

M Street Live!
Management of Land Boundaries
February 2, 2012

This text is for accessibility and is not
a verbatim record of the broadcast.

>> AnnCR: The Bureau of Land Management presents live from the National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and the M Street Office in Washington, DC, M Street Live.

Today's topic...

Management of Land Boundaries.

And now the host of your program, Cathy Cook.

>> C. Cook: Welcome to our M Street Live program on Management of Land Boundaries.

We'll be connecting you to top BLM land and cadastral specialists at our M Street headquarters office in Washington, DC and our California State Office.

In this program we'll be discussing a recent Washington Office Instruction Memorandum on Management of Land Boundaries.

Before we get started, I'd like to mention your participation is important to us.

So after we hear from our panelists, you're going to have plenty of time to interact and ask them questions or comment on the materials that are being presented today.

If you have a question or a comment for us, you can give us a call, you can send us a fax or contact us by e-mail or text message by using the numbers and the e-mail address on your screen.

After we complete our initial presentations, we'll have a question and answer segment.

So you'll have another opportunity to contact us.

If you think of something that you'd like to ask during the presentations, feel free just to go ahead, contact us so that we can get to your question as soon as possible.

We'll try to answer all the questions within the time we have available, but if we run short on time, someone will get back to you after the telecast.

So please include your name and office location along with your question.

M Street Live!
Management of Land Boundaries
February 2, 2012

This text is for accessibility and is not
a verbatim record of the broadcast.

Okay.

Now that the announcement are out of the way,
let's get started.

With us today from M Street is Mike Nedd.
He's the Assistant Director for Minerals and
Realty Management.

Welcome, Mike.

>> M. Nedd: Thank you, Cathy.
It's good to be here.

>> C. Cook: Also joining us today from M Street is
Don Buhler, the Branch Chief for Cadastral Survey.
Welcome, Don.

>> D. Buhler: Thank you, Cathy.
It's nice to be here.

>> C. Cook: And joining us from the California
State Office we have Karen Montgomery, Senior
realty specialist.
Welcome, Karen.

>> K. Montgomery: Hi, Kathy.
I'm glad you asked me to join you today.

>> C. Cook: We also have Lance Bishop in the
California State Office, Branch Chief for
Geographic Sciences.
Welcome, lance.

>> L. Bishop: Hi, Cathy, thanks so much for
allowing me to be here today.

>> C. Cook: Before we get started with Washington,
we have a short animation we'd like to share with
you.
This illustrates what happens to survey markers
over time.

>> C. Cook: As you can see from that animation the

M Street Live!
Management of Land Boundaries
February 2, 2012

This text is for accessibility and is not
a verbatim record of the broadcast.

private landowner didn't know where the boundary was and therefore he built his house straddling the boundary.

To kick things off we're going to start with Mike Nedd.

He'll give us an introduction into today's topics and give us a brief update on boundary management issues.

He'll also discuss some examples of trespass that have resulted from poor boundary management.

Mike, why is Management of Land Boundaries important to the BLM?

>> M. Nedd: That's a very good question, Cathy.

The Management of Land Boundaries is basic to almost all of our operations.

Land Description and boundaries are fundamental to our land transaction and commercial activities.

They provide information necessary for the management of the land.

Incorrect Land Description or boundary locations may lead to a flawed decision.

Not to mention significant resource impact, trespassing, costly corrective action and potential loss of revenue to government.

Let's look at some examples to illustrate my point.

This is the mount St. Helen's visitor center that the Forest Service built on private lands.

The intention of the Forest Service was to build this on federal lands and ultimately they did, but at a very high cost.

The construction of the visitor center was done without a careful assessment of the existing boundaries.

In this other example, we see a BLM facility, the Lewis & Clark visitor center, which was also constructed on private land.

This resulted in an expensive land acquisition from a private owner.

An assessment of the boundary condition for both

M Street Live!
Management of Land Boundaries
February 2, 2012

This text is for accessibility and is not
a verbatim record of the broadcast.

of these visitor centers would have avoided these expensive mistakes.

A third example is a timber harvest which resulted in cutting of valuable trees.

As you can see in the picture, the boundaries were determined after the timber harvest.

The timber trespass could have been avoided with an analysis of the boundary.

Again, these are costly errors that could have been avoided.

Here in DC we receive many Federal Register notices for the Director or Secretary approval. These notices are important to the work and our mission.

They include such things as renewable energy projects, withdrawals or segregation of land.

Too often the Land Description as depicted in the Federal Register notice are not consistent with our existing Bureau standards.

In accordance with IM2011-122 these Federal Register notices must be reviewed by the respective State Office Cadastral Survey chief.

As we move forward, I am hoping we can work with our states to work with the respective Cadastral Surveyors to ensure land descriptions are accurate.

Cathy, that has been a few examples, and thank you.

>> C. Cook: Don, can you tell us some of the recommendations that came from the 2010 OIG audit that resulted until IM122?

>> D. Buhler: Yes, Cathy.

I'll go over the OIG audit, why it was initiated, the results and a basic overview of the IM

The IM that we're speaking of, of course, is the plan to ensure adequate Cadastral Survey Review of boundary evidence prior to the approval of significant land and resource transactions and commercial projects.

M Street Live!
Management of Land Boundaries
February 2, 2012

This text is for accessibility and is not
a verbatim record of the broadcast.

This IM is changing BLM's management of boundary business practices and many activities, including realty, minerals, energy, timber, NLCS, facilities and other programs.

The IG final audit on Management of Land Boundaries was finalized in 2010, and this audit had its roots in the BLM's abandoned mine land 2008 OIG audit which recommended to the BLM Director that we identify and resolve trespassing on abandoned mine sites and assess and mitigate hazards associated with these sites.

From this audit, the IG began to see a need for better Management of Land Boundaries.

So, one of the first recommendations that came from the executive summary was the proper survey and management of high-risk lands with antiquated or old surveys has the potential to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue that from lands with valuable surface and subsurface resources.

These findings were documented with many examples within the audit.

A further finding found that transactions on lands with high-valued resources were routinely processed and approved without the benefit of boundary evidence review by Cadastral Survey personnel.

The IG also pointed out that the importance of performing cadastral work on these lands is not adequately understood by many BLM personnel. As a result, the cadastral program is not -- is not being properly utilized.

While the cost of some cadastral work can be very high with proper risk management procedures, there are less expensive cadastral procedures and services that can make this work very cost-effective.

These are alternatives that are not field surveys. The IG audit made eight recommendations for the BLM and one for the BIA.

These recommendations will result in a

M Street Live!
Management of Land Boundaries
February 2, 2012

This text is for accessibility and is not
a verbatim record of the broadcast.

comprehensive and coherent management of land
boundary plans.

These are cross-cutting recommendations that
emphasize a need for prioritization of high-valued
Lands and Resource transactions and commercial
project, implementation of the best practices,
which is IM122 --

[technical difficulties]