

U.S. Mineral Rights Law Atlas

Release 2026.10.1, October 6, 2026. Published by American Mineral Registry under CC BY 4.0. Researched and checked by American Mineral Registry against the official text wherever it could be read; review completed October 1, 2026. Reference research, not legal advice. 51 of 51 jurisdictions reviewed; 152 of 153 consequential fields checked against official text or searched. Rule types: Dormant mineral statute 18; Prescription of nonuse 1; Tax or work forfeiture 3; Marketable title act 2; Registration or claim rules 3; Missing owner procedure 6; No such statute found 18. Deceased or unlocated owner record: 2 checked, 49 partly checked, 0 not yet verified. General information about statutes, not legal advice or a title opinion. Current version and sources: <https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/mineral-rights-by-state>

Alabama

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Alabama statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, and no marketable record title act was found. Nonproducing oil, gas and mineral interests held separately from the surface are exempt from ad valorem tax (Ala. Code 40-20-35; interests created before October 1957 only on application), and a tax sale of the surface does not affect an exempt interest.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Quiet title against unknown owners (Ala. Code 35-6-44) and Oil and Gas Board escrow rules were not reviewed.

Ala. Code 35-19-9(d), the only code hit for the phrase 'dormant mineral'; Ala. Code 40-20-35; Ala. Code 40-20-35
<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/abandoned-mineral-rights-alabama>

Alaska

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Alaska statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, requires a statement of claim, or provides a procedure for missing mineral owners. Unpaid mineral proceeds can become unclaimed property under AS 34.45, which affects the payments, not ownership of the interest.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Checked.

Survey of AS Titles 09, 27, 31, 34, 38 (full text); excerpt AS 34.45.760(13)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-alaska>

Arizona

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Arizona statute was found that ends or transfers a severed private mineral interest for nonuse, requires a statement of claim, or provides a procedure for missing mineral owners. Arizona's mining claim statutes (Title 27, chapter 2) deal with locating, maintaining and abandoning mining claims, largely on federal land, which is a different topic from severed private mineral interests.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The survey searched section headings, not the full text of Title 27, and Oil and Gas Conservation Commission rules were not read.

Survey of ARS section headings, Titles 12, 27, 33, 37, 42, 44

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-arizona>

Arkansas

Tax or work forfeiture. Period: See rule. Ends without a surface owner step: Unclear. Evidence: Core rule cited.

No Arkansas statute ending a severed mineral interest for nonuse was identified, but the official code could not be searched, and the state's appellate opinion database has no opinion mentioning a dormant or abandoned mineral statute. Mineral rights, including nonproducing ones, are assessed for property tax (Ark. Code Ann. 26-26-1110, as quoted in 2021 Ark. App. 324).

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: heirs, devisees and successors.

Commissioner of State Lands, Frequently Asked Questions; Commissioner of State Lands Rules, Subtitle L, Fees (2); SWN Production Co. (Arkansas), LLC v. Stobaugh, 2021 Ark. App. 324, quoting Ark. Code Ann. 26-26-1110(c)(4); SEECO, Inc. v. Holden, 2015 Ark. App. 555, quoting Ark. Code Ann. 18-61-106(a)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-arkansas>

California

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

The owner of the land may sue in superior court to terminate a mineral right that has been dormant for the 20 years immediately before the suit. Dormant means no production or operations affecting the minerals, no separately assessed tax paid, no recorded instrument evidencing the right and no recorded notice of intent to preserve during that window.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

Cal. Civ. Code § 883.210; Cal. Civ. Code § 883.220; Cal. Civ. Code § 883.230(c)(1); Cal. Civ. Code § 883.240(b)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/california-dormant-mineral-act>

Colorado

Tax or work forfeiture. Period: See rule. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Core rule cited.

No Colorado statute was found that ends a severed mineral interest for nonuse, and no marketable record title act was found.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. How the 2024 tax lien search rule applies to a deceased owner of record is open, and no statewide search outside titles 34, 38 and 39 was made.

