

Fact Sheet:

Staking Requirements for Mineral Locations on State Land



Division of Mining, Land & Water, August 2003

What is a Mineral Location?

It is a mining claim (either a traditional claim, or MTRSC claim), that is located or staked to acquire the locatable mineral rights under law within the area of the location. The locatable mineral rights are acquired by discovery of a locatable mineral, staking of the location, recording the location certificate of record, and payment of the first annual rental in accordance with the laws and regulations governing locatable minerals. It may also include a prospecting site if the discovery of a locatable mineral has not yet occurred, but prospecting to see if locatable minerals are present is planned.

How Do You Properly Stake a Mineral Location?

For a traditional claim, you must stake a 4-posted claim around your discovery so that the inferred lines connecting the 4 corners run in the cardinal directions; eg. north-south, and east-west; and you must be certain that any two adjacent corner posts do not exceed 1,320 feet apart.

For an MTRSC claim or prospecting site, you must position the 4 posts denoting the corners of the claim at the *aliquot* corner locations for either a ¼ section location (only option for a prospecting site) or a ¼ ¼ section location. These aliquot corner locations must be based on precise latitude/longitude coordinates (GPS) or topographic map quadrants within a section.

Each corner of a location must be marked or posted with a monument that is at least 3 feet high, and a minimum of 2 ½ inches in diameter. The corner posting may consist of plastic PCV pipe, a 4x4 post, a length of rebar with a 4x4 post on top, a tree that is blazed, or a rock cairn. The northeast corner of the location must include a certificate of location, which may be a paper copy of the certificate of location that will be recorded, or a metal tag. The “posting” of the northeast corner with a notice must contain at a minimum the following information:

- (1) the name or number of the location;
- (2) the date of posting the notice of location;
- (3) if the mining claim is
 - (A) a traditional location, the length and width of the mining claim or leasehold location in feet; OR
 - (B) a MTRSC location, the meridian, township, range, section, and quarter section or quarter-quarter section of where the location is located;
- (4) a sketch depicting, to the best of the locator's knowledge, the relationship of the location to adjoining or contiguous locations; and
- (5) the name and current mailing address of each locator.

Each corner post must be marked, in addition to the northeast corner, with the name of the location and the corner # beginning with number one in the northeast corner, number 2 in southeast corner, number 3 in the southwest corner, and number 4 in the northwest corner.

What are the recording requirements?

Within 45 days after posting your location, you must record a location certificate in the proper recording district. The location certificate must be recorded on a form provided by the Division of Mining, Land and Water, or a similar form that must contain the following information:

- (1) the name or number of the location;

- (2) the date of the locator's discovery and the date of posting of the notice of location;
- (3) for a traditional location, the length and width of the location in feet, and each meridian, township, range, section, quarter-section, and quarter-quarter section in which the location is situated;
- (4) for an MTRSC location, the meridian, township, range, section, quarter-section, and if applicable the quarter-quarter-section of the location;
- (5) the name and current mailing address of each locator, and the signature of each locator or of the locator's agent;
- (6) the name of the recording district in which the location is situated; and
- (7) a map at an indicated scale of 1:63,360 (one inch = one mile) or a more detailed scale that shows the boundaries of the claim or leasehold location, the dominant physical features of the land, the protracted or surveyed section lines surrounding the location, and, to the best of the locator's knowledge, the relationship of the location to adjacent or contiguous mining claims, leasehold locations, mining leases, and prospecting sites; if more than one contiguous location is being recorded simultaneously, a single map showing all locations may be attached to one of the certificates of location if the document to which the map is attached is cross-referenced on each certificate of location.

When do I make the first annual rental payment?

Within 45 days of posting the location the first rental payment must be made, otherwise the location is deemed abandoned. The first rental payment amount is \$25 for a traditional claim or a ¼ ¼ section MTRSC claim; \$100 for a ¼ section MTRSC claim; and \$200 for a prospecting site. This first rental payment covers the period of time from the date of posting to the next September 1st (except for a prospecting site the rental covers the full two-year term of the site). You must include a copy of the location certificate (recorded or unrecorded) with the first payment for a new claim; or you may submit the rental payment to the recording office with a rental payment worksheet at the time of recording the location certificate. Annual rental payments for each year thereafter are billed to the locator of record, due September 1st, and must be paid no later than November 30th; otherwise the claim is deemed abandoned under operation of law. The first annual rental payment may be made in one of three ways.

Payments made in person, by cash, check, Visa or Mastercard, may be made at one of the following offices:

Department of Natural Resources
 Public Information Center
 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1260
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3557
 Phone: (907) 269-8400
 Office Hours: M thru F; 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Department of Natural Resources
 Public Information Center
 3700 Airport Way
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699
 Phone: (907) 451-2705
 Office Hours: M thru F; 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Payments made by mail may be sent to: Department of Natural Resources
 Support Services Division
 550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1410
 Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
 Attention: Financial Services

The first rental payment may be sent to the applicable recording office with the certificate of location upon recording (with a rental payment worksheet).

Failure to timely make an annual rental payment or failure to timely record a certificate of location results in ABANDONMENT of the location. The locator of an abandoned location or a successor in interest may not relocate the location until one year after the abandonment.