

Subpart A—Conditions for Acquiring a Delinquent Co-Claimant's Interests in a Mining Claim or Site

§ 3837.10 Conditions for acquiring a delinquent co-claimant's interests.

§ 3837.11 When may I acquire a delinquent co-claimant's interests in a mining claim or site?

(a) You may acquire a co-claimant's interest in a mining claim or site under the following circumstances:

(1) You are a co-claimant who has performed the assessment work, made improvements, or paid the maintenance fees required under parts 3834 and 3836 of this chapter;

(2) Your co-claimant fails to contribute a proportionate share of the assessment work, expenditures, or maintenance fees by the end of the assessment year concerned;

(3) You notify the delinquent co-claimant of the alleged delinquency as provided in § 3837.21; and

(4) If, within 90 days following the date the delinquent co-claimant received the notice provided for under § 3837.21 or 90 days following the end of the publication period described in § 3837.21, the delinquent co-claimant fails or refuses to contribute a proportionate share of the assessment work, expenditures, or maintenance fees, the remaining co-claimants acquire the delinquent co-claimant's share in the mining claim or site.

(b) You may not acquire a co-claimant's interest in a mining claim or site if the co-claimant is on active military duty.

Subpart B—Acquisition Procedures

§ 3837.20 Acquisition.

§ 3837.21 How do I notify the delinquent co-claimant that I want to acquire his or her interests?

(a) You must give the delinquent co-claimant written notice by mail using registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service; or

(b) If, after diligent search, you cannot locate the delinquent co-claimant, you must publish notification in a

newspaper nearest the location of the claims or sites at least once a week for 90 days.

§ 3837.22 How long does a delinquent co-claimant have after notification to contribute a proportionate share of the assessment work, expenditures, or maintenance fees?

The delinquent co-claimant must contribute a proportionate share of the assessment work, expenditures, or maintenance fees within 90 days after the date on which—

(a) The co-claimant received written notice by mail or personal service; or

(b) The 90-day newspaper publication period ended.

§ 3837.23 How do I notify BLM that I have acquired a delinquent co-claimant's interests in a mining claim or site?

If you acquire a delinquent co-claimant's interests in a mining claim or site, you must submit—

(a) Evidence that you properly notified the delinquent co-claimant;

(b) An originally signed and dated statement by all the compliant co-claimants that the delinquent co-claimant failed to contribute the proper proportion of assessment work, expenditures, or maintenance fees within the period fixed by the statute; and

(c) A non-refundable service charge for a transfer of interest, as found in the table of fees in § 3830.21 of this chapter.

§ 3837.24 What kind of evidence must I submit to BLM to show I have properly notified the delinquent co-claimant?

(a) If you gave written notice to the delinquent co-claimant by personal service, you must sign and submit a notarized affidavit explaining how and when you delivered the written notice to the delinquent co-claimant.

(b) If you gave written notice to the delinquent co-claimant by mail, you must submit:

(1) A copy of the notice you mailed to the delinquent co-claimant; and

(2) A copy of the signed U.S. Postal Service return receipt from the registered or certified envelope in which you sent the notice to the delinquent co-claimant.

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(c) If you published the notice in a newspaper, you must submit:

(1) A statement from the newspaper publisher or the publisher's authorized representative describing the publication, including the beginning and ending dates of publication;

(2) A printed copy of the published notice; and

(3) A notarized affidavit attesting that you conducted a diligent search for the delinquent co-claimant, you could not locate the delinquent co-claimant, and therefore notification by publication was necessary.

Subpart C—Resolving Co-Claimant Disputes About Acquiring a Delinquent Co-Claimant's Interests

§ 3837.30 Disputes about acquiring a delinquent co-claimant's interests.

If co-claimants are engaged in a dispute regarding the acquisition of a delinquent co-claimant's interests—

(a) The co-claimants must resolve the dispute, without BLM involvement, in a court of competent jurisdiction or proceeding as permitted within the state where the disputed claims are located.

(b) The co-claimants must file with BLM a certified copy of the judgment, decree, or settlement agreement resolving the dispute before BLM will update its records.

PART 3838—SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR LOCATING AND RECORDING MINING CLAIMS AND TUNNEL SITES ON STOCKRAISING HOMESTEAD ACT (SRHA) LANDS

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Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 3838.1 What are SRHA lands?

SRHA lands are lands that were—

(a) Patented under the Stockraising Homestead Act of 1916, as amended (30 U.S.C. 54 and 43 U.S.C. 299); or

(b) Originally entered under the Homestead Act of 1862, as amended, and patented under the SRHA after December 29, 1916.

§ 3838.2 How are SRHA lands different from other Federal lands?

SRHA lands are different from other Federal lands in that the United States owns the mineral estate of SRHA lands, but not the surface estate. Patents issued under the SRHA, and Homestead Act entries patented under the SRHA, reserved the mineral estate to the United States along with the right to enter, mine, and remove any reserved minerals that may be present in the mineral estate.

§ 3838.3 What rules must I follow to explore for minerals and locate mining claims on SRHA lands?

(a) The regulations in this part describe how to notify the surface owner before exploring for minerals or locating a mining claim on the mineral estate of SRHA lands.