



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

# CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION & MAPPING A CLAIM

**Dawneva Rios**  
**Land Law Examiner**





# Let's file a mining claim...

- ❖ Choose an area that you are interested in mining.
- ❖ Take that specific area and identify a township, range and section (surface management maps in public room show you who manages the surface, i.e.: private, BLM, USFS).
- ❖ Review the Master Title Plat (MTP) and Historical Index (HI) to determine ownership of the land and if the land is open to mineral entry (<https://www.nv.blm.gov/LandRecords/>).
- ❖ Make sure no one has a prior right to the area you want to claim. You can use the MLRS reporting tool (<https://reports.blm.gov/>).
- ❖ Make sure you staked your claim boundaries in accordance with Nevada state laws ([www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)).





## Put it in writing.....

- ❖ Federal regulations at 43 CFR 3833.1 state:  
“Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires you to record all mining claims & sites with the State office of the BLM and the local recording office...”.  
*(county recorder)*
- ❖ You do this by providing a Certificate of Location (COL).



# What is a COL & why do I need one?

- ❖ The Certificate of Location is the backbone of the mining claim file.
- ❖ Puts the public on notice that you have staked a claim on a specific piece of ground.
- ❖ Allows Federal and State entities a means of tracking claims/sites on public lands.
- ❖ Federal law requires recordation of mining claims on federal land.



# Where are the forms and what information is required?

- ❖ There are state approved Certificate of Location forms. They can be found at (<https://minerals.nv.gov/Programs/Mining/MiningClaims/>).

If you choose to prepare your own document, it must contain the following required information:

- ❖ Name & current mailing address of each locator.
- ❖ Date of location.
- ❖ Type of claim/site.
- ❖ Name or number, or both of claim/site.
- ❖ A complete description of the lands you have claimed as required in part.



## 43 CFR 3832.12(a)

All claims and sites. You must describe the land by state, meridian, township, range, section, and by aliquot part to the quarter section. To obtain the land description, you must use an official survey plat or other U.S. Government map that is based on the surveyed or protracted U.S. Public Land Survey System. If you cannot describe the land by aliquot part (e.g., *the land is unsurveyed*), you must provide a metes and bounds description that fixes the position of the claim corners with respect to a specified claim corner, discovery monument, or official survey monument. In all cases, your description of the land must be as compact and regular in form as reasonably possible and should conform to the U.S. Public Land Survey System and its rectangular subdivisions as much as possible.



# Name & Address of Locator(s)

- ❖ All the locators of the claim must be stated on the COL with addresses listed for each of them.
- ❖ Even if the address is the same (reside at same address) as another locator, it must still be set out on the COL for each locator.
- ❖ You can have an Agent that will act/sign for all the locators; however, that does not negate the address requirement of each locator.
- ❖ If you are the Agent for the locators, you must indicate your capacity next to your name.





# Date of Location

- ❖ The date of location is the date that you made your discovery or located your claim.
- ❖ The date you file your COL must be within 90 days after your location date. If you file your COL on the 91<sup>st</sup> day, after your location date, your filing will be rejected. You send in your COL by mail, then we will honor the official postmark date, if it is within the 90-day period after your date of location, and if the BLM receives it within 15 days after the due date.
- ❖ Seniority is based on “location date” NOT filing date...if you do not provide a location date, we will use the date you signed your COL as your “location date of record”.
- ❖ You can file a **copy** of the original COL that you filed with the County with us and record the original with the County Recorders’ office.





## Name of Claim/Site

- ❖ Your COL must state the name of your claim or site.
- ❖ Keep it simple in order to make it easier to do searches in MLRS.



# Types of Claims or Sites

❖ Lode Claims

❖ Placer Claims

❖ Mill Sites

❖ Tunnel Sites





## Lode Claim

Veins, lodes, ledges, or other rock in place; not to exceed 1500 ft. by 600 ft. (300 ft on each side of the middle of the vein/lode) COL must state the quarter section and it must be accompanied by a narrative or map/sketch describing the location and position of the claim accurately enough for BLM to identify the claim on the ground.



# Placer Claim

- ❖ River sands or gravels; rock not in original place; may not exceed 20 acres per individual claimant; maximum size is 160 acres, all locators must be identified; claim must be contiguous\*; if in a surveyed township must be described by aliquot part or complete lots, down to the acreage size.
- ❖ If in un-surveyed township that has a protracted survey of record the claim must be described by aliquot part if located in a section projected as 640 acres. If the acreage is anything other than 640 acres the placer claim should be described by a metes and bounds description.
- ❖ All un-surveyed land in Nevada has a protracted diagram.

\*parcels side by side, or end to end. Corners are not considered contiguous.





## Placer Claim... continued

- ❖ Gulch or Bench placer claims can be described by metes and bounds.
- ❖ Portion of a Lot: Claims should be described by metes and bounds; however, the metes and bounds description cannot cross into the aliquot part description.
- ❖ Claims that are bounded by other mining claims (patented or unpatented) or bounded by non-mineral land could be described by a metes and bound description.

Please state the reasons for the exemption on your COL or in a letter.



## Placer Claim... continued

- ❖ Acreage: each person or business entity may locate up to 20 acres.
- ❖ Conformity: claims must conform as near as practicable with public land surveys, and the rectangular subdivisions of such surveys.
- ❖ Compactness: claims must be as compact and regular in form as reasonably possible.



## Mill Site

Non-mineral land not contiguous to vein or lode used for activities related to mineral development of associated lode or placer, or for independent milling or reduction; not to exceed 5 acres. Description of the location of the site can be by either metes and bounds or aliquot part.



## Tunnel Site

Subsurface right-of-way used for access to lode claims or exploration for undiscovered lodes; not to exceed 3000 ft. in length with a radius of 1500 ft.

You must file a Lode Claim if you make a discovery in order to have rights to those minerals.





# Describing a Lode Claim

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

**CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION  
LODE MINING CLAIM**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Name and mailing address of locator:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

located the \_\_\_\_\_ Lode Mining Claim in the following quarter section(s):

<u>1/4</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>

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

The Claim is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ feet long and \_\_\_\_\_ feet wide, such that \_\_\_\_\_ feet are claimed in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction and \_\_\_\_\_ feet in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction from the point of discovery (monument of location), at which the Notice of Location was posted, together with \_\_\_\_\_ feet on each side of the monument of location and center line of the Claim. The general course of the lode or vein is from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ direction.

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

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Markings</u>
No. 1:	_____	_____
No. 2:	_____	_____
No. 3:	_____	_____
No. 4:	_____	_____

As erected on the ground each corner monument is marked by \_\_\_\_\_ (metal tags, paint, etc.)

The undersigned certifies that work of location included making a claim map as provided in NRS 517.040.

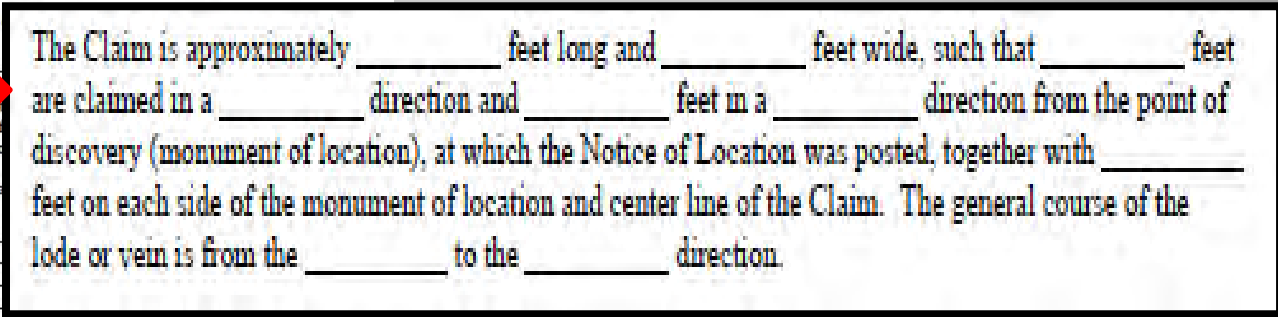
Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Locator or Agent Signature (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Locator or Agent Name (printed)

Suggested Form - Nevada Division of Minerals (REV. 8-27-2015)  
Nevada Lode Certificate of Location - NRS 517.050

The Description Box on a COL.

