



## Fact Sheet: Staking Requirements for River-Bottom Mineral Locations

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### What is a River-Bottom Mineral Location?

A River-Bottom Mineral Location (claim) is a traditional mineral location which is located and posted to acquire the locatable mineral rights within the area of the location according to applicable Alaska statutes and regulations (AS 38.05.195, 11 AAC 86.205-215). Locatable mineral rights are acquired discovery of a locatable mineral, staking of the area of the location, recording of the location certificate, and payment of the first annual rental. It is strongly recommended that you read the statutes and regulations regarding location of a mineral right prior to locating your claim and follow all statutes and regulations carefully.

### How is a River-Bottom Mineral Location different?

The State of Alaska, under 38.04.062, owns all submerged land underlying navigable water to which title passed to the state at the time the state achieved statehood under the equal footing doctrine or the Submerged Lands Act of 1953.

River-Bottom claims are often located in areas where the state does not own the uplands. For these types of locations, a locator must not trespass on non-state land. For this reason, locators must either obtain the upland landowner's permission prior to entering upon their property or use a witness post staked on nearby state-owned land. Witness posts are posts which are located on state land that indicate the direction and distance to the location where a corner post would otherwise be located. A witness post must contain the same information that is required under 11 AAC 86.210 to be on an actual location corner post.

### How do you properly stake a River-Bottom Mineral Location? (AS 38.05.195 and 11 AAC 86.205-215)

A River-Bottom claim is a traditional claim. You must stake a 4-posted location around the area of your discovery so that the inferred lines connecting the four corners run in the **cardinal directions**, e.g., lines must run in a north-south, and east-west direction; and you must be certain that any two adjacent corner posts do not exceed 1,320 feet apart. If the surrounding topography, or other existing locations prevent the drawing of boundaries in the cardinal directions, new claim boundaries must coincide with existing boundaries or topography.

Each corner of a location must be marked or posted with a monument that is at least 3 feet high, and a minimum of 2 ½ inches in diameter. Posts must be established at, the line of "ordinary high-water," i.e. the area of the riverbank which does not contain upland vegetation. If this is impractical, a witness post may be used. The corner post may consist of plastic PVC pipe, a 4"x 4" post, a length of rebar with a 4" x 4" post on top, a tree that is blazed (federal claims) or a rock cairn. The northeast corner of the location must include a notice, which may be a paper copy of the certificate of location that will be recorded, or a metal tag. The 'posting' of the northeast corner with a notice must contain at a minimum the following information:

- 1) The name or number of the location;
- 2) The date of the posting the notice of location;
- 3) For a River-Bottom claim, the length and width of the mining claim in feet;
- 4) A sketch depicting, to the best of the locator's knowledge, the relationship of the location to adjoining or contiguous locations; and
- 5) The name and current mailing address of each locator.

Each corner post must be marked, in addition to the northeast corner, with the name of the location and the corner number (#) beginning with the number one (1) in the northeast corner, number two (2) in the southeast corner, number three (3) in the southwest corner, and number four (4) in the northwest corner.

There is no requirement to maintain a location's corner posts. However, it is strongly recommended that location's corners be maintained to help prevent overstaking of a claim by another locator who is unaware of the corners of a claim on the ground.

#### **How to properly sketch a River-Bottom Mineral Location.**

AAC 11 86.215(a)(7) is the portion of the regulations which specifies the requirements for mineral location sketches/maps. All of the requirements in the regulation must be satisfied to process a mineral location. The regulation states:

**“A map at an indicated scale of 1:63,360 (one inch = one mile) or a more detailed scale that shows the boundaries of the claim or leasehold location, the dominant physical features of the land, the surveyed section line or, if unavailable, the protracted section lines surrounding the location, and, to the best of the locator's knowledge, the relationship of the location to adjacent or contiguous mining claims, leasehold locations, mining leases, prospecting sites, mineral orders, and non-state land; if the locator is simultaneously recording contiguous locations, a single map showing all locations may be attached to one of the certificates of location and that certificate must be cross-referenced on each other certificate of location to which the map applies.”**

Several examples of River-Bottom location sketch/maps are included at the end of this Fact Sheet for reference. Locators are highly encouraged to reach out to the Mining Section, Mineral Property Management for assistance, prior to recording new locations in the Recording District in which the location lies.

#### **Private Property**

When posting locations that may overlap private property, locators must either (1) obtain the landowner's permission prior to entry or (2) stake witness posts on nearby state land. Witness posts indicate the direction and distance to the locations where a corner post should be located, and must contain the same information required by 11 AAC 86.210 to be on actual corner posts.

