

ACCESS TO MAPS OF DEFINITE LOCATION FILED BY RAILROAD

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING A MAP OF DEFINITE LOCATION

1. Using an internet browser, go to <http://www.blm.gov/lr2000/>. Select “Run Reports” from the menu on the left side of the screen. A new window or tab should open.
2. In the new window or tab, select “Pub CR Serial Register Page” beneath “Public Case Recordation Reports”.
3. Select the button for “Other Query Parameters”, then select “Select Criteria”.
4. Select the checkbox for “Meridian Township Range Section”, then select “Select Criteria”.
5. Select “Set” to the left of “Admin State” and select Idaho as the Admin State.
6. Select “Set” next to “Casetype”. In the box beneath the “Sort Code” and “Sort Text” buttons, scroll down until you see “284001 – ROW-RR,STA GROUND”. Holding the Ctrl key, select numbers 284001, 284004, and 284200 so that all three are selected at once.
7. Select “Set” next to “Meridian Township Range Section”. From the drop-down “Meridian” menu, select “08 – BOISE MER”. Then input the proper legal description (the Township, Range, and Section number) for your property and select “Add to MTR List”. If your property covers multiple Townships, Ranges, or Sections, you may enter multiple descriptions provided you select “Add to MTR List” after inputting each.
8. Once you have entered all of the legal descriptions for your property, select the “Close” button to the left. Review the limits you have placed on the three search parameters: “Admin State,” “Casetype,” and “Meridian Township Range Section” to ensure that each is correct.
9. Select “Run Report”. If a small window pops up telling you to “Press ‘OK’ to run the report,” press “OK” to run the report. You may find that you have to do this twice before the report will actually run.
10. If there are railroad right of way records available for your property, they should appear in a document called a “Case Recordation Serial Register Page”.
11. For ease of viewing, it is best to view the Serial Register Page as an Adobe Acrobat document (PDF file). To do so, select the “Export to PDF” button on the upper right-hand portion of the page. Your internet browser may ask where you would like to save the PDF file or it may open the PDF file in another window or tab. Either way,

it is recommended that you save a copy of the PDF file to your computer so that you may access it again without having to repeat these steps.

12. Regardless of whether you are viewing the Serial Register Page via PDF file or via your internet browser, use the “Mer Twp Rng Sec” and “Subdivision” columns to locate the legal description of your property.
13. Once you have confirmed that your property appears on the Serial Register Page, scroll to the bottom of the Serial Register Page. If you are not viewing a PDF version of the Serial Register Page, this may require you to select the down arrow symbol near the top of the page (perhaps more than once) to proceed to the following pages in your internet browser. You are looking for a section of the Serial Register page which contains columns with headings such as “Act Date”, “Code”, “Action”, “Action Remar”, and “Pending Offic”.
14. Once you have located this section, look under the “Action” column for “ROW [Right of Way] GRANTED-ISSUED”. In the “Act Date” column, check the date upon which the right of way was granted to see if it supports your claim that your Covered Property was transferred to the original owner of your property by the United States or otherwise taken out of the public domain before the railroad got its right to use the property for the railroad. If it supports your claim, save or print a copy of the Serial Register Page.
15. If your Covered Property was transferred to the original owner of your property by the United States or otherwise taken out of the public domain before the railroad got its right to use the property for the railroad, then you will need to obtain a Map of Definite Location, which is a map, plat, statement, certificate, report, or profile which the pertinent railroad company filed pursuant to the pertinent land-grant act with the applicable governmental agency to locate the route of the railroad.
16. Maps of Definite Location may be located in a number of places: the National Archives facilities in College Park, MD or in Seattle, WA or in the Idaho Offices of the Bureau of Land Management.
17. To search the National Archives, visit www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html, select Question Topic “Other – my question topic is not listed” from the drop-down menu about halfway down the page. Then, in the question box below, type the following, filling in the brackets with information specific to your property:

I would like to obtain a certified copy of a map, plat, statement, certificate, report, or profile filed by a railroad company with the General Land Office in order to locate the route of the railroad. The railroad ran over or adjacent to my property in [County name] County, Idaho. My property is located at [Township number and direction, Range number and direction, Section number]. I believe the railroad right-of-way was granted on [mm/dd/yyyy on which the right-of-way was granted from the “Act Date” column of the Serial Register Page (see Steps 13-14)]. I do not know what the railroad company was called at that time, but the current name

of the railroad holding the right-of-way is [railroad name appearing beneath “Name & Address” on Serial Register Page]. Could you please tell me if you have such documents at your facility and, if so, how I might obtain a certified copy thereof? If not, could you please tell me where such documents might be located and how I might obtain them?

Thank you,

[Your name]

18. You should receive a response to your inquiry which may require you to follow up. The National Archives typically offers to perform one hour of research for free. If more than one hour is needed, you may hire a private researcher (<http://www.archives.gov/research/hire-help>). If the National Archives does have the document you need, you can obtain a certified copy of the document by contacting one of the National Archives’ vendors (www.archives.gov/research/order/vendors-photos-maps-dc.html). Hiring a private researcher and ordering certified copies of documents from vendors costs money. The least expensive certified copy of an average size map at the National Archives is over \$50.00.
19. To search with the Idaho offices of the Bureau of Land Management, call 208-373-4000, introduce yourself and tell them that you are trying to obtain a copy of a railroad map of definite location that may have been filed with the General Land Office. Provide information such as the county, township, range, and section numbers of your Covered Property and the Serial Number located at the top right-hand corner of the Serial Register Page. You may be transferred to a local field office. If so, repeat your inquiry and provide the same information to that office. To call your local field office directly, see the phone numbers at www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/directory.html. If the BLM has the document you need, ask how you might obtain a certified copy of the document.
20. **Submit a certified copy of the map, plat, statement, certificate, report, or profile that the railroad filed with government to locate the route of the railroad along with your Claim Form, your Patent, and the Cash Entry Certificate, Homestead Application, or Preemption Declaratory Statement for the property covered by the Claim Form.**

THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY SETTLEMENT CLASS COUNSEL AS A GENERAL GUIDE ON OBTAINING DOCUMENTS. OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR A CLAIM RELATED TO YOUR SPECIFIC PROPERTY MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL OR DIFFERENT ACTIONS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO YOUR PROPERTY, YOU MAY NEED TO CONTACT YOUR OWN COUNSEL.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT, THE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR, OR DEFENSE COUNSEL.