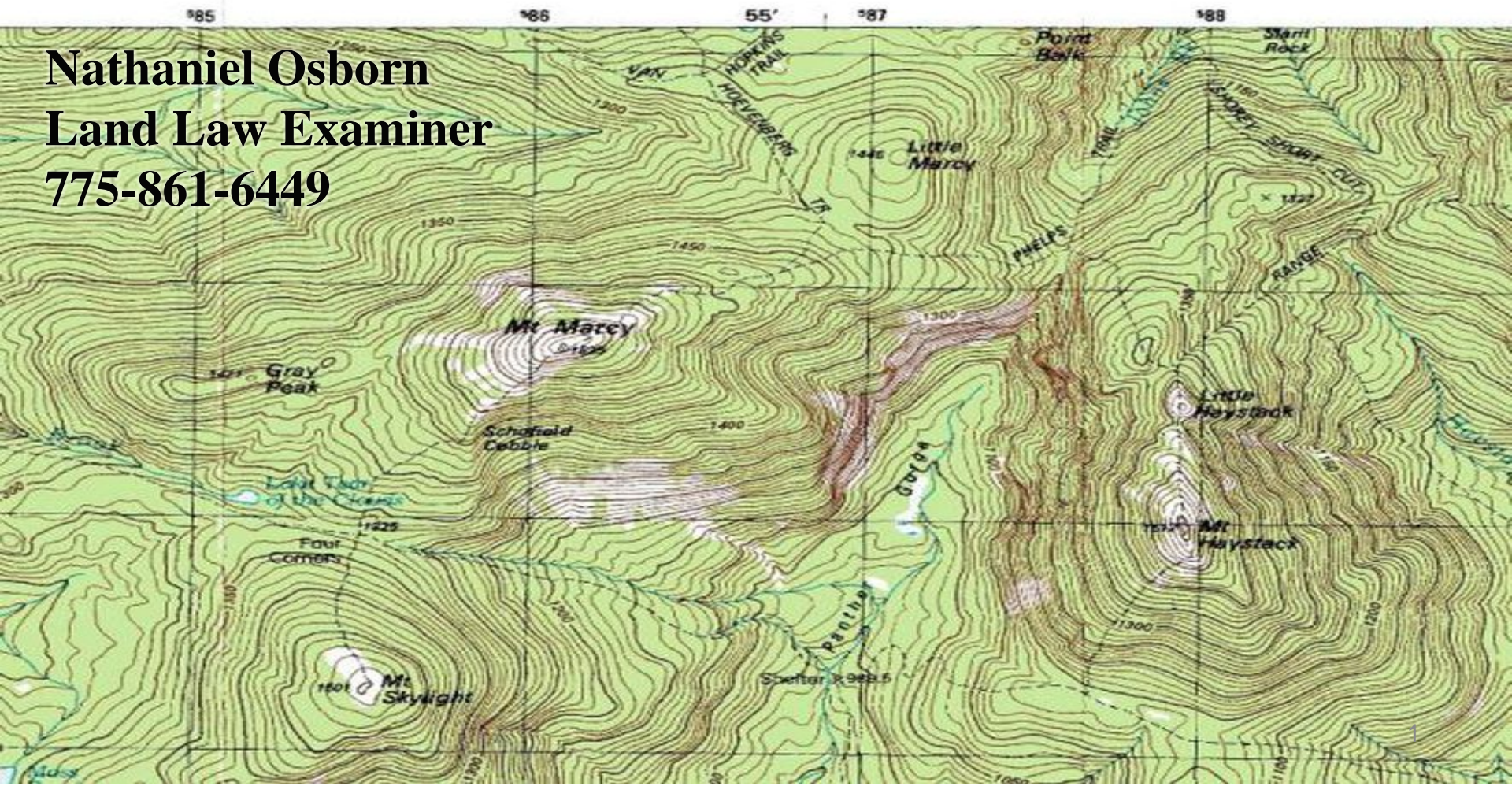


U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Mapping a Claim

**Nathaniel Osborn**  
**Land Law Examiner**  
**775-861-6449**





# Questions

- Before I begin, let me say that if you need some clarification about the topic at hand, please ask and I will try to clarify.
- Also, I'm sure we will have time at the end of this presentation for a question and answer session. So if you want to, you can write down your questions and we will do our best to answer them.



## Where do we begin?

- To start, let's say you're out wandering around the back country in Nevada when, you kick over a rock and you make a discovery.



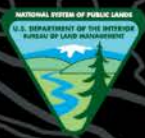


# Monument

- Next, you erect a discovery monument.
- This is where you made your discovery and it is where you want to establish a mining claim.







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**You need to document where  
your mining claim is.**

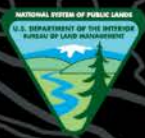


## Map it...

- How are you going to map the location of your claim?







# PLSS

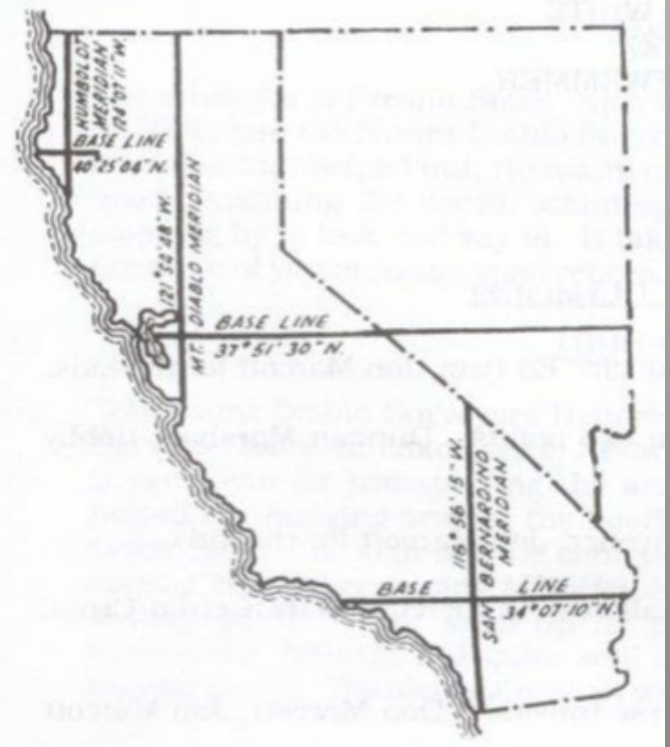
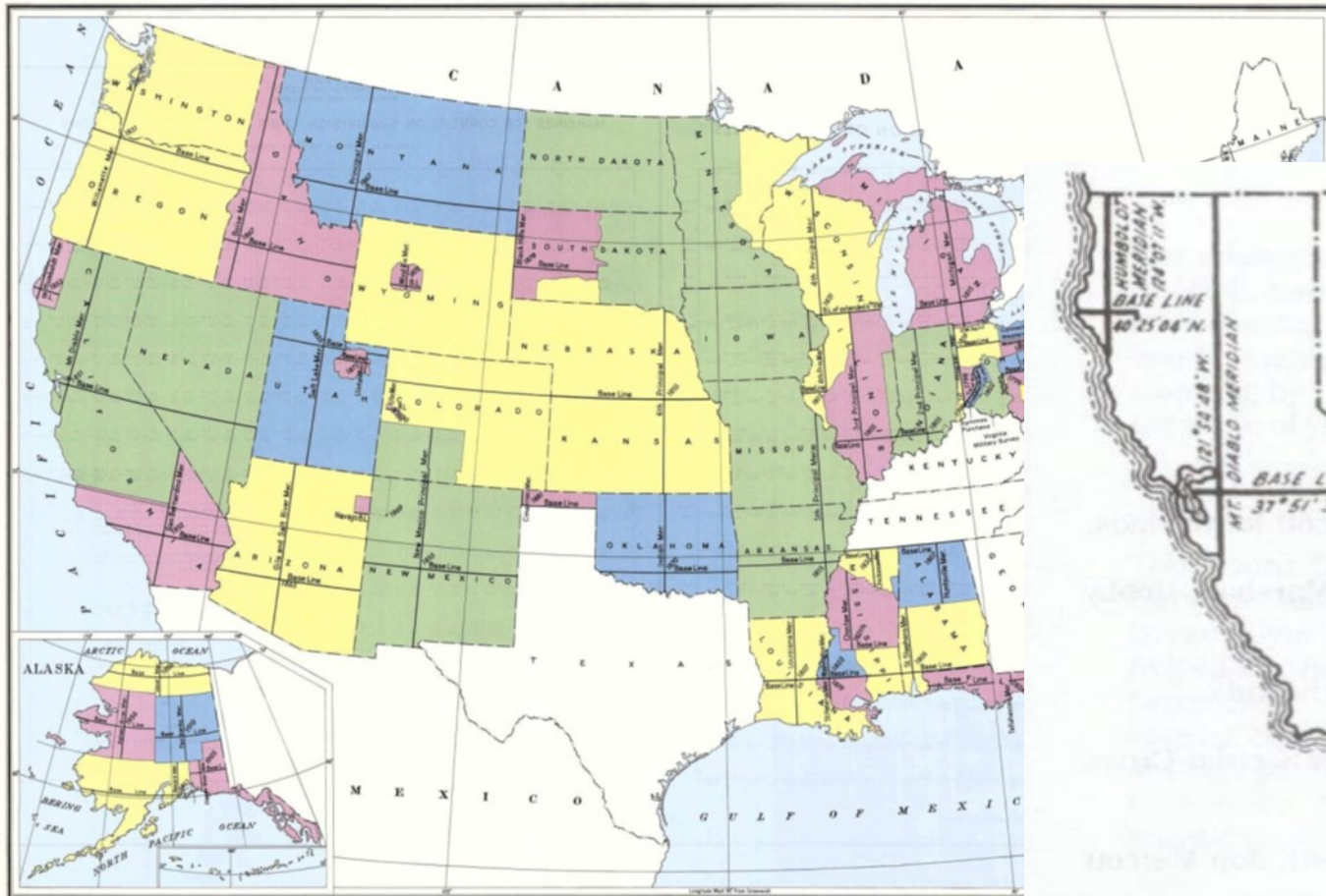
Before you can map your claim:

- ❖ You will need a working knowledge of the:
  - ✓ Public Land Survey System,
    - ✓ The different types of surveys,
      - ✓ How to subdivide the survey,
        - ✓ How to find survey markers.

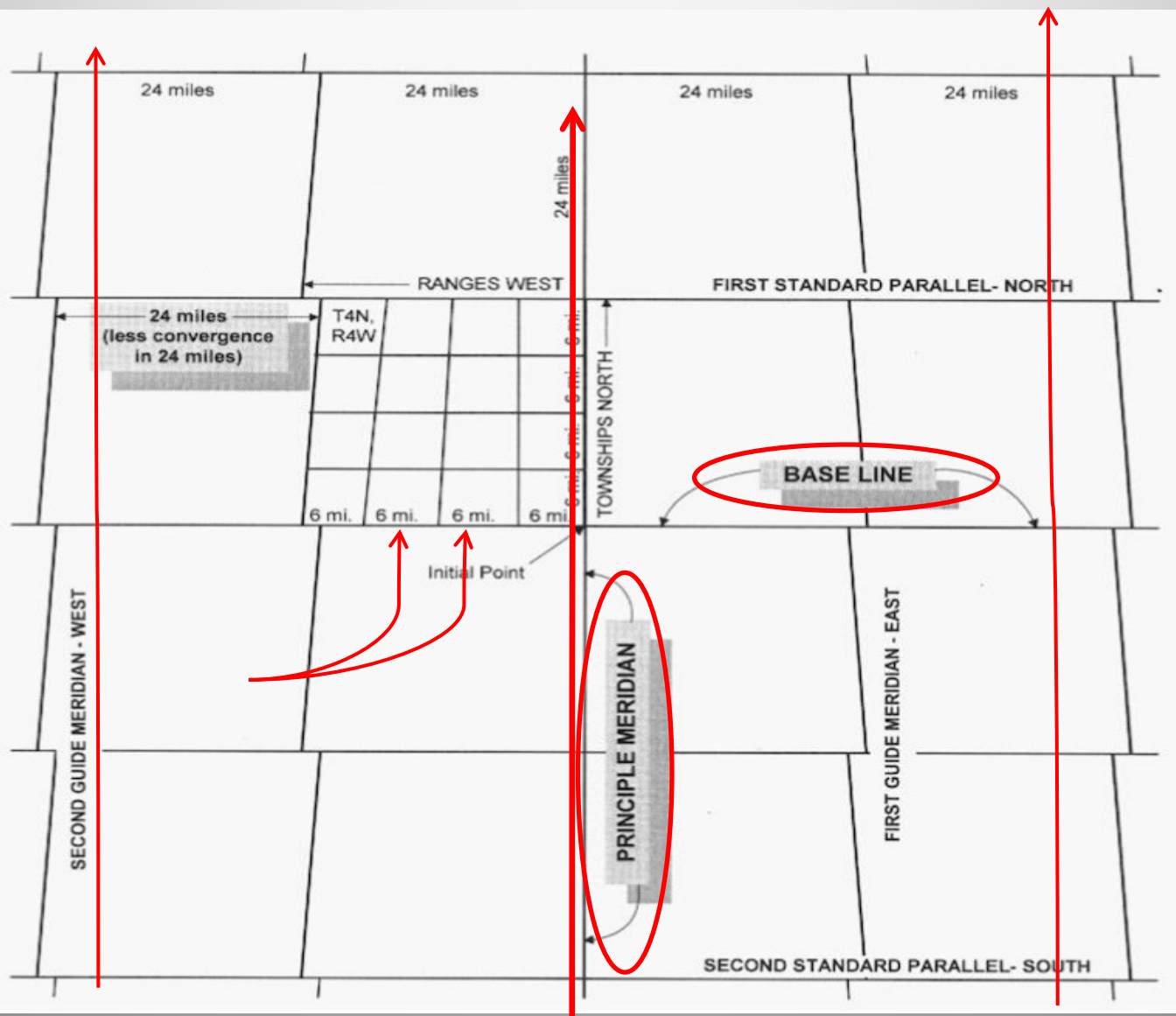
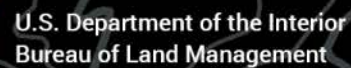


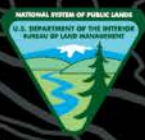
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# The Public Land Survey System as it Exists Today









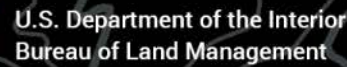
# The problem is...



- It all looks the same and you have no real point of reference. This is what you have to work with, and.....

There are no lines or labels on the ground.





# This is the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

Now, if you  
could just  
find where  
those lines  
cross...

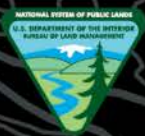




# Types of surveys


- Original Survey
- Plat of a Surveyed Township
- Plat of a Partially Surveyed Township (with a protraction diagram)
- Mineral Survey
- Plat of a Unsurveyed Township (with a protraction diagram)
- Protraction Diagram (or Protracted Survey)
- Protraction Blocks (PB)
- Suspended Survey



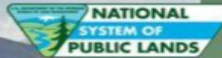


# <http://www.nv.blm.gov/LandRecords/>

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



**Nevada**



**Land Records Search**

[Home Page](#)  
[Instructions](#)  
[Report a Problem](#)  
[Administration](#)

**External Links**

[LR2000](#)  
[GLO Records](#)  
[Geospatial Data](#)

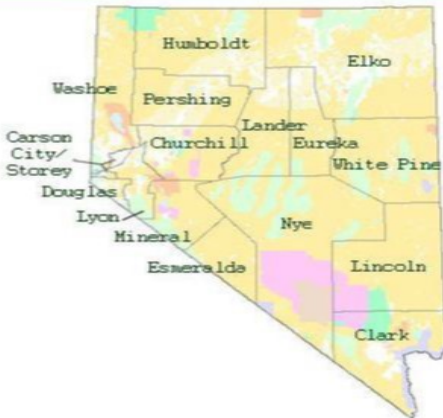
BLM > Nevada > Land Records Search

Select a Township, Range and Meridian

	Township			Range			Meridian	Land Record Type
Start:	000	0	N	000	0	E		
End:	000	0	N	000	0	E	Mt. Diablo	-- HI, MTP & Use --

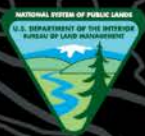
Or Search  Includes Mineral, Homestead Entry, Indian Reservation, Military Reservation and Townsite Surveys, and Mineral and Homestead Entry Connection Sheets

Or use map-based Search.  
Begin by clicking on desired county.



LandRecords Version 4.18

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# Original Surveys

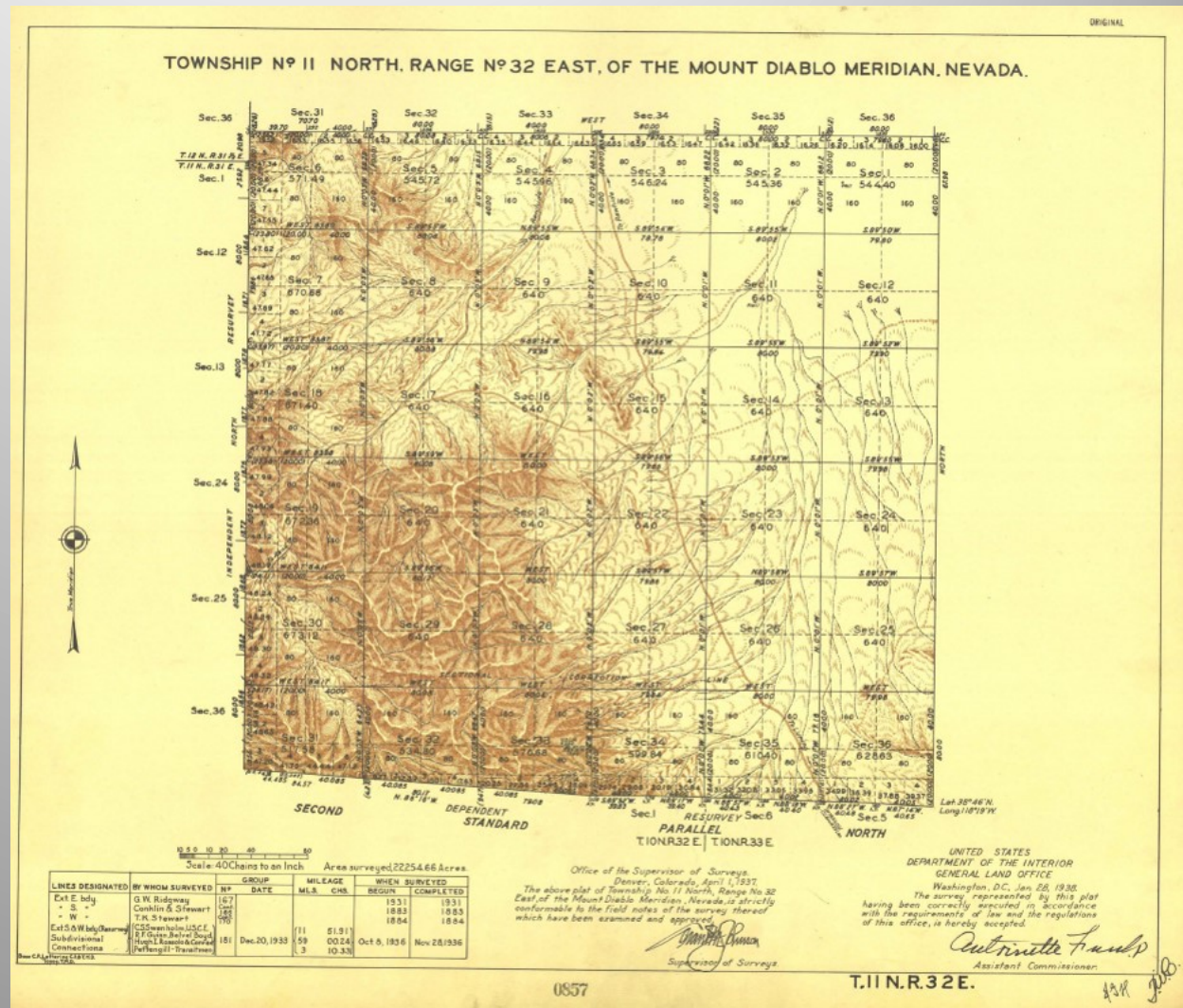
40% of Nevada townships were originally surveyed under the contract system prior to 1910.

- Primarily stone and wood post monumentation.

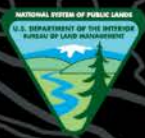
- The accuracy of the surveys and the quality of the monumentation is highly erratic.

- Surveys were not always faithfully executed.

- Resurveys of pre 1910 surveys often yield unexpected results.