C.R.S. 39-11-150; C.R.S. 39-1-104.5; C.R.S. 39-11-120(1); C.R.S. title 38, article 42 (38-42-101 to 38-42-106), survey

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/abandoned-mineral-rights-colorado>

Connecticut

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

The owner of the fee simple title may sue to terminate a mineral interest that has been unused for the 20 years immediately before the action; the court then decrees it extinguished, and the recorded decree merges it into the surface estate. Use includes active mineral operations, payment of separate mineral taxes, recorded transfers, leases or liens, a recorded judgment and a recorded notice of intent to preserve.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 47-33q(a); Conn. Gen. Stat. § 47-33q(a); Conn. Gen. Stat. § 47-33q(b); Conn. Gen. Stat. § 47-33q(c)(1)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/connecticut-dormant-mineral-act>

Delaware

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Delaware statute was found under which a severed mineral interest lapses for nonuse or is barred by a marketable title act. Title 25 (Property) never uses the word mineral; Delaware's mineral statutes concern leasing of state public lands and submerged lands.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Title 12 (decedents' estates) and the unclaimed property law were not searched for a mineral rule.

Del. Code tit. 25 (Property), all chapters searched; Del. Code tit. 7 (Conservation), all chapters searched

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-delaware>

District of Columbia

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

The D.C. Code has no provision on severed mineral interests, so nothing makes them lapse for nonuse or bars them under a marketable title act. General land law, such as the 15 year limit on actions to recover land (§ 12-301(1)) and the action to perfect title acquired by adverse possession (§ 16-3301), is not mineral specific.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Checked.

D.C. Code § 47-1384 (only marketable title hit)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-washington-dc>

Florida

Marketable title act. Period: 30 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Core rule cited.

Florida has no dormant mineral or nonuse statute. Its Marketable Record Title Act (chapter 712) gives a person with a 30 year unbroken record chain from a root of title a marketable record title free of interests that depend on any act or title transaction before the root, which are 'declared to be null and void' unless an exception in 712.03 applies.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Whether a mineral owner's death or unidentified heirs count under the Marketable Record Title Act exceptions is open, and no Florida decision was read.

Fla. Stat. 712.04 (2025); Fla. Stat. 712.02 (2025); Fla. Stat. 712.05(1) (2025); Fla. Stat. 712.03(1) (2025)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-florida>

Georgia

Tax or work forfeiture. Period: 7 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Core rule cited.

Georgia lets the owner of the land petition the superior court for severed mineral rights after seven years in which the mineral owner neither worked them, tried to work them, nor paid taxes due on them. The interest is lost only by court decree. A 2026 code revision changed only a cross reference in this section.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

O.C.G.A. § 44-5-168(a), version [Effective July 1, 2026] (identical wording in the version effective until July 1, 2026); O.C.G.A. § 44-5-168(b)(2) and (b)(3); O.C.G.A. § 44-5-168(f), version [Effective July 1, 2026]; O.C.G.A. § 44-5-168, history line of the version [Effective July 1, 2026]

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/abandoned-mineral-rights-georgia>

Hawaii

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

HRS § 182-2 reserves to the State all minerals in state lands and in reserved lands, meaning land where the State or its predecessors reserved the minerals, and every patent or conveyance of state land must carry that reservation. No statute was found under which a privately held severed mineral interest lapses for nonuse or is cleared by a title act.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The official code could not be searched in full; the survey outside chapters 182 and 523A is limited.

HRS § 182-2(a); HRS § 182-1, definition of reserved lands

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-hawaii>

Idaho

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Idaho statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, requires a statement of claim, or provides a procedure for missing mineral owners. Unpaid mineral proceeds can become unclaimed property under Title 14 chapter 5, which affects the payments, not ownership of the interest.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Amendments after the archived copies were not checked, and no order or decision on heirs of a deceased owner was read.

Survey of Idaho Code Titles 55, 47, 6, 5 and 14 chapters (full text of chapter PDFs)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-idaho>

Illinois

Missing owner procedure. Period: 7 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

Illinois has no dormant mineral or nonuse lapse statute. The Severed Mineral Interest Act (765 ILCS 515, P.A. 83-571) applies only to severed mineral interests whose owners are unknown or missing.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. No Illinois decision on the Severed Mineral Interest Act was searched or read because the case search was rate limited.