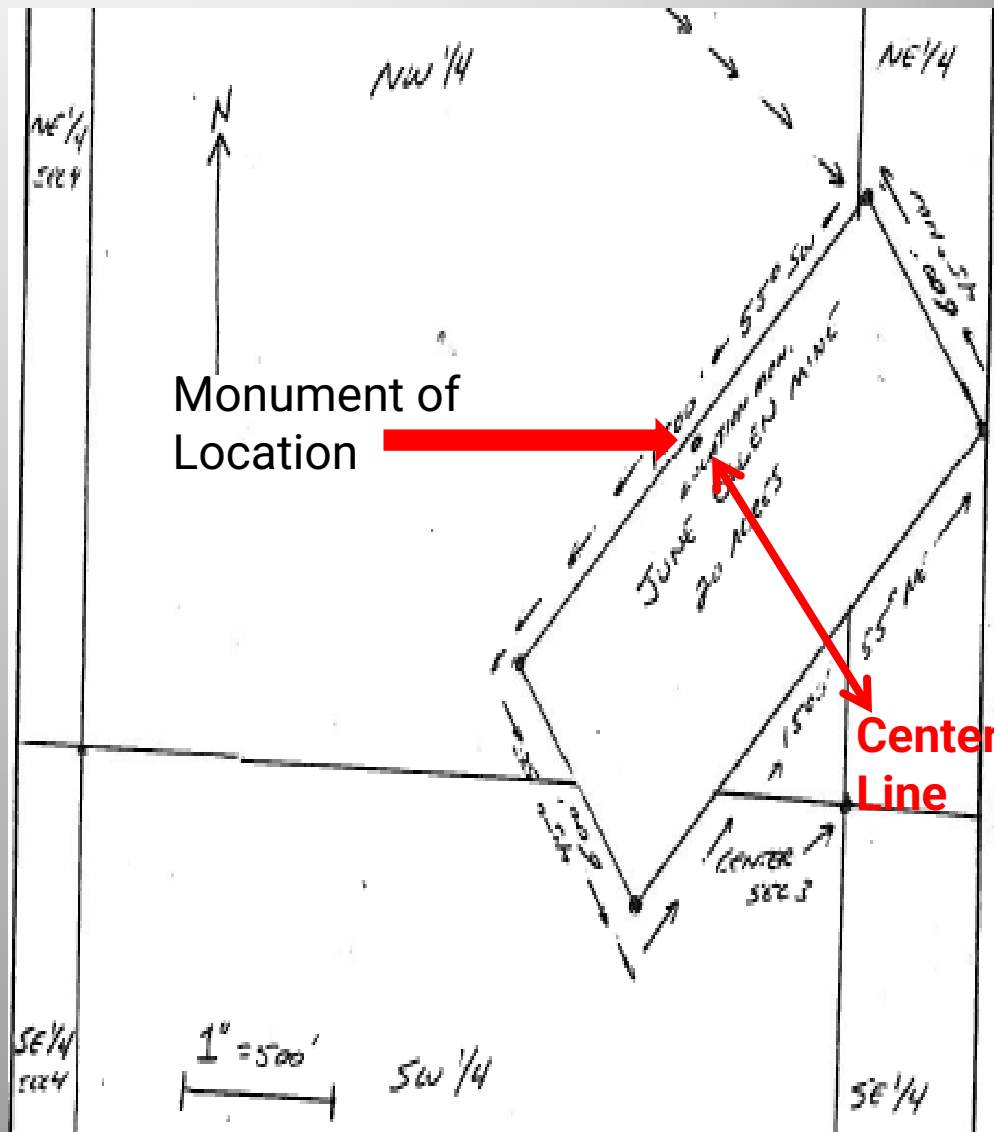


This is where you put the claim on paper.



# Incorrectly Described Lode Claim

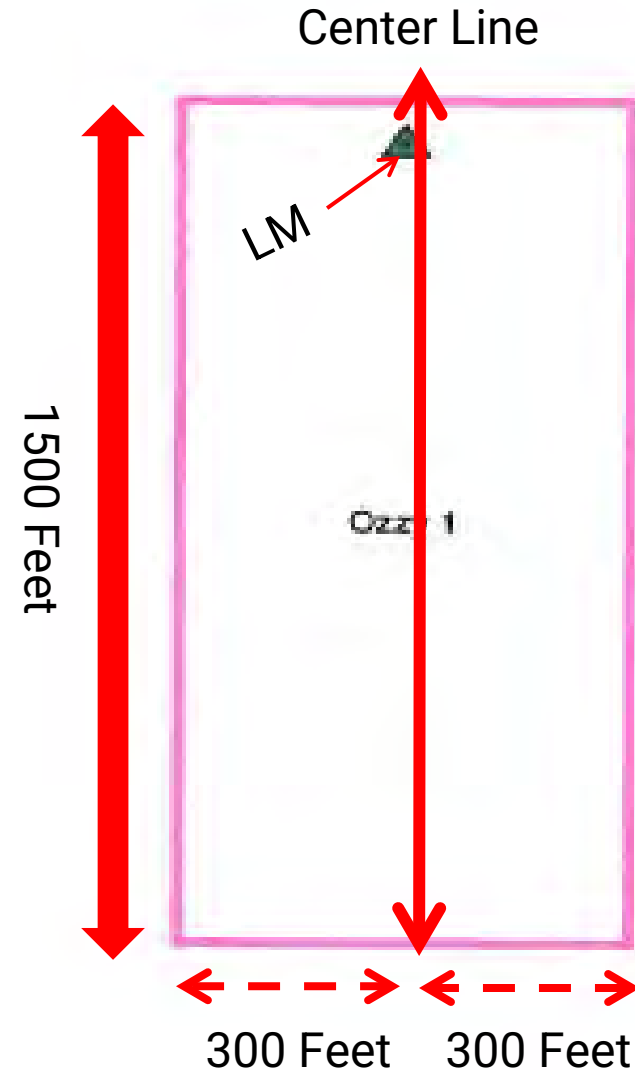
The claim is approximately 1500 feet long and 600 feet wide, such that 590 feet are claimed in a South direction and 10 feet in a North direction from the point of discovery (monument of location), at which the Notice of Location was posted, together with **750** feet on each side of the monument of location and center line of the claim. The general course of the lode or vein is from the **SE** to the **NE** direction.





# Correctly Described Lode Claim

The claim is approximately 1500 feet long and 600 feet wide, such that 10 feet are claimed in a North direction and 1490 feet in a South direction from the point of discovery (monument of location), at which the Notice of Location was posted, together with **300** feet on each side of the monument of location and center line of the claim. The general course of the lode or vein is from the North to the South direction.

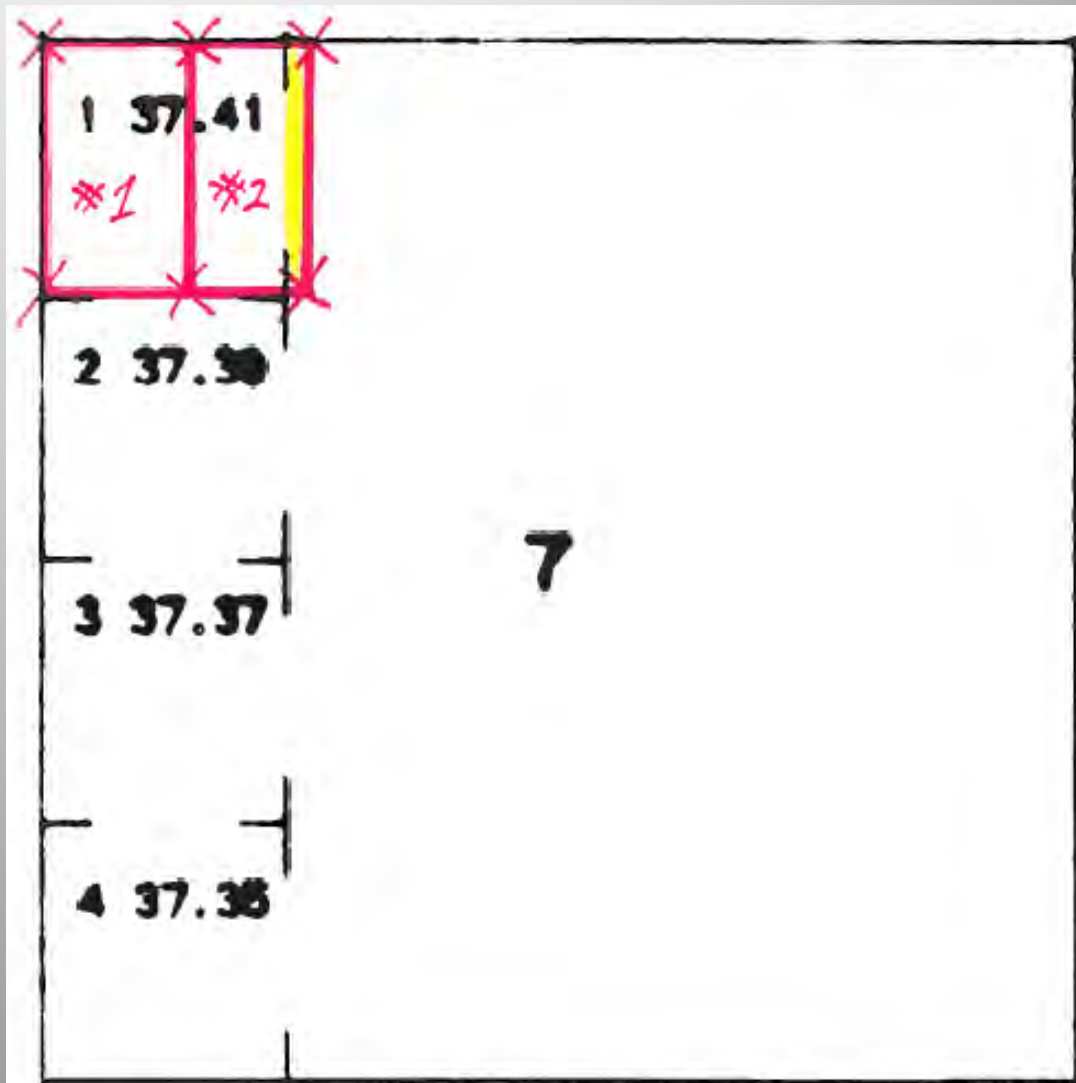




## Example: Placer claim in Portion of Lots

Claim #1 is listed as 20 acres using a metes and bounds description.