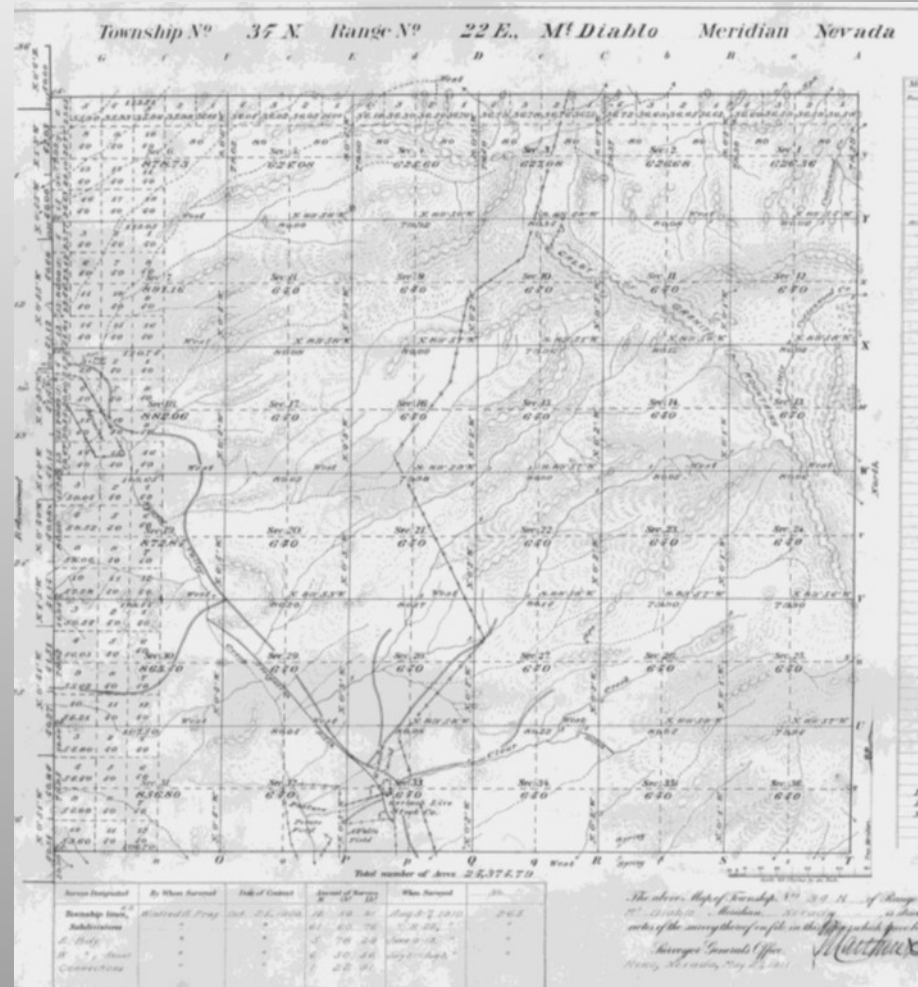
# Original Surveys

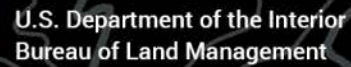
The Interior Department appropriation Act of 1911 (June 25, 1910, 36 Stat. 703, 740) initiated the "direct system" of public land surveying.

- Primarily iron post and stainless steel monumentation.

- Surveys are typically accurate and consistent.

- Processes established under the direct system eliminated incentives that encouraged fraud and corruption.



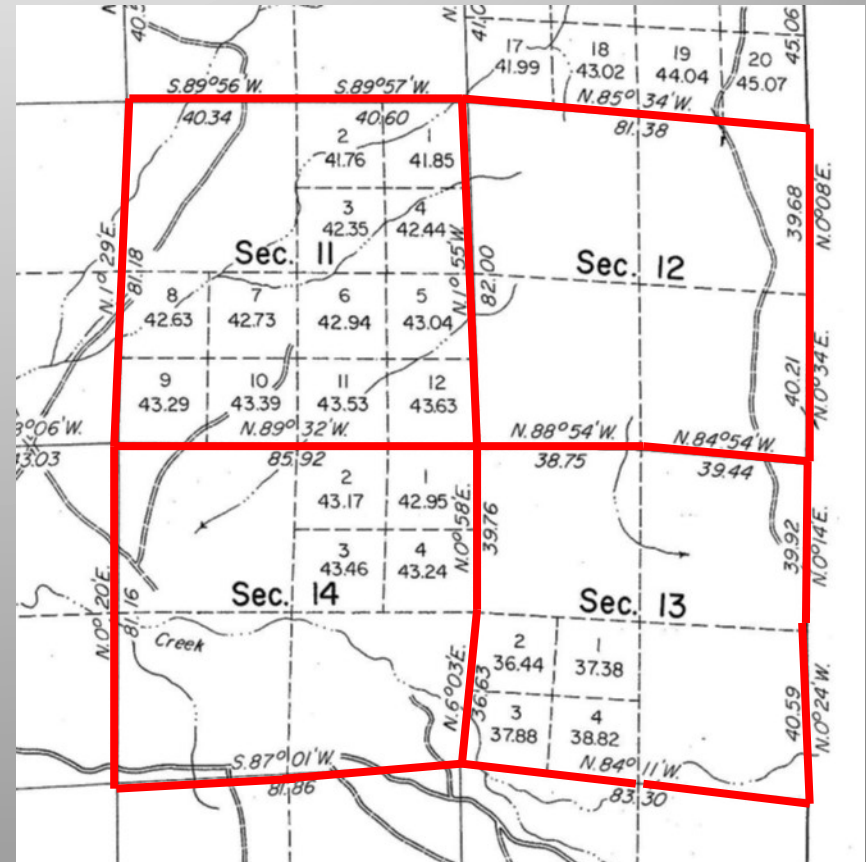


1881

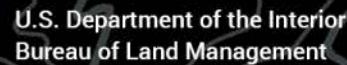
# Original Survey

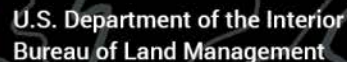


# Dependent Resurvey





[illegible]



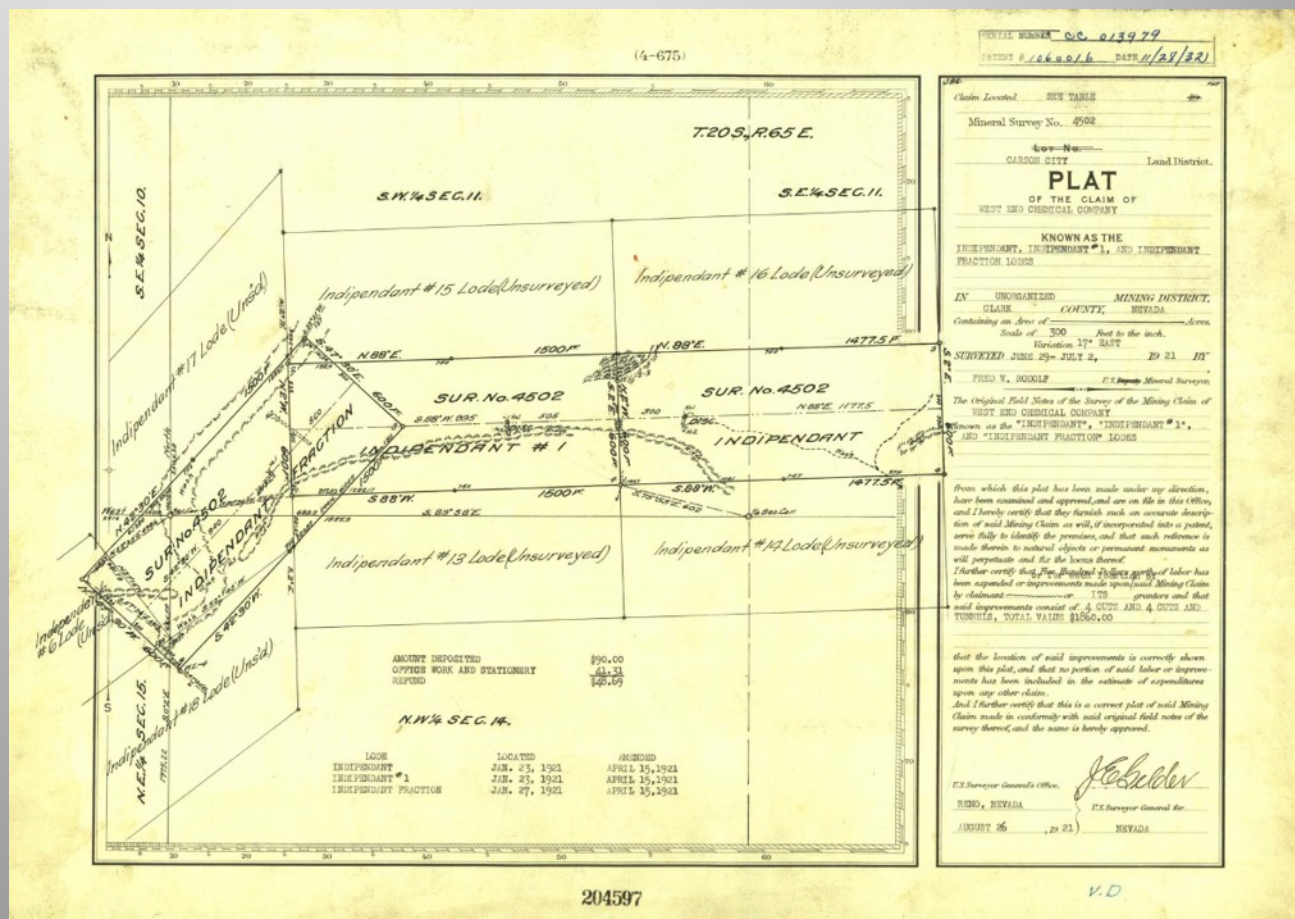
N-020  
T 36 N  
R 30 E





# Mineral Survey

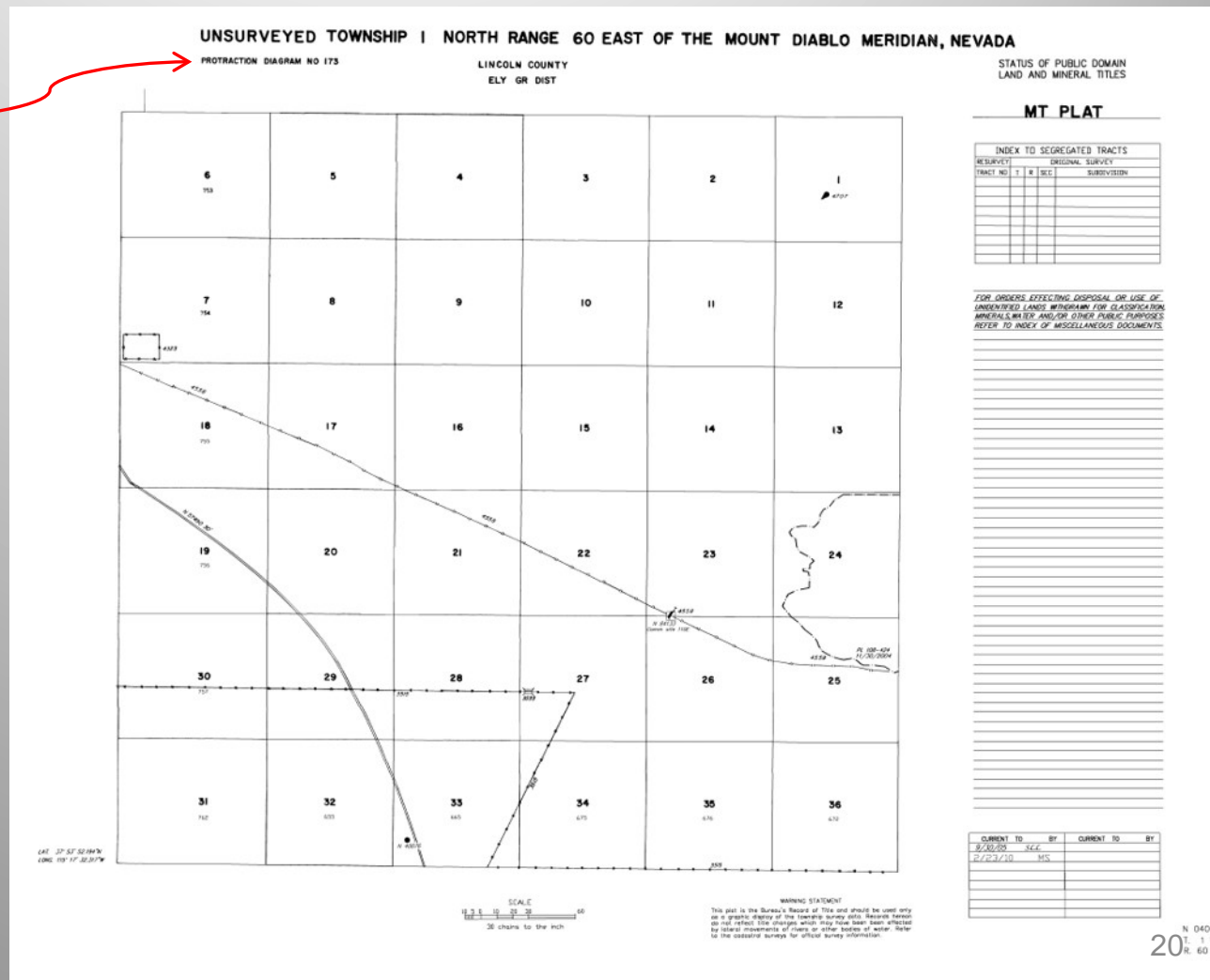
Mineral surveys are required prior to patenting. However, not all mineral surveys made it to patent.

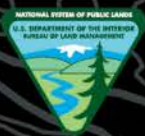


# Unsurveyed Township

The protraction diagram is identified here. —

This plot is derived from the protraction diagram.

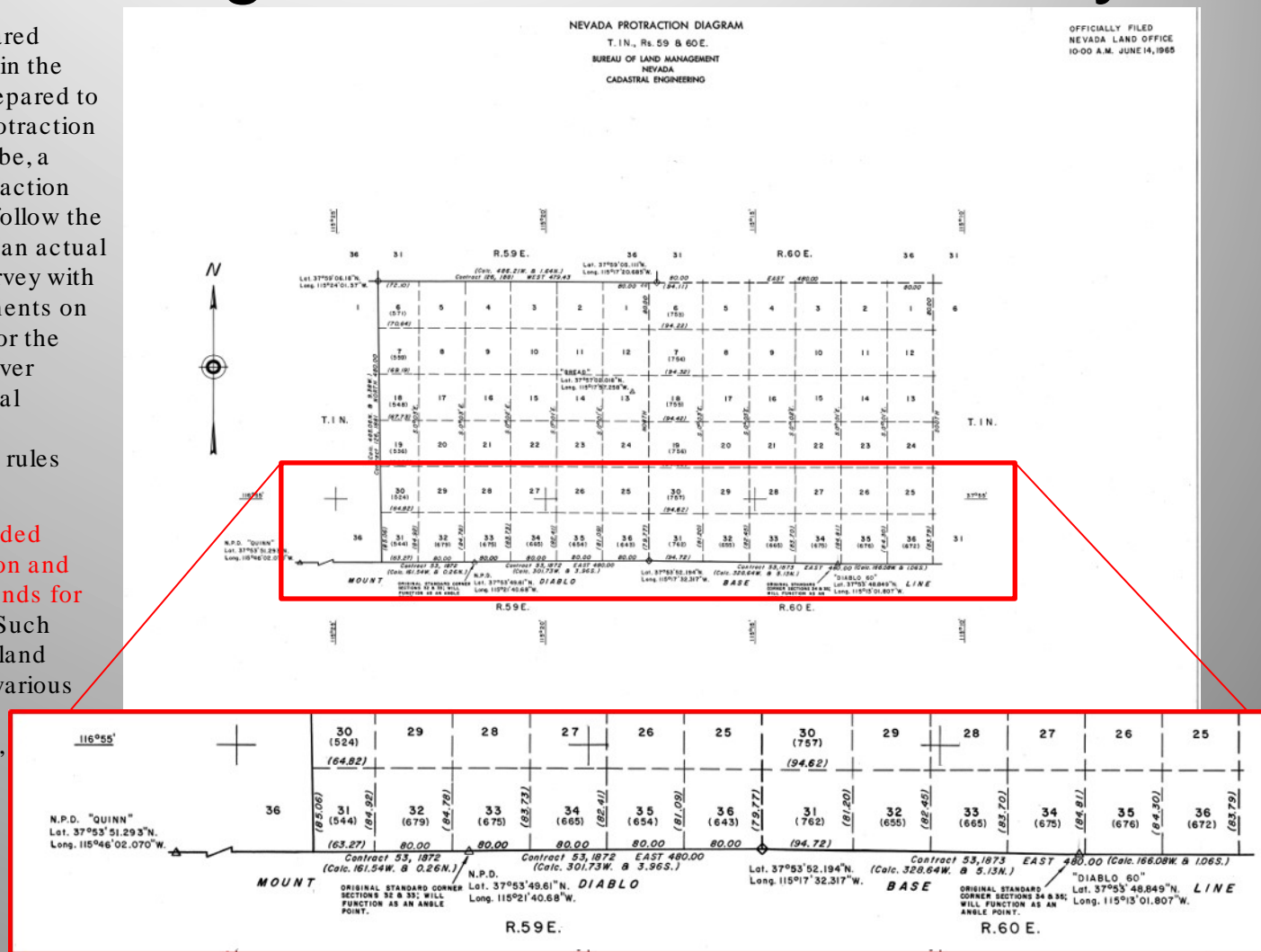




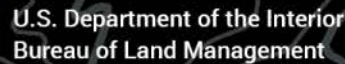
# Protraction Diagram or Protracted Survey

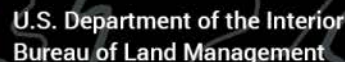
Protraction diagrams have been prepared for substantially all unsurveyed areas in the public domain. Such diagrams are prepared to describe unsurveyed land areas. A protraction diagram is not, and is not intended to be, a substitute for an official survey. Protraction diagrams consist of drawn lines that follow the public land survey system but are not an actual survey. They do not involve a field survey with monumentation and hence no monuments on the ground. They represent the plan for the extension of the rectangular system over unsurveyed lands, following the general scheme as outlined earlier. They are constructed based upon the following rules as far as practicable.

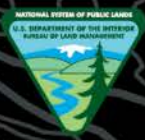
Official protraction diagrams are intended to provide a basis for the administration and management of unsurveyed Federal lands for all purposes short of conveying title. Such protractions can become the basis of land location for leasing purposes and for various administrative boundaries, including wilderness, National Recreation Areas, special use areas, withdrawals, and selections.











# Subdivisions

- Probably the most common question our customers ask is, “what is an aliquot part?”
- So, before we move forward, lets take a few minutes and discuss what an aliquot part is.





## al·i·quot

Definition of *aliquot* in English: aliquot

Syllabification: al·i·quot Pronunciation: /'alɪkwət /

Aliquot Synonyms: aliquot part, fractional.

*Equal fractions of a whole.*

(halves, quarters, eighths, etc.)



**Aliquot part—The standard subdivisions of a section, such as a half section, quarter section, or quarter-quarter section.**

	dimensions (miles)	(mile <sup>2</sup> )	area (acres)	(m <sup>2</sup> )	(km <sup>2</sup> )	notes
<b>Quadrangle</b>	24 by 24	576	368,640		1,492	Usually 16 townships
<b>Township</b>	6 by 6	36	23,040		93	Usually 36 sections
<b><u>Section</u></b>	1 by 1	1	640		2.6	
<b>Half-section</b>	1 by 1/2	1/2	320	1,294,994	1.3	
<b><u>Quarter-section</u></b>	1/2 by 1/2	1/4	160	647,497		
<b>Half of quarter-section</b>	1/2 by 1/4	1/8	80	323,749		
<b><u>Quarter of quarter-section</u></b>	1/4 by 1/4	1/16	40	161,874		

- Aliquot part, in the Public Land Survey System, a subdivision of a section based upon an even division.



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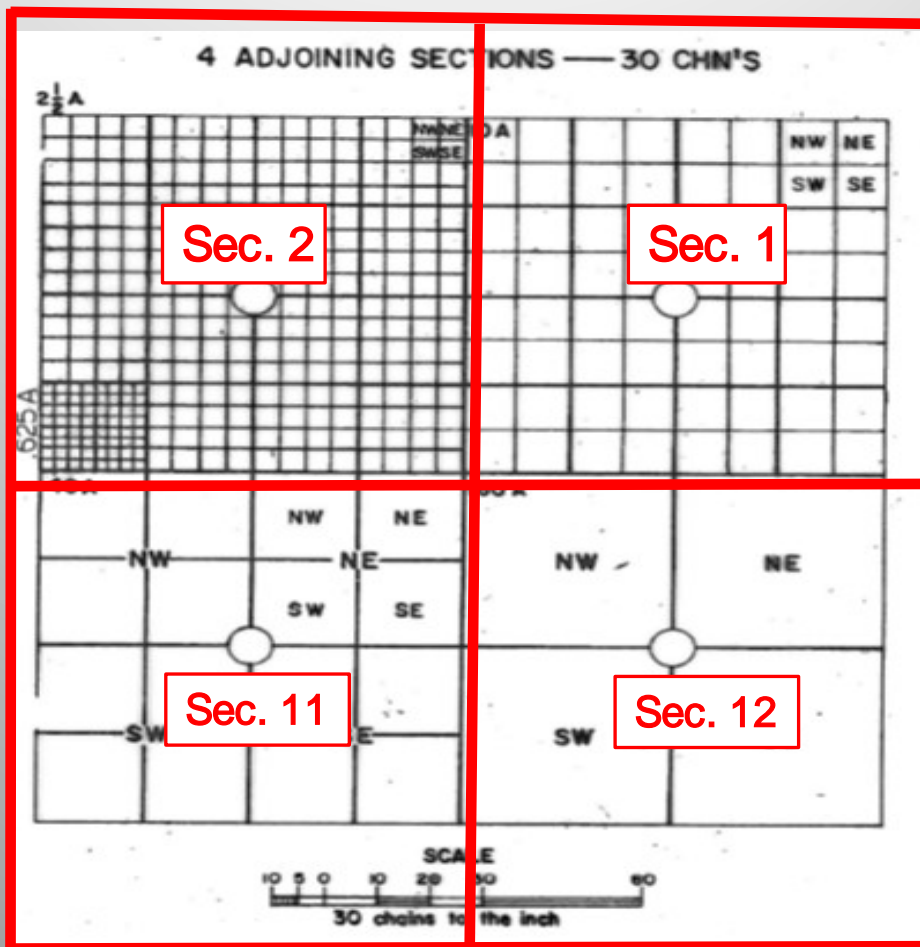
**When all goes well..and the  
survey comes out the way it  
was intended...**





This section is divided into 256 quarter quarter quarters of 2.5 acres each.

