



U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources Division

Policy, Legislation, and Special Litigation Section
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Laurence Rene', Goodman
C/o 299 Bear Drive
Golden, Near [80403]
Colorado, USA

JUN 27 2001

Dear Mr. Goodman:

Your letter of April 30, 2001, addressed to Attorney General John Ashcroft, has been referred to my office for a response. In your letter you identified yourself as the owner of a portion of land Patent Number 198, Homestead Certificate No. 214, Application 251, issued by the United States of America; and you ask "... doesn't the United States of America and the Attorney Generals Office have to back up and guarantee the title?"

The Attorney General/Department of Justice, as part of the Executive Branch of the Government, is charged with representing the United States, its agencies and personnel of the Executive Branch in legal matters. The U.S. Department of Justice is precluded from offering legal advice to private citizens – even when the question relates to an act of the United States. Your question really should be directed to the federal agency that issued the patent, since it will be familiar with the issues relating to patents generally. The agency, once known as the General Land Office, is today known as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

You did not say where your land is located, but on the assumption that it is in Colorado, I contacted BLM and I was advised that this is a matter that should be addressed to the Colorado State Manager for assistance. Her name, address and phone are as follows:

Ann J. Morgan, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215
telephone: (303) 239-3700

I am going to forward your letter to Ms. Morgan for review and further response. If you wish to contact her directly you may do so. For your general information, if you have access to the Internet, you find it helpful to visit the BLM web site found at: www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm