

ATTENTION MINING CLAIMANTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING UPCOMING CHANGES

In the Department of the Interior's annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2012, Congress changed the way that maintenance fees for placer mining claims are assessed. Instead of charging the maintenance fee on a per-claim basis, Congress stated that the fee (currently \$140 per claim) should be assessed on each 20-acre parcel of a placer claim or portion thereof.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently working on regulations to implement this change in the maintenance fee statute for new and existing placer claims. Until these regulations are published, **do not** voluntarily send in initial or annual maintenance fee payments at the adjusted rate.

If these regulations are published before September 1, 2012, the BLM will notify holders of placer mining claims who timely filed their maintenance fees for the 2013 assessment year and give them an opportunity to pay the adjusted fees or relinquish the acreage in excess of 20 acres. Please note that in order to be given the opportunity to cure a deficiency; the claimant must timely pay the maintenance fees for your placer mining claims for the 2013 assessment year.