#### **What are the recording requirements?**

Within 45 days after posting your location, you must record a location certificate in the recording district in which the claim, leasehold location or prospecting site is located. The location certificate must be recorded on a form provided by the Division of Mining, Land & Water, or a similar form that must contain the following information:

- 1) The name or number of the location;
- 2) the dates, including for each date the month, day, and year, of both the locator's discovery and posting of the notice of location;
- 3) for a traditional location, the length and width of the location in feet, and each meridian, township, range, section, quarter-section, and quarter-quarter section in which the location is situated;
- 4) for an MTRSC location, the meridian, township, range, section, quarter-section, and if applicable the quarter-quarter-section of the location;
- 5) the name and current mailing address of each locator, the signature of each locator or of the locator's agent; and, if the location is made on behalf of a trust, the name and mailing address of at least one trustee who is a person as described in AS 38.05.190(a)(1);
- 6) the name of the recording district in which the location is situated; and
- 7) a map at an indicated scale of 1:63,360 (one inch = one mile) or a more detailed scale that shows the boundaries of the claim or leasehold location, the dominant physical features of the land, the surveyed section line or, if unavailable, the protracted section lines surrounding the location, and, to the best of the locator's knowledge, the relationship of the location to adjacent or contiguous mining claims, leasehold locations, mining leases, prospecting sites, mineral orders, and non-state land; if the locator is simultaneously recording contiguous locations, a single map showing all locations may be attached to one of the certificates of location and that certificate must be cross-referenced on each other certificate of location to which the map applies.

#### **When do I make the first annual rental payment?**

The first rental payment must be made within 45 days of posting, otherwise the location is deemed abandoned under AS 38.05.265. The first rental payment amount is \$40 for a traditional claim or a ¼ ¼ section MTRSC claim; \$165 for a ¼ section MTRSC claim; and \$305 for a prospecting site. This first rental payment covers the period of time from the date of

posting to the next September 1<sup>st</sup> (except for a prospecting site, the rental covers the full two-year term of the site). You must include a copy of the location certificate (recorded or unrecorded) with the first payment for a new claim; or you may submit the rental payment to the recording office with a rental payment worksheet at the time of recording the location certificate. Annual rental payments for each year thereafter are billed to the owner of record, due September 1<sup>st</sup>, and must be paid no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>; otherwise the claim is deemed abandoned by operation of law. The first annual rental payment may be made in one of three ways.

Payments made in person, by cash, check, Visa or Mastercard, may be made at one of the following offices:

**Anchorage Public Information Center**

Department of Natural Resources  
Public Information Center  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1360  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561  
Monday thru Friday / 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
(907) 269-8400  
dnr.pic@alaska.gov

**Fairbanks Public Information Center**

Department of Natural Resources  
Public Information Center  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks Alaska 99709-4699  
Monday thru Friday / 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
(907) 451-2705  
fbx-pic@alaska.gov

Statewide TTY – 711 for Alaska Relay or 1-800-770-8973

Payments made by mail may be sent to:     Department of Natural Resources  
Support Services Division  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1410  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561  
Attention: Financial Services

The first rental payment may be sent to the applicable recording office with the certificate of location upon recording (with a rental payment worksheet).

Failure to timely make an annual rental payment or failure to timely record a certificate of location results in ABANDONMENT of the location. The locator of an abandoned location or a successor in interest may not relocate the location until one year after the abandonment.