This section is divided into 16 quarter quarters of 40 acres each.  
*(The smallest legal subdivision of the PLSS.)*



This section is divided into 64 quarter quarter quarters of 10 acres each. (10-acre tracts for the purpose of locating a placer mining claim is a specific exception to the 40 acre rule).

This section is divided into 4 quarters of 160 acres each.



**When things don't work out the  
way they were intended to be...**

**and the survey isn't what we  
expected.**



# Fractional townships.

When the fractional township  
fills in from the west  
to the east.

NW	NE	NW
sec 6		sec 5
SW	SE	SW
NW	NE	NW
sec 7		sec 8
SW	SE	SW
NW	NE	NW
sec 18		sec 17
SW	SE	SW

Surveyed from  
West to East

When the fractional township  
fills in from the east  
to the west.

NE	NW	NE
sec 2	sec 1	
SE	SW	SE
NE	NW	NE
sec 11	sec 12	
SE	SW	SE
NE	NW	NE
sec 14	sec 13	
SE	SW	SE

Surveyed from  
East to West

No NW1/4 or SW1/4

No NE1/4 or SE1/4





# Fractional townships.

Surveyed from  
North to South

When the fractional township fills in from  
the north to the south.

NW	NE	NW	NE	NW	NE
sec 3		sec 2		sec 1	
SW	SE	SW	SE	SW	SE
NW	sec 10	NE	NW	sec 11	NE
				NW sec 12 NE	

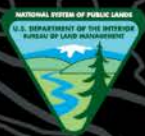
No SW1/4 or SE1/4

No NW1/4 or SW1/4

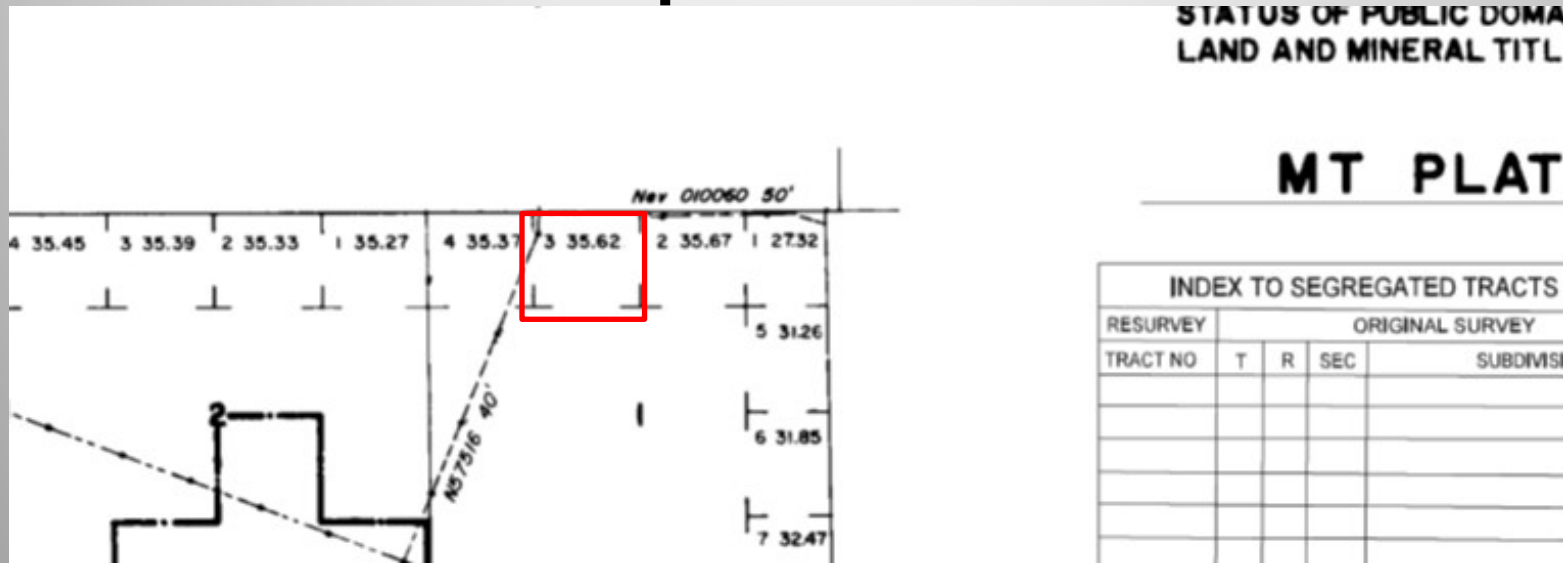
Surveyed from  
South to North

SW	sec 27	SE	SW	sec 26	SE	SW	sec 25	SE
NW		NE	NW		NE	NW		NE
sec 34			sec 35			sec 36		
SW		SE	SW		SE	SW		SE

When the fractional township fills in from  
the south to the north.



# Aliquot vs. Lots

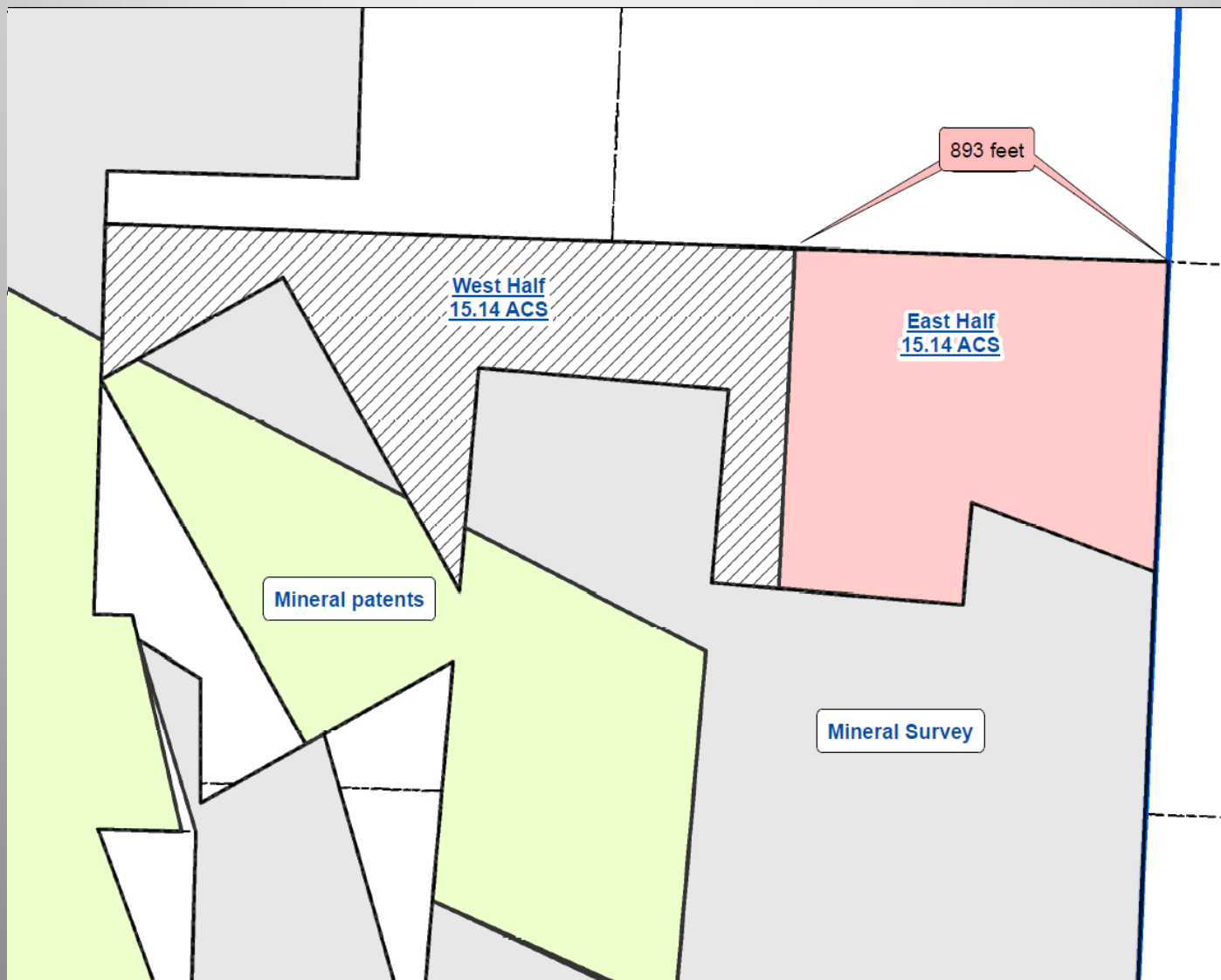


- **Government lot**—A subpart of a section which is not described as an aliquot part of the section, but which is designated by number, for example, Lot 3.
- A lot may be **regular or irregular in shape**, and its acreage may vary from that of regular aliquot parts.



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# Dividing a lot



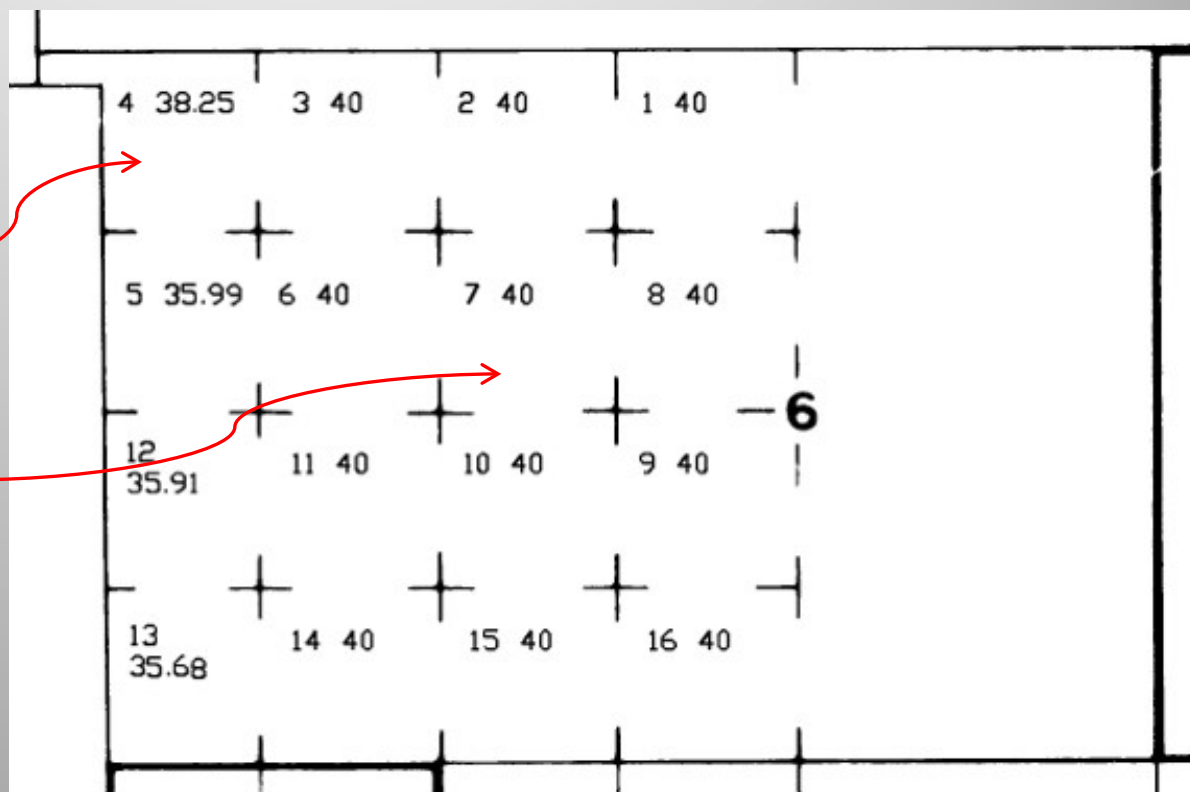




# Aliquot vs. Lots

This is an example of irregular shaped lots.

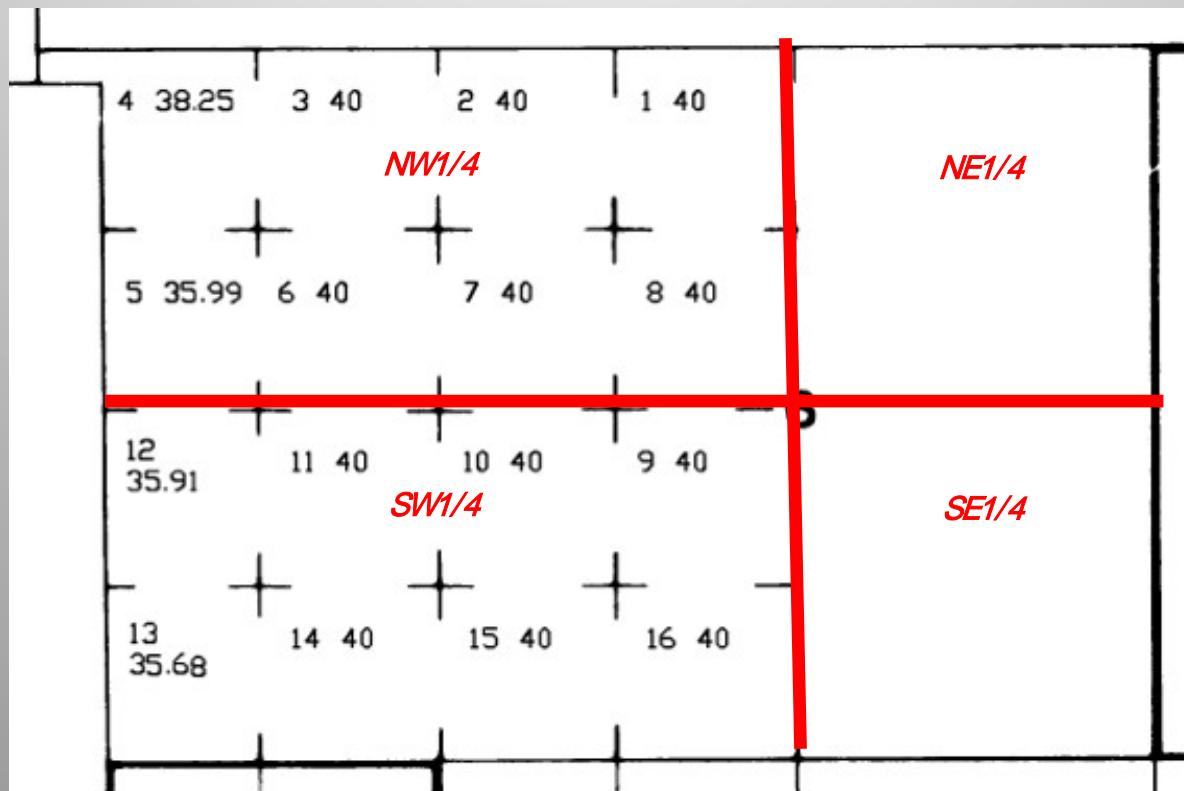
This is an example of a regular shaped lots.





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# Quarter sections in an irregular section.

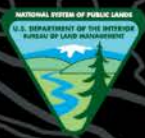




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# Survey markers





# Cadastral Survey

- We often talk about corner markers or brass caps.
- Wouldn't it be nice if the survey markers stood up and looked like this?



or







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- Or something that let's us know when we're near the survey marker is like this...



or





- Or, better yet, how about like this...
- If the survey marker is near this sign then we must be in a tropical climate...





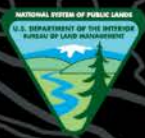


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- The reality is that survey markers are very low profile and look more like this.







- Some are survey markers like this one for T31N, R58E, section 11. This survey marker was placed by the Forest Service.

T31N, R58E, sec 11

Forest Service





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## 1881 Stone Monument



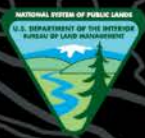
T27N, R48E,  
section 33

## 2011 Brass Cap Monument



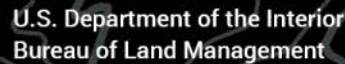
BLM



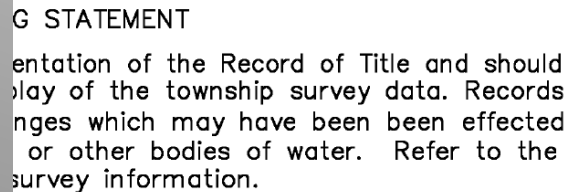


- Some are for Bench Marks. You will usually find Bench Marks identified on Topo maps.





- After you find a survey marker or bench mark, you can relate the location of your claim to this monument.

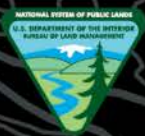




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# How do you find out where you are?





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# <http://www.earthpoint.us/townships.aspx>

EARTH POINT IS OPERATED BY A PRIVATE COMPANY. THEY PROJECT OUR COORDIANTES  
AND OUR SURVEY DATA TO PROVIDE A DEPICTION OF THE LOCATION.

Search by description:  
Township,  
Range  
Section

## USA Utilities

### Township & Range

BLM Grid

Search By Description

Search By Lat Long

Alternate Grid

Search by Lat Long:  
GPS coordinates

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Search By Lat Long

Alternate Grid

Louisiana Twp & Rng

Louisiana Original PLSS

California Twp & Rng

California Grid

Search By Description

Search By Lat Long

Texas Land Survey

Abstract Grid

Search By Description

Search By Lat Long

State Plane

Topo Map

Boise, Idaho, USA

Real Estate Listings

County Assessor

Land Records Grid

Land Records Search

Help

Q & A

## Township and Range - Public Land Survey System on Google Earth.

A subscription is recommended for the features on this web page. [more](#)

View On Google Earth

You are not signed in to your account. Township and Range will display a pop-up message every ten minutes and will be deactivated after one day. For unrestricted access, please [sign in](#) or purchase a [subscription](#). You must have Google Earth installed to use this data.

**Help:** [How to install township and range.](#)

This page maps the United States Public Land Survey System onto Google Earth. Displays townships, sections, and quarter-quarter sections (western states have quarter/quarters mapped, central states do not). Displays calculated area and corner points.

For more information about the land survey, Wikipedia has a good [article](#). You can read about locating parcels at [Earth Point Blog](#).

### Hint

In mountainous areas it might be helpful to turn off the terrain layer in Google Earth. Otherwise, the survey grid can look distorted as it shapes itself to the earth's surface.

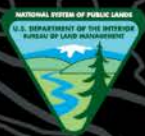
### Information: BLM Township and Range

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cadastral survey program is responsible for the official boundary surveys for all federal agencies in the U.S. that together manage over 700 million acres. The Public Land Survey System also called the Rectangular Survey System is the foundation for many survey-based land information systems.

Link - [http://www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/isis\\_home/home/index.shtml](http://www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/isis_home/home/index.shtml)

### BLM DISCLAIMER:

The geographic coordinates and their associated products are NOT legal land survey records. These coordinates can NOT be used as a substitute for a legal land survey. They can be used for record keeping, mapping, graphics and planning purposes only. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.



# Enter State, Meridian, Township, Range, and Section

**Earth Point** Tools for Google Earth [Sign In / Buy Subscription](#) [Contact](#)

**Township and Range Search By Description**

A user account is **not** needed for the features on this web page.

Enter Township and Range. Optionally enter Section. Google Earth flies you there using BLM data. Hint: pause for a moment after choosing each of the criteria. This allows the data to be loaded into the drop-down boxes.

State:

Principal Meridian:

Township:

Range:

Section:

Free. User account is not needed.

If you want to see the surrounding townships, then once you have clicked the "Fly To" button, come back and click the BLM or National Atlas "View on Google Earth" button. Free. User account is not needed.

**Hint**

In mountainous areas it might be helpful to turn off the terrain layer in Google Earth. Otherwise, the survey grid can look distorted as it shapes itself to the earth's surface.