Claim #2 is listed as 20 acres using a metes and bounds description, but this claim should be 17.41 acres. Claim #2 cannot cross into an aliquot part.





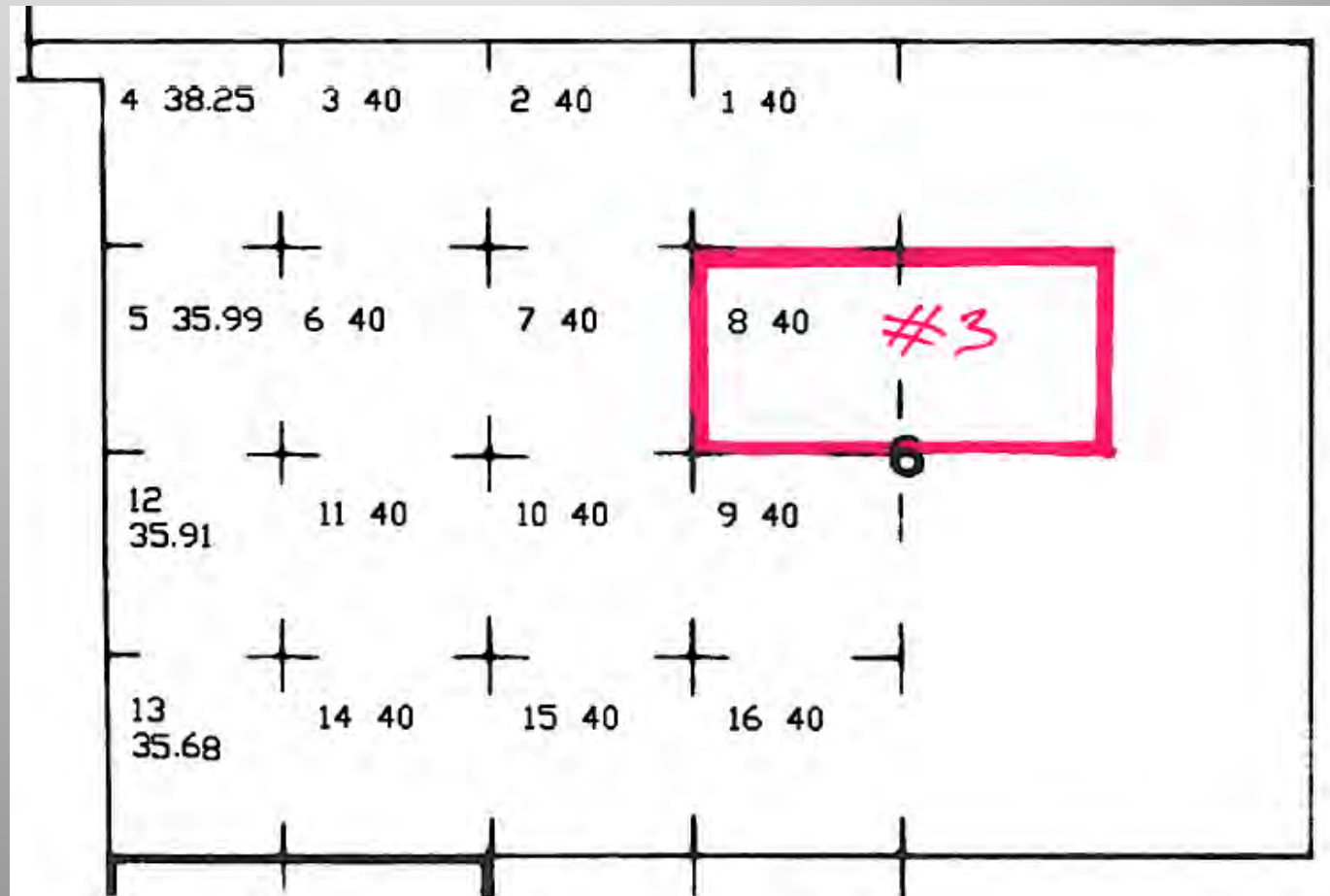


## Example: Placer claim in Complete Lot & Aliquot Part

The description for this would be:

Lot 8 and SW1/4NE1/4.

Total of 80 acres.





## Location of claim/site-Legal description and size of claim

- ❖ Placer claims should be described in Aliquot Part (AP) down to the actual acreage amount of claim i.e.: a 20-acre claim would be described as S  $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , a 40-acre claim would be NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- ❖ The legal description on the COL for all claims/sites must state the legal description down to the quarter section, the map page will further describe and set out the coordinates for the claim itself.
- ❖ Exceeding acreage/size limits will result in a Notice being sent out to the claimant asking for an amendment to reduce the size/acreage of the claim. Non-compliance or no response to the Notice will result in the claim being declared forfeit and void.



# New Claim Filing Fees

The current filing fee for a new lode claim, mill site, tunnel site, or 20-acre placer mining claim is \$230.00, broken down as follows:

- ❖ \$25.00 non-refundable processing fee
- ❖ \$40.00 location fee
- ❖ \$165.00 *initial* year maintenance fee
- ❖ The initial maintenance fees for Placer claims are calculated at \$165.00 per 20 acres or portion thereof, in addition to the processing and location fees.

**\*PLEASE NOTE: NEW CLAIM FILING FEES ARE DUE TO INCREASE FOR ASSESSMENT YEAR 2025**



# Current Filing Fees for New Placer Claims containing more than 20 acres

- ❖ \$25 Non-refundable Processing Fee.
- ❖ \$40 Location Fee.
  
- ❖ **Initial** Year Maintenance Fee is calculated as follows:
  - ❖ \$330 > 20.01 acres through 40 acres.
  - ❖ \$495 > 40.01 acres through 60 acres.
  - ❖ \$660 > 60.01 acres through 80 acres.
  - ❖ \$825 > 80.01 acres through 100 acres.
  - ❖ \$990 > 100.01 acres through 120 acres.
  - ❖ \$1,155 > 120.01 acres through 140 acres.
  - ❖ \$1,320 > 140.01 acres through 160 acres.





## Bridge Claims/Sites

“Bridge” Claims/Sites are located before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and are then recorded with the BLM on or after Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

They fall within two Assessment Years (AY).

If you locate a new lode claim on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> and record it on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, the filing fees are: \$25 processing fee, \$40 location fee, \$165 maintenance fee for AY2023, and \$165 maintenance fee for AY2024.



## Bridge Claims/Sites Continued...

Maintenance fees for the upcoming assessment yr must be paid within 90 days after the Date of Location.

If you want to file a waiver for the claim, you will need to file it at the time you record your claim with the BLM.

We strongly recommend that you pay all filing fees at the time you record your claim with the BLM.



That gives you a brief overview of the process of filing a Certificate of Location for your new claim.

The following screens will review and narrate the completion of a Certificate of Location for Lode and Placer Claims.



# Certificate of Location Lode Mining Claim

Name & Address  
of Locators

Claim Name

Enter all qtr secs that  
claim lies in

90 days to file

...such that 1450' N,  
50' S ..from mon loc

Describe all 4  
corners/markings/  
posts/rock pile, etc.

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

## CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION LODE MINING CLAIM

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Name and mailing address of locator:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

RECORDER'S STAMP

located the \_\_\_\_\_ Lode Mining Claim in the following quarter section(s):

<u>1/4</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>

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

The Claim is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ feet long and \_\_\_\_\_ feet wide, such that \_\_\_\_\_ feet are claimed in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction and \_\_\_\_\_ feet in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction from the point of discovery (monument of location), at which the Notice of Location was posted, together with \_\_\_\_\_ feet on each side of the monument of location and center line of the Claim. The general course of the lode or vein is from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ direction.

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

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Markings</u>	<u>Description</u>
No. 1:	_____	_____	_____
No. 2:	_____	_____	_____
No. 3:	_____	_____	_____
No. 4:	_____	_____	_____

As erected on the ground each corner monument is marked by \_\_\_\_\_  
(metal tags, paint, etc.)

The undersigned certifies that work of location included making a claim map as provided in NRS 517.040.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

By \_\_\_\_\_ Locator or Agent Signature  
(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_ Locator or Agent Name (printed)





❖ Lode claim qtr section provided.

❖ Distance is from the location monument.

❖ This one is on a State approved form.

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

**CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION  
LODE MINING CLAIM**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Name and mailing address of locator:

Nathaniel Osborn  
1340 Financial Blvd  
Reno, NV 89502

RECORDER'S STAMP

located the Ozzy 1 Lode Mining Claim in the following quarter section(s):

1/4	Section	Township	Range	Meridian
<u>SE</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19N</u>	<u>20E</u>	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
				<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
				<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
				<u>MDB&amp;M</u>

in Washoe County, Nevada, on the 27th day of April, 2016.

The Claim is approximately 1500 feet long and 600 feet wide, such that 10ft feet are claimed in a North direction and 1490ft feet in a South direction from the point of discovery (monument of location), at which the Notice of Location was posted, together with 300 feet on each side of the monument of location and center line of the Claim. The general course of the lode or vein is from the North to the South direction.

