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Abstract

I am a fan of the modifying the General Mining Act of 1872 for lunar purposes. This law was worked out in the 1849 Gold fields of California as being generally fair and is a good framework moving forward. The USA should recognize ownership of minerals extracted by any company operating off planet. Buy-in or recognition of the legal framework is something that will be an ongoing reconciliation project for the players in the off-planet developments. Non players are irrelevant to the discussion. If Russia and China have different ideas of what is 'fair' they can do their own thing away from us. IMO most industry will be in the orbital area of the moon to stay away from satellites and be closer to the resource source on the moon. NERVA hoppers or steam cannons will fire metal and carbonates into space. Solar furnaces will foam the metal into one use re-entry sleds that use evaporative steam heat shields to keep from melting completely and also to steer with by varying the steam pressure along the bottom. The sled itself will be valuable foamed metal and then there is whatever you decide to stack on the back of the sled. It's all automated landing that comes in over the ocean with a couple of breaking hops to bleed off speed till it comes in for a skipping stone ocean landing to a big flat beach somewhere remote. Or send metal down to Earth as long rods that have ceramic noses and JDAM kits. These land in a quarry at very high velocity. Or pull wire from orbit. The tension in the wire keeps skin friction from melting the wire.

A short bio

Lifelong space & science fan. Civil Engineer, Project Manager on a wide Varsity of construction contracts from a few K to over 100M. Admin for FB group Colonize The Moon.