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Link - [http://www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/isis\\_home/home/index.shtm](http://www.geocommunicator.gov/GeoComm/isis_home/home/index.shtm)

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- Convert Coordinates
- Batch Convert
- USA Utilities
- Township & Range
  - BLM Grid
  - Search By Description**
  - Search By Lat Long
  - Alternate Grid
  - California Twp & Rng
  - California Grid
  - Search By Description
  - Search By Lat Long
  - Texas Land Survey
  - Abstract Grid
  - Search By Description
  - Search By Lat Long
  - State Plane
  - Topo Map



# Click on the View button

State: Nevada  
Principal Meridian: Mount Diablo  
Township: 028 N  
Range: 034 E  
Section: 030

**View** Free. User account is not needed.

**Fly To On Google Earth** If you want to see the surrounding townships, then once you have clicked the "Fly To" button, come back and click the BLM or National Atlas "view on Google Earth" button. Free. User account is not needed.

**Township - BLM database**

<b>Township</b>	T28N R34E
<b>Meridian</b>	Mount Diablo
<b>State</b>	Nevada
<b>Source</b>	<a href="#">BLM</a>

**Calculated Values**

<b>Acres</b>	24,839
<b>Centroid</b>	40.2867156, -118.1532905
<b>Corners</b>	NW40.3334280, -118.2101170
	NE 40.3338100, -118.0965074
	SE 40.2401180, -118.0963729
	SW40.2397346, -118.2100269

For illustration only. User to verify all information. [www.earthpoint.us](http://www.earthpoint.us)

**Section - BLM database**

<b>Section</b>	S30 T28N R34E
<b>Meridian</b>	Mount Diablo
<b>State</b>	Nevada
<b>Source</b>	<a href="#">BLM</a>

**Calculated Values**

<b>Acres</b>	639
<b>Centroid</b>	40.2614298, -118.2005206
<b>Corners</b>	NW40.2686270, -118.2100076
	NE 40.2686985, -118.1910615
	SE 40.2542189, -118.1910545
	SW40.2541797, -118.2099714

**Quarters** This section has 16 quarter/quarters plotted.

For illustration only. User to verify all information. [www.earthpoint.us](http://www.earthpoint.us)

- If you click on the view button, you will get...

Acres of the section.

Center of the section.

Each corner of the section.

And the same information for the township.





Search for the parcel using the drop down menus:

State:   
Principal Meridian:   
Township:   
Range:   
Section:

Free. User account is not needed.

If you want to see the surrounding townships, then once you have clicked the "Fly To" button, come back and click the BLM or National Atlas "View on Google Earth" button. Free. User account is not needed.

**Township - BLM database**

<b>Township</b>	T28N R34E
<b>Meridian</b>	Mount Diablo
<b>State</b>	Nevada
<b>Source</b>	<a href="#">BLM</a>

Calculated Values

<b>Acres</b>	24,839
<b>Centroid</b>	40.2867156, -118.1532905
<b>Corners</b>	NW40.3334280, -118.2101170 NE 40.3338100, -118.0965074 SE 40.2401180, -118.0963729 SW40.2397346, -118.2100269

For illustration only. User to verify all information. [www.earthpoint.us](http://www.earthpoint.us)

**Section - BLM database**

<b>Section</b>	S30 T28N R34E
<b>Meridian</b>	Mount Diablo
<b>State</b>	Nevada
<b>Source</b>	<a href="#">BLM</a>

Calculated Values

<b>Acres</b>	639
<b>Centroid</b>	40.2614298, -118.2005206
<b>Corners</b>	NW40.2686270, -118.2100076 NE 40.2686985, -118.1910615 SE 40.2542189, -118.1910545 SW40.2541797, -118.2099714

**Quarters** This section has 16 quarter/quarters plotted.

For illustration only. User to verify all information. [www.earthpoint.us](http://www.earthpoint.us)

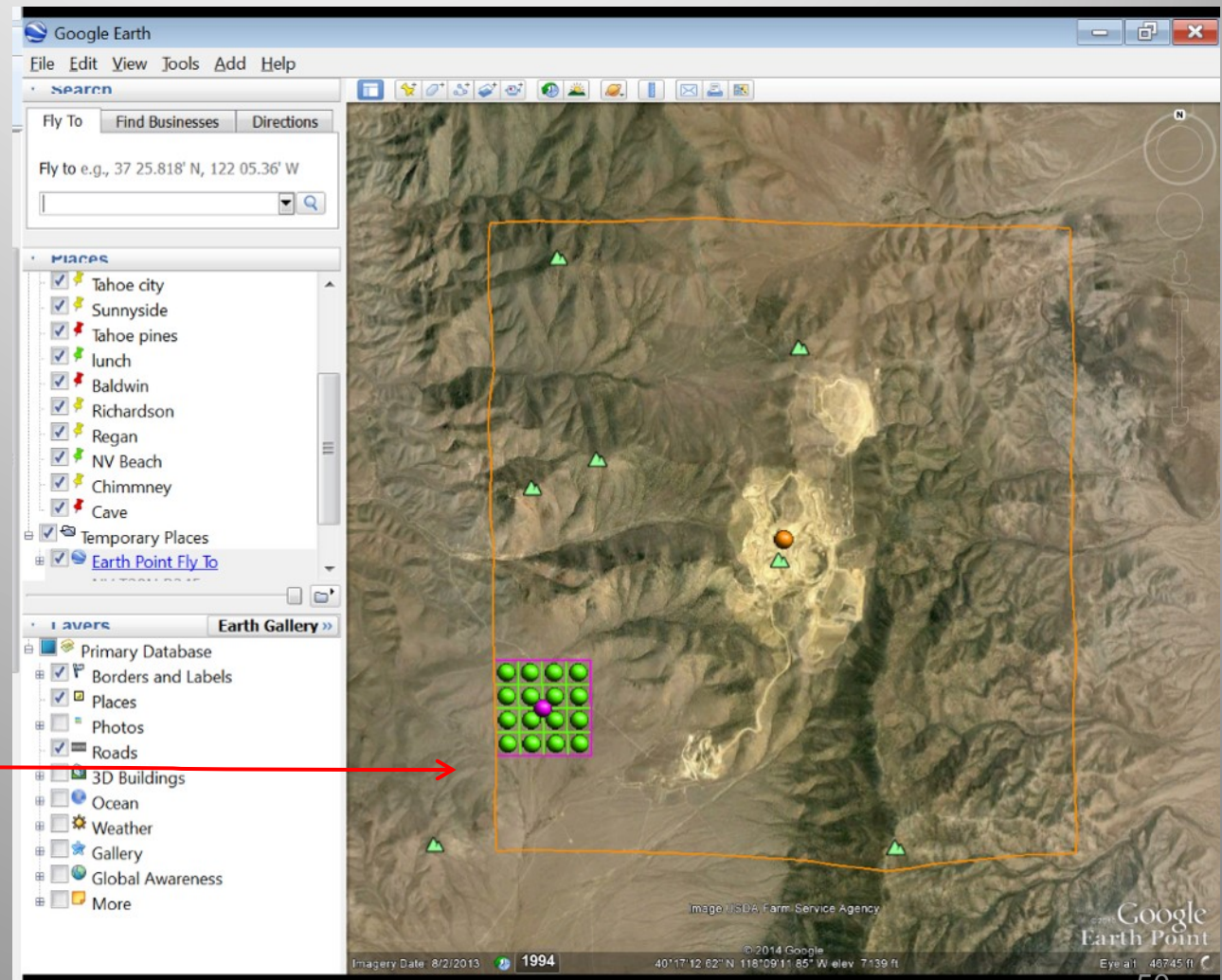
- If you click on the button for *Fly to On Google Earth...*

- Google Earth will take you to that township range and section.

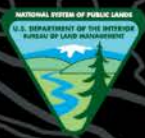


# Fly to on Google Earth

- Here is the outline of the township with the center identified.
- Also, you can see the section within the township.

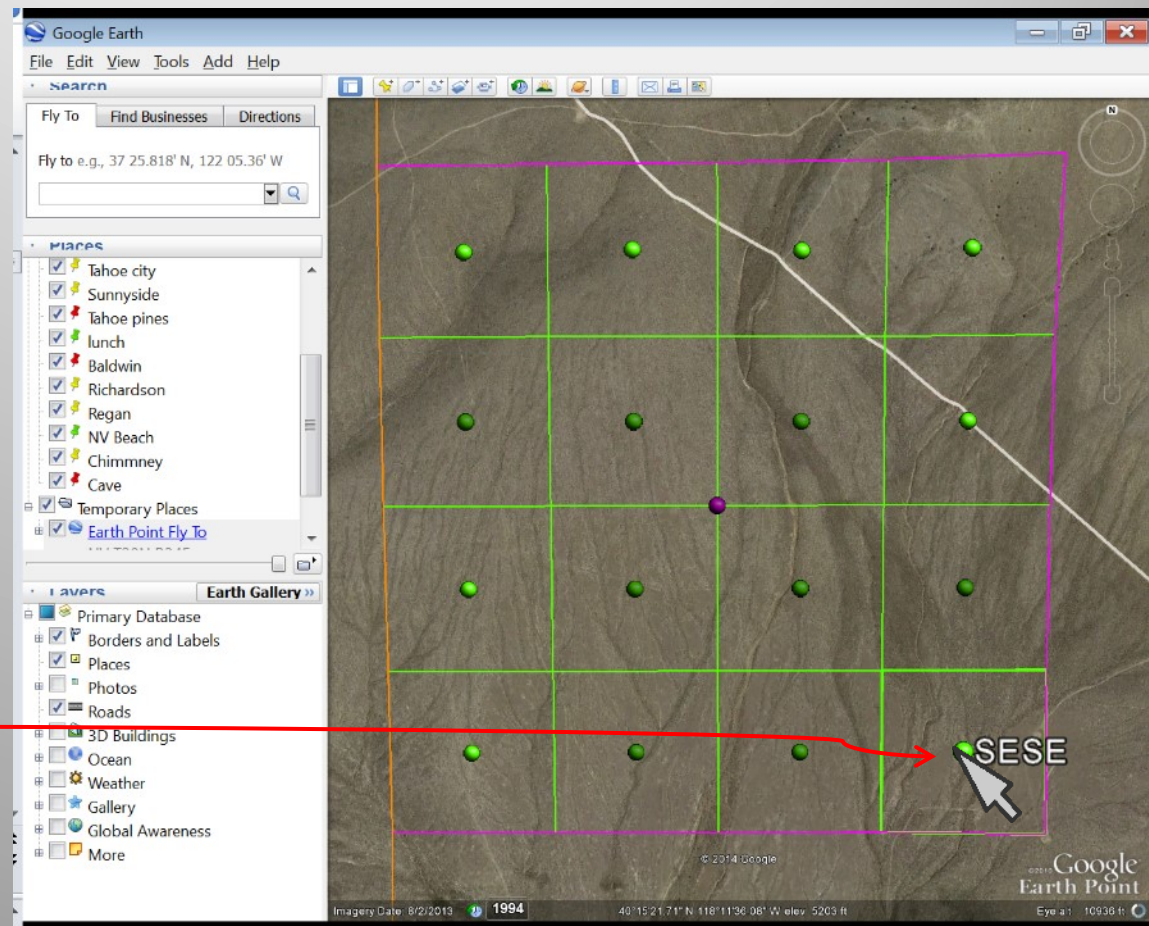






# This shows the land down to the Quarter Quarter (40 acre parcels).

- Put your mouse on each of the dots and the labels appear.
- You can see the SESE quarter quarter.







# Finding the aliquot part by GPS.

- You can enter the GPS coordinates.

Google Earth interface showing a survey grid overlaid on a terrain map. The grid is composed of green lines forming a 4x4 pattern of squares. A purple dot is located at the center of the grid. A yellow dot is located at the bottom right corner of the grid, labeled "Lat Lon". The left sidebar shows a list of places with checkboxes: Tahoe pines, lunch, Baldwin, Richardson, Regan, NV Beach, Chimmney, Cave, and Temporary Places. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Tools, Add, and Help. The "Fly To" search bar is visible with the text "Fly to e.g., 37 25.818' N, 122 05.36' W".

Enter latitude and longitude. Find the corresponding township and section. The BLM database is searched first. If nothing is found then the National Atlas database is searched. Note that the National Atlas database has only townships, no sections.

Latitude 40.2550000 Examples: 43°38'19.39"N, 43 38 19.39, 43.6387194

Longitude -118.1915000 Examples: 118°14'28.86" W, 118 14 28.86, -118.2413513

View

Free, User account is not needed.

If you want to see the surrounding townships, then once you have clicked the "Fly To" button, come back and click the BLM or National Atlas "view on Google Earth" button. Free, User account is not needed.

Hint

In mountainous areas it might be helpful to turn off the terrain layer in Google Earth. Otherwise, the survey grid can look distorted as it shapes itself to the earth's surface.

1994 40°15'18.00" N, 118°11'28.57" W elev. 5205 ft Eye at 10508 ft



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[California Grid](#)

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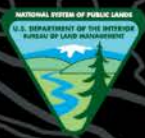
[State Plane](#)

[Topo Map](#)

## BLM Grid

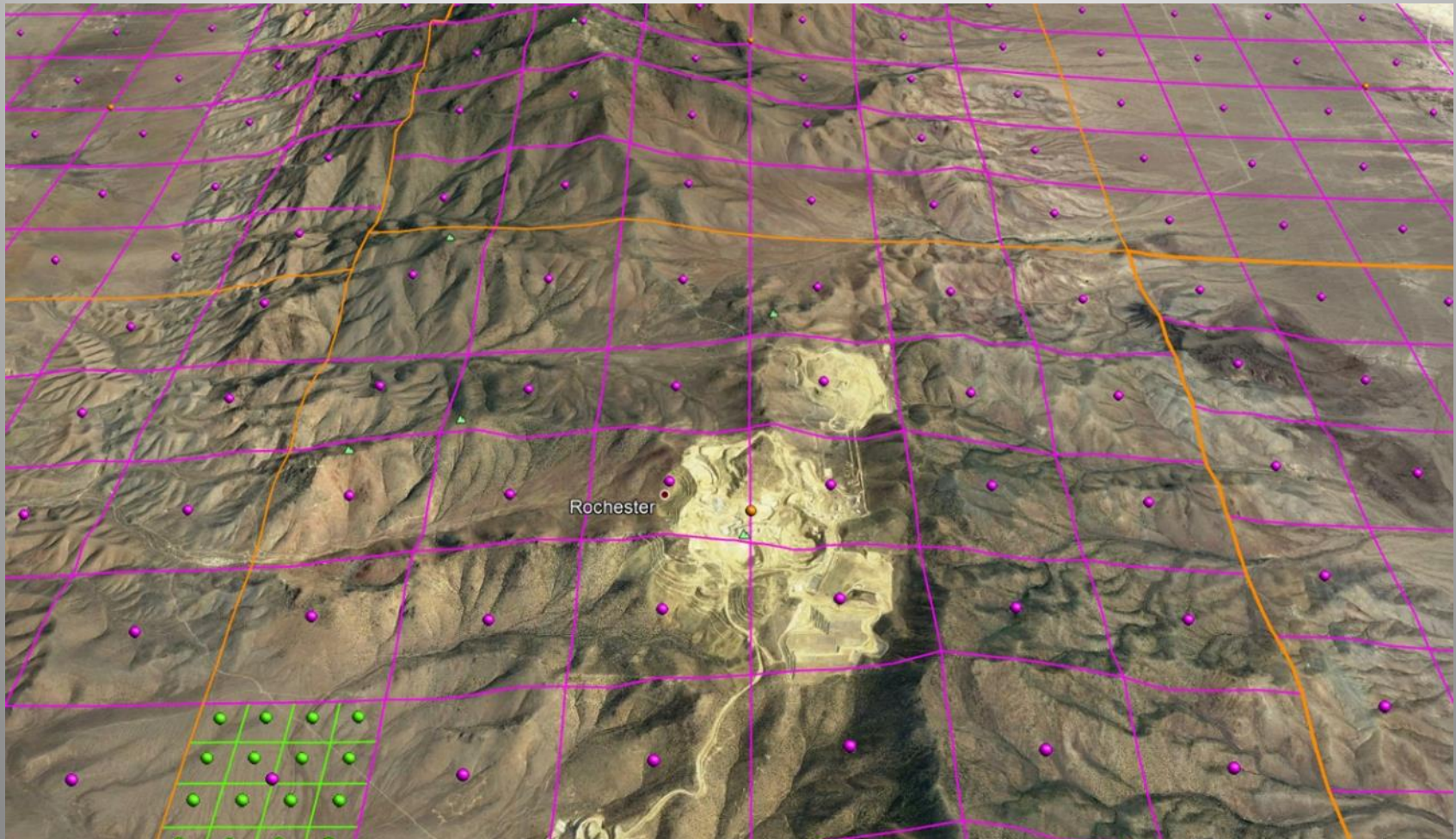
Click on BLM Grid



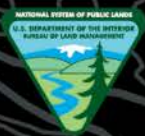


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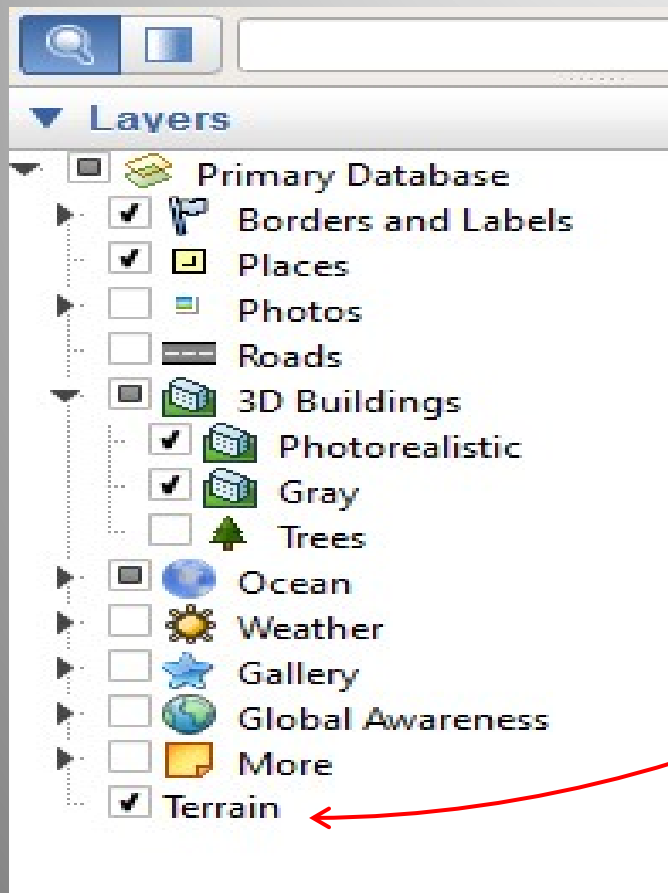
# All of the sections in a grid format







# Terrain

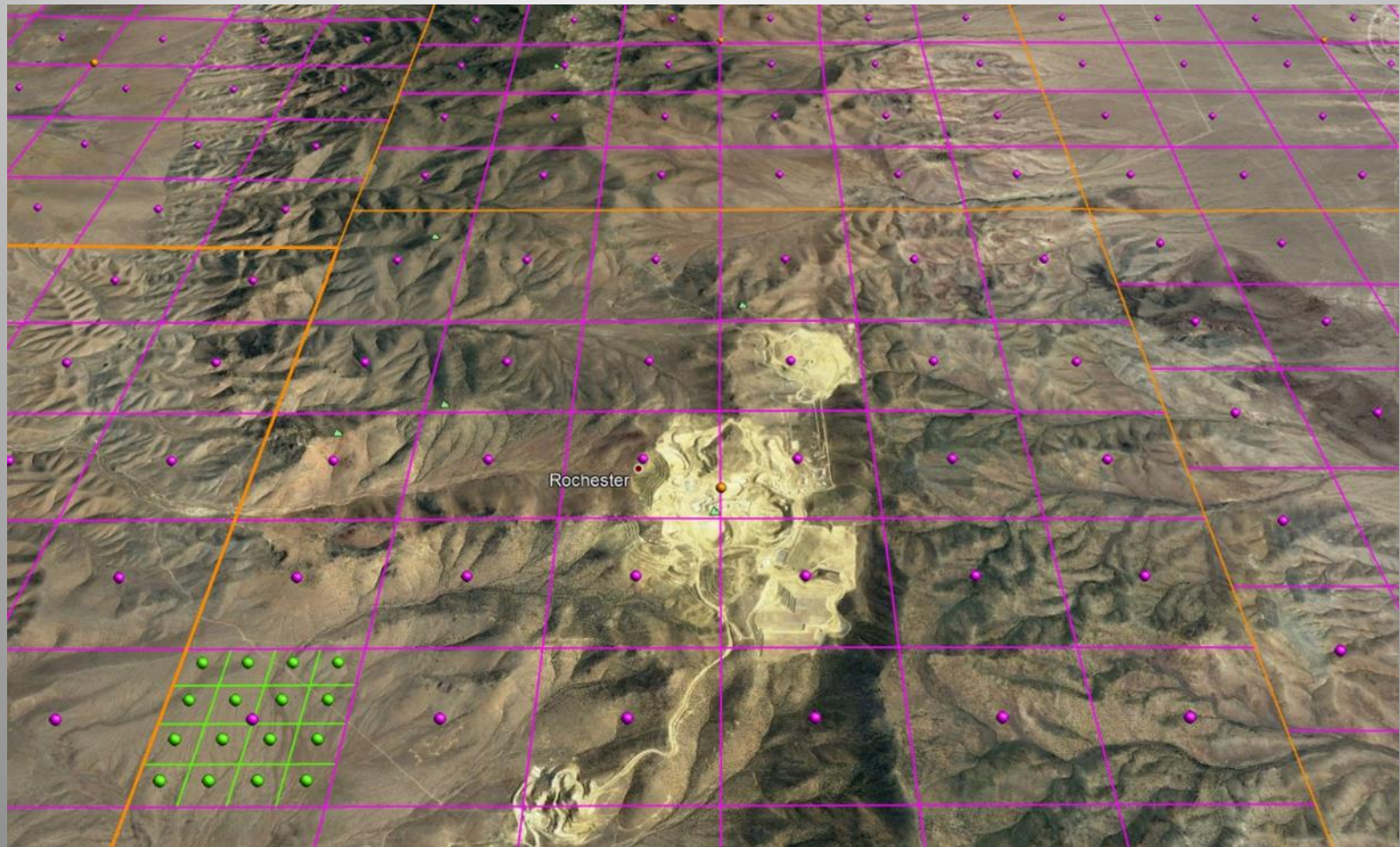


- Uncheck the terrain box



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# Without the terrain function

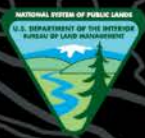




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# How does our office adjudicate the location of your claim?





