

## VII. Mining Claims and Assessment Work on Federal Lands

While the Montana Department of Environmental Quality has no authority in regards to mining claims and annual assessment work for unpatented and open federal lands (except for issuing permits for exploration and mining operations), this section was added due to the numerous inquiries received by DEQ every year regarding this subject. DEQ regulates surface disturbances related to mining or mineral exploration in Montana. It is up to the applicant to make sure he/she has the legal authority to access the property and claims where the work is to be performed. All questions regarding staking claims, claim ownership, annual assessment work, filing, etc. should be directed to the appropriate federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office listed below:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
222 N. 32nd Street  
P.O. Box 36800  
Billings, Montana 59107  
Telephone: (406) 255-2885

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Lewistown District Office  
Airport Road  
P.O. Box 1160  
Lewistown, Montana 59457-1160  
Telephone: (406) 538-7461

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Butte District Office  
P.O. Box 3388  
Butte, Montana 59702-3388  
Telephone: (406) 494-5059

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Miles City District Office  
P.O. Box 950  
Miles City, Montana 59301-0950  
Telephone: (406) 232-4331