

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

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Now we have Keith calling from Colorado.
Go ahead, Keith.

>> Caller: I have a question for Karen.
It appears that in California that the realty staff is the
ones responsible for forwarding the LDR to Cadastral
Survey, and I'm assuming that's for all projects, including
timber sale or non-realty projects.
Am I understanding your process right?

>> K. Montgomery: No.
No, in California the realty staff is the only one that's
taking the lead on implementation of the IM and we're doing
realty actions only.

>> L. Bishop: We haven't even really got involved in the
mineral side of the house yet here in California but we
intend to.
I think we're working out the bugs in this IM at this
point.
I think we've got a pretty smooth process now, and now we
need to start working on the other program areas, getting
them involved in this process also.

>> Caller: You would anticipate that in the future that
individual other programs like minerals or forestry or
whatever would be processing their own -- or submitting
their own LDR's to cadastral?

>> K. Montgomery: That's what it sounds like, yes.

>> Caller: That's helpful.
That explains it.
Thank you.

>> C. Cook: Thank you, Keith.
I have another e-mail question.
You guys ready?

>> K. Montgomery: Fire away.

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>> C. Cook: I have one here from Ryan, Ryan Robin writes: obtaining funds from private entities is his concern. Am I correct in assuming for every instance where we have to perform one of these cadastral checks with a private entity we'll have to establish individual reimbursable accounts within the budget to receive these funds and then charge to these established accounts as the cadastral works go forward?
Is that the way that it's handled?

>> K. Montgomery: Here in California -- go ahead, Don.

>> D. Buhler: The way we look at it is there are existing cost recovery procedures that we have now. We realize there will be special cases where we may have to look at what is described there, but we're hoping we can use that, and then if we can't use that, we want to use -- we hope that it's factored into the projects as they're developed, that they account for a certain amount of funding for that so that it can be covered. As you've found out, most of these are very minor, but some do involve a tremendous amount of work on some of these major rights-of-way.
Of course, they have the ability to do cost recovery there.

>> C. Cook: So the second part of his question is -- sorry Karen -- do you just treat it as a bill -- do you just treat it as a bill and go through CBS instead of setting up an individual reimbursable account?

>> K. Montgomery: No, in your right-of-way cost recovery you either have minor categories or major categories rights of ways.

In the minor you would include the time for everybody to process that action, which would include the cadastral review, and if it's a major category, then you definitely want to include this as part of your cost recovery. So we have actually had some of our field staff send in documents to John, John looks at them and estimates how much time he thinks it's going to take to do the review

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based on what he sees presented in front of him.
And then he provides that information back to the realty.
They can incorporate it in their cost recovery
determination.

>> C. Cook: Okay.

Thanks, Karen.

Well, hopefully that answered Ryan's concern there.

I have one more for us.

This one is from Mary in Oregon and she's concerned with
water boundaries.

One of the criteria requiring boundary evidence review
includes those that are up against a water boundary.

There's a lot of water in Oregon and Washington.

Can you further describe what types of water boundaries
would influence the decision to pursue the evidence review?

>> L. Bishop: Anything that touches -- any water boundary.
I'm talking about rivers, lakes, the ocean in our case, and
in Oregon, Washington's case.

>> K. Montgomery: Yeah, if the boundary, whatever it is
you're trying to describe, is water, it needs to be
reviewed.

>> C. Cook: Okay.

Well, thanks.

I just have one more e-mailed question.

It's from Tim, and Tim writes: how is California realty
staff estimating hours needed for review when determining
cost recovery from right-of-way applicants?

>> K. Montgomery: Yeah, we touched on this a little bit
ago, but it's -- we can do some estimates based on some
documents that are provided to the cadastral staff and they
can take a quick look at it and say "oh, this is an
unsurveyed area, we're going to need a little more money
here," or its straightforward aliquot parts and this will
be an easy one.

You can give them a cost estimate of how many hours it will
take and he provides that information back to the realty

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staff to incorporate in the cost recovery determination.

>> L. Bishop: I would add, too, these reviews mostly that we're doing here, I would say predominantly of those 126 that I showed in my graph, most of the reviews are not taking John that long.

He turns them around very quickly.

I don't think -- we're not taking any extra time at all, really, in doing this, and I think we're adding some value to these legal descriptions that's very, very important for the BLM to do.

>> K. Montgomery: And that's the feedback I'm getting from the field as well.

They're really appreciative of trying to correct these mistakes and get them fixed up front, even if they're minor.

It really doesn't matter.

They're glad to have the help.

>>

>> C. Cook: Thanks.

I think that is important that we're cleaning up the records.

That's going to wrap up our Q&A segment.

At this point we would like to go back to California for some closing comments and then we'll check in with Don Buhler.

Karen and Lance, do you have some final thoughts for us before we wrap things up here?

>> L. Bishop: I just want to reiterate what I touched on a minute ago, and that's the fact that here in California we have just really implemented this IM for these legal descriptions.

We're not doing so much -- any of the reviews for any of the programs.

We do plan on working to that direction and we will make staff available so that we're not holding these projects up.

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That's our main objective in Cadastral Survey here in California, and I'm sure across the country, is we do not want to hold up the process, but we do want to add value and add a level of assurance to top-level managers here in BLM that these legal descriptions and our acquisitions and right-of-ways are adequately described.

>> K. Montgomery: I just want to thank you for giving us this opportunity to share what we've experienced out here in California.

I think it's working well.

I feel like the best benefits of the whole IM is this one-on-one training interface that we've, in essence, set up by virtue of the IM where our cadastral staff is working very closely with individual realty specialists and improving their abilities to write better legal descriptions and building capacity within the organization to better our records.

>> C. Cook: Well, thank you.

Now, let's go back to M Street to see if we have Don Buhler on the phone.

You have the final word.

Do you have closing comments?

>> D. Buhler: If you can still hear me, Cathy, I want to thank everyone who was participating on the call.

We do face some other remaining recommendations that came from the Management of Land Boundaries audit.

There was one for potential budgetary initiative for the high-risk lands where we have high-valued transactions and projects.

That budgetary initiative is still being considered here and we might see something in the near future.

There will be a cost recovery clarification.

There will be some IM coming out on that for commercial projects.

Then also outreach and training is going to be a major thing.

We're seeing that occurring right now with this

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not only to our lands academy, our lands -- that's occurring right now but we're going to have it in as many NTC courses as we can over the next few years. Finally, we have a brochure that's in final draft that is going to explain this new direction and process that we are using to manage our land boundaries and we hope this will be in support of all the major BLM activities of realty, minerals, energy, development, timber, NLCS, facilities and other programs.
I think that's all I had to say right now.

>> C. Cook: Thank you.
Appreciate that.
That's it for today's discussion of Management of Land Boundaries and our M Street Live series.
We hope our discussion today helped clarify the new guidance.
For further information or questions regarding the IM we've discussed today, please visit BLM's web site on Cadastral Survey Review of boundary evidence at the URL that's listed on your screen.
You can also find it easily by doing a Google search on Cadastral Survey Review.
Thanks again for joining us and so long from the National Training Center in Phoenix!

>> Anncr: This broadcast has been a production of the BLM National Training Center.