765 ILCS 515/1(a), (b); 765 ILCS 515/3; 765 ILCS 515/9(a); 765 ILCS 515/11(g)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/abandoned-mineral-rights-illinois>

Indiana

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Core rule cited.

An interest in coal, oil and gas, or other minerals that is unused for 20 years is extinguished and reverts to the owner of the interest it was carved from, unless a statement of claim is filed before the 20 years run. No court action or prior notice is required; the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the act in *Texaco, Inc. v. Short* (1982).

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The statutes were read in their 2017 text because the official 2026 code could not be reached; later amendments, Indiana Court of Appeals decisions and the integration chapter (IC 14-37-9) were not read.

IC 32-23-10-2; IC 32-23-10-3(a)(1) to (3); IC 32-23-10-4(c); IC 32-23-10-5

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/indiana-dormant-mineral-act>

Iowa

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Core rule cited.

Iowa's abandoned mineral interest statute, rewritten in June 2026, treats a severed interest in coal, oil, gas and most other minerals as abandoned after twenty years without activity unless a statement of claim is filed, and title vests in the surface owner without notice or court action. How the new rule applies to years before June 2, 2026 is unsettled.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. No Iowa decision was searched, and the 2026 extension of chapter 557C to oil, gas and other minerals has not yet been applied by a court in any source read.

2026 Iowa Acts ch. 1176, § 7 (Iowa Code § 557C.1); 2026 Iowa Acts ch. 1176, § 7 (Iowa Code § 557C.1); 2026 Iowa Acts ch. 1176, § 8 (Iowa Code § 557C.2(2)); 2026 Iowa Acts ch. 1176, § 9 (new Iowa Code § 557C.2A)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/iowa-dormant-mineral-act>

Kansas

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Official text cited.

An interest in coal, oil, gas or other minerals that is unused for 20 years lapses and ownership reverts to the current surface owner unless a statement of claim is filed. No court action is needed for the lapse.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. What a reasonable inquiry requires, and whether mail to a deceased owner's record address suffices, is open; no Kansas decision on it was found.

K.S.A. 55-1602; K.S.A. 55-1601; K.S.A. 55-1603(a)(1) to (2); K.S.A. 55-1603(a)(3) to (4)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/kansas-dormant-mineral-act>

Kentucky

Missing owner procedure. Period: 7 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

Kentucky has no statute that ends a severed mineral interest because it went unused. KRS 353.460 to 353.476 let a surface owner, a co-owner, an adjoining owner of the same minerals, or a lessee of either ask the circuit court to declare a trust over a severed mineral interest whose owner cannot be identified or located; a court appointed trustee then leases it.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The case law search was not exhaustive, and the pooling escrow provisions (KRS 353.630) were not read.

KRS 353.460(2); KRS 353.464(1); KRS 353.468(6); KRS 353.470(1)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-kentucky>

Louisiana

Prescription of nonuse. Period: 10 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Official text cited.

Louisiana mineral servitudes and mineral royalties each end by prescription after 10 years of nonuse, automatically, unless something the Mineral Code counts interrupts it, such as good faith operations, production or a written acknowledgment by the landowner. A mineral lease is different: it ends by its own terms. No notice the mineral owner records alone interrupts prescription.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Whether a death or unknown heirs suspend prescription is open; no Louisiana decision was reviewed.

La. R.S. 31:16; La. R.S. 31:21; La. R.S. 31:80; La. R.S. 31:114

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-louisiana>

Maine

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 50 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

The fee simple owner of land subject to a mineral interest may bring a quiet title action, and the court shall find the interest extinguished and order title to it in the complainant if the owner, assignee or lessee made no use of it for 50 consecutive years before the complaint and filed no statement of claim within two years after notice of the complaint was served.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

14 M.R.S. § 6662(4); PL 1983, c. 189; PL 2025, c. 469, §§ 5 and 44

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/maine-dormant-mineral-act>

Maryland

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

Since October 1, 2011 a surface owner may sue in circuit court to terminate a mineral interest that has been unused, with no notice of it recorded, for 20 or more years before the action. A court order ends the interest and merges it into the surface estate.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Maryland Rule 12-704 and the quiet title notice rules that govern publication were not read.

