

# Steps In Obtaining A Mining Claim

By: Willamette Valley Miners Club

1. It is best to research a known mining district, select an area that you are interested in and explore that area. Also go to BLM and check the claim finder for open claims in the area.
2. Watch for claim markers, and make sure the area is not withdrawn from mineral entry. (Withdrawn areas can be wavered in some cases.) You have to make a valid discovery. When you have made your discovery, locate the area on a topographic map. Also check a forest service map in addition to ensure it is not private land.
3. You must post a notice of discovery, a pile of rocks 3 feet high or a 4 foot by 4 foot post at least 2 feet in the ground and 4 feet above. Fill out a claim sheet obtained from your locale stationary store. Spreges Stationary in Salem has mining claim forms, locations, affidavits of assessments, and filing forms for wavers.
4. Leave a location notice at your discovery in a sealed container. It must include your name, address, and locations claim name. After this, you have 30 days to do the following:
  - Go to BLM in Salem or Portland and check the claim finder to see if there is an active claim in this section. The claim finder is 90 days behind. The Portland office can give up-to-the-minute updates. If the claim is open do the following:
    - Fill out a second notice and file it with the county seat. Cost is \$5.00 to \$10.00.
    - Put up all required corner posts and markers.
5. After receipt of the paperwork from the county (usually in 14 to 30 days) you must file with BLM.
6. New claim fees total \$137.50. The BLM mining packet will give you a break down of these fees.
7. Note: You must still do assessment work if you file prior to August that year. It is best to obtain a maintenance fee payment waver certification form # 3830-2. When doing the initial claim filing it is best to send a cover letter asking for this form. Assessment work must be completed by August 31 of every year. Each year on a mining claim, if you do not fill out a #3830-2, you are required to pay a rental fee of \$100.00 for each claim.

These are the basic steps . However there can be other permits involved depending on your mining operation. This information can be obtained from:

- BLM mining packet
- Division of State Lands
- Dogami
- Fish & Game Dept.