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

No.	Location	Markings	Description
No. 1:	<u>NE Corner</u>	<u>NEC 1</u>	<u>2in x 2in x 4ft Wood Post</u>
No. 2:	<u>NW Corner</u>	<u>NWC 2</u>	<u>2in x 2in x 4ft Wood Post</u>
No. 3:	<u>SW Corner</u>	<u>SWC 3</u>	<u>2in x 2in x 4ft Wood Post</u>
No. 4:	<u>SE Corner</u>	<u>SEC4</u>	<u>2in x 2in x 4ft Wood Post</u>

As erected on the ground each corner monument is marked by Paint  
(metal tags, paint, etc.)

The undersigned certifies that work of location included making a claim map as provided in NRS 517.040.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2016.

By Nathaniel Osborn Nathaniel Osborn  
Locator or Agent Signature Locator or Agent Name (printed)  
(circle one)



Lode Claim on a form  
A claimant created.

All the required  
information is here.

**CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION  
NEVADA-LODE MINING CLAIM**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that MinQuest Inc., whose address is 4235 Christy Way, Reno, NV, 89519, has located and claimed the **MH1 Lode Mining Claim** in the following quarter section(s):

**SW 1/4, Section 3, Township 26N, Range 52E, MDB&M,**

in Eureka County, Nevada, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2012.

SAID CLAIM IS A **LODE CLAIM**, it being situated in the above mentioned County and State, and is approximately 1500 feet long and 600 feet wide, such that 20 feet is claimed in a **West direction** and 1480 feet in an **East direction** from the point of discovery (monument of location), at which the Notice of Location was posted, together with 300 feet on each side of the monument of location and center line of the Claim. The general course of the lode or vein is from **North to South**.

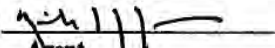
**THE NUMBER, LOCATION, AND MARKINGS** On each monument are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Markings</u>	<u>Description</u>
No. 1 Northeast corner,	diagram, metal tag,	2"x2"x4' wooden post
No. 2 Southeast corner,	diagram, metal tag,	2"x2"x4' wooden post
No. 3 Southwest corner,	diagram, metal tag,	2"x2"x4' wooden post
No. 4 Northwest corner,	diagram, metal tag	2"x2"x4' wooden post

A **CLAIM MAP** as required by NRS 517.040 is included as part of the work of location.

DATED this 18th day of June, 2012

**RICHARD KERN**

BY:   
Agent





# Certificate of Location Placer Mining Claim

ALL locators-name & address

Claim Name

Enter qtr section

90 days to file

AP description to match acreage

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

### CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION PLACER MINING CLAIM LOCATED BY ALIQUOT PART OF RECTANGULAR SURVEY

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Name and mailing address of locator:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

RECORDER'S STAMP

located the \_\_\_\_\_ Placer Mining Claim

in the following quarter section(s):

<u>1/4</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MDB&amp;M</u>

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

The monument of location is located on the north boundary of the Claim, as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

The Placer Claim is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ feet in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction and \_\_\_\_\_ feet in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction, being the \_\_\_\_\_ (legal subdivision) of the above described section. Said Placer Claim contains \_\_\_\_\_ acres, more or less.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Locator or Agent Signature (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Locator or Agent Name (printed)



Placer Claim –  
Aliquot Part description.

Location date –vs-  
filing date – 90 days.

The AP description  
matches the acreage  
amount of claim.

More accurate description  
means less chance of top  
filing.

43 CFR 3832.12(a) & (c)

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

**CERTIFICATE OF LOCATION  
PLACER MINING CLAIM LOCATED BY ALIQUOT PART OF  
RECTANGULAR SURVEY**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Name and mailing address of locator:

Nathaniel Osborn  
1340 Financial Blvd  
Reno, NV 89502

RECORDER'S STAMP

located the Ozzy 2 Placer Mining Claim

in the following quarter section(s):

1/4	Section	Township	Range	Meridian
SE	16	19N	20E	MDB&M
				MDB&M
				MDB&M
				MDB&M

in Washoe County, Nevada, on the 26th day of April, 2016.

The monument of location is located on the north boundary of the Claim, as follows:

A 2in x 2in x 4ft wooden post at the NW corner.

The Placer Claim is approximately 1320ft feet in the N/S direction and 660ft feet in the E/W direction, being the W1/2NWSE (legal subdivision) of the above described section. Said Placer Claim contains 20 acres, more or less.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2016.

*Nathaniel Osborn*

Locator or Agent Signature (circle one)

Nathaniel Osborn  
Locator or Agent Name (printed)





# Filing of COL not necessarily final step

You received your receipt for payment along with a copy of your COL with your Nevada Mining Claim number (NV) stamped on it.

**ISSUANCE OF A SERIAL NUMBER (NV) DOES NOT  
MEAN EVERYTHING IS OKAY WITH YOUR LOCATION**

At a later date, a land status determination will be done to ensure the claim/site is located on federal land open to mineral entry AND that your filing is complete and in accordance with current federal regulations.

If you recorded your COL properly the case disposition will change from a filed status to an active status in MLRS. You will not get notification of a properly filed COL that has not been adjudicated.



# There are two types of errors

If there are errors with your COL, then our office will issue either a Decision or a Notice.

If a FATAL ERROR is found, such as exceeding the 90-day recording deadline, locating on private lands or lands that have been withdrawn or closed to mineral entry, a **DECISION** will be issued declaring the claim Null & Void, and a refund will be issued for the location fee and the initial maintenance fee.

If a CURABLE ERROR is found, a **NOTICE** will be issued to all claimants, and you will be granted 30 days from receipt of the Notice to correct the error(s) by filing an Amended COL or map.

\*a “no response” will be deemed the same as a no compliance and the claim will be considered “abandoned and void”. This will close the claim/site in our records.



# You CAN amend for CURABLE errors such as:

Correct the legal land description (LLD).

Reduce the size of your claim.

Change the name of your claim.

Clarify boundary lines or monument locations.

Typos in the name, legal land description or any part of the COL.

Provided that BLM recognizes the original location as a properly recorded and maintained mining claim or site.



# Amended COLs...

The only document you have to record first with the county, before filing with us, is an **Amended COL**. An Amended COL must have the county recorder's stamp on it before we will consider it properly filed. There is a \$15.00 per claim non-refundable processing fee for amendments. There is no charge to file an amended map with BLM.

If the amendment is due to a Notice that you received from BLM due to a **curable defect** in the original COL, you will only have **30 days from receipt\*** of the Notice to get the amendment filed with both the county and BLM.

If you discover an error and amend without getting a notice from BLM, you have 90 days from the date you record the amendment with the county to get it filed with BLM.

\* The BLM has no authority to give extensions to this date.





# You CANNOT amend your COL to:

- ❖ Transfer or add interest/ownership in claim.
- ❖ Increase the size of your claim or site.
- ❖ Change the type of claim you are filing.
- ❖ Move your claim on the ground (you can adjust your boundary or orientation of your lode claim to follow the vein-provided your location monument does not change).
- ❖ Relocate or Reestablish claims forfeited.



## Let's now talk about Mapping your claim/site

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...



Ok, so the regulations tell us we can use:

- ***A topo map.***

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

USGS







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 into a Benchmark 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.

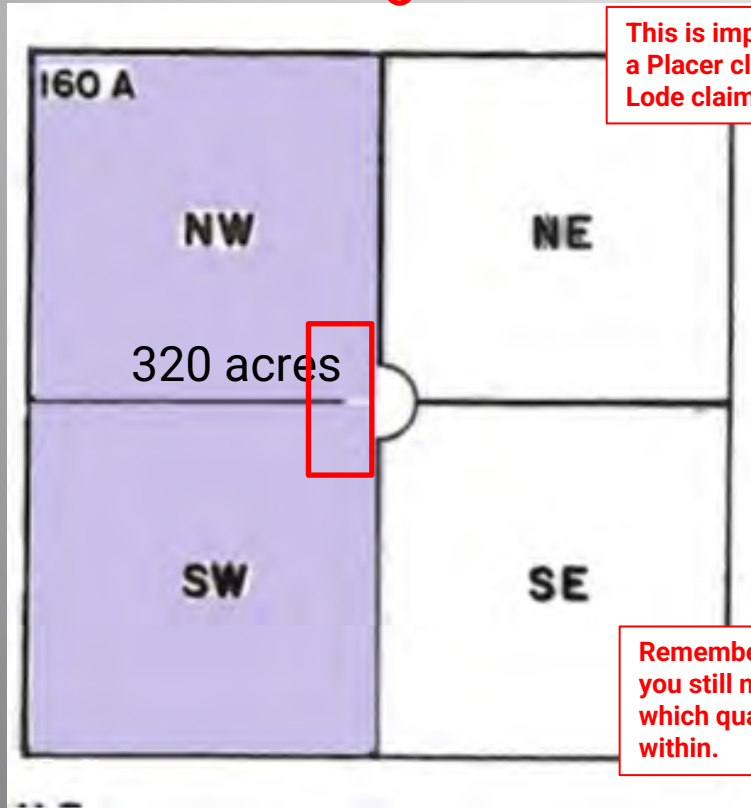
Caution, remember what your commas mean in an aliquot part description.

