

# Gold Panning In Clear Creek County

Gold panning (a person with a pan - no sluice box, no dredge suction pumps) is allowed on Clear Creek County Open Space land and on United States Forest Service (USFS) land. If you pan for gold on private property, it should be with the consent of the property owner.

If the hunt for gold goes beyond "a man with a pan," the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) and the USFS may require the filing of Notice of Intent to Prospect. The Forest Service would also advise individuals to do research to determine if someone else may already be prospecting on an unpatented claim in their specific area of interest.

Please contact the following agencies for guidance:

**DRMS**  
The Centennial Building  
1313 Sherman St., Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: 303.866.3567

**USFS - Clear Creek Ranger District**  
101 Chicago Creek Rd.  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452  
Phone: 303.567.3000

Mining is interlaced in Clear Creek  
County's history!

If you are looking at either prospecting or buying a mining claim in Clear Creek County, it is very important to do your research. We recommend visiting the Bureau of Land Management website to obtain more information, including information on the location of both patented and unpatented mining claims.

[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

**BLM Colorado State Office**  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215  
303-239-3600 | Fax 303-239-3933  
Hours 9 am - 4 pm M-F

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY  
PO Box 2000  
Georgetown, CO 80444

ph 303.679.2436 | fx 303.569.1103 | [www.clearcreekcounty.us](http://www.clearcreekcounty.us)

# Mining Information Clear Creek County



**EXPERIENC  
E**  
*Clear Creek*

## Can I build on a mining claim?

*It depends what it is zoned*

### **Zoning Department**

Not all mining claims can be built upon. It depends on what they are zoned. If you are intending to purchase a mining claim to build on, research the property before you buy it! You will need to contact someone from the Clear Creek County Zoning Department to verify that your claim is buildable.

#### **Special Warning to residential users of M-1 zoned mining lands:**

Mining lands may have physical hazards and environmental issues associated with past mineral exploration, production, and processing. Additionally, patented mining properties used for residential purposes remain subject to the provisions of Colorado State and Federal Mining Laws regarding rights-of-way, drainage, extralateral rights, and other provisions. Finally, mineral exploration, development, or processing may occur on adjacent or nearby lands at any time.

Clear Creek County  
Planning and Zoning  
Clear Creek County Annex  
1111 Rose St.  
PO Box 2000  
Georgetown, CO 80444  
303.679.2430

## How can I access my property?

*Sometimes access is the biggest problem.*

### **Site Development**

Access to mining claims can be difficult. There are many obstacles that can impede easy access. Roads are usually 4-wheel drive and non-maintained. You may need to cross



private property to access certain mining claims, which could and probably will require an easement. Likewise, There may be issues with the ability to put in a driveway. It is best to consult with Clear Creek County's Site Development Department regarding driveway and access questions.

Clear Creek County  
Site Development  
Clear Creek County Annex  
1111 Rose St.  
PO Box 2000  
Georgetown, CO 80444  
303.679.2421

Mining Claims can have surface rights and mineral rights. You may be buying one or the other, or both. If you have questions about surface rights or mineral rights contact the Assessor's Office for a Property Records Search.

Clear Creek County  
Assessor's Office – Property  
Records Search  
405 Argentine St.  
PO Box 2000  
Georgetown, CO 80444  
303.679.2322