Md. Code, Env. § 15-1203(a)(1); Md. Code, Env. § 15-1203(a)(2); Md. Code, Env. § 15-1203(c)(1)(i); Md. Code, Env. § 15-1203(c)(4)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/maryland-dormant-mineral-act>

Massachusetts

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Massachusetts statute was found that ends a severed mineral interest for nonuse or under a marketable title act. The General Laws' title clearing statutes target other interests: G.L. c. 184, §§ 23 and 26 to 30 limit old restrictions, and G.L. c. 260, § 31A bars old rights of entry and possibilities of reverter not preserved by a 1964 filing.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

G.L. c. 260, § 31A (related title clearing statute, not mineral)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-massachusetts>

Michigan

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Official text cited.

A severed interest in oil or gas is deemed abandoned, and vests in the surface owner as of the date of abandonment, if for 20 years it has had no recorded sale, lease, mortgage or transfer, no drilling permit, no production or withdrawal from the land, its lease or pooled or unitized land, and no use in gas storage, unless the owner records a claim of interest. No court action is required.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

MCL 554.291(1); MCL 554.291(1); MCL 554.291(2); MCL 554.291(3)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/michigan-dormant-mineral-act>

Minnesota

Registration or claim rules. Period: Fixed past dates. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

Minnesota does not end mineral interests for nonuse. Owners of severed mineral interests must record a statement with the county, and an unrecorded interest can be forfeited to the state, but only after a show cause proceeding and a court order.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Minnesota appellate decisions after *Contos v. Herbst* (1979) were not searched because the case search was rate limited.

Minn. Stat. 93.52 subd. 2; Minn. Stat. 93.55 subd. 1; Minn. Stat. 93.55 subd. 2(a); Minn. Stat. 93.55 subd. 2(b)(2)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-minnesota>

Mississippi

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Unofficial source cited.

No Mississippi statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, but the official code could not be searched in full. Nonproducing oil, gas and mineral interests held separately from the surface are exempt from ad valorem tax (Miss. Code 27-31-73, taxes from January 1, 1947; older interests only on application), and a tax sale of the surface does not affect an exempt interest.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

Miss. Code Ann. 27-31-73 (2015); Miss. Code Title 89, chapter list (survey)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/abandoned-mineral-rights-mississippi>

Missouri

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Missouri statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, requires a statement of claim, or provides a court procedure for missing mineral owners, and Missouri has no marketable title act in the chapters read.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

RSMo § 259.220; RSMo § 140.150(1); Survey of chapter headings, chapters 259, 442, 444, 446, 447, 516, 527, 528, 137, 140, 141

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/abandoned-mineral-rights-missouri>

Montana

Missing owner procedure. Period: See rule. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

No Montana statute was found that ends a severed mineral interest for nonuse; dormant mineral interest bills in 1981, 1985 and 1993 failed. Instead, any person who owns an interest in the minerals under a tract may ask the district court to declare a trust for co-owners whose whereabouts are unknown and cannot reasonably be ascertained (MCA 82-1-302).

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. No Montana decision on the diligent effort standard or on heirs was found, and the case search was limited.

MCA 82-1-302(1); MCA 82-1-302(3); MCA 82-1-305(1); MCA 82-1-306(1)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-montana>

Nebraska

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 23 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

A surface owner may sue in equity to terminate a severed mineral interest whose record owner has not publicly exercised ownership in the 23 years immediately before the suit, by a recorded instrument, by drilling, mining or production, or by a recorded verified claim of interest. If the court finds the interest abandoned it cancels it and vests title in the surface owners.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Ricks v. Vap and Monahan Cattle were not read, and whether a judgment on publication binds identifiable heirs is open.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 57-228; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 57-229; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 57-229; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 57-230

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/nebraska-dormant-mineral-act>

Nevada

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Nevada statute was found that ends or transfers a severed private mineral interest for nonuse, requires a statement of claim, or provides a procedure for missing mineral owners. Nevada's mining claim statutes (NRS chapter 517) govern locating, relocating abandoned claims and mill sites, mostly on federal land, which is a different topic from severed private mineral interests.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. NRS chapters 111 and 40 could not be re-read, and the unclaimed property chapter was not reviewed.

