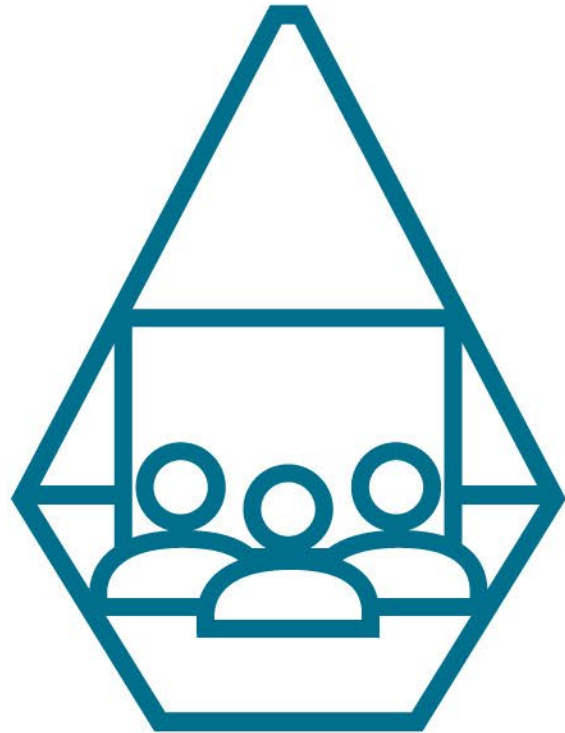




**2026 MINING AND LAND
RESOURCES INSTITUTE**

 **AAPL**
Powering The Profession



AAPL ENERGY INSTITUTES

2026 Mining and Land Resource Institute

Disclaimer & Acknowledgements

- *Disclaimer:* The views presented are my own and do not intend to represent Newmont, any other company I've worked for, NLA or AAPL.
- *Acknowledgements*

Managing Unpatented Mining Claims: From Location to Transaction

Unpatented mining claims are a foundational component of mineral exploration and development on federal lands in the US, yet they present unique challenges throughout their lifecycle.

This session provides a practical, experience-based overview of managing unpatented mining claims from initial location and staking through ongoing administration and transactional review.

Locating Claims & Finding Treasure

- What is the extent of our experience?
 - Claim staking & monument location– boots on the ground
 - Amendments
 - Annual Filings
 - Due Diligence
 - Perfecting Claims

- What is required to Locate Claims?

“Distinctly and clearly marked on the ground”

Federal law:

- **Claim and site boundaries must be distinctly and clearly marked so they can be readily identified on the ground** (43 CFR 3832).

This means:

- Anyone standing on the ground should be able to reasonably determine where the claim boundaries are.
- There is **no federal requirement** for survey-grade measurements or GPS coordinates when initially staking.
- The emphasis is on **visibility and clarity**, not mathematical perfection.
- So federally, “precision” is functional: *can the boundaries be identified without guesswork?*

State law guides how claims are staked

The Mining Law allows states to establish additional laws regarding the manner in which mining claims and sites are located and recorded.

State laws may identify:

- Required monument spacing
- Required monument size and material
- Whether bearings and distances must be stated
- How the discovery point must be tied to a permanent object
- Specific documentation and filing requirements

For example:

- Some states require **additional centerline or sideline stakes**
- Nevada is cited as requiring **centerline stakes at 300-foot intervals for tunnel sites**

Consistency & Accuracy is Critical

While initial staking does not require survey-level precision, accuracy becomes far more important when:

- Claims overlap or are contested
- Claims are amended
- A validity examination is conducted
- Claims are evaluated economically

Claimants must file **maps of claim boundaries**

- Amendments to boundary descriptions must be recorded with the county and the BLM
- Vague or inconsistent monument placement can undermine the claim's defensibility

Summary: Claim Locations

Federal law: *“Can the claim be found?”*

State law: *“Is it marked and documented the way we require?”*

Note: Review & follow current BLM and State guidance regarding precise staking, document and fee requirements.

Challenge

Increase your experience locating claims

- Physically stake a claim or locate monuments on the ground
 - Perhaps as a recreational activity, team event, etc, especially if you don't have a work- related opportunity.
- Join a claim staking team for the day
- Use higher precision equipment, or historic equipment

Claim Obligations & Compliance

Maintaining claims should be simple, however, the simplicity of the task can easily obscure the severity and impact of the risk.

Current Requirements (for most claims):

1. Pay the BLM fees before September 1st (preferably in July)
2. File a “Notice of Intent to Hold” with the County, following State requirements

Past Requirements:

- Annual work and reporting requirements pre-1993
- Filing Requirements in 2012 on pre-1993 claims currently being challenged

Claim Considerations: Transactions

BLM Files

- Manage claims via a BLM account
- Digitize BLM files, since they are not available online
- Ensure BLM records are accurate

County Files

- Digitized copies of county records
- Ensure county records are indexed accurately

Maps & GIS

- Be comfortably using Assessor maps, or have up-to-date Assessor GIS data
- Digitize claim maps from county, to identify possible conflicts and opportunities
- Track changes nearby all claims

Analyze how claim location, maintenance, and record keeping practices have evolved.

Historic Method

- Database programs
- Physical Files
 - Hard copies of all originals
 - Copies of drafts, notes, correspondence, work reports
 - Hard copy map files

Current Practice

- Specialized Land Management Software
- GIS mapping & tracking
- Digitized records internally
- Digitized records in most counties
- Online BLM claim management

Why are the changes important?

- Ability to track changes digitally
- Utilize AI to review data & prepare reports
- Increase accuracy thru data analysis and review
- Ability to search for errors or gaps based on digital data
- Ability to generate risk reports and automated alerts if the “Simple” compliance is “at risk”.

Useful Links

BLM: [Mining Claims Brochure Regulations](#)

Nevada: [Mining Claim Procedures](#)

Colorado: [Mining Claim Packet](#)

Utah: [Mining Code](#)

Idaho: [Mining Code](#)

Alaska: [Information Guide](#)

**PLEASE
SILENCE
YOUR
CELL
PHONE**



A BRAND WITH A MISSION.

For more than 60 years, AAPL has been a catalyst that moves the energy industry, guiding by these core principles:

- ▶ PROFESSIONAL CREDIBILITY
- ▶ PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
- ▶ TRUSTED RESOURCE
- ▶ PROTECTING THE PROFESSION
- ▶ INDUSTRY LEADER

Today, we are poised to take on a new era of change and opportunity as we advance not only land professionals, but the entire industry.



JOIN US.

landman.org