## How we look at your map.

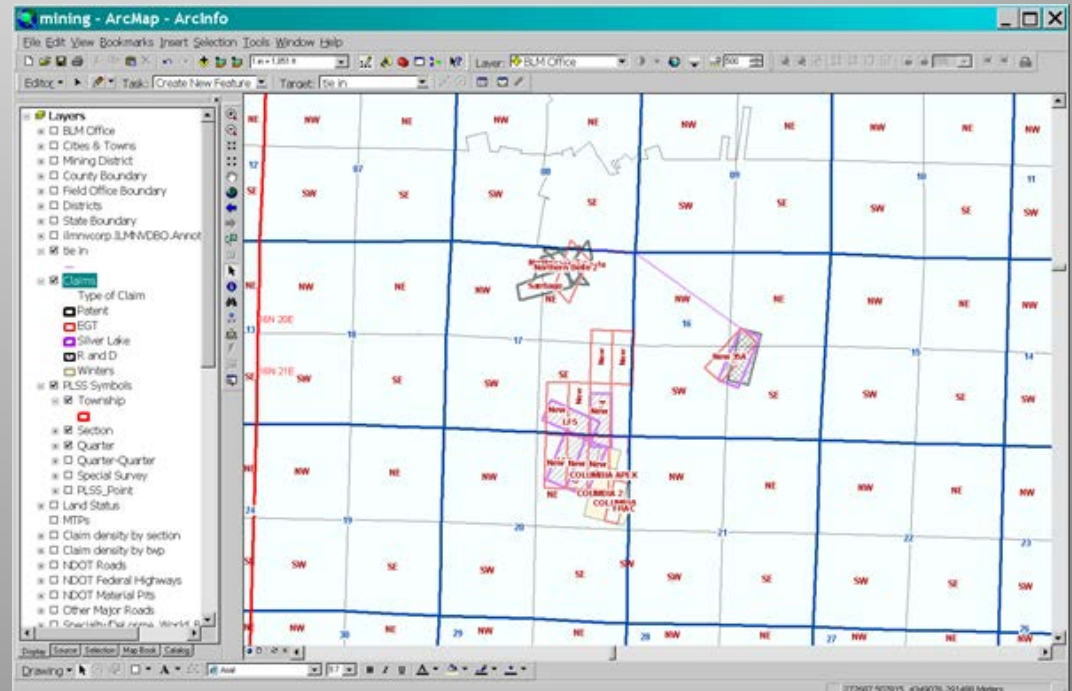
- In the past our office was forced to determine your claim location with:
- A ruler,
- A protractor,
- And a Master Title Plat (MTP).



About 12 years ago the GIS specialist in our office showed us how we could plot mining claims.



- Since that time we have refined our process and identified where, when and how; we should tap into this resource.





Let's begin with the regulations:  
Have you asked yourself any of these questions...?

- ❖ *What is required?????*
- ❖ *Do I need to hire a professional surveyor?*
- ❖ *Do I need to file a map for every claim?*
- ❖ *Why are tie in points such a big deal?*
- ❖ *Do I have to use the section corner as a tie point?*
- ❖ *What alternatives do I have for tie points?*
- ❖ *Are GPS coordinates acceptable?*





- ❖ **What is required?????**
  - ✓ Answers to most of your questions can be found at 43 CFR 3832.12.
- ❖ **Do I need to hire a professional surveyor?**
  - ✓ No, see 43 CFR 3832.12(a)(2)(iv)
- ❖ **Do I need to file a map for every claim?**
  - ✓ No, under certain circumstances, a narrative is all that is required.
- ❖ **Why are tie in points such a big deal?**
  - ✓ Before we can find your claim we need some place to start.
- ❖ **Do I have to use the section corner as a tie point?**
  - ✓ No, although the PLSS is the most common tie, the regulations provide alternatives.
- ❖ **What alternatives do I have for tie points?**
  - ✓ There are a number of alternatives. We will address each of these in this presentation.
- ❖ **Are GPS coordinates acceptable?**
  - ✓ Yes, but you need to make sure they are accurate. And remember, you will need more than just a GPS coordinate.
- ❖ **What if I can't find a brass cap?**
  - ✓ The cadastral survey is marked in the field with brass caps. If you can't find one, the township may be unsurveyed. You may decide to use an alternative.



## 3 steps to success.

1. You must file either:
  - A topographical map,
  - A narrative, or
  - A sketch.
2. Tying the description to a known monument.
3. Accurately enough for BLM to find your claim on the ground.



If your filings provide these 3 things, your location should meet all of our requirements.

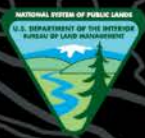
Where did I find these requirements?



## Title 43: Public Lands: Interior PART 3832 LOCATING MINING CLAIMS OR SITES Subpart A

- (A) ***A topographical map*** published by the U.S. Geological Survey with a depiction of the claim or site; or
- (B) ***A narrative or sketch*** describing the claim or site and ***tying*** the description to a natural object, permanent monument or topographic, hydrographic, or man-made feature.
- (ii) You must show on a map or sketch the boundaries ***and position*** of the individual claim or site by aliquot part within the quarter section ***accurately enough for BLM to identify the mining claims or sites on the ground.***





# THE REGULATIONS SAY WE CAN USE:

- A Topo map,
- A Narrative,
- Or a Sketch.

Let's review a location by Topo map...

USGS

- The regulations tell us you can use a Topo map published by the U.S. Geological Survey.





Note: you will need a tie in for the following:

- *A narrative*
- *A sketch*

Since you are using the contour lines to tie your location in, it is essential that you depict the claim to scale.



Why don't you need a tie in with a Topo map?

A tie in is always preferred, for example, you can tie in to a Bench Mark on a Topo. However, when you sketch your claim on a topo map, you automatically indicate a topographical tie in feature. The difficult part is depicting the claim to scale correctly.





# THE REGULATIONS SAY WE CAN USE:

- A Topo map,
- A Narrative,
- Or a Sketch.

Let's review a location using a narrative...



# An example of an aliquot part narrative.

The  $W1/2SW1/4NW1/4$  is 20 acres.

We know where this is because of the approved survey.

Caution, remember what your commas mean in an aliquot part description.

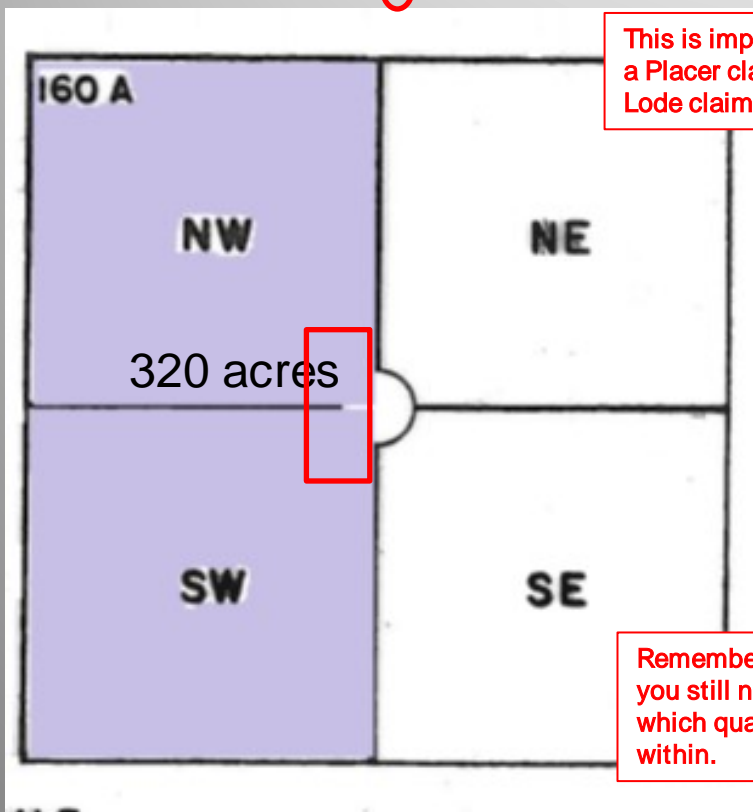
- Use of the comma = "and the"    No comma = "of the"
- ❖ “ $SW1/4NW1/4$ ” is read as.. $SW1/4$  of the  $NW1/4$  =40 ACS  
(one forth of a quarter section.. $1/4$  of 160 acres=40 acs)
- ❖ “ $SW1/4, NW1/4$ ” is read as.. $SW1/4$  and the  $NW1/4$  =320 ACS  
(a quarter section and a quarter section.. $160$  acs and  $160$  acs=320 acs)



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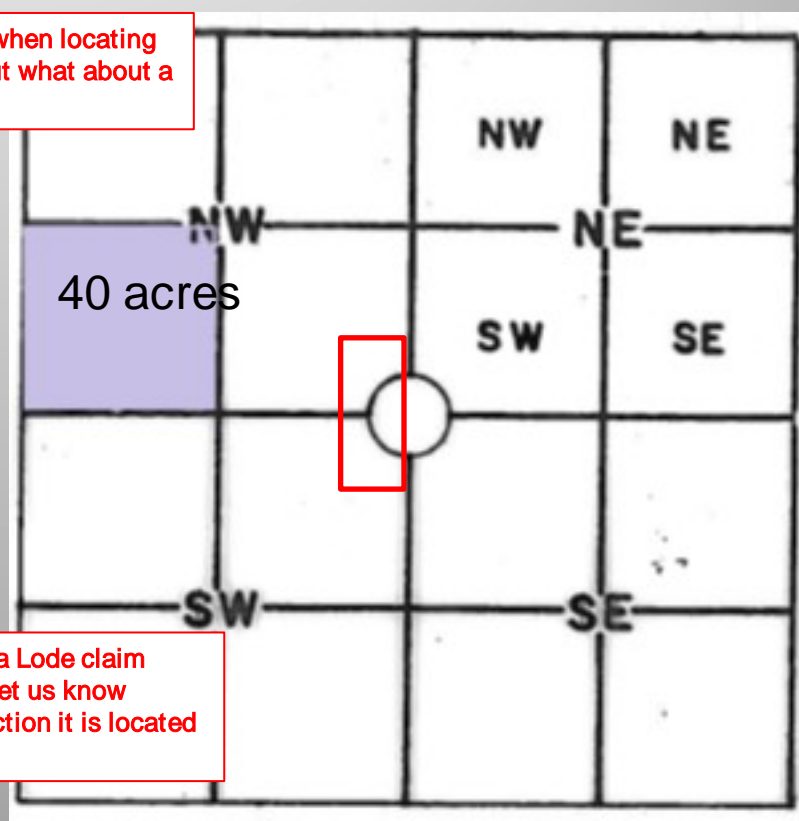
# We can illustrate the aliquot part difference with the diagrams below.

The SW and the NW  
SW1/4, NW1/4



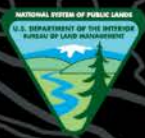
This is important when locating a Placer claim. But what about a Lode claim?

The SW of the NW  
SW1/4NW1/4



Remember, with a Lode claim you still need to let us know which quarter section it is located within.





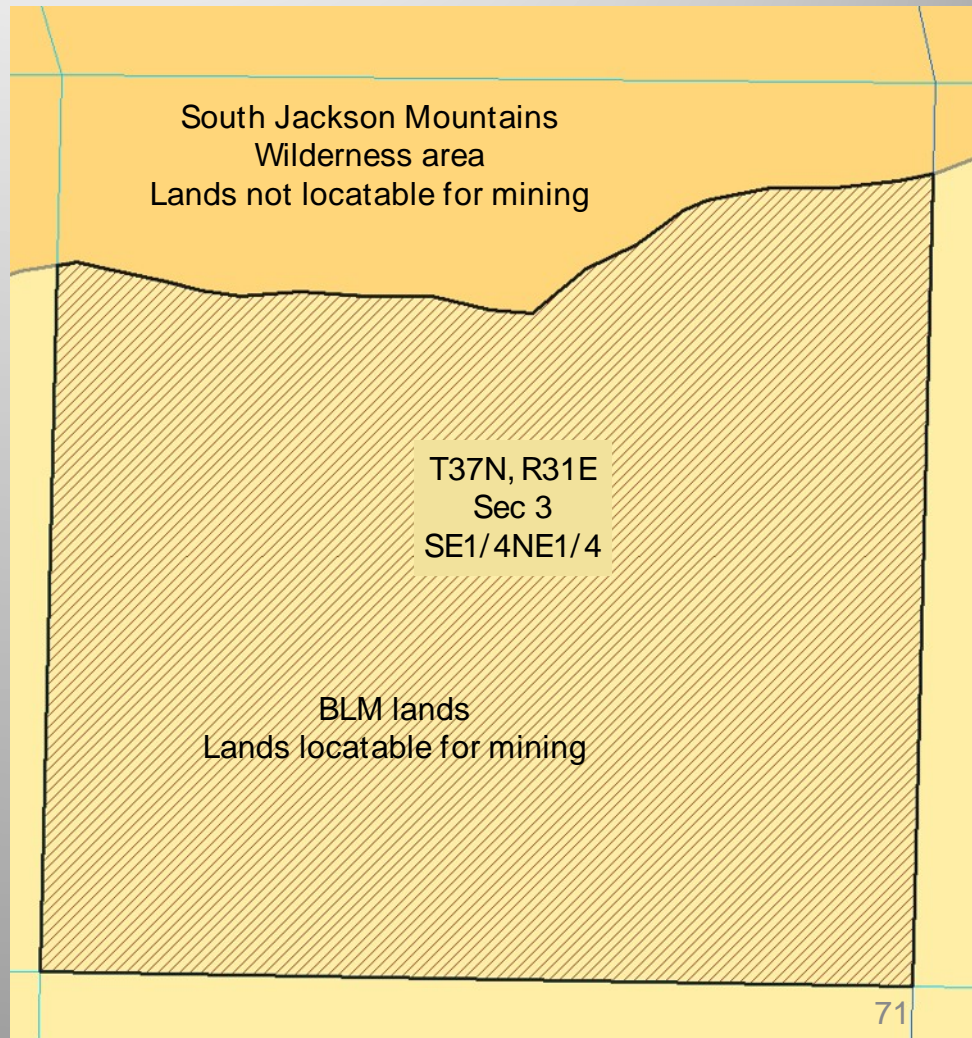
# How can you describe a portion of an aliquot part?

- In some cases you might want to locate a placer claim described by aliquot part in an area that has a withdrawal (WDL). The lands within the WDL are not locatable, the lands outside the WDL are locatable. The WDL does not cause the survey to be lotted. Here are some examples:
- Wilderness areas (Wdns)
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- National Conservation Area (NCA)



## “Excluding”

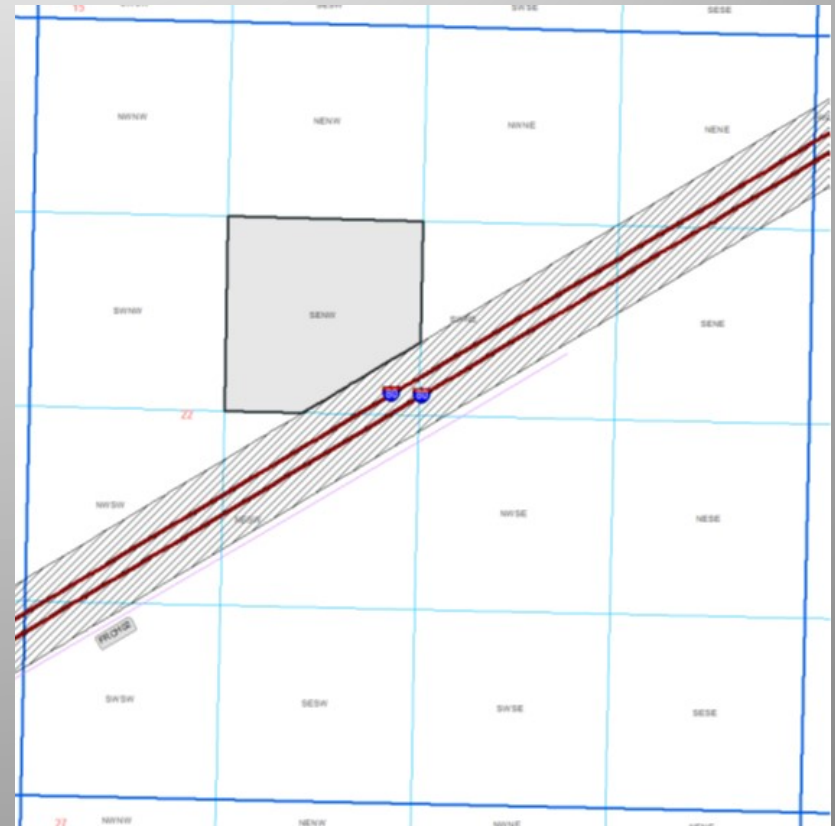
- Sometimes we have to describe aliquot parts “excluding” lands that are not locatable for mining.
- By describing our placer claim as the SE1/4NE1/4 excluding the lands withdrawn for the wilderness area, we are providing a narrative that is aliquot and provides a northern boundary that adjoins the WDL lands.
- This eliminates any survey error.





# Sometimes it's a Right-of-Way that prevents you from locating the complete aliquot part.

- Federal Aid Highway Right-of-Way.
- This ROW is an easement (200 feet on either side of the centerline)..and is not open to mineral entry.
- Remember, placer claims are surface claims.

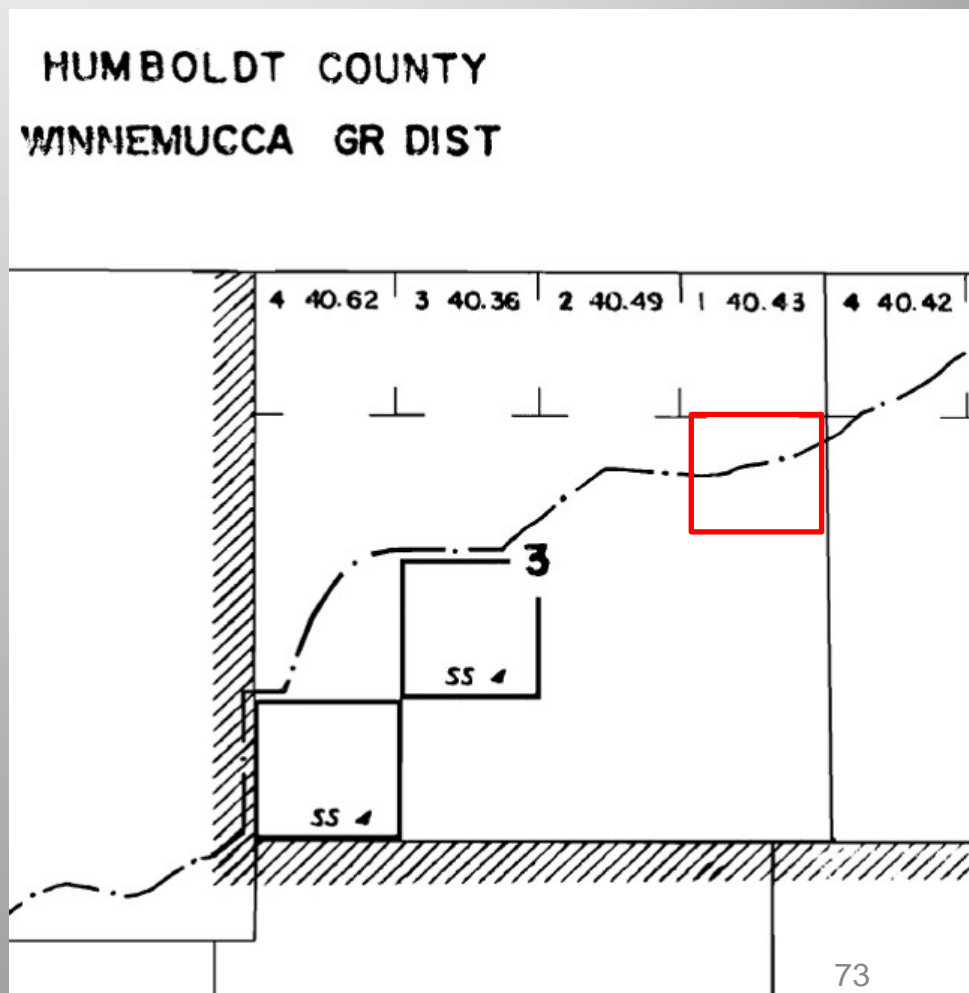






# Advantages

- Using the term “Excluding” provides 2 advantages:
  1. You don’t need a complicated metes and bounds description along the wilderness boundary.
  2. There are no fractions between your claim and the wilderness area.





