

§ 3503.25

identified by the surface owner to include, based on how the interests of the United States would best be served.

§ 3503.25 When may BLM issue permits and leases for Federal minerals underlying private surface?

(a) The regulations in this part apply where the United States disposed of certain lands and those disposals reserved to the United States the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals under applicable leasing laws and regulations.

(b) If the Federal Government acquires minerals through a deed, BLM will follow any special covenants in the deed relating to leasing or permitting.

§ 3503.28 Does BLM incorporate any special requirements to protect the lands and resources?

BLM will specify permit or lease stipulations to adequately use and protect the lands and their resources. This may include stipulations which are required by the surface managing agency, or which are recommended by the surface managing agency or non-federal surface owner and accepted by BLM. (See also part 3580 of this chapter.)

LAND DESCRIPTIONS

§ 3503.30 How should I describe surveyed lands or lands shown on protraction or amended protraction diagrams in states which are part of the Public Land Survey System?

Describe the lands by legal subdivision, section, township, and range.

§ 3503.31 How should I describe lands in states which are part of the Public Land Survey System but have not been surveyed and are not shown on a protraction or amended protraction diagram?

Describe such lands by metes and bounds in accordance with BLM standard survey practices for the public lands. Connect your description by

§ 3503.37 Is there a limit to the acreage of lands I can hold under permits and leases?

Yes. The limits are summarized in the following table:

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courses and distances between successive angle points to an official corner of the public land survey system or, for accreted lands, to an angle point that connects to a point on an official corner of the public land survey system to which the accretions belong.

§ 3503.32 How should I describe acquired lands?

You may describe acquired lands by metes and bounds, or you may also use the description shown on the deed or other document that conveyed title to the United States. If you are applying for less than the entire tract acquired by the United States, describe the land using courses and distances tied to a point on the boundary of the requested tract. Where the acquiring agency assigned a tract number to the identical tract you wish to permit or lease, you may describe those lands by the tract number and include a map which clearly shows the lands with respect to the administrative unit or the project of which they are a part. In States outside of the public land survey system, you should describe the lands by tract number, and include a map.

§ 3503.33 Will BLM issue me a lease for unsurveyed lands?

No. All leased areas must be officially surveyed to BLM standards. If you are applying for a permit or lease on unsurveyed or protracted lands, you must pay for the survey. If BLM intends to issue a lease by competitive bidding, we will pay for surveying the lands.

ACREAGE AMOUNTS

§ 3503.36 Are there any size or shape limitations on the lands I can apply for?

Generally, a quarter-quarter section, a lot or a protraction block is the smallest subdivision for which you may apply. The lands must be in reasonably compact form.

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Commodity	Maximum acreage for a permit or lease	Maximum acreage of permits and leases in any one State	Maximum acreage in permits and leases nationwide
(a) Phosphate ..	2,560 acres	None	20,480 acres.
(b) Sodium	2,560 acres	5,120 acres (may be increased to 30,720 acres to facilitate an economic mine).	None.
(c) Potassium ..	2,560 acres	96,000 acres (larger if necessary for extraction of potassium from concentrated brines in connection with an existing mining operation).	None.
(d) Sulphur	640 acres	1,920 acres in 3 leases or permits	None.
(e) Gilsonite	5,120 acres	7,680 acres	None.
(f) Hardrock Minerals.	2,560 acres	20,480 acres in permits and leases, 10,240 acres in leases, but can be increased to 20,480 if needed for orderly mine development.	None.
(g) Asphalt	640 acres	2,560 acres	Only available in Oklahoma.

[64 FR 53536, Oct. 1, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 50449, Aug. 18, 2000]

§ 3503.38 How does BLM compute my acreage holdings?

(a) The maximum acreage in any one state refers to the acres you hold under a permit or lease on either public domain lands or acquired lands. Acquired lands and public domain lands are counted separately, so you may hold up to the maximum acreage of each at the same time. For example, one person could hold 20,000 acres under phosphate leases for public domain lands and 20,000 acres under phosphate leases for acquired lands at the same time.

(b) If your permit or lease is for fractional interest lands, BLM will charge your acreage holdings for a share which is proportionate to the United States' ownership interest. For example, if the United States holds a 25% interest in 200 acres, you will be charged with 50 acres (200 × .25).

(c) BLM will not charge any acreage in a future interest lease against your acreage limitations until the date the permit or lease takes effect.

(d) If you own stock in a corporation or a beneficial interest in an association which holds a lease or permit, your acreage will include your proportionate part of the corporation's or association's share of the total lease or permit acreage. This only applies if you own more than 10 percent of the corporate stock or beneficial interest of the association.

FILING APPLICATIONS

§ 3503.40 Where do I file my permit or lease application and other necessary documents?

File your application in the State Office which manages the lands for which you are applying, unless we have designated a different State Office. For purposes of this part, a document is filed when it is received in the proper office.

§ 3503.41 Will BLM disclose information I submit under these regulations?

All Federal and Indian data and information submitted to the BLM are subject to part 2 of this title. Part 2 includes the regulations of the Department of the Interior covering public disclosure of data and information contained in Department of the Interior records. BLM may make certain mineral information not protected from disclosure under part 2 of this title may be made available for inspection without a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

§ 3503.42 When I submit confidential, proprietary information, how can I help ensure it is not available to the public?

When you submit data and information that you believe to be exempt from disclosure by part 2 of this title, you must clearly mark each page that you believe contains confidential information. BLM will keep all data and information confidential to the extent allowed by § 2.13(c) of this title.