- 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)



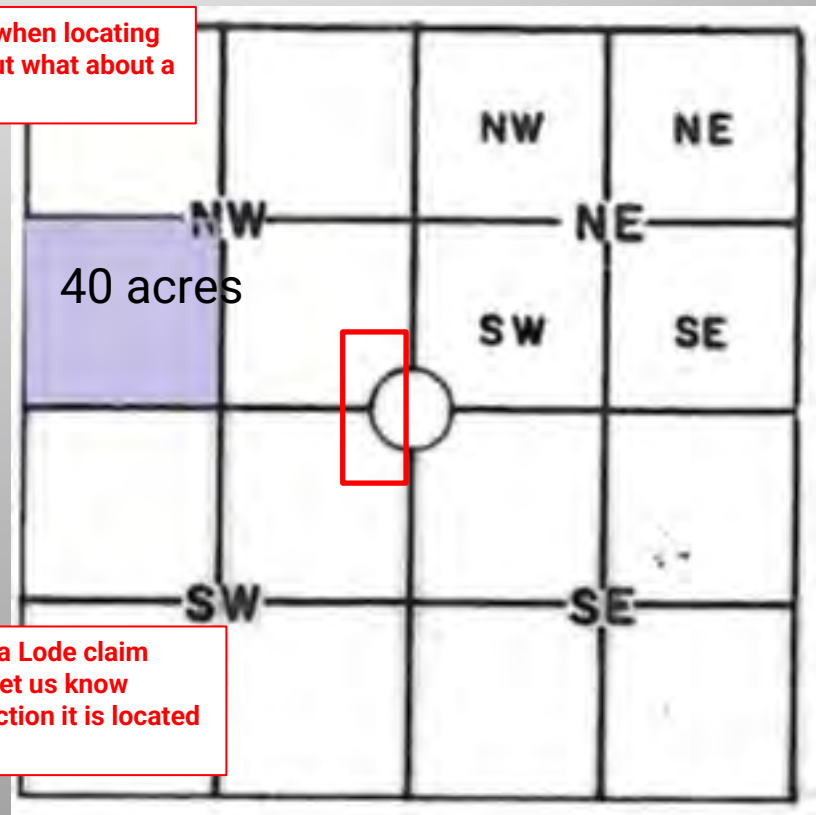
# We can illustrate the aliquot part difference with the diagrams below.

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?

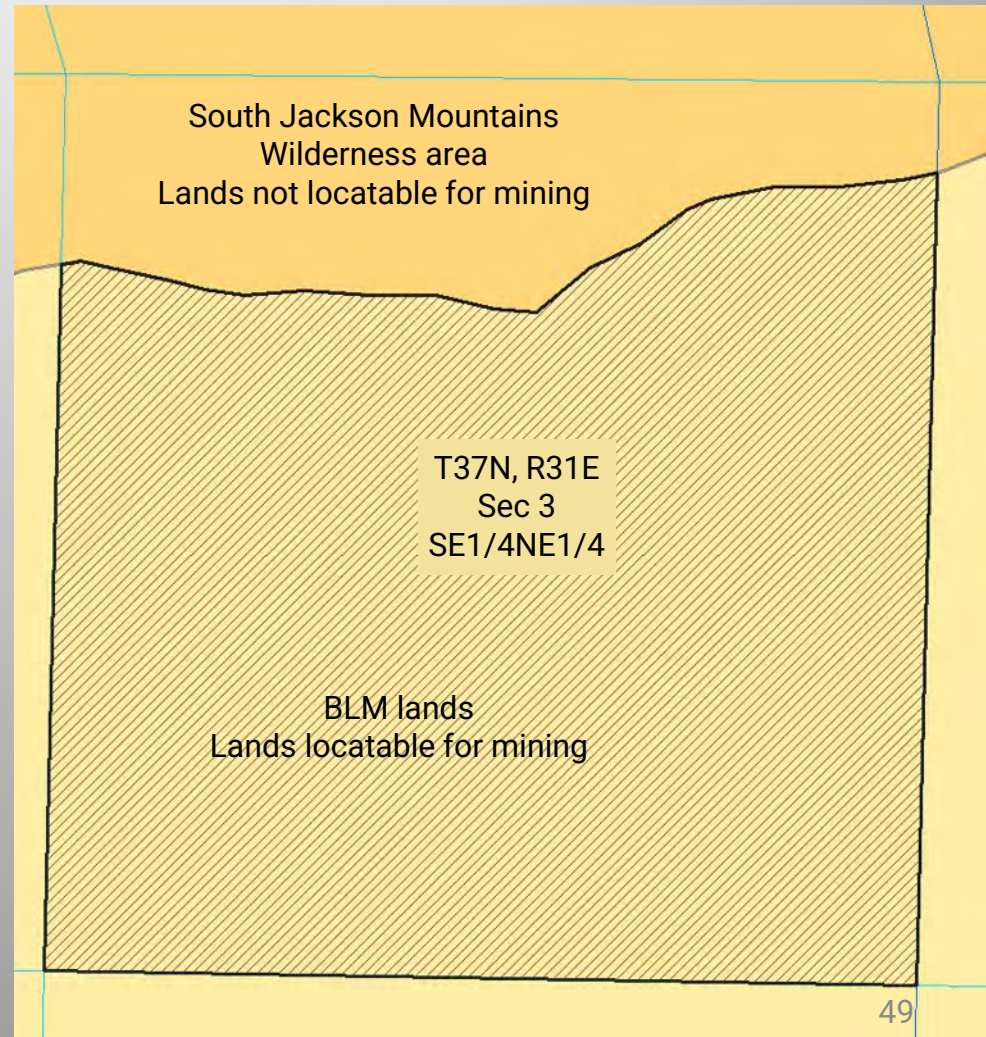
- In some cases, you might want to locate a placer claim described by aliquot part in an area that has a withdrawal (WDL). The lands within the WDL are not locatable, the lands outside the WDL are locatable. The WDL does not cause the survey to be lotted. Here are some examples:
  - Wilderness areas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





# “Excluding”

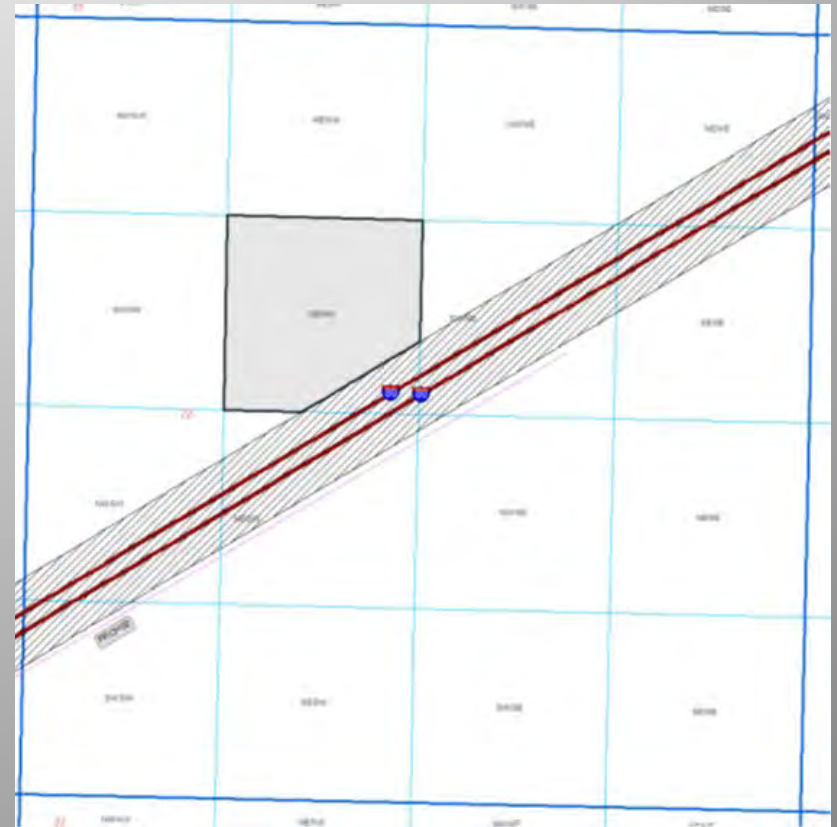
- Sometimes we have to describe aliquot parts “excluding” lands that are not locatable for mining.
- By describing our placer claim as the SE1/4NE1/4 **excluding** the lands withdrawn for the wilderness area, we are providing a narrative that is aliquot and provides a northern boundary that adjoins the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





