

Western Regional Survey Conference

BLM/CFedS Workshop

February 20, 2018

Luxor, Las Vegas Galleria D&E

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Overview

This one-day seminar includes GLO/BLM PLSS topics from Cadastral Offices in Washington DC, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and the CFedS Program. The five (5) presenters are experienced BLM Cadastral Surveyors. Curt Sumner, NSPS Executive Director will introduce the presenters and moderate the seminar. The five seminar topics are being combined and formalized into a 2-credit hour CFedS Continuing Education Course. CFedS participants, who pass a post quiz, can earn **2 CFedS CE credits** after the seminar is presented. All Conference attendees can attend the CFedS seminar as part of their Conference registration. This will be a fast paced **8-hour seminar** with two short breaks and a lunch break.

8:00 - 8:15 AM **Introductions and Opening**

Curt Sumner, NSPS Executive Director

8:15 - 9:30 AM **Surveys Involving Legislation and Litigation**

Donald A. Buhler, Chief Cadastral Surveyor, BLM, Washington D.C.

Many recent boundary and landownership disputes are decided through court actions and passing new laws. This session will cover some current and past federal challenges where surveyors played an intricate role in attempting resolution.

Donald A. Buhler is the national Chief Cadastral Surveyor and Branch Chief of the Lands and Cadastral Survey for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the Department of the Interior. The Cadastral Survey Program oversees the maintenance and propagation of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), including all Federal interest lands and Native lands. The Lands Program of the BLM provides for realty actions, land tenure activities and special use permits for a variety of multiple use activities. Mr. Buhler is a Fellow and member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors and serves as a delegate for the United States contingency of the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres. Mr. Buhler is Co-Chair of the Cadastral Subcommittee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee. He has worked in Washington, D.C for over 20 years under the BLM Assistant Director of Energy, Minerals and Realty Management.

9:30 - 9:45 AM **Break**

9:45 - 11:00 AM **Allotment Surveys and Resurveys**

Gerald T. Davis, Chief Cadastral Surveyor, BLM, Arizona State Office

A review of the early 1900s allotment surveys conducted on the Navajo Indian Reservation and elements of how they fit into modern dependent resurveys. Discussion of recent research efforts, the question of authority, conflicting boundary evidence, and what it all (might) mean to the retracement surveyor.

Gerald Davis began his surveying career with the U.S. Marine Corps as a Geospatial Intelligence Specialist. After his retirement from the Marines, he spent a decade working in the private sector on diverse projects spanning the west coast. In 2011, he

started his civil service career surveying for the Bureau of Reclamation in Oregon, California, and Nevada. Since 2014, he has been the Chief Cadastral Surveyor for the Bureau of Land Management in Phoenix, Arizona where he is responsible for providing land surveying services to government agencies, tribes, and individual Indians. He is currently a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, a CFedS panel member, and has served as a technical consultant on examination and licensing activities.

11:00 - 12:00 PM John Benson & Crew 1874-1879

Steve Parrish, PLS, CFedS Training Coordinator

The infamous John Benson was a reasonably descent GLO contract surveyor before he began his “Fraudulent schemes” when the “Special Deposit Survey” system began. His cohorts in crime were not all bad and often surveyed most, if not all, of their township and section lines. A study of GLO plats and field notes, coupled with a thorough dependent resurvey, can reveal many of the customary shortcuts that pre-1910 GLO contract surveyors applied to their original survey efforts. This study of two townships, surveyed by Benson-Glover-Putnam (1874-1879), and dependently resurveyed by GLO/BLM (1945-1989), will provide insight into a few of the many shortcuts applied during their pre-1910 original government survey efforts

Steve Parrish began surveying with the USFS in 1963, transferred to the BLM in 1985 and served as the BLM Nevada Cadastral Chief (1989-1995). He retired in 1995 to pursue private surveying experience. He is licensed in 10 western states, a Nevada water rights surveyor and was Inyo, Modoc and Mono County Surveyor in California (1999-2012). Steve contributed to “The Surveying Handbook” (by Brinker & Minnick), is an active workshop presenter and instructed for the BLM/FS Advanced Cadastral Survey Courses for 12 years. Steve worked for Tri State Surveying (1999-2012), taught a course on the “Manual” for Great Basin College (2004-2016), acquired CFedS Certification in 2007 and a BAS degree in 2009. He is employed by Lumos & Associates, is the Alpine & Mono County Surveyor (CA) and the CFedS Panel Chairperson/Training Coordinator. He enjoys sharing his 54+ years of surveying expertise, travel with his family, photography and fishing.

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 -1:45 PM John Benson & Crew 1874-1879 (Continued)

Steve Parrish, PLS, CFedS Training Coordinator

1:45 - 3:00 PM Discrepanices

Ron Scherler, PLS

The General Land Office /Bureau of Land Management is authorized to create the official record for surveys of the Public Lands. This session will examine one component of that record, the field notes. The field note record is made up of four separate documents, the field tablets, the original field notes, the duplicate field notes and the descriptive notes. We will discuss the purpose and authority of each of these documents as it relates to resurveys within the Public Land Survey System.

Ron Scherler is a 1973 graduate of Oregon Technical Institute with a Bachelor of Survey Engineering Technology degree. He began his career with BLM’s Western Field Office moving to the Oregon State Office in 1983, the Alaska State Office in 2003, BLM’s National Training Center in 2005 and completing his career back in the Oregon

State Office where he retired in 2011. In addition to his normal duties, he regularly instructed classes on the Public Land Survey System for BLM and professional surveyors throughout the county.

Ron served as the original CFedS Program Manager, working with Dennis Mouland on development of the CFedS training material, certification exam and administrative guidelines for the program. After retiring from BLM he served as the CFedS Panel Chairperson/Training Coordinator from July 2011 through June 2017.

3:00 - 3:15 PM **Break**

3:15 - 4:30 PM **BLM Cadastral Presentation**

Daniel Webb, Chief Cadastral Surveyor, BLM, Utah State Office

Tri-Corner of AZ, UT, NV, the history and resurvey. How BLM conducted a State boundary line survey. Discussion of authority, evidence, mile posts and section closing corners.

Daniel Webb is Chief Cadastral Surveyor for the federal government in Utah. He has worked for the Bureau of Land Management as a Land Surveyor in Alaska, the Washington D.C. Headquarters Office, and in Utah, where he has been a member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors for 20 years. Dan is a 1980 graduate of Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Land Surveying and is registered as a Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Alaska.

4:30 - 5:00 PM **Summary & Questions**

Moderated by: Curt Sumner, NSPS Executive Director