

BLM

Land Issues

Q: What is the first thing I must do to acquire a homestead in Alaska?

A: We suggest you first visit one of the BLM Land Offices to determine the status of public lands in general. Then obtain a topographic map of the area in which you are interested from the U.S. Geological Survey and bring it to the Land Office to match with our maps and determine what claims already exist on the lands.

Then, you must personally go to the site you wish to obtain and carefully examine the area on the ground. Establishing occupancy is next with the staking of the four corners of the site (up to 160 acres) and making improvements upon the land.

Within 90 days of entering on the land, you must 1) file a notice of settlement in the Land Office and 2) post a copy of the notice on the land. This notice should include the date of settlement and the act under which you are claiming the land.

The notice must also contain a metes and bounds description of the tract claimed which consists of a definite starting point and continues with directions and distances around the tract back to the point of beginning.

This point of beginning must be described in relation to natural features such as rivers and mountains. If the land has been surveyed, you should give the location of the survey markers.

A \$10 fee is required for filing a homestead settlement claim.

(Questions may be submitted to BLM Land Issues (912) 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.)