

Who Owns The West?

Kerr McGee Corp

Summary of Ownership by County

Please select a county from the list below to see a map.

Location	Claims	Patents	Mining Plans & Notices	% Mapped
Arizona				
Santa Cruz County		1		100%
Idaho				
Caribou County		1		100%
New Mexico				
McKinley County		5		100%
Wyoming				
Carbon County	3	5		100%
Converse County	2	2		100%


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a project of Environmental Working Group

mining >> who bought land >> overview >> Wyoming >> Carbon County

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Patented public land in Carbon County

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Location:

Wyoming

Carbon County

In Carbon County the hardrock mining industry has acquired the title to an estimated 21,795 acres of land previously owned by the public and rich in gold, silver, and other precious metals and minerals. Although a moratorium on new mining "patents" - conversion of public lands to private - has been in place since 1994, the government continues to grant pending requests. Since 2000, 15,600 acres of public lands across 12 western states have been converted to private ownership, for a price capped at \$5 per acre in 1872. See who has gained title to lands since [1980](#), [1990](#), or [2000](#).

Quick facts about patented lands in Carbon County

- Acres of federal land, previously public, titled the mining industry: **21,795**
- Companies and individuals granted patents, total: **227**
- Dollars paid for each acre: **\$2.50 or \$5**
- Royalties paid to federal government from mines on patented public land: **\$0**

EWG analysis of data compiled by the Bureau of Land Management.

Top Mining Patent Purchasers in Carbon County Ranked by Acres Patented

Companies have been consolidated to account for subsidiaries. [View this table without consolidation.](#)

	Company/Individual	Headquarters	Number of Patents	Estimated Acreage	Patent Date (s)
1	Tidewater Oil Co	unknown	8	1,784	1960 to 1968
2	Petrotomics Co	unknown	4	1,255	1963 to 1972
3	Kerr McGee Corp	Oklahoma City, OK	5	946	1967 to 1968
4	Utah Construction & Mining Co	Salt Lake City, UT	5	864	1967 to 1968
5	Getty Oil Co	Los Angeles, CA	7	763	1968 to 1986
6	John H Mullison	unknown	1	720	1905
7	Montana Minerals Development	unknown	7	700	1959
8	Kretni Development Company	unknown	7	700	1922 to 1925
9	The Wyoming Development and Trust	unknown	8	544	1899 to 1905
10	Western Iron Ore Co	unknown	5	427	1908

[See all patent purchasers in Carbon County](#)

Location:

Wyoming

Carbon County

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Source: EWG analysis of Bureau of Land Management's Land and Mineral Records 2000 (LR2000) data system. For claims, acreages are estimated based on maximum allowable size of claims. For patents, acreages are taken directly from the LR2000 database where available, and are estimated based on maximum allowable size of claim that preceded the patent where acreages are not noted in LR2000. All notices are assumed to be five acres in size, and the size of plans are calculated directly as the size of the land represented by the legal land description in the LR2000 database. The acreages we estimate through these methods would tend to overestimate the actual amount. We welcome corrections [here](#), and would welcome a federal data management system that included the acreages involved in these important federal land transactions.