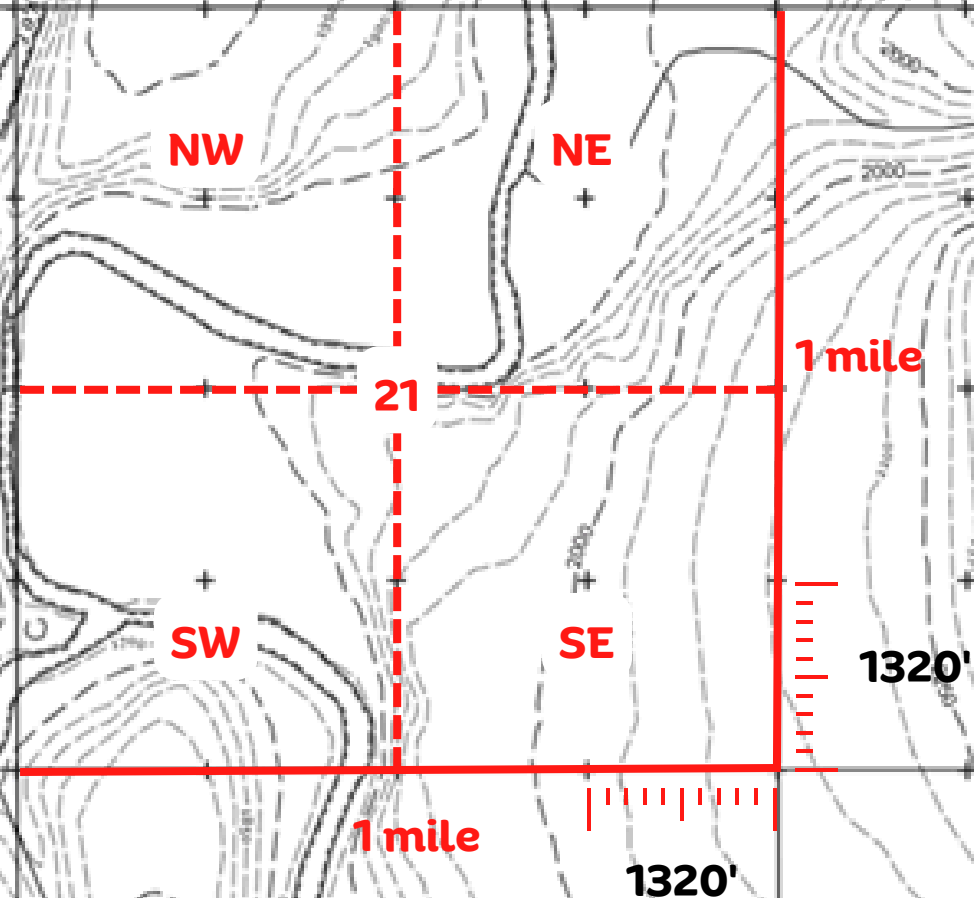
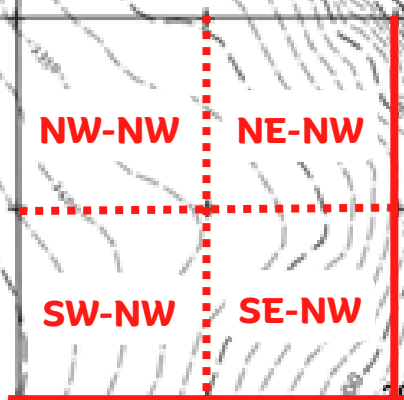
A North arrow is not needed.



Section lines are always oriented NS - EW.

Scale is calculated by section line length on a printed map.

If a printed section line =  $1\frac{1}{4}"$   
then the scale is  $1\frac{1}{4}" = 1\text{ mi}$



## PLSS

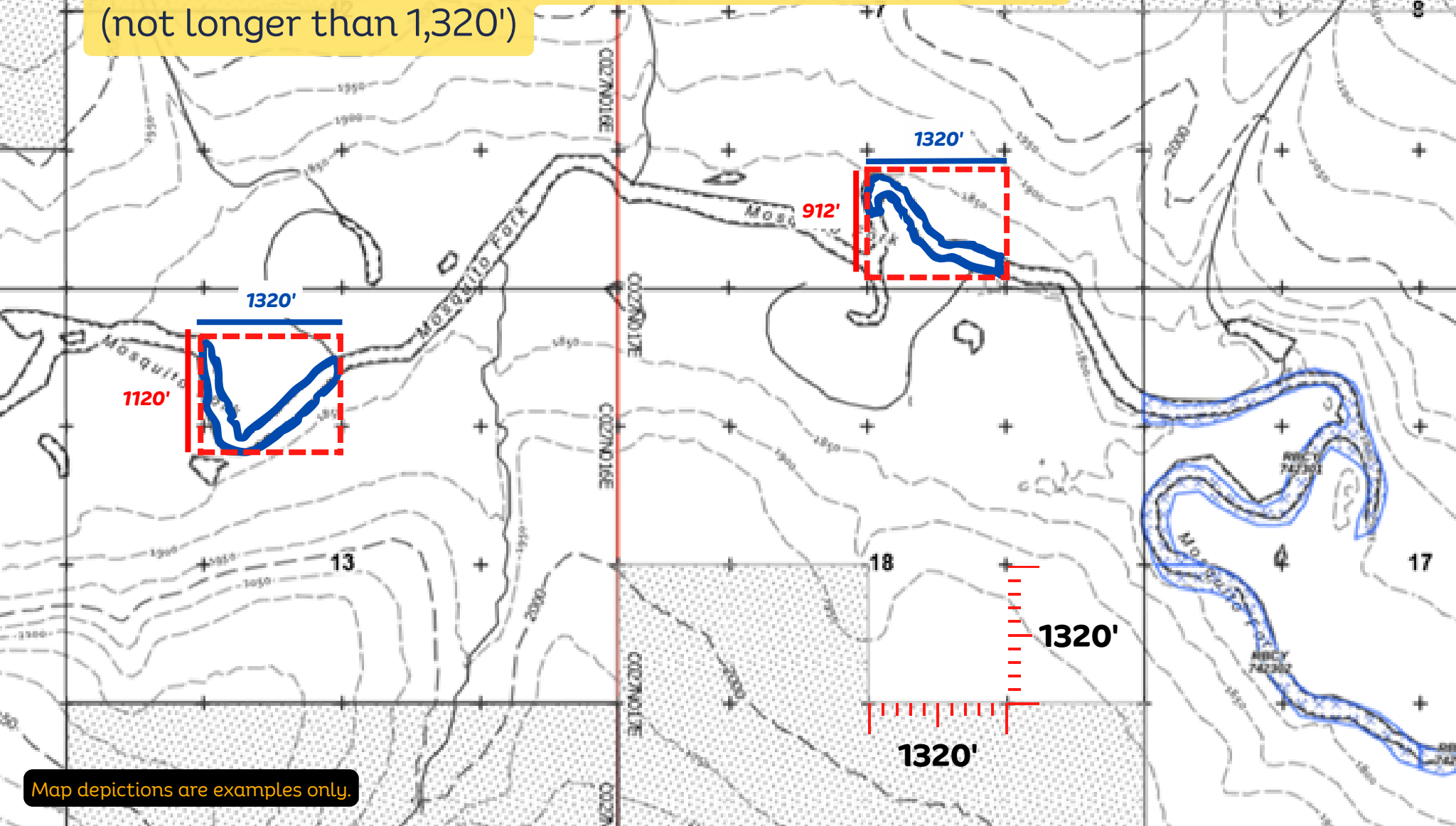
Section: 1 mi by 1 mi (640 ac)