## How to identify the WDL lands.

- When you are excluding WDL lands, you should identify the WDL lands by the serial number.
- On the Historical Index (HI), you will find the serial number for the WDL.
- The SE1/4NE1/4 excluding wilderness area N74469

### TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH RANGE 31 EAST OF THE MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, NEVADA

Sec	Subdivision	Other Desc	Acres	Kind of Entry	Serial or Order Num	Date of Action	Date Posted	Remarks
2	Lots 3,4,SWNW; (W/I)							
3	Lots 1-4, S2N2,NWSW;							
4	(W/I);							
5	All;		Total					
8	N2,N2SE;	Key	56800.00	South Jackson Mountains				N 74469,
9	NWNE,N2NW,SWNW. (W/I)	38N30E		Wdns	PL 106-554	12/21/2000	12/31/2003	Order eff 10/5/2000



# Metes and Bounds...

To provide a metes and bounds description, you will need the following location data:

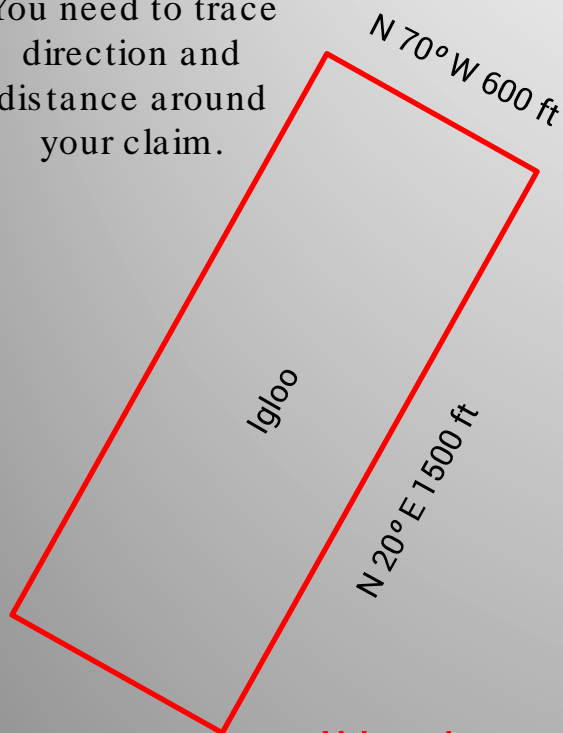
- A tie in to a known monument. This tie in data must include direction and distance from the known monument to a fixed point on the mining claim.
- The “metes” refers to distance and the “bounds” refers to direction. A metes and bounds description provides direction and distance data for each of the claim boundaries.
- Regulations state that you must provide location information accurately enough for BLM to identify the mining claims or sites on the ground. Therefore, unless your claim boundaries are set in a due north/south, east/west direction, you will need to provide our office with the correct distance & bearing for each of your boundaries.





# Metes and Bounds..continued

You need to trace direction and distance around your claim.



Although you are only required to provide a narrative, a map filing is always preferred and a map might clarify any errors you have in your narrative.

- Begin with a tie in...*"From the SW corner of section 10 go N 70° E 700 ft to the SE corner of the Igloo claim"*.
- Then..*N 20° E 1500 ft to the NE corner of the Igloo claim;*
- Thence *N 70° W 600 ft to the NW corner;*
- Thence *S 20° W 1500 ft to the SW corner;*
- Thence *S 70° E 600 ft to the SE corner and point of beginning.*



# THE REGULATIONS SAY WE CAN USE:

- A Topo map,
- A Narrative,
- Or a Sketch.

Let's review a location using a sketch...



# A sketch.

Don't forget to include the position of the claim, ie.

What angle is it positioned in?

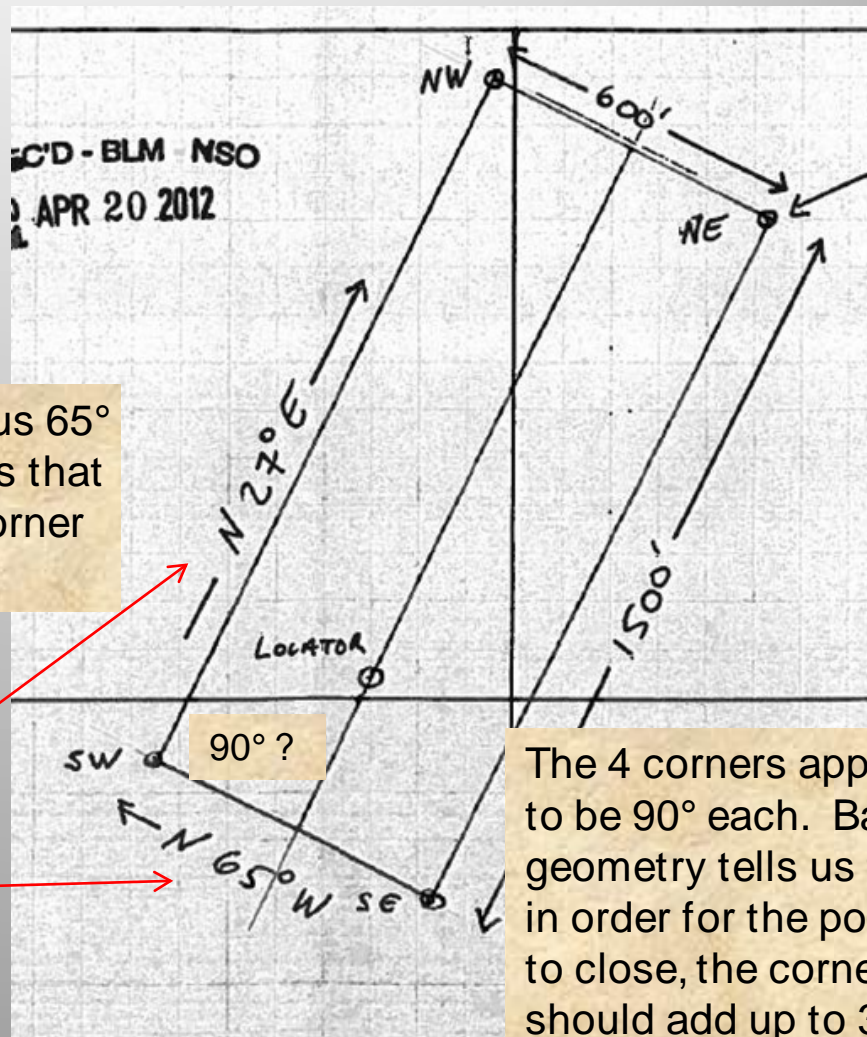
Or what is the orientation of the claim?

Position of the claim

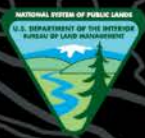
27° plus 65° tells us that this corner is 92°.

90° ?

The 4 corners appear to be 90° each. Basic geometry tells us that in order for the polygon to close, the corners should add up to 360°







# How do I locate Claims/Sites?

- **Placer claims**=aliquot part and complete lots. And under some exceptions metes and bounds.
- **Lode claims**=metes and bounds
- **Mill Sites**...maximum size of 5 acres located on nonmineral lands. Can be located by either metes and bounds or aliquot part. This means you can locate a mill site as you would a lode or placer claim.
- **Tunnel sites**...maximum of 3000 feet. You need to provide the location of each end of the tunnel. Note..tunnel sites are a prospecting method, not a claim. Tunnel sites are used to find minerals underground. When you find the vein, you then need to file a lode claim. In theory, you should be able to file up to 5 lode claims on either side of the tunnel (5 claims 600 feet wide = 3000 feet).



# Tie in data...Lets talk about tie in points,

- It is critical that you provide a starting point.
- In order to find your claim on the ground, we need to know where to begin.
- The most commonly used tie in is the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). Since you need to indicate what quarter section your claim is in, this information should be right in front of you.
- However, the regulations provide a number of other tie in options.

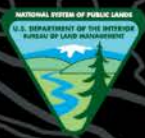


## Alternative tie in points:

43 CFR 3832.12 When I record a mining claim or site, how do I describe the lands I have claimed? (2)(i)(B)..tying the description to a:

- Natural object,
- Permanent monument,
- Topographic,
- Hydrographic, or
- Man-made feature.





## A natural object:

- *An object occurring naturally; not made by man.*

Of course, it wouldn't be prudent to use something like a tree as your tie in. The tree could be cut down and I don't think the tree's location could be found on a map.

43 CFR 3832.12(a)(2)(i)(B)

Does anyone remember the “Shoe Tree” on Hwy 50? What happened to it?



## A permanent monument:

- *A monument of a lasting character for marking a mining claim; it may be a mountain, hill, or ridge.*

Mountain peaks are often recorded on topo maps.

Caution: when using something like a ridge, you will need to identify a point on the ridge.

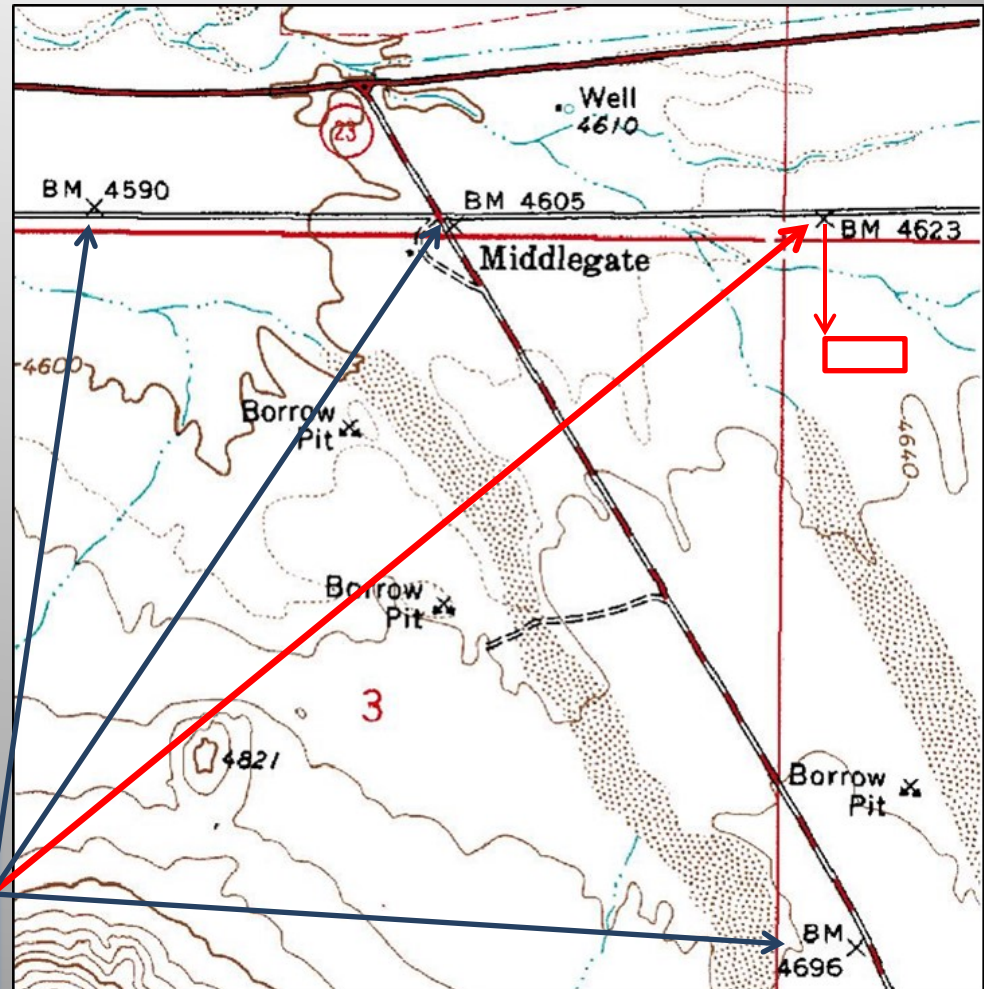


## A topographic feature:

- *Natural features of the earth's surface; representing relief.*

Often, when using a topo, claimants will use a Benchmark for a tie in. Notice the lack of contour lines in this area.

The NW corner of the claim is 2000' south of BM 4623







## A hydrographic feature:

- *The map representation of the surface water features of the landscape.*

Caution: when using something like a river, you will need to identify a point on the river. Also, rivers can change course from time to time.

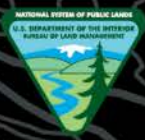


# A man-made feature:

- *All features created by man.*

Caution: when using something like a highway, you will need to identify a point on the highway.

And be reasonable..If you tell me your tie in is at the fork in the “road” (meaning DIRT TRAIL)..think about all the forks you passed on you way to the mining claim.



# Are GPS coordinates acceptable tie in points?

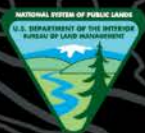
- **Yes**, because the data identifies a specific starting point.

Remember, the intent of the regulation is so the BLM can ***accurately identify the mining claim on the ground.*** You could think of the GPS coordinate as a witness post.

However, **GPS coordinates alone are not sufficient.** You are still required to provide the State, Meridian, Township, Range, Section and Quarter Section.

Which can be easily determined using the earthpoint link.

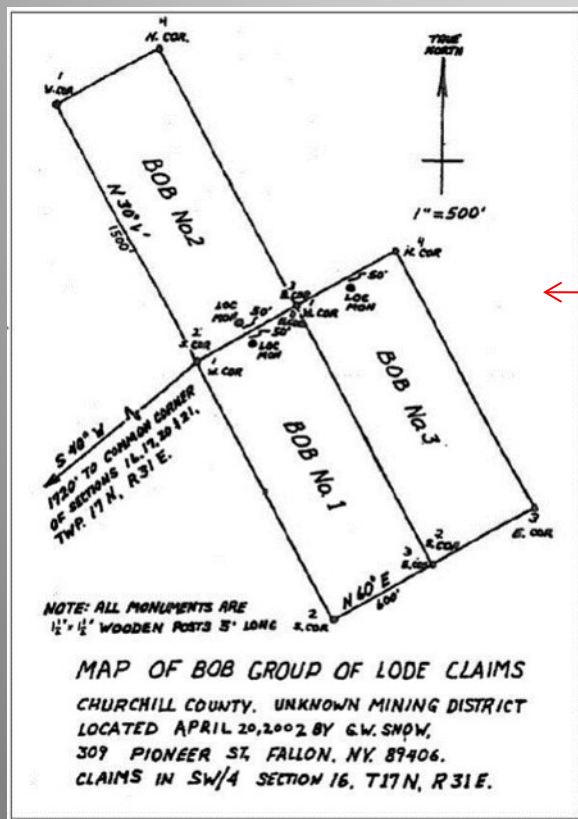




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# Adjudicating the map you filed.

What does BLM do with your map after it is received?



**CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION**  
**LODE MINING CLAIM**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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

<u>1/4</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

RECORDER'S STAMP

in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Nevada, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Your map usually comes in with your COLs for new filings.

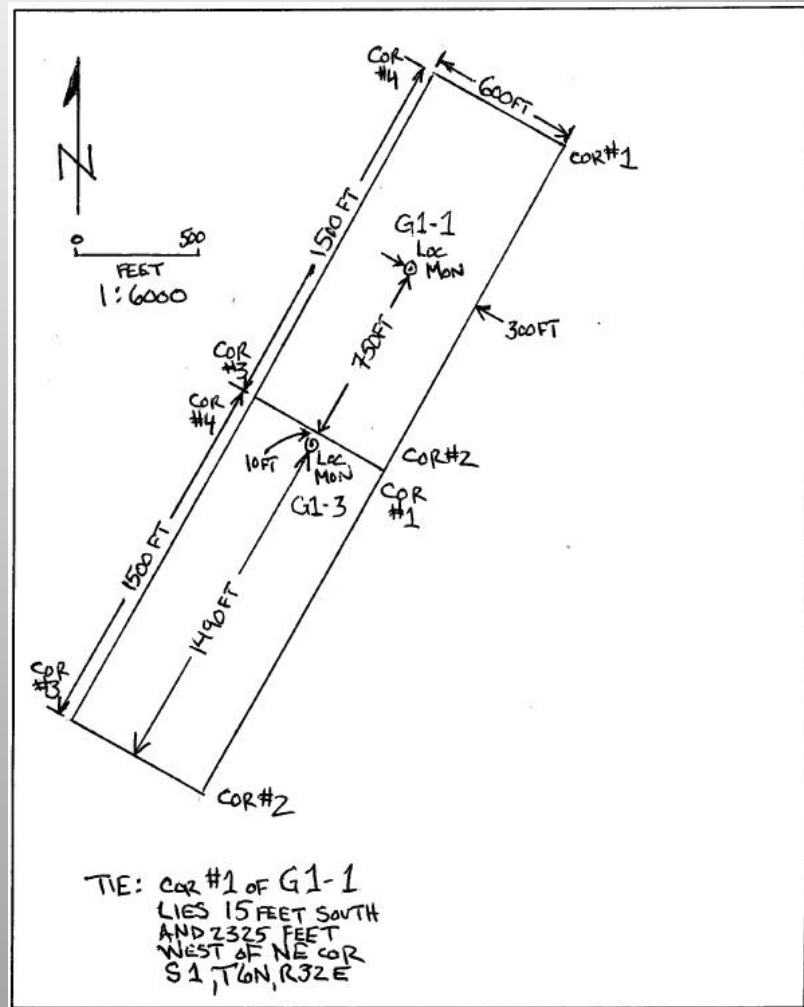
We will use your map to verify that the COLs are correct and the lands are open for location.

In all cases, the location illustrated on your map must match the location indicated on your COL.



## Filing fees...

- All claim maps require a filing fee of \$0.
- All amended claim maps require a filing fee of \$0.
- You can't beat a value like that.



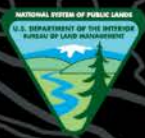


# All maps should include some basic elements.

- A North arrow.
  - A scale.
  - Township and Range.
  - Section.
- 
- Actually, your map should illustrate the location of your claims within the quarter section..see 43 CFR 3832.12(a)(2)(ii)

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



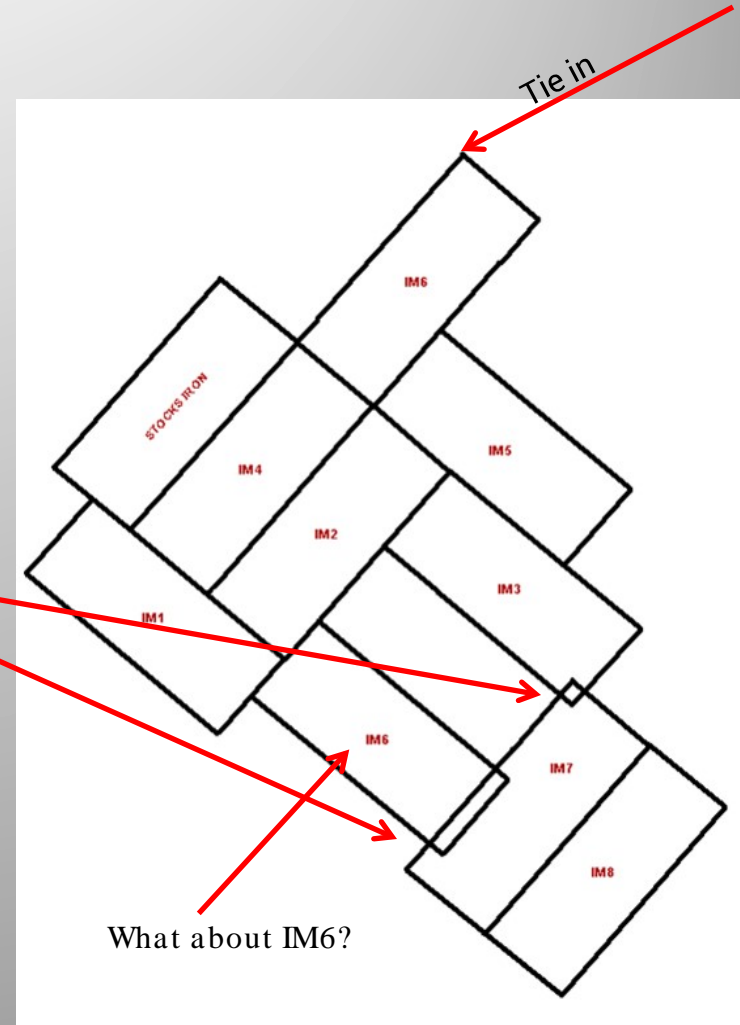


# Claim blocks:

- When you locate a block of claims that are contiguous, only one tie in point with direction and distance is required.

