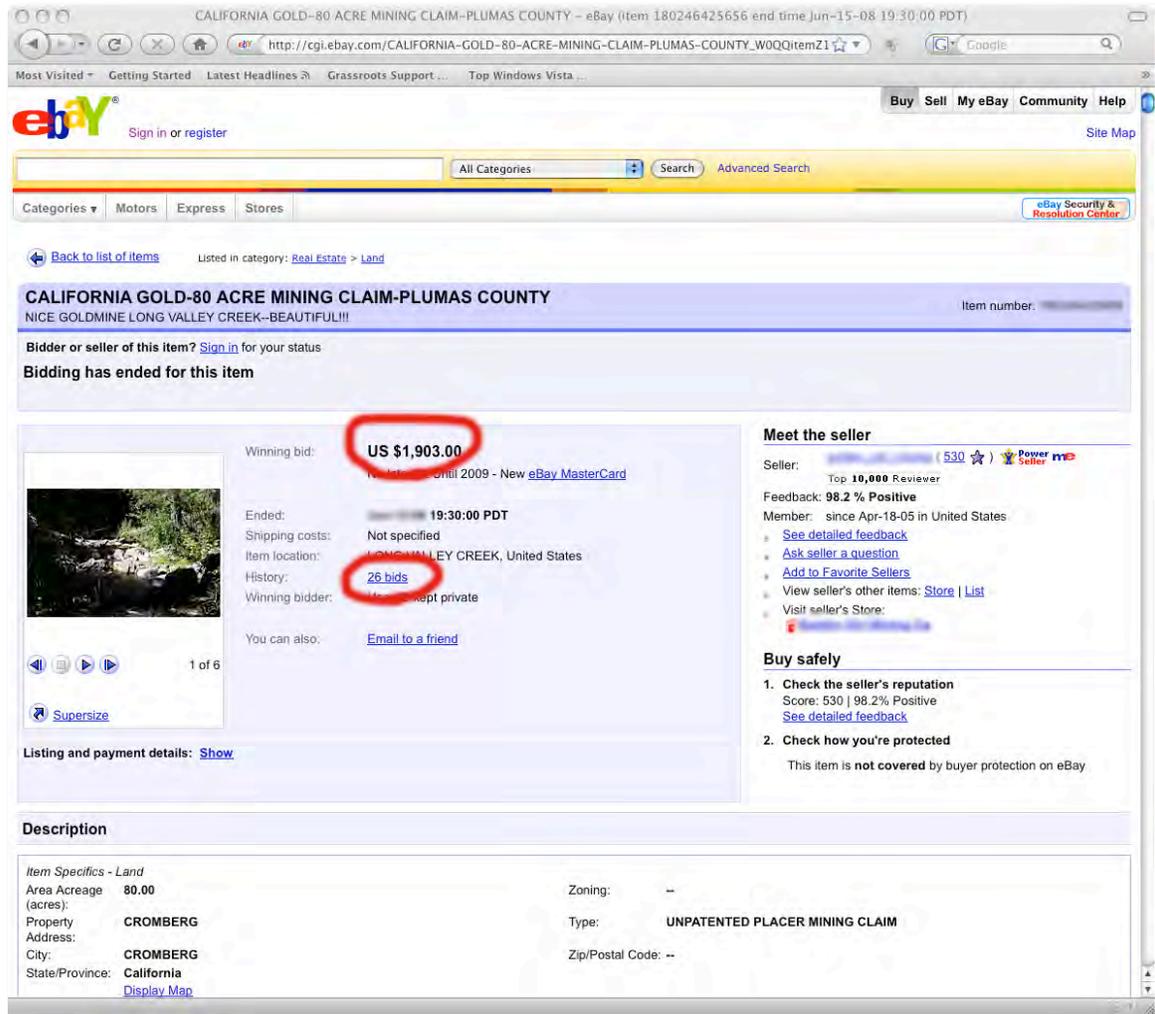


Figure 11 - eBay Auction for a Gold Mining Claim



Wrapping It All Up

Staking a mining claim isn't really that tough. The hardest part will be to make the decision to actually do it. It may sound strange, but procrastination is your enemy here.

There is no magic involved. In fact, you now have an unfair advantage over millions of other U.S. citizens that will never find out what you now know.

You have a head start.

Don't let putting this off for another day keep you from getting out there and having some fun. Not only that, but how could it be any better that not only is this treasure hunting fun, but it can also be profitable.

Imagine spending your extra time on staking great claims that you can mine?

Imagine being able to sell them for a handsome profit if you so choose?

Imagine being able to leave these claims behind as an inheritance for your family or loved ones?

What better could you do?

Best wishes to you on your treasure filled adventures!