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

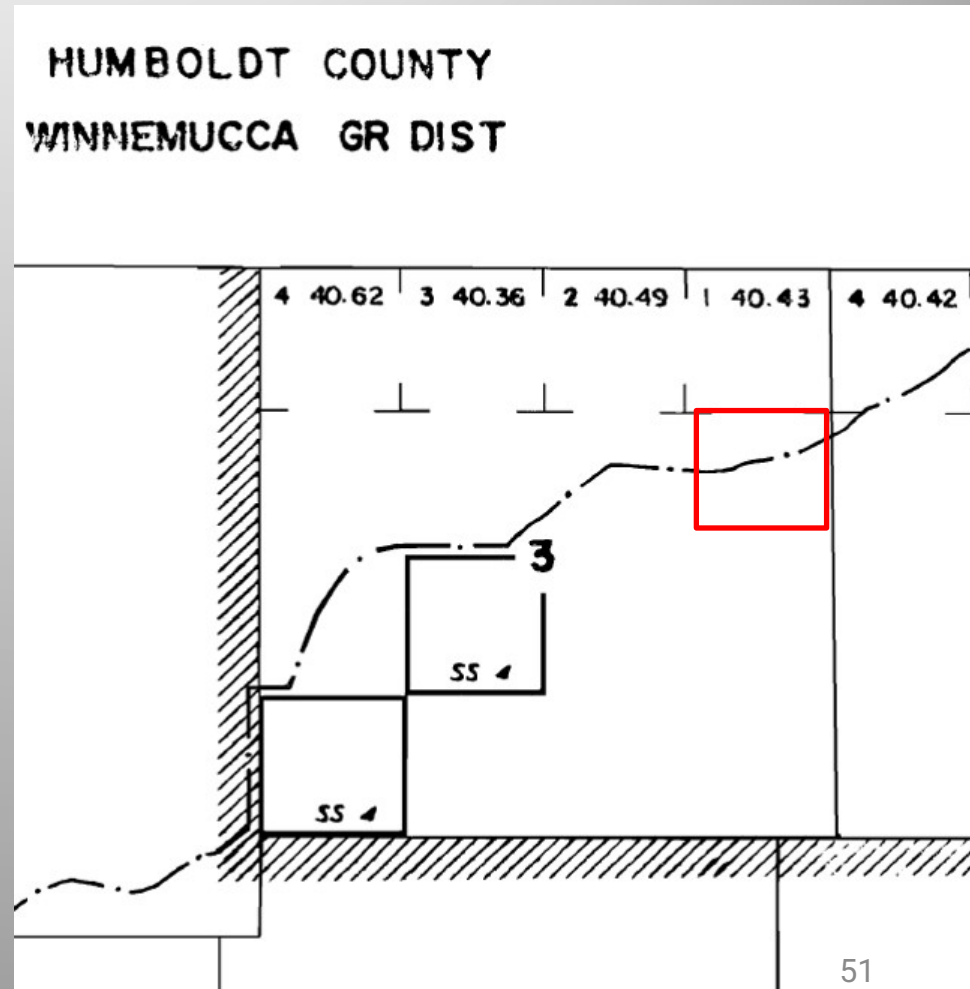
- Federal Aid Highway Right-of-Way.
- This ROW is an easement (200 feet on either side of the centerline)...and is not open to mineral entry.
- Remember, placer claims are surface claims.





# 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.





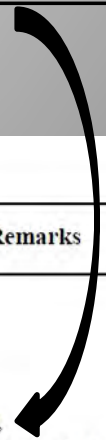


# How to identify the WDL lands.

- 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...

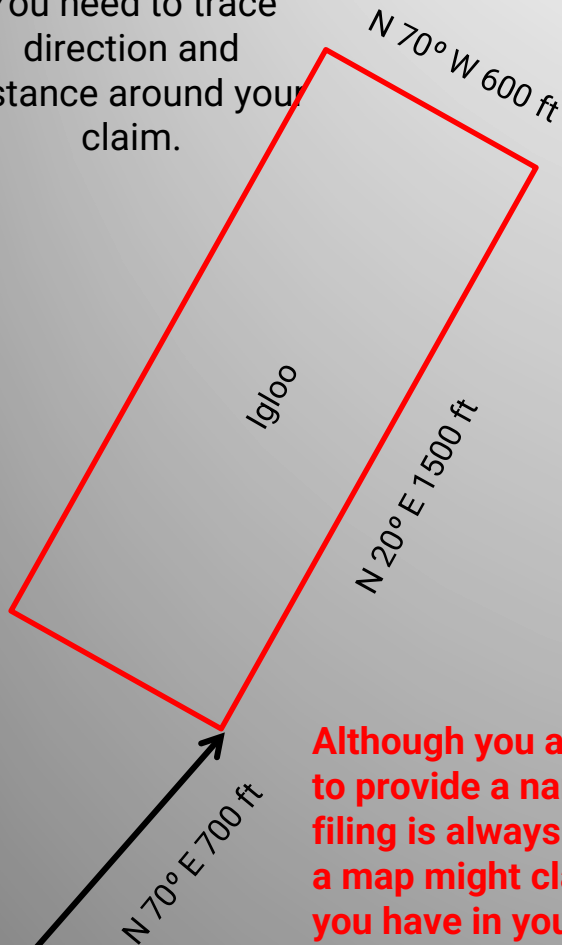
To provide a metes and bounds description, you will need the following location data:

- A tie 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...

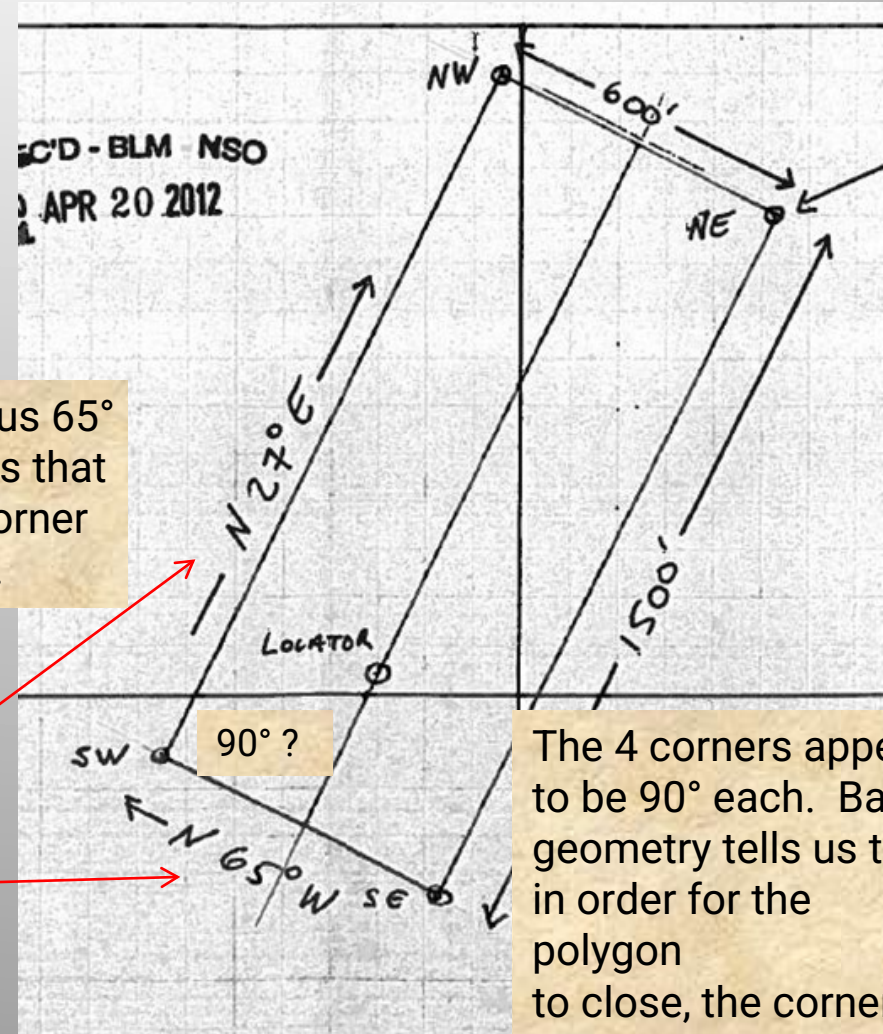


# A sketch.

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

What angle is it positioned in?

Or what is the orientation of the claim?



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

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°

Position of the claim





# 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.



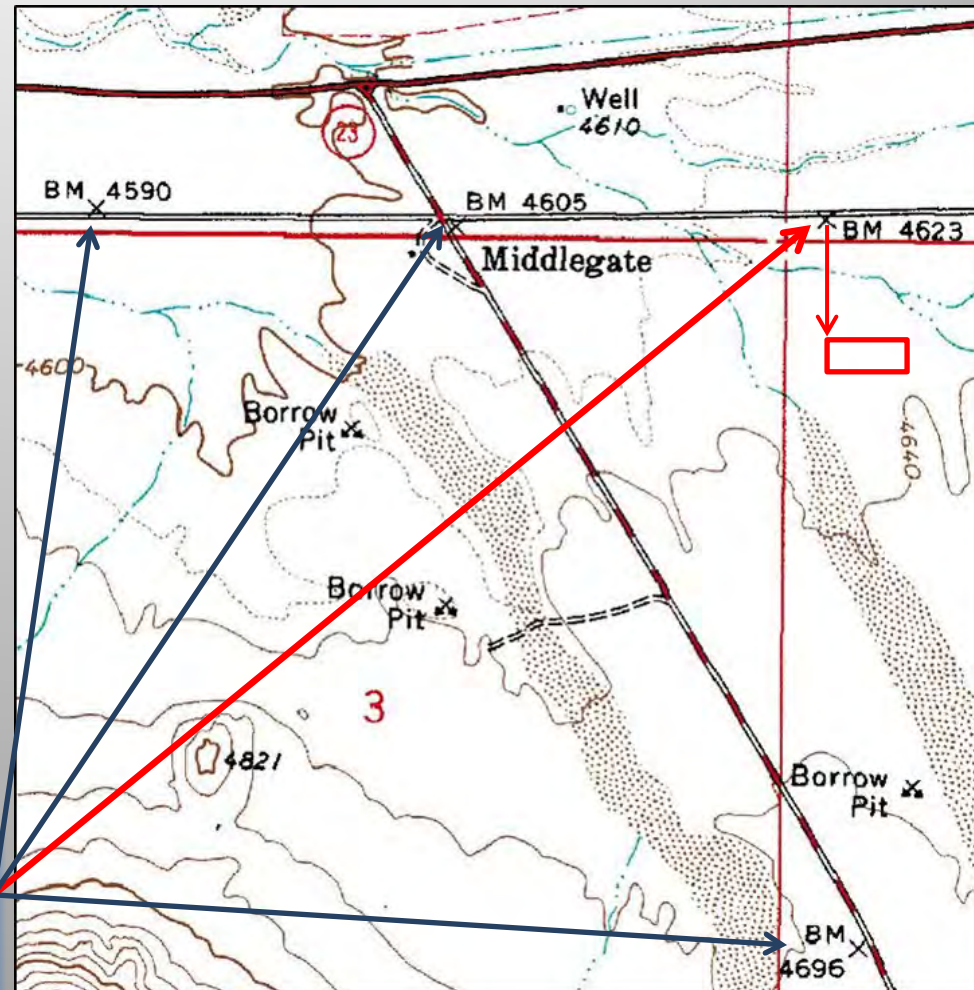


# A topographic feature:

- **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 your 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.