Survey of NRS chapters 11, 40, 111, 361, 362, 517, 522 (full text); excerpt from NRS chapter 361

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-nevada>

New Hampshire

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No New Hampshire statute was found that ends a severed mineral interest for nonuse or under a marketable title act. RSA 477, the conveyancing chapter, has no mineral lapse or marketable title provision; RSA 477:3-b limits possibilities of reverter, rights of re-entry and executory interests, not mineral interests.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

RSA 12-E:1, VIII

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-new-hampshire>

New Jersey

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

A full text search of the New Jersey statutes found no provision under which a severed mineral interest lapses for nonuse or is barred by a marketable title act. The only statute on mineral rights in conveyances, N.J.S.A. 46:3-27, says a grant or reservation of mineral rights excludes water rights unless the instrument says otherwise.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The rest of N.J.S.A. 46:30B and the quiet title chapter were not read.

N.J.S.A. 46:3-27

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-new-jersey>

New Mexico

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No New Mexico statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, and no marketable record title act was found. The adverse possession statute (NMSA 1978, 37-1-22) treats possession of the surface as the constructive possession of the severed mineral claimant until the mineral claimant takes actual possession, so occupying the surface alone does not run against severed minerals.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Oil Conservation Division pooling notice rules and the unclaimed property abandonment period were not reviewed.

NMSA 1978, 37-1-22; NMSA 1978, 70-10-3.1(C); NMSA 1978, 7-8A-1 (definition of mineral proceeds)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-new-mexico>

New York

Registration or claim rules. Period: Fixed past dates. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

New York has no statewide dormant mineral statute. Real Property Law 329-a extinguished unclaimed severed mineral interests only inside Allegany State Park, through a one time claim window that closed on September 22, 2013. New York does have compulsory integration of oil and gas interests (ECL 23-0901).

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The Abandoned Property Law and any later amendment of ECL 23-0901 were not read.

N.Y. Real Prop. Law § 329-a(1); L. 2011, ch. 501, §§ 1 to 3; OPRHP public notice dated January 16, 2014

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-new-york>

North Carolina

Registration or claim rules. Period: Fixed past dates. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

North Carolina's ancient mineral claim statutes voided certain old interests unless a notice was recorded in fixed windows that all closed by 1988; there is no rolling statewide clock today. Avery County has its own 30 year rule, and a 2011 statute ends oil and gas leases and certain conveyances after 10 years without commercial production.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Amendments after the archived copies were not checked, and no appellate decision was found.

G.S. 1-42.1(b); G.S. 1-42.1(d); 1965 N.C. Sess. Laws c. 1072 (S.B. 372), s. 1 (G.S. 1-42.1(c) as enacted) and s. 3; 1967 N.C. Sess. Laws c. 905 (S.B. 351), s. 2

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-north-carolina>

North Dakota

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

North Dakota deems a severed mineral interest abandoned if it went unused for the 20 years immediately before a surface owner first publishes a notice of lapse, unless a statement of claim was recorded. The owner of record can still record a claim or proof of use within 60 days after first publication. Nothing is lost by time alone.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Whether mail to a record address still suffices for an owner known to be dead under the 2009 text is open; the case search was not exhaustive.

N.D.C.C. 38-18.1-02; N.D.C.C. 38-18.1-01; N.D.C.C. 38-18.1-03(2); N.D.C.C. 38-18.1-04

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/north-dakota-dormant-mineral-act>

Ohio

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

Ohio's Dormant Mineral Act lets a surface owner take over a severed mineral interest only through notice. The interest can be deemed abandoned if none of the listed savings events happened in the 20 years before the surface owner's notice and the holder does not respond within 60 days. Nothing is lost by the passage of time alone. Coal and government interests are excluded.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The Marketable Title Act route kept open by *West v. Bode*, and Supreme Court of Ohio decisions after *Gerrity*, were not reviewed for owner status.

R.C. 5301.56(B) and (B)(3); R.C. 5301.56(E)(1); R.C. 5301.56(H)(1); R.C. 5301.56(H)(2)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/ohio-dormant-mineral-act>

Oklahoma

Missing owner procedure. Period: 15 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Core rule cited.

