

Bonanza Gulch Placer Claim

This comprehensive analysis focuses specifically on the **Bonanza Gulch Placer Mining Claim** (MT101881903), addressing your repeated questions with clarity and the perspective of an investor/miner.

Investor & Miner Brief: Bonanza Gulch Placer Claim

This analysis pertains only to the **Bonanza Gulch Placer Mining Claim** (MT101881903) in the Cedar Creek Mining District, Mineral County, Montana.

Claim Identifiers and Location

Identifier	Detail
Claim Name	Bonanza Gulch Placer Mining Claim
Acreage	160 Acres
Legal Description	S ½ of N ½ Section 2, T 15 N, R 28 W
MLRS Status	Active, Unpatented (MT101881903)
Coordinates (Center)	N47.11465° W115.06930° (NAD83)
Elevation	4,297 ft MSL
Location	Lolo National Forest, Northwest of Superior, MT.

Priority 1: Mineral Value, Claim Rights, and Mining Potential

A. Claim Status, Ownership, and Rights

Question	Factual Analysis
What is a Placer Claim?	A Placer Claim is a mining right granted under the 1872 Mining Law, allowing extraction of unconsolidated minerals (gold, sand, gravel) found in stream beds and alluvial deposits.
Who Owns the Land?	The Federal Government (specifically the US Forest Service, Lolo National Forest) owns the land (surface) . The claim is NOT Patented .
Is this a Patented Claim?	NO. The MLRS Serial number and the current status indicate this is an Unpatented Claim . Patented claims (where the government passes full title) have been subject to a federal

Question	Factual Analysis
	moratorium since 1994.
Rights of the Buyer	Buying the claim transfers the exclusive right to explore for and extract locatable minerals within the 160 acres. This mineral right is treated as personal property and can be sold, bought, or leased (transferred via Quitclaim Deed). The buyer does not gain exclusive rights to the surface for non-mining purposes.

B. Resource Potential and Mining Methods

Question	Factual Analysis
Primary Gold/Minerals	Gold (Au) and Silver (Ag). The Cedar Creek Mining District is a proven historical placer area. Gold here was reported to be of high fineness , often ranging from 0.960 to 0.982 purity.
Mining Methods	Possible Mining Methods: Hand-panning, gravity sluicing, and (for commercial viability) Small-scale Mechanized Mining (mini-excavator/dozer with a portable wash plant/trommel). Regulatory Note: Any activity beyond minimal hand tools requires an approved Plan of Operations and permits from the USFS and Montana DEQ.

Priority 2: Location, Water, and Access Logistics

Question	Factual Analysis
1. Nature of the Feature	"Bonanza Gulch" is both the name of the steep ravine/valley and the main creek/stream that runs through it. The terrain is mountainous (Bitterroot Range).
2. Watercourse Details	Creek Name: Bonanza Gulch. Length: The 160-acre square parcel is approximately 2,640 ft on a side. The winding creek length traversing the claim is estimated to be over 4,000 feet .
3. Access & Driving	Starting Point: Superior, MT. Primary Road: Access requires I-90 to a major junction, then USFS Road #320 (Cedar Creek Road) . Vehicle: Final access requires a high-clearance 4WD/AWD vehicle on rough, unmaintained USFS spur roads.
4. Camping/Staging	Flat Areas: Extremely difficult to find directly on the steep gulch (4,297 ft MSL). Rules: Any camp/staging must be placed 100 feet away from the stream and generally 50 feet

Question	Factual Analysis
	away from the USFS road. Developed Camp: Quartz Flat Campground is the closest secure staging area.
5. Specific Terrain	The terrain is steep, heavily forested, and rugged (part of the Bitterroot Mountains). Gulch placer claims of this nature often have slopes exceeding 60% on the valley sides.

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