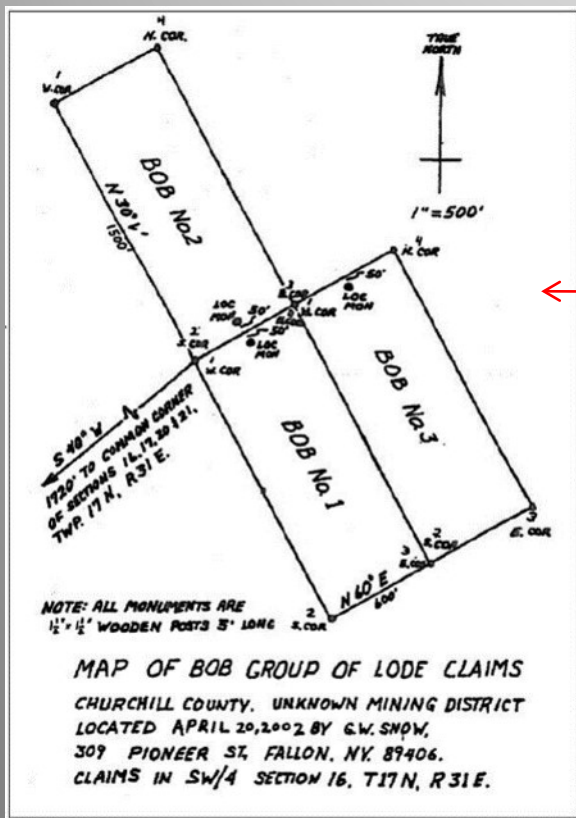
Which can be easily determined  
using the earthpoint link.





# 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.



# 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.*

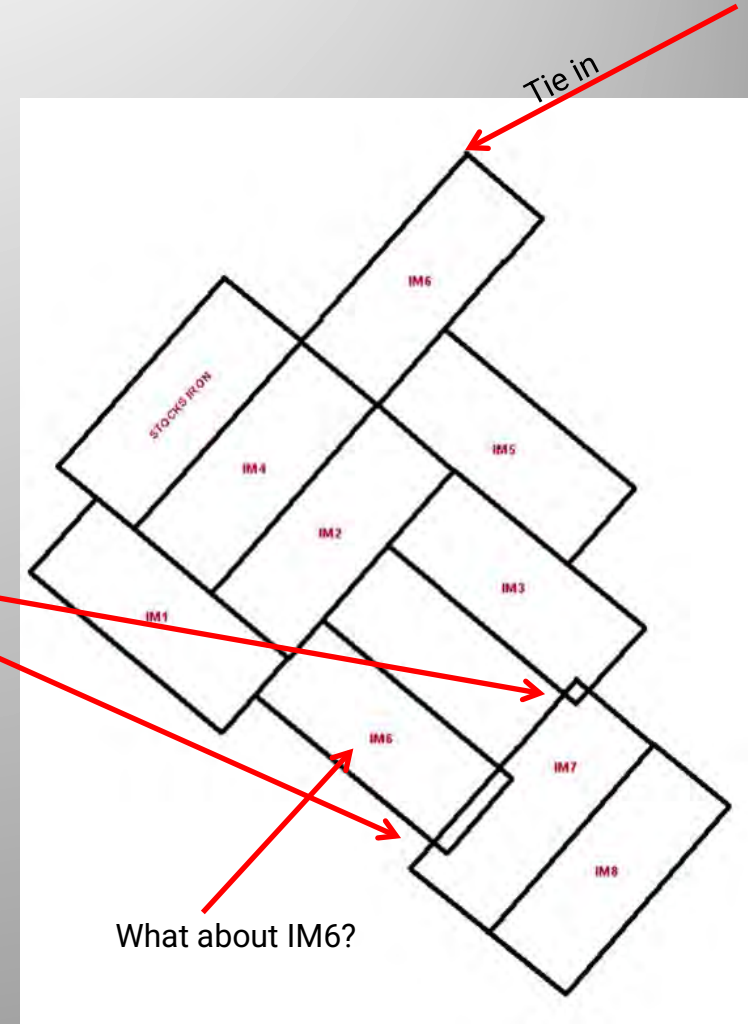


# Claim blocks:

- 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??





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”***.

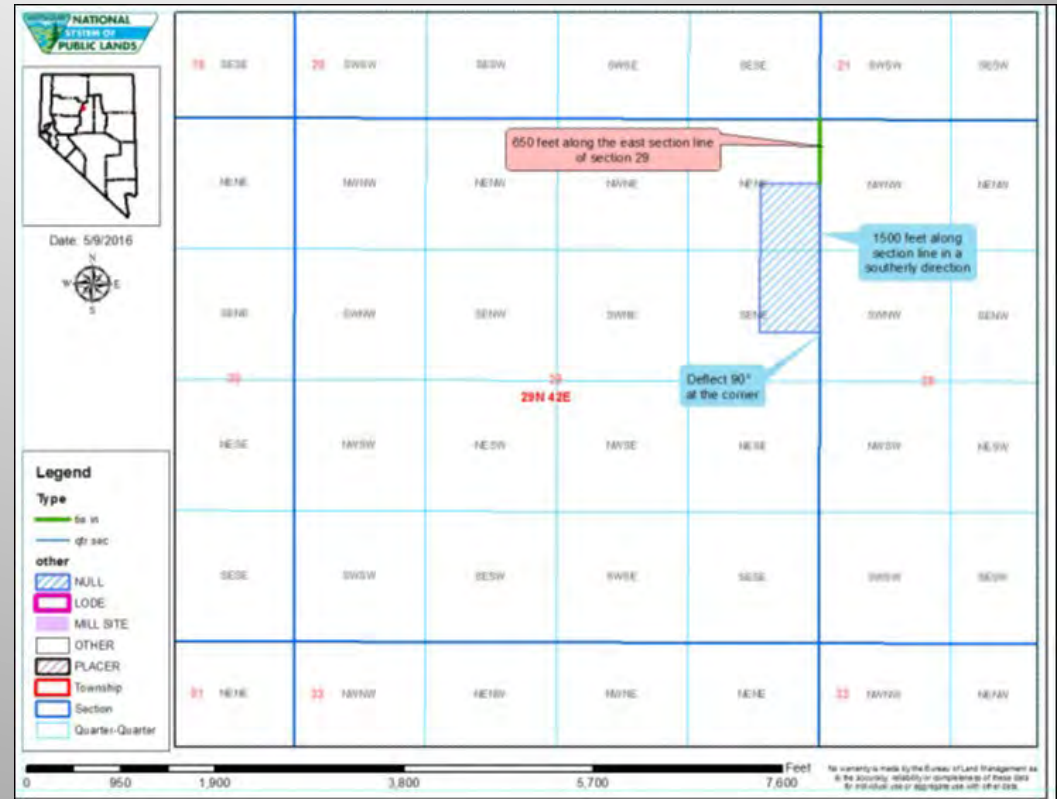
With this method, no angles or degrees are needed!

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.

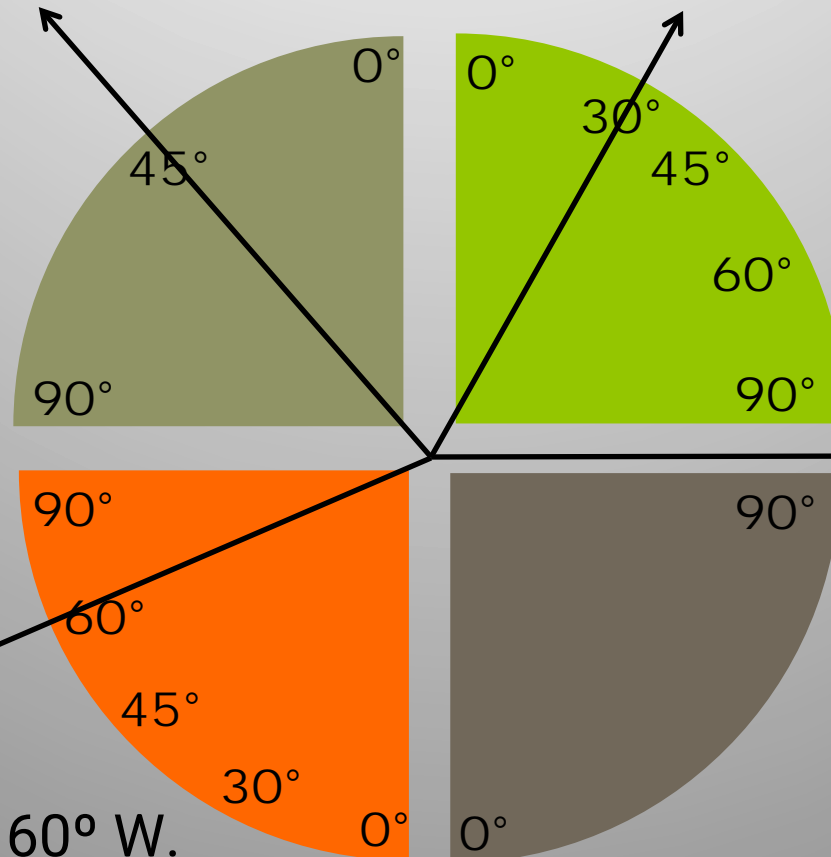




# Quadrant and Bearing...

- expressed as N 45° W.