Oklahoma has no dormant mineral act, and its Marketable Record Title Act expressly does not bar or extinguish severed mineral or royalty interests (16 O.S. 76).

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The case search was rate limited, and no decision on the 52 O.S. 521 receivership was located.

84 O.S. 271.1; 84 O.S. 271.1(3); 60 O.S. 658.1; 60 O.S. 658(A)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-oklahoma>

Oregon

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 30 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

Oregon lets a landowner extinguish a severed mineral interest by published and mailed notice unless, in the last 30 years, the holder recorded a statement of claim or acquired the interest; production and leasing do not count. The holder can still keep it by recording a claim within 60 days after the last publication.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: heirs, devisees and successors.

ORS 517.180(1); ORS 517.180(1)(a), (b); ORS 517.180(2)(a); ORS 517.180(8)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/oregon-dormant-mineral-act>

Pennsylvania

Missing owner procedure. Period: See rule. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

Pennsylvania's Dormant Oil and Gas Act (Act 115 of 2006) does not end or transfer any interest for nonuse, and it states that its purpose is not to vest severed oil and gas in the surface owner.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Act 115 was read only as enacted in 2006; later amendments, its codification and the 2014 Superior Court ruling were not read.

Act 115 of 2006, section 2; Act 115 of 2006, section 4(a); Act 115 of 2006, section 4(c); Act 115 of 2006, section 5(c) and (d)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-pennsylvania>

Rhode Island

Marketable title act. Period: 40 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Core rule cited.

A person with an unbroken record chain of title to an interest in land for 40 years holds marketable record title free of every interest that depends on an act, transaction, event or omission before the effective date of the root of title, unless that interest is carried in the muniments by specific reference, preserved by a recorded notice of claim, or excepted.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

R.I. Gen. Laws § 34-13.1-4; R.I. Gen. Laws § 34-13.1-5(a); R.I. Gen. Laws § 34-13.1-7

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-rhode-island>

South Carolina

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No South Carolina statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse, requires a statement of claim, provides a procedure for unknown mineral owners, or makes old mineral reservations unmarketable. The property title of the Code does not use the word mineral at all.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. South Carolina case law on abandonment and presumed grant of severed minerals was not reviewed.

Survey of Code Titles 10, 12, 15, 27, 30, 48 (full text)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-south-carolina>

South Dakota

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 23 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

SDCL chapter 43-30A treats a severed mineral interest as abandoned if it has not been used for 23 years or more, and title then vests in the surface owner.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Whether heirs of a deceased record owner must receive notice under the 2016 text is open.

SDCL 43-30A-2; SDCL 43-30A-5; SDCL 43-30A-6; SDCL 43-30A-1

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/south-dakota-dormant-mineral-act>

Tennessee

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Core rule cited.

Tenn. Code Ann. 66-5-108 extinguishes any interest in coal, oil and gas and other minerals that goes unused for 20 years unless the owner has filed a statement of claim, and ownership reverts to the surface owner. 'Use' includes production, injection or storage operations, rentals or royalties being paid, use on a pooled or unitized tract, and payment of taxes on the mineral interest, so an interest on which taxes are paid is not dormant; tax payment counts only if the owner has identified the interest's location to the county assessor (67-5-809(d)).

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

Currence v. Harrogate Energy, LLC, No. M2014-01263-COA-R3-CV (Tenn. Ct. App. May 11, 2015), slip op. 5 to 6, quoting Tenn. Code Ann. 66-5-108(c) (the quotation runs across a page break; footnote 5 sits between "revert to" and "the owner of the surface" in the slip opinion); Currence, slip op. 6, quoting Tenn. Code Ann. 66-5-108(b)(3); Currence, slip op. 6, quoting Tenn. Code Ann. 67-5-809(d); Cunningham v. Gill, No. M2003-01374-COA-R3-CV (Tenn. Ct. App. July 20, 2004), slip op. 5

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/tennessee-dormant-mineral-act>

Texas

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Texas statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest because it went unused.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. The diligence required before publication under Tex. R. Civ. P. 109 and two appellate decisions on receiver leases were not read.

