

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3842.4

§ 3842.1-5 Conformity of placer claims to the public land surveys.

(a) All placer-mining claims located after May 10, 1872, shall conform as near as practicable with the United States system of public-land surveys and the rectangular subdivisions of such surveys, whether the locations are upon surveyed or unsurveyed lands.

(b) Conformity to the public-land surveys and the rectangular subdivisions thereof will not be required where compliance with such requirement would necessitate the placing of the lines thereof upon other prior located claims or where the claim is surrounded by prior locations.

(c) Where a placer location by one or two persons can be entirely included within a square 40-acre tract, by three or four persons within two square 40-acre tracts placed end to end, by five or six persons within three square 40-acre tracts, and by seven or eight persons within four square 40-acre tracts, such locations will be regarded as within the requirements where strict conformity is impracticable.

(d) Whether a placer location conforms reasonably with the legal subdivisions of the public survey is a question of fact to be determined in each case, and no location will be passed to patent without satisfactory evidence in this regard. Claimants should bear in mind that it is the policy of the Government to have all entries whether of agricultural or mineral lands as compact and regular in form as reasonably practicable, and that it will not permit or sanction entries or locations which cut the public domain into long narrow strips or grossly irregular or fantastically shaped tracts. (Snow Flake Fraction Placer, 37 L.D. 250.)

§ 3842.2 Building-stone placers.

The Act of August 4, 1892 (27 Stat. 348; 30 U.S.C. 161), extends the mineral land laws so as to bring lands chiefly valuable for building stone within the provisions of said laws.

(a) Common varieties of building stone are, since the Act of July 23, 1955 (69 Stat. 367; 30 U.S.C. 611) no longer locatable under the mining laws.

(b) Uncommon varieties of building stone continue to be subject to the

building stone placer supplement to the mining law, 30 U.S.C. 161.

§ 3842.3 Saline placers.

(a) Under the Act approved January 31, 1901 (31 Stat. 745; 30 U.S.C. 162), extending the mining laws to saline lands, the provisions of the law relating to placer-mining claims are extended to all States so as to permit the location and purchase thereunder of all unoccupied public lands containing salt springs, or deposits of salt in any form, and chiefly valuable therefor, with the proviso, "That the same person shall not locate or enter more than one claim hereunder." The saline placer act was superseded by the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*), whereby saline (sodium) deposits were made subject to disposal by leases instead of mining locations.

(b) Rights obtained by location under the placer-mining laws are assignable, and the assignee may make the entry in his own name; so, under this act a person holding as assignee may make entry in his own name: *Provided*, That he has not held under this act, at any time, either as locator or entryman, any other lands; his right is exhausted by having held under this act any particular tract, either as locator or entryman, either as an individual or as a member of an association. It follows, therefore, that no application for patent or entry, made under this act, shall embrace more than one single location.

(c) In order that the conditions imposed by the proviso, as set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, may duly appear, the application for patent must contain or be accompanied by a specific statement by each person whose name appears therein that he never has, either as an individual or as a member of an association, located or entered any other lands under the provisions of this act. The application for patent should also be accompanied by a showing, fully disclosing the qualifications as defined by the proviso, of the applicants' predecessors in interest.

§ 3842.4 Petroleum placers.

The Act of February 11, 1897 (29 Stat. 526), provides for the location and entry of public lands chiefly valuable