

## § 3501.10

*Valuable deposit*, for the purposes of this part, means an occurrence of minerals of such character that a person of ordinary prudence would be justified in the further expenditure of his or her labor and means, with a reasonable prospect of success in developing a profitable mine.

### **§ 3501.10 What types of mineral use authorizations can I get under these rules?**

BLM issues the mineral use authorizations listed below to qualified individuals. Some authorizations are not available for certain commodities. See the subparts referenced in each subsection for more information.

(a) "Prospecting permits" let you explore for leasable mineral deposits on lands where BLM has determined that prospecting is needed to determine the existence of a valuable deposit. See subpart 3505 of this part.

(b) "Exploration licenses" let you explore in areas with known deposits of a leasable mineral to obtain data. With an exploration license, you do not get any preference or other right to a lease. See subpart 3506 of this part.

(c) "Preference right leases" are issued to holders of prospecting permits who, during the term of the permit, demonstrate the discovery of a valuable deposit of the leasable mineral for which BLM issued the permit. There are other requirements. The requirements for mine plans are in subpart 3592 of part 3590 of this chapter. See subpart 3507 of this part.

(d) "Competitive leases" are issued by competitive bidding for known deposits of a leasable mineral. See subpart 3508 of this part.

(e) "Fringe acreage leases" are issued noncompetitively for known deposits of leasable minerals on Federal lands adjacent to existing deposits, when the Federal deposits can be mined only as part of an adjacent operation. See subpart 3510 of this part.

(f) "Lease modifications" add acreage containing known deposits of a leasable mineral to an adjacent Federal lease of the same mineral, provided the deposits can be mined only as

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part of the larger mining operation. See subpart 3510 of this part.

(g) "Use permits" are available to holders of phosphate and sodium leases so that they may use the surface of unappropriated and unentered public lands for the proper extraction, treatment, or removal of the phosphate or sodium deposits. See subpart 3516 of this part.

### **§ 3501.16 Does my permit or lease grant me an exclusive right to develop the lands covered by the permit or lease?**

No. Your permit or lease gives you an exclusive right to the mineral, but not to the lands. BLM may allow other uses or disposal of the lands, including leasing of other minerals, if those uses or disposals will not unreasonably interfere with your operation. If BLM issues other permits or leases covering the lands contained within your permit or lease, they will contain suitable stipulations for simultaneous operation based on consideration of safety, environmental protection, conservation, ultimate recovery of the resource, and other factors. You must also make all reasonable efforts to avoid interference with other authorized uses. In cases where the date of the lease is used to determine priority for development and a lease is renewed, BLM will use the effective date of the original lease to determine priority for development.

### **§ 3501.17 Are there any general planning or environmental considerations that affect issuance of my permit or lease?**

(a) BLM will not issue you a permit or lease unless it conforms with the decisions, terms and conditions of an applicable comprehensive land use plan.

(b) BLM or the surface management agency will comply with any applicable environmental requirements before issuing you a permit or lease. This may result in conditions on your permit or lease.

(c) BLM will issue permits and leases consistent with any unsuitability designation under part 1600 of this title.