Aliquot parts:  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section (160 ac)

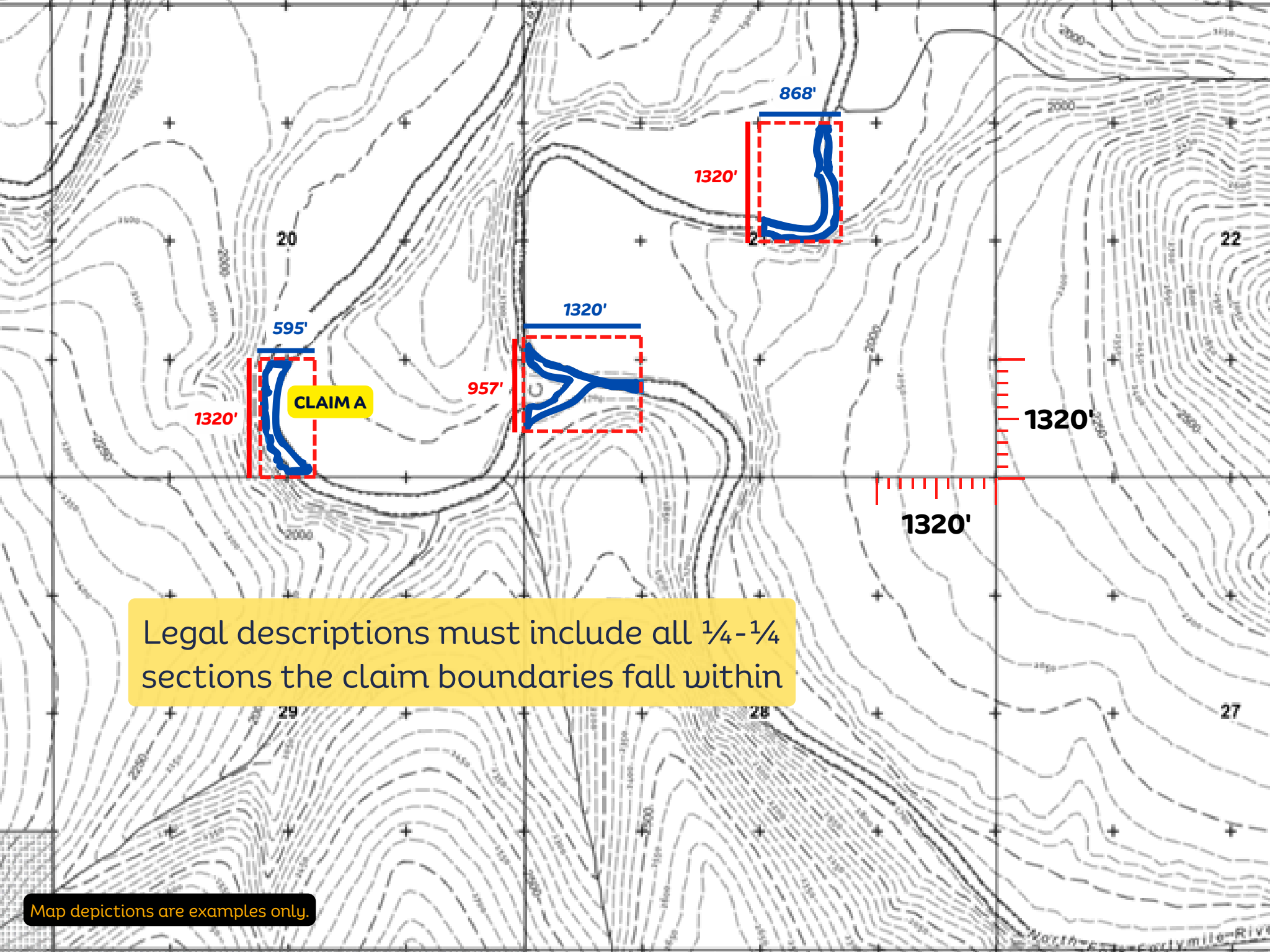
$\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section (40 ac)