Tex. Civ. Prac. and Rem. Code 64.091(b-1); Tex. Civ. Prac. and Rem. Code 64.091(e); Tex. Prop. Code 75.101(a)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-texas>

Utah

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Utah statute was found that ends a severed mineral interest for nonuse. The Marketable Record Title Act (Utah Code 57-9-1 to 57-9-10, 40 year chain of title) may not be applied to extinguish any interest in minerals.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: notice by publication.

Utah Code 57-9-6(5) (this chapter 'may not be applied to'); S.B. 78 (2019), amending Utah Code 75-2-105(4)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-utah>

Vermont

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 10 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Yes. Evidence: Official text cited.

An interest in oil and gas is deemed abandoned when it has been unused for a continuous 10 years after July 1, 1973 and no statement of interest has been filed within the preceding five years; the abandoned interest reverts to and merges with the surface estate from which it was severed.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

29 V.S.A. § 563(a), (b); 2024, No. 161, §§ 36 and 58; 29 V.S.A. ch. 14, history note; 27 V.S.A. § 603

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/vermont-dormant-mineral-act>

Virginia

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 35 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

Virginia lets a landowner east of the Blue Ridge sue to extinguish a mineral claim from a writing at least 35 years old that has gone unused and untaxed for 35 years; the court ends it only if no commercial minerals are shown after a six month exploration period. It is never automatic.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. How unknown defendants are served in a 45.2-401 action was not reviewed, and the case search was not exhaustive.

Va. Code § 45.2-400(A); Va. Code § 45.2-400(B); Va. Code § 45.2-401(B), (C); Va. Code §§ 45.2-602, 45.2-604, 45.2-605

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/virginia-dormant-mineral-act>

Washington

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

Chapter 78.22 RCW lets the surface owner extinguish a mineral interest held by another person if the interest has been unused for 20 years.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Whether registered mail to a deceased owner's address is valid notice, and whether publication reaches an identified owner who cannot be found, is open; the case search was incomplete.

RCW 78.22.010; RCW 78.22.030(3), (6); RCW 78.22.050(1); RCW 78.22.060

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/washington-dormant-mineral-act>

West Virginia

Missing owner procedure. Period: 7 years. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: Official text cited.

West Virginia has no statute that ends a mineral interest for nonuse.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Sections 55-12A-5a to 5c, cited by 55-12A-6(a), could not be retrieved, and the 2026 coal provisions were not re-read.

W. Va. Code 55-12A-2(1); W. Va. Code 55-12A-4(a); W. Va. Code 55-12A-7(a)(1); W. Va. Code 55-12A-7(a)(1)(i) and (ii)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-west-virginia>

Wisconsin

Dormant mineral statute. Period: 20 years. Ends without a surface owner step: No. Evidence: Official text cited.

Wisconsin has a dormant mineral statute. A severed mineral interest lapses after 20 years without a use the statute counts, but nothing moves by itself: the mineral owner can cure by recording a statement of claim until the surface owner records a claim, and title passes only by court judgment or 3 years after the surface owner's claim if nobody sues.

Forced pooling: No statute found. Surface damages: No statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Still open: court, receivership or trust for missing owners.

Wis. Stat. § 706.057(3)(a); Wis. Stat. § 706.057(2)(a) to (c); Wis. Stat. § 706.057(2)(d) and (e); Wis. Stat. § 706.057(4)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/wisconsin-dormant-mineral-act>

Wyoming

No such statute found. Period: None. Ends without a surface owner step: Not applicable. Evidence: No statute found.

No Wyoming statute was found that ends or transfers a severed mineral interest for nonuse. The Wyoming Marketable Title Act (W.S. 34-10-101 to 34-10-109, 40 year chain of title) states that it shall not be applied to bar or extinguish any interest in minerals, including oil and gas.

Forced pooling: Statute found. Surface damages: Statute found.

Deceased or unlocated owner: Partly checked. Titles outside 1, 30 and 34 were not searched for a court trust or receiver.

W.S. 34-10-108(a)(iv) (this act 'shall not be applied'); 2003 HB0176, Termination of mineral interest, journal digest (not enacted); W.S. 34-24-117(a)

<https://americanmineralregistry.com/research/states/do-mineral-rights-expire-in-wyoming>