- expressed as N 30° E.



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

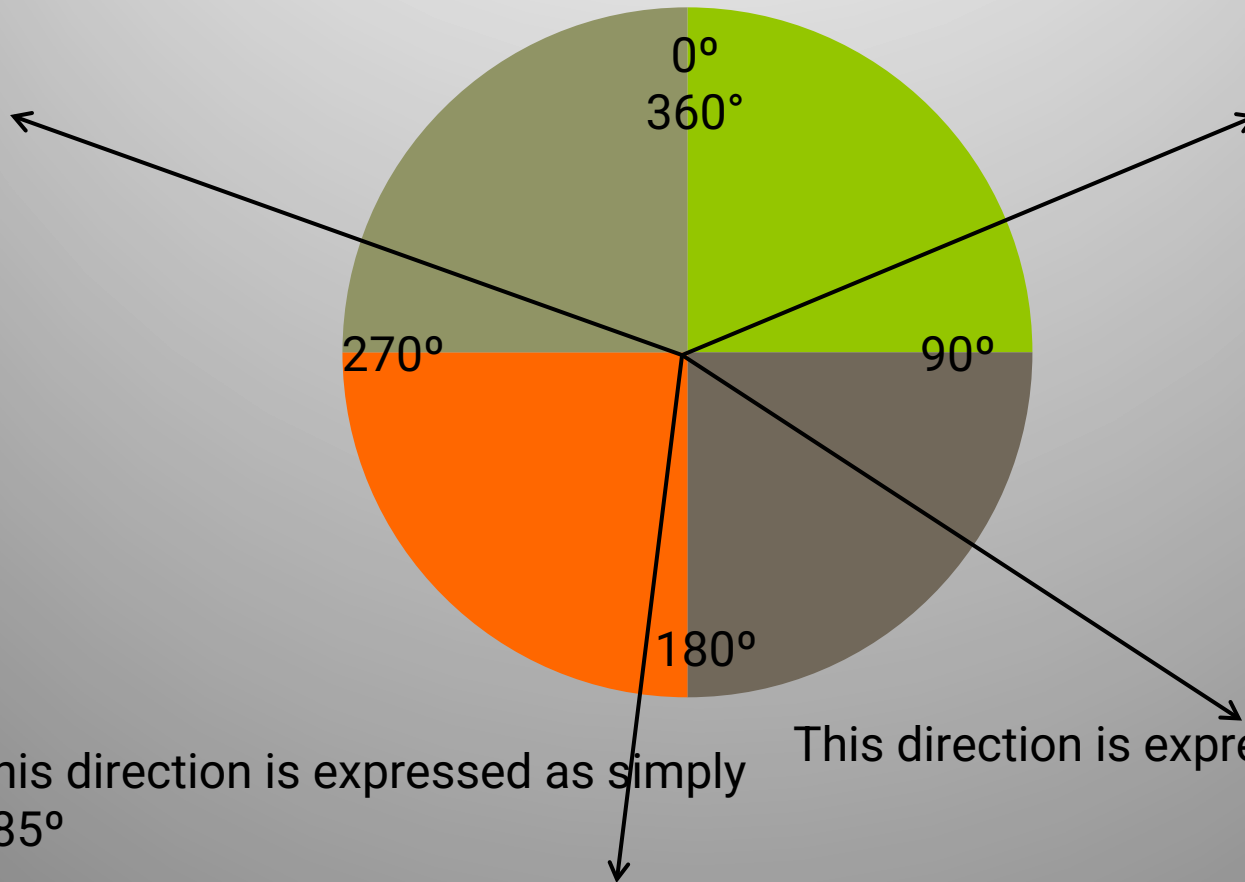
- expressed as S 60° W.



# North Azimuth...

This direction is expressed as simply  
284°

This direction is expressed as simply  
70°



This direction is expressed as simply  
185°

This direction is expressed as simply  
100°





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?

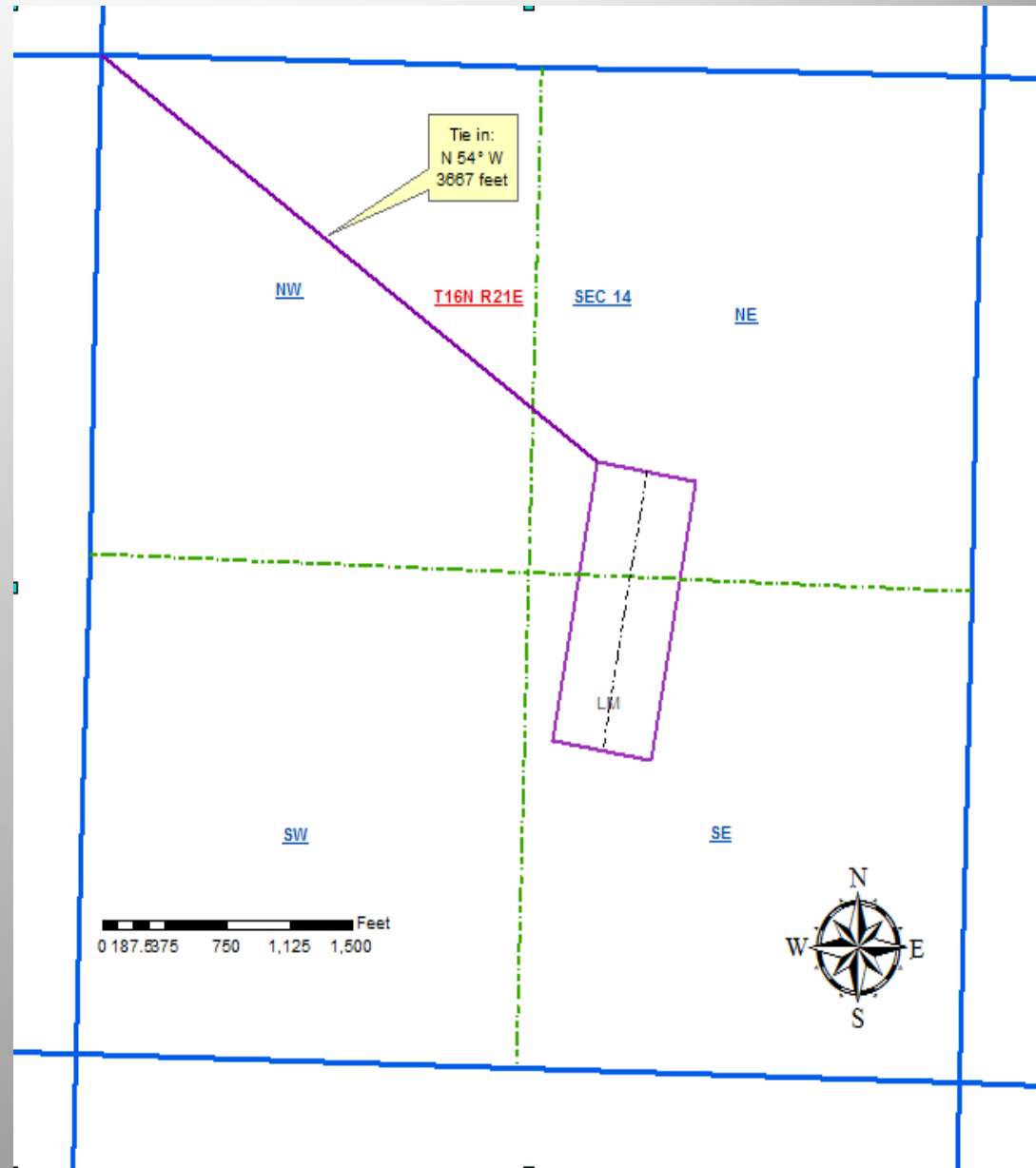
- You can give us good tie in data from a section corner to the corner of the claim. However, we can't find the other claim corners without your position data.
- Also, we are required to verify that the quarter sections listed on your COL match the quarter sections your map.
- Consider the following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

## 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
- WGS84

These are the 3 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)



# In Conclusion.....

- ❖ Pick out your area for mining and get it to a meridian, township, range, section (MTRS) & quarter section description;
- ❖ Do your research on the status of the land;
- ❖ Stake your claim following state laws;
- ❖ Complete your COL and map pursuant to regulations...double check for errors and content prior to recording and filing to save money & time on amendments.
- ❖ We are here to assist with any questions you may have when preparing your Certificate of Location and your Maps. The staff in the I.A.C. (Public Room) are also here to assist you with any questions you may have in completing these forms.



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