Offsets

- One exception is when your claims are offset from each other. We need to know what the offset is or a separate tie in.





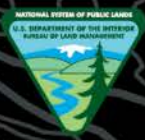
# Don't be too ambiguous.

- Please don't say, "my claim is approximately 1.6 miles in a Northwest direction from the courthouse in Tonopah Nevada."

What part of the courthouse do we start at?

Direction...The Northwest could be described as a bearing of  $30^{\circ}$ , or  $45^{\circ}$ , or  $60^{\circ}$ , etc.

Distance...Where did you come up with "1.6 miles"??  
Were you watching your odometer while you were 4 wheeling through the hills around Tonopah??



How should I express Direction  
and/or Position?

What types of data are acceptable?





# Let's start with the compass.

North, South, East, and West are always easiest.

You could record the direction like this, ***“the NW corner of my claim is 550 feet south and 1200 feet east of the NW corner of section 20, T32N, R50E”.***

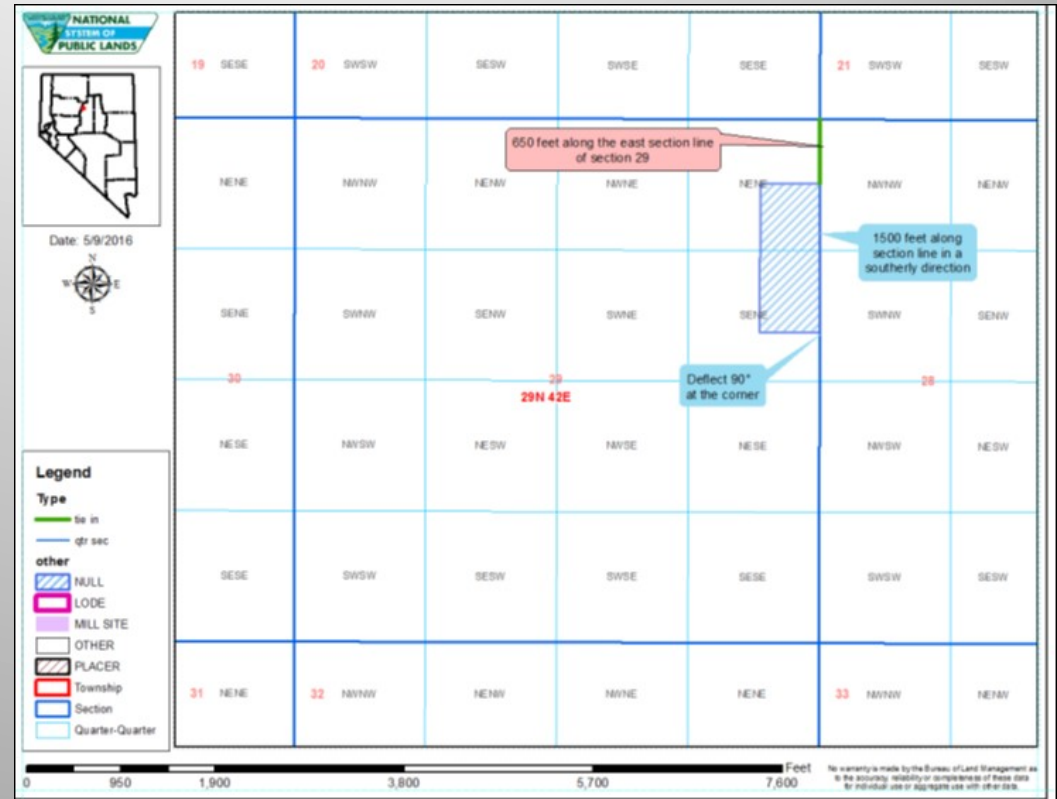
With this method, no angles or degrees are needed!

But you need to remember, this does not follow the PLSS. North means zero degrees. And, the PLSS does not run due north/south.



## Or, you can use the cadastral survey information.

- From the NE corner of section 29, go 650 feet along the section line in a southerly direction.
- The east boundary of the claim is adjacent to the section line.
- At the SE corner of the claim, deflect 90° and go 600 feet to the SW corner.

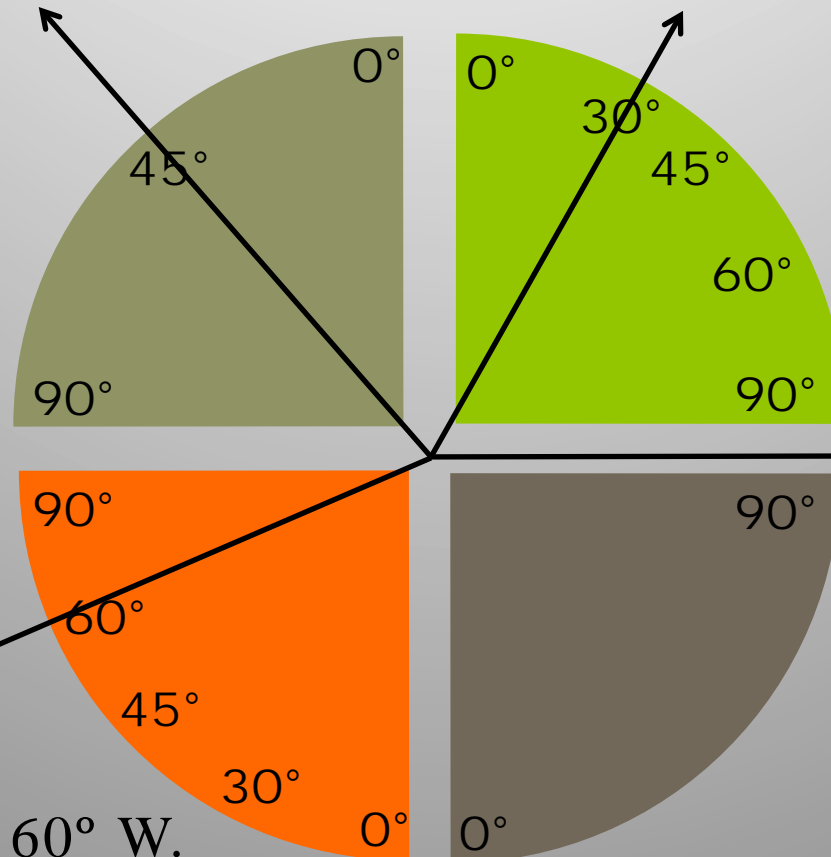




# Quadrant and Bearing...

- expressed as N 45° W.

- expressed as N 30° E.



- expressed as  
either N 90° E  
or S 90° E.

- expressed as S 60° W.

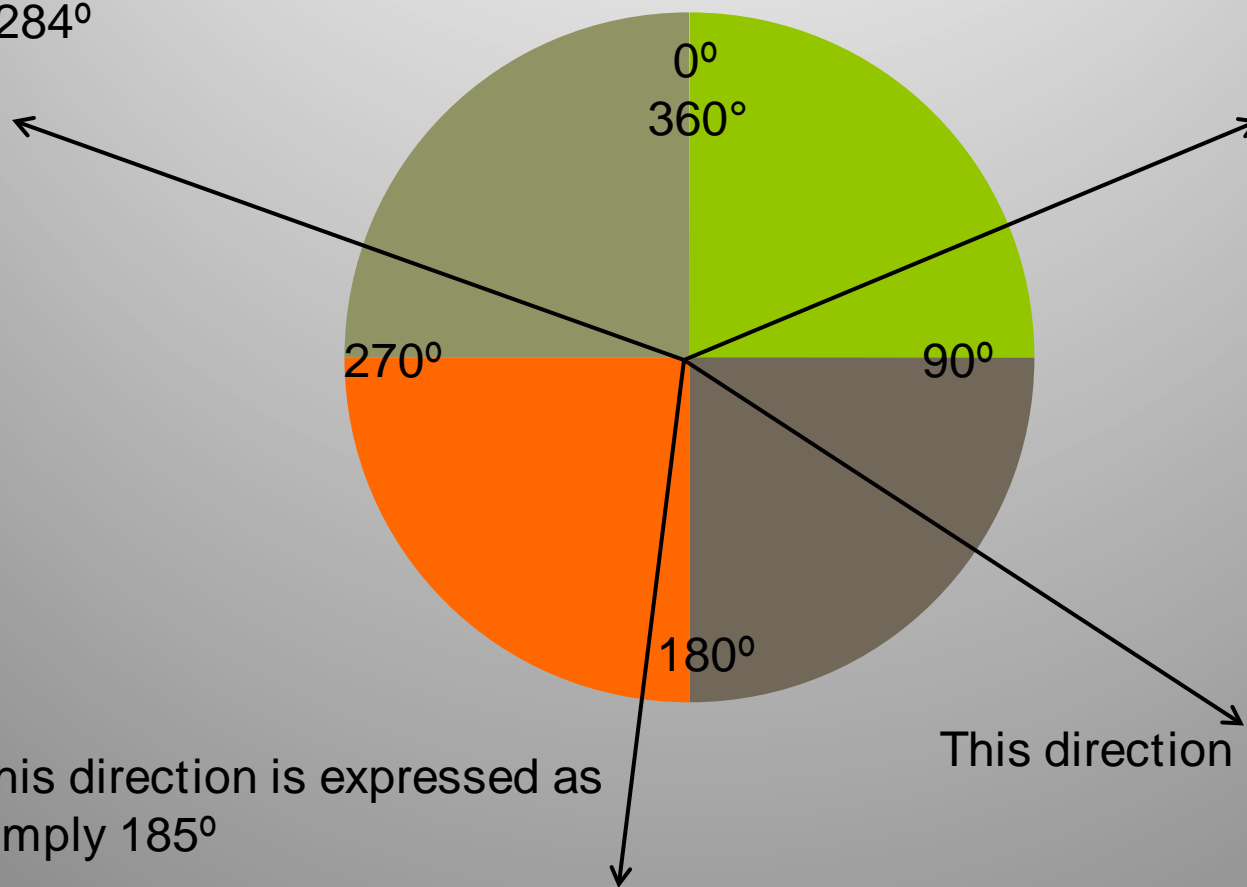




# North Azimuth...

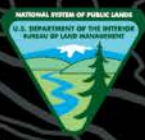
This direction is expressed as  
simply  $284^{\circ}$

This direction is expressed as  
simply  $70^{\circ}$



This direction is expressed as  
simply  $185^{\circ}$

This direction is expressed as  
simply  $100^{\circ}$



Direction format. You can use:

- Degrees minutes seconds.  $68^{\circ} 11' 55''$
- Degrees decimal minutes.  $68^{\circ} 11.91666'$
- Decimal degrees.  $68.1986111^{\circ}$

There are resources online that can convert your data into any one of these formats.

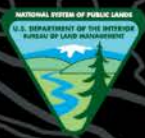
Please note that there are only 60 seconds in a minute and 60 minutes in a degree.  *$68^{\circ} 75' 55''$  is not acceptable.*



# Why is the position of your claim so important?

- You can give us good tie in data from a section corner to the corner of the claim. However, we can't find the other claim corners without your position data.
- Also, we are required to verify that the quarter sections listed on your COL match the quarter sections your map.
- Consider the following example.

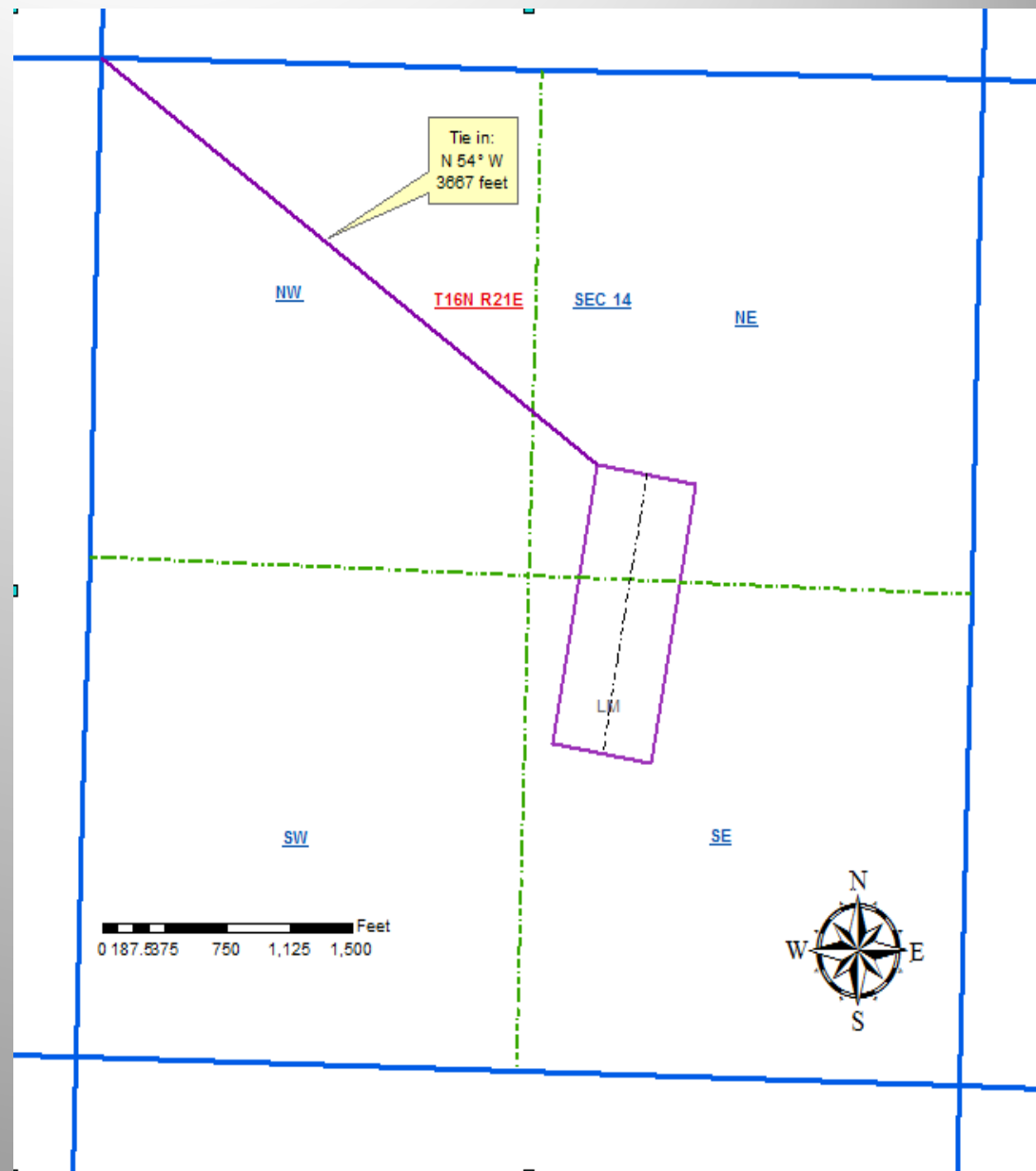




As you can see in this map:

- Claim 1, is in all 4 quarter sections.
- Claim 2, is in the NE1/4, SW1/4 & SE1/4.
- Claim 3, is in the NE1/4 & SE1/4.

All 3 have the same tie in data. All 3 have the same dimensions.





# What about GPS???

- What type should I use?
- What type can I use?

**Global Positioning System, any format is acceptable:**

- You can use UTM's
- Or Latitude and Longitude.

You should always indicate the Datum you are using:

Referencing coordinates to the wrong datum can result in position errors of thousands of feet. Therefore coordinates should ALWAYS include information about the datum being referenced.

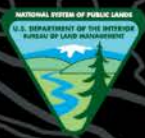
- NAD27
  - NAD83
- These are the 2 most commonly used datums..however, there are others. Although we prefer that you use one of these, we will adjust to your data.



# Some real advantages of GPS.

- You don't have to locate a survey marker.
- You can easily stand at each corner marker and your discovery monument and take a GPS reading.
- When you get back to the office you can sketch a map with coordinates at each corner.
- Then, review your location on [Eathpoint.us](http://Eathpoint.us)

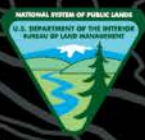




# Mapping Discrepancies

If you receive correspondence from our office that says we found a location discrepancy, the first thing you want to do is check your map and see if you included the datum.

- Our default is NAD83.
- ❖ If you did not provide the datum and you used something other than NAD83, you can submit an amended map with this information and we should be on the same page.
- ❖ If you did provide the datum and it is something other than NAD83, we probably didn't account for this variance. Just contact our office and explain the situation. We should be able to adjust to your data and verify the location of your claims.



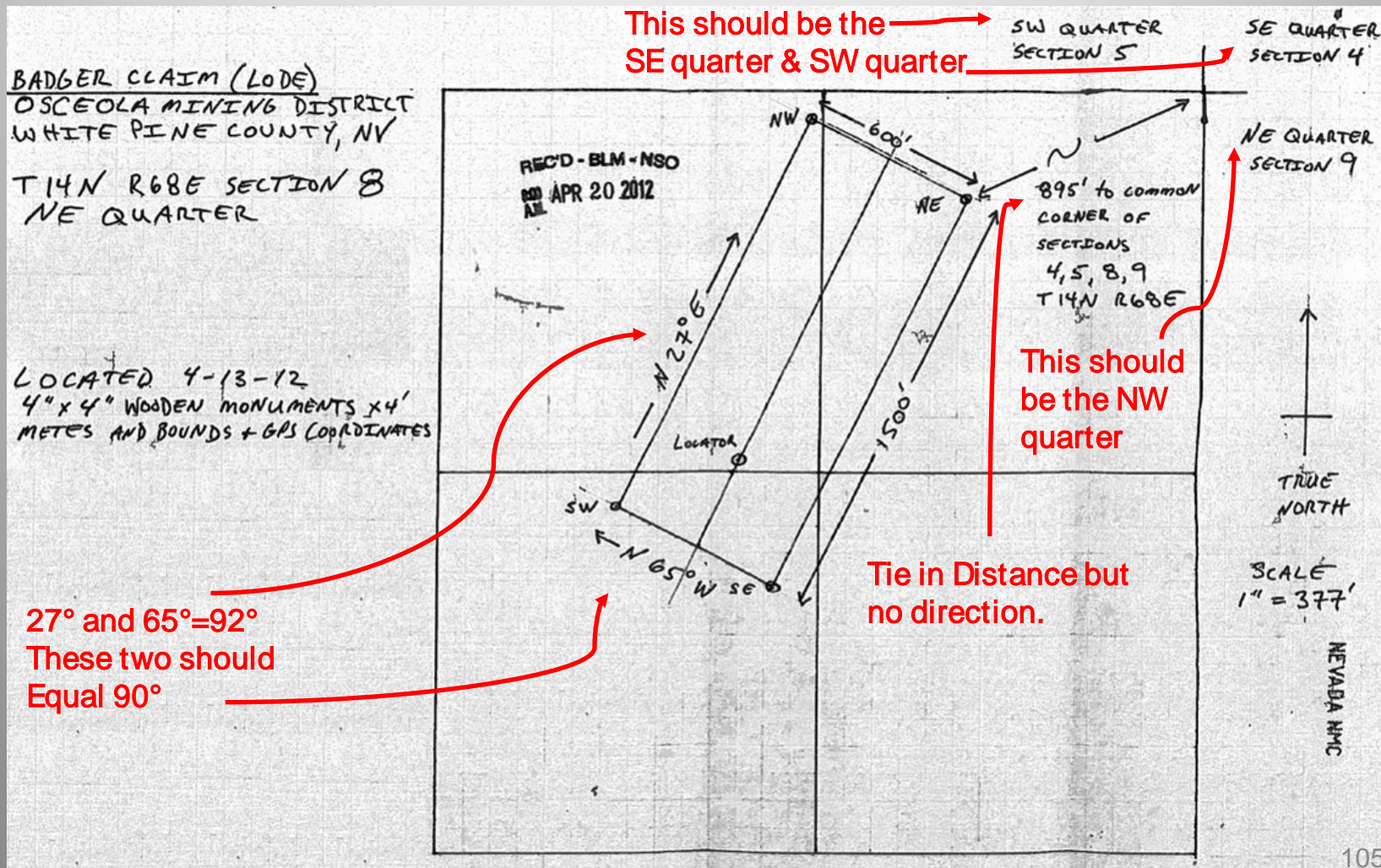
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# Examples of maps previously filed.

We can learn from the successes and mistakes of others.



