

RESEARCH SOURCES

MINIMAL BASIC RESEARCH

_ **Official (BLM/GLO) Plats from GLO Records or microfiche** <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

_ **Official (BLM/GLO) notes from microfiche or GLO records.**

_ **Master Title Plat (MTP) from GLO Records**

-Is gov't land acquired? Anything else going on?

_ **Mineral and Land Record System (MLRS):** <https://mlrs.blm.gov/s/research-map>

You can access Plats, Notes, MTP, Patents, and mineral locations geographically using the MLRS map

_ **Monument Records from DORA** <http://www.dora.state.co.us/doraimages/>

-(KML/KMZ on google earth may be incomplete)

-Will alert you to local surveys, additional accessories at corners, and maybe general location.

_ **Local plats** from county courthouse/Clerk's Office or direct from surveyor (cultivate your contacts)

-Every county seems to have a unique system (and think that is the only way).

-should be deposited after 1987, but may be difficult to locate due to filing system

-Baca, Cheyenne, Dolores, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lincoln, Ouray, San Juan, San Miguel, Sedgewick, Teller, and Washington counties in Colorado use (free):

<https://www.thecountyrecorder.com/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1&jsEnabled=1>

Depending on county, images may be available.

_ **Ownership records** from county assessor

-landowner notification letters will need to be sent AND you should try to make contact directly as well by phone and/or in person; always ask about landowner knowledge of surveys/corners. They will probably at least be interested in the history and maybe know of an authority for the area.

_ **Topo and other maps**

-Find out 7.5' and 15' quad names from index: <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/where-can-i-find-indexes-usgs-topographic-maps>

-Avenza app is on your phone and pretty good; ONxHunt gives landowners.

_ **Patents** from GLO records, either the patent tab or the CDI, but may have to go to the BLM office library.

_ **GCDB coordinates;** I downloaded CADNSDI points to my GIS from [Download Public Land Survey System \(PLSS\) Data](#)

-note reliability of coords, if not so good-try to come up with reality based coords from nearby surveys.

NATIONAL FOREST BASIC-all the above plus

_ **Corner Cards**

-district offices and/or supervisor's office for the forest.

_ **Contract surveys for the National Forest**

-should have been deposited with county, but this is not always the case: others probably at district or supervisor's office.

_While you're at the NF district office looking for corner cards and plats, keep an eye out for old ranger field books; the old school rangers were at least line riders if not traversing surveyors.

_ALP online database at <https://www.fs.fed.us/land/ALPLandStatusandEncumbrance/>

-Really a map-the NF official word on land status much like the MTP for the BLM; note road layers.

_National Forest Permits in your area: may have located corners.

-Communication sites, roads, and other uses on National Forest land should have a "special use" permit associated which may have survey information; SUDS is a database not accessible to public, but district ranger stations or forest supervisor office should be able to look up the special use permit file.

MINERAL RESURVEYS BASIC-all the above plus

_Mineral survey plats and notes

-get adjoining claims and any that are tied to claims of interest.

_Connecting sheets/segregation diagrams; connecting sheets are on GLO records.

_USLM/USMM

-usually established by first claim in unsurveyed area.

-in lieu of tie to rectangular corner

_Is there a town site platted in the area (eg.: Ward, Leadville, Jamestown, Fremont (Cripple Creek)?

_Talk to BLM surveyor who has worked in the area [maybe not a survey, but abandoned mineral lands (AML) work]; they probably have a drawing to get you started.

SURVEYS THAT ARE NOT SO BASIC-all the above plus some of these

_Historic Topo maps (Early maps often have more corners shown than later maps)

-some available at <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>

-Use your library card to order earliest maps through prospector; school of mines has most everything.

-Plus on map is possible corner according to USGS

_Land Entry File

-\$50 from NARA at <http://www.archives.gov/research/land/index.html>

-sometimes have useful information

_Group File

-more recent (back to about 1943) in BLM COSO, earlier at NARA in Broomfield

-may contain local plats obtained from local surveyor or landowner (not at clerk's office)

-correspondence may show dealing with problems

_National Archives (NARA) <https://www.archives.gov/research>

-triplicate (dirty) plat-used by land offices before MTPs

-Record Group 49 inventory for Colorado at

<https://archive.org/details/preliminaryinven00wilt>

-List of Cartographic records of GLO at

<https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/lists/special-list19.pdf>

_Highway Sheets from CDOT

- OTIS interactive search at <http://dtdapps.coloradodot.info/otis/>
- Older sheets will maybe not show up on OTIS-find out regional contact; region map here: <https://www.codot.gov/images/global/new-region-boundary-map/view>
- Region 5 contact: Todd Johnston - todd.johnston@state.co.us

_Railroad plat if there is or was a railroad nearby

- Book: "Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado" by Robert Ormes.
- Original sheets are the most detailed and useful; sheets from the railroad today usually lack corners
- Railroad museum in Golden: <https://coloradorailroadmuseum.org/library/>
- County Clerk may have some squirreled away
- Figure stationing by proportioning bet. culverts (railroad: bridge abbreviated BR); mileposts inaccurate.

_Water Departments (if there is water near project site, someone has maybe surveyed/claimed)

- Colorado Springs Utilities has reservoir plats and had some old field books.
- Denver Water has a room full of field books.

_Historical Index on GLO Records

- case files (or portions, if large) can be copied from BLM COSO public room library.
- entries in each section including unperfected entries

_Tract Books -Public Room at Colorado State Office or at NARA

- Show entries into each section including unperfected entries

_State Department of Natural Resources

- Water map viewers at <http://water.state.co.us/DATAMAPS/GISANDMAPS/MAPVIEWER/Pages/FAQ.aspx>
- Mining map and records at <https://mining.state.co.us/Pages/Home.aspx> under reports and data

_Museums and Libraries

- Local and/or Denver Public Library Western History Dept.

_Aerial Photos from USGS or other agencies/entities

- USGS used to have photos with annotations on the back but may be hard to locate.

_Duplicate (WO) plats

- Micro-fiche at COSO. Each version of the old plats may be slightly different as they were hand drafted.

_Colorado Geological Survey at <http://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/>

- they close old mining shafts and tunnels and set project markers

_Annual Report of the Commissioner of the GLO

- Full searchable text here: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001719265>
- If you know year and something to search for

_Federal Register at govinfo <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/fr>

- Use date of action/order to search back to 1936

_Federal Repository Libraries: some are partial.