

Over the years, mill sites generally have been classified as dependent or independent. If a mill site locator is processing material from their patented or unpatented lode or placer mining claims, the mill site is termed dependent. An independent or custom mill may be located to process lode-type deposit minerals, utilizing a quartz mill or reduction works. It should be noted here that the type of mill site does not have to be cited in the location notice filed with the county recorder or the state office of the Bureau of Land Management. The laws and regulations regarding mill sites are specific that the maximum size of the mill site is five acres. The location of a mill site may be by legal land description, in other words, half of a quarter of a quarter of a quarter of a section, or by metes and bounds. It is interesting to note that 43 CFR 3832.32 also indicates that operations on mill sites must be reasonably compact, something you can consider when reviewing plans of operation submittals for use and occupancy of mill sites under the 43 CFR 3809 or Surface Management Regulations. As with lode and placer claims, and tunnel sites, the land where a mill site is located must be open to mineral entry. In other words, the land must not be withdrawn. Mill site cannot be located on lands where the U.S. does not own the surface, such as in the case of stock-raising homestead patented lands. Before we go into the first exercise involving mill sites, remember that mill sites are usually referred to as dependent if are pertinent to an unpatented or patented mining claim, or is independent due to the presence of a quartz mill or reduction works, but sometime a mill site can be both. A mill site may be up to five acres each, and as with a lode and placer claim, mill sites must be located on lands open to

mineral entry. This is usually evaluated by the BLM State Office Mining Claims Adjudication staff when they receive a location notice. Proceed now to Exercise 2. In this exercise you will be working through three example scenarios. For the first two scenarios indicate which class of mill site appears to be exhibited, and describe and explain why you chose that class. In the third scenario indicate whether or not the land described is open to mill site location, and explain why or why not. When you're finished with exercise, proceed to the non-mineral section.