## RIVER BOTTOM CLAIMS

All claim dimensions are measured only in the cardinal (NS and EW) directions, by maximum length.  
(not longer than 1,320')



Map depictions are examples only.



595'  
1320'  
**CLAIM A**

1320'  
957'

868'  
1320'

1320'  
1320'

Legal descriptions must include all  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$  sections the claim boundaries fall within

Revised 8/23  
DNR 10-162V  
Traditional

STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE MINING LOCATION NOTICE / CERTIFICATE  
(TRADITIONAL LOCATION ONLY)



<b>Location Name/Number:</b> <u>Claim A</u>		<b>Discovery Date:</b> <u>05-12-2025</u>
<b>Locator Information:</b> (The locator is the owner. Print the Name and address below where correspondence should be sent. Asterisk items are optional):		<b>Posting Date:</b> <u>05-15-2025</u>
1. Owner's Name:	<u>Mike T Miner</u>	<b>Location Dimension:</b> <u>1320'</u>
Mailing Address:	<u>P.O. Box 1234</u>	Feet Long in N-S Direction: _____
City, State, Zip:	<u>Talkeetna, AK 99676</u>	Feet Wide in E-W Direction: <u>595'</u>
*Contact Phone:	<u>907-733-1235</u>	<b>Recording District:</b> <u>FAIRBANKS</u>
*Email:	<u>mike907@gmail.com</u>	<b>Legal Description:</b> List all Meridian, Township, Range, Section and Qtr-Qtr Sections that apply to this location: example (Meridian: Fairbanks T: 10N R: SE S: 7 NW Qtr of SE Qtr)
<b>Additional Locator/Owner</b> (please print)		<u>F005S028E20 SE SW</u>
2. Owner Name:	_____	<u>F005S028E20 SW SE</u>
Mailing Address:	_____	_____
City, State, Zip:	_____	_____
*Contact Phone:	_____	_____
*Email:	_____	<b>Excludes:</b> <u>Non-state uplands, and prior existing rights</u>
<b>All owners or their agents must sign:</b> I hereby verify that the owner(s) listed above are qualified to hold mineral rights in Alaska per the requirements of AS 38.05.190, and as of the date above, a location notice was posted on the monument at the NE corner of this claim and to the best of my knowledge, in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations.		<b>Location Sketch:</b> (See instructions on reverse site.) A separate black & white map, at a scale of 1:63,360 (one inch = 1 mile), is to be provided showing the dominant physical features, the section lines, and to the best of the locator's knowledge the relationship to other mineral locations, mineral orders, and non-state land.
1. Owner/Agent:	<u>Mike T. Miner</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached to this certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Attached to the certificate for the following locations:
2. Owner/Agent:	_____	_____
Agent's Name:	_____	_____
<b>Attach an extra sheet for Additional Owners and Signatures</b>		Location name or number _____

The information provided on this form is made a part of the state public land records and becomes public information under AS 40.25.110 and 40.25.120. Public information is open to inspection by you or any member of the public. A person who is the subject of the information may challenge its accuracy or completeness under AS 40.25.310, by giving a written description of the challenged information, the changes needed to correct it, and a name and address where the person can be reached.

☐ \$40 First Rental  
Due Within 45 Days of Posting

**ADL, if Available** \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt Type: 80