# Inaccurate map.







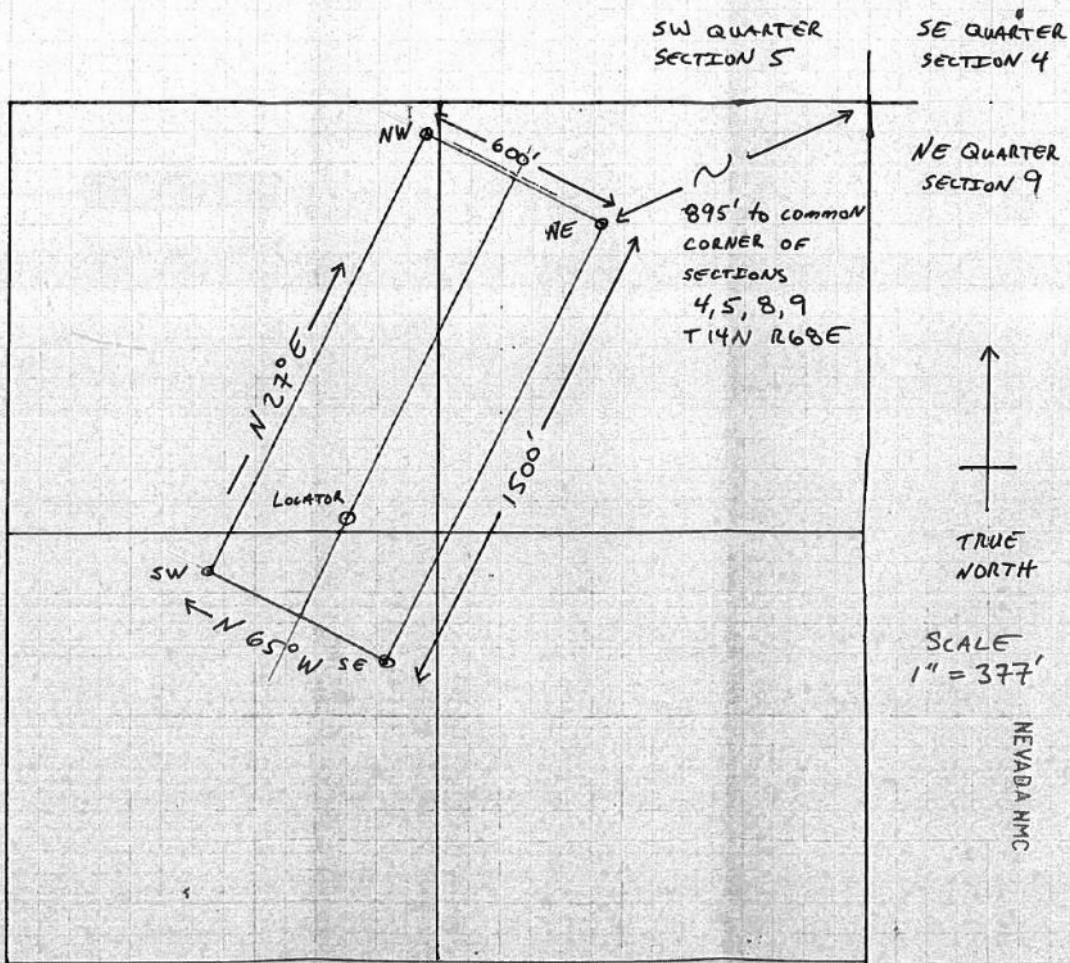
# GPS to the rescue.

BADGER CLAIM (LODE)  
OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT  
WHITE PINE COUNTY, NV  
T14N R68E SECTION 8  
NE QUARTER

LOCATED 4-13-12  
4" x 4" WOODEN MONUMENTS x 4'  
METES AND BOUNDS + GPS COORDINATES

MONUMENTS:

LOCATOR: LAT 39° 5' 47.5  
LONG 114° 21' 40.5  
NW CORNER: LAT 39° 5' 58.9  
LONG 114° 21' 37.2  
NE CORNER: LAT 39° 5' 56.5  
LONG 114° 21' 30.3  
SW CORNER: LAT 39° 5' 45.9  
LONG 114° 21' 45.8  
SE CORNER: LAT 39° 5' 43.5  
LONG 114° 21' 38.9



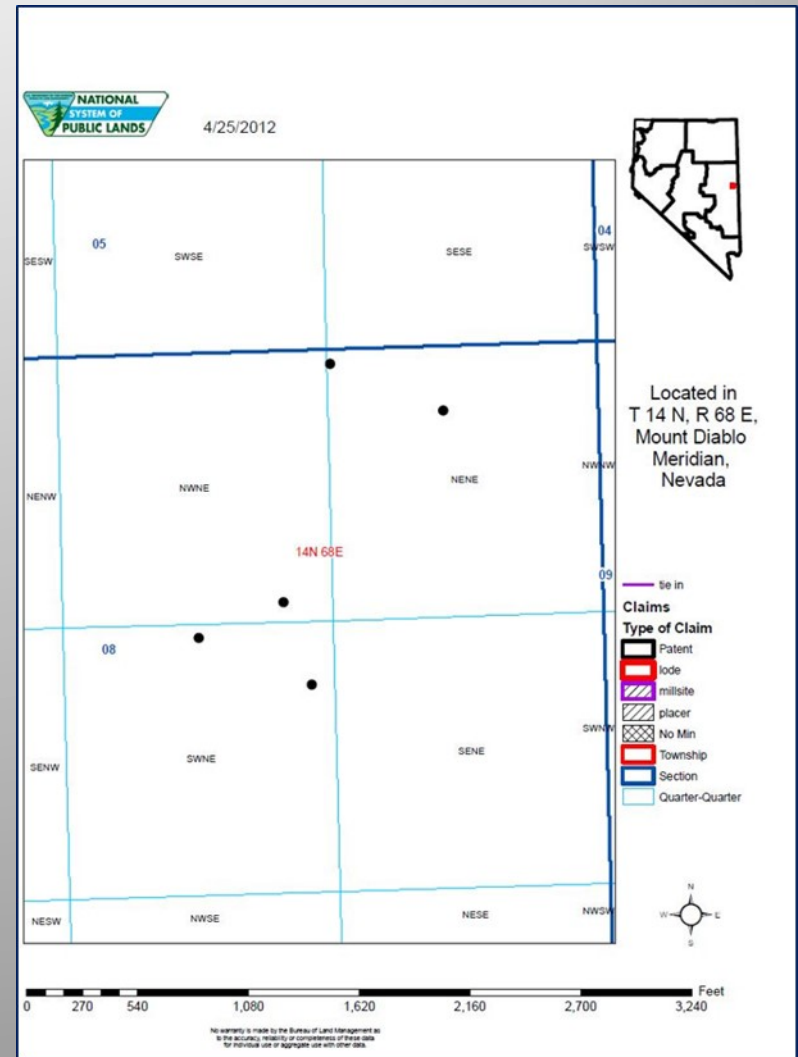
Now we  
can  
find the  
claim.



# This is how we use your GPS coordinates...

## Plot the GPS coordinates.

- The dots represent the GPS coordinates of all 4 corners and the discovery monument.



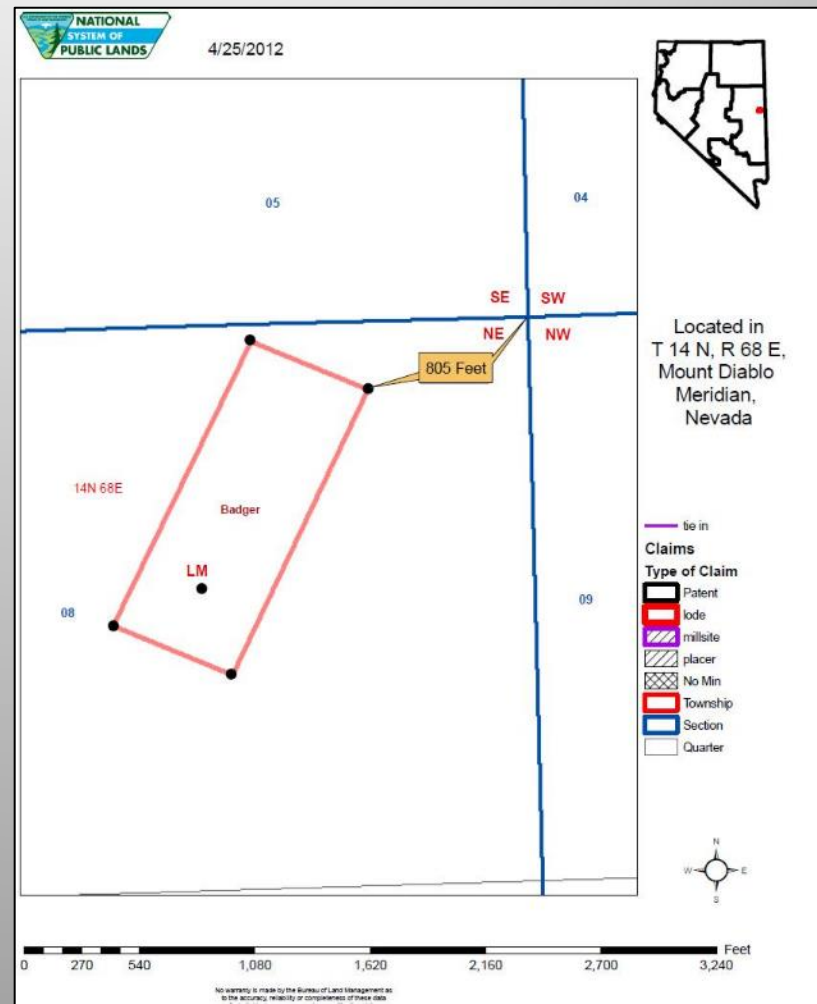


# Connect the dots.

If we connect the dots, we get a pretty accurate location of the claim.

We can then also calculate the distance to the section corner.

The coordinates also provide the position of the claim.





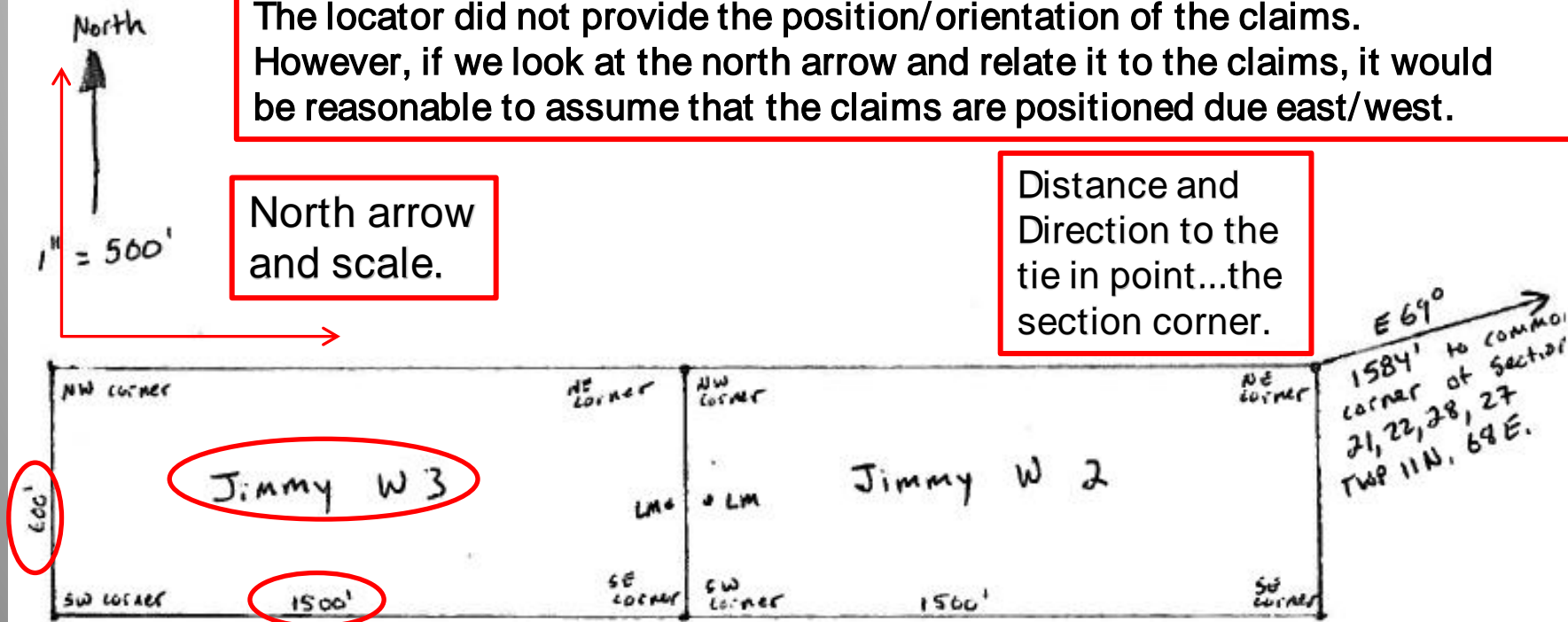


# Simple map that meets the requirements.

The locator did not provide the position/orientation of the claims. However, if we look at the north arrow and relate it to the claims, it would be reasonable to assume that the claims are positioned due east/west.

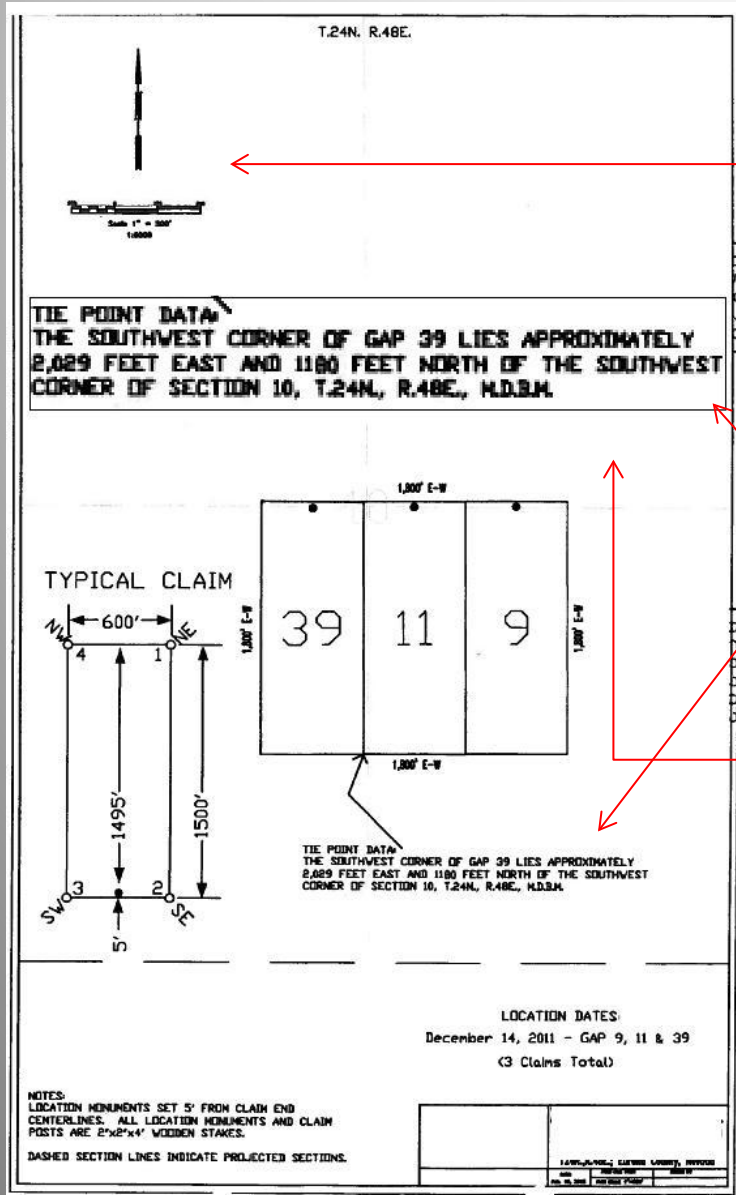
North arrow  
and scale.

Distance and  
Direction to the  
tie in point...the  
section corner.





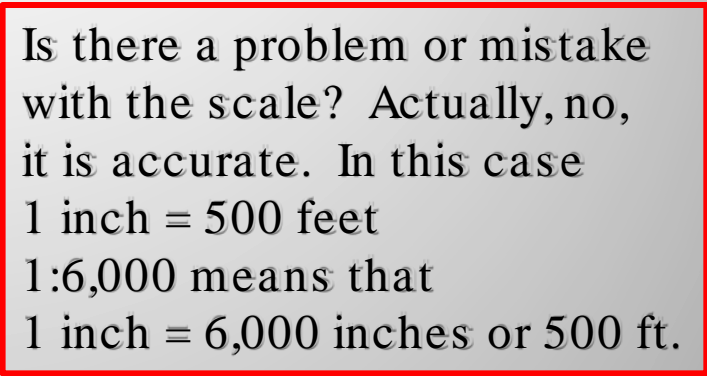
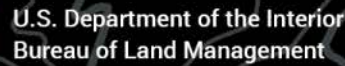
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Bureau of Land Management



North arrow and scale.

I made the tie in data larger  
so you could see that it  
makes sense.

Positioned in a due  
North/South direction.



What angle are the claims positioned at?

The tie in works.

This map is defective. We would send a notice allowing the claimant to amend the filing within 30 days.

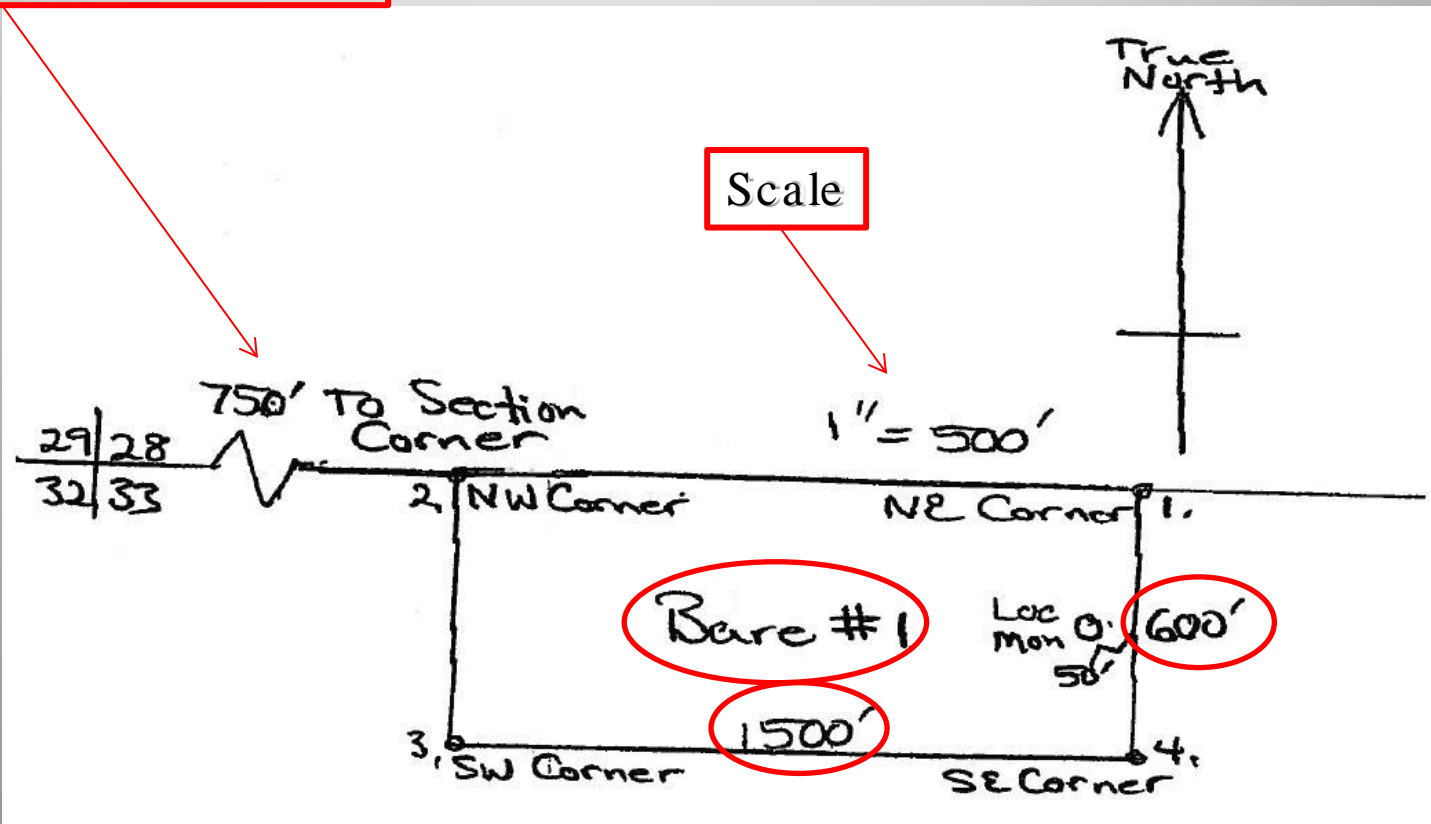
Remember the regulation at:

43 CFR 3832.12(a)(2)(ii) You must show on a map or sketch the boundaries **and position** of the individual claim or site by aliquot part within the quarter section accurately enough for BLM to identify the mining claims or sites on the ground.





Tie in to the section corner.  
Claim located 750 feet from  
section corner.  
Claim is positioned adjacent  
to the Section line.





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# QUESTIONS?