



# BLM Land Status Records

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907-271-4209



# Additional Training available – self-study - FREE

BLM Knowledge Resource Center (KRC)  
Interpreting and Writing Land Descriptions

- [Module 1 - Introduction, History and Types](#)
  - [Module 2 - The PLSS](#)
  - [Module 3 - Metes and Bounds](#)
  - [Module 4 - Other Types of Land Descriptions](#)
  - [Module 5 - Non-compliant Descriptions of Land](#)
- [Basic Boundary Law](#)  
[Land Status Lesson 1](#)  
[Land Status Lesson 2](#)  
[Land Status Lesson 3](#)

The screenshot shows the BLM Knowledge Resource Center website. The header includes the BLM logo, the text 'Knowledge Resource Center', a search bar, and navigation links for 'Home', 'Program Areas', and 'Contact Us'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / Lands and Realty'. The main heading is 'Cadastral - General'. Below this, there are filters for 'Resource Title' (with an empty search box) and 'Availability' (with checkboxes for 'BLM Internal Users Only' and 'Publicly Available', both checked). A 'Program Area' dropdown is also visible. The results section shows '4 Resources Found' and lists four items: 'Basic Map Reading', 'Cadastral Survey', 'Cadastral Survey Historical Manuals and Handbooks', and 'Interpreting and Writing Land Descriptions'. A large blue arrow points from the search results area towards the text 'Search keywords: BLM KRC Cadastral'.

Search keywords: BLM KRC Cadastral

# Certified Federal Surveyor (CFedS)

[www.cfed.org](http://www.cfed.org)

CFedS is a training program that teaches private surveyors how to conduct survey work to Federal standards. Certified Federal Surveyors are trained in:

Records Investigation, History of the PLSS, Administrative Procedures, Indian Land Law & Cultural Awareness

Federal Boundary Law and