

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

5001 Southgate Drive

Billings, Montana 59101-4669

www.blm.gov/mt

In Reply Refer To:

9600 (MT926) P

December 3, 1012

EMAIL TRANSMISSION – 12/6/12

Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2013-028

Expires: 9/30/2014

To: Montana Dakotas Leadership

From: State Director

Subject: Request for Nominations of High Risk Lands with High Risk Boundaries

DD: 12/10/12

Program Area: All Program Areas.

Purpose: We are requesting that you identify high-valued Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands or resources that may be at risk due to antiquated surveys. These lands could include potential timber sales, leasable minerals, oil and gas development areas, trespass, cultural resources or other resources which could be recovered or fully utilized with contemporary boundary surveys.

Policy/Action: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) Final Audit Report No. C-IN-MOA-0001-2009 (OIG Report) states that the BLM could generate significant revenue from high-valued lands having antiquated surveys. These lands, for example, may have damaged or removed resources through unauthorized activity. The OIG Report states revenues are lost due to the absence of fundamental cadastral services. This effort addresses this finding through identifying and collecting undiscovered revenues and through protecting lands from future damage or loss. For further information, please see: [WO IM No. 2013-011](#).

Timeframe: This IM is effective immediately. Nominations are due to James Claflin, Branch of Cadastral Survey, by December 10, 2012, to allow time for review and submittal to the WO. We request that submissions have the concurrence of the District Manager, and that nominations are submitted in priority order.

Budget Impact: Funding has been set aside in the FY 2013 PTA. State, district, and field offices are also asked to examine benefiting functional areas to co-fund nominations and leverage limited funding. Administrative costs recovered in the completion of these projects will be deposited in the Damaged Lands Accounts established under the authority of Federal Land

Policy and Management Act, Section 305, when appropriate. We encourage state, district, and field offices to examine accounts, including L5310 and L5320, for funding availability to support administrative actions, including survey and realty activities, to co-fund the nomination.

Background: High-risk lands and resources occur where value lands or significant revenues are at risk because of antiquated surveys. The Director and Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management have told the OIG that the BLM will identify and conduct management of land boundary services on Federal interest and Indian lands having the highest value.

State and field offices submitted 82 nominations for similar efforts in FYs 2010-2012. The BLM funded 27 of these at approximately \$1.5 million, with a combination of funding mechanisms including state, district, field, and WO funding. Revenues recovered, including estimates associated with unresolved cases, total approximately \$4 million.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: Department of the Interior Manual Part 757, *Surveying and Mapping*; BLM Manual Sections and Handbooks 9235-1, *Minerals Materials Trespass and Abatement*; 9232-1, *Realty Trespass Abatement*; 9231, *Forest Product Trespass Procedure*.

Coordination: The Cadastral Survey Branch prepared this IM in coordination with the state, district and field offices.

Contact: If you have questions or comments, please contact James Claffin (MT926), Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Montana and the Dakotas, at (406) 896-5120.

Signed by:
Jamie E. Connell
State Director

Authenticated by:
Verna Fairlee
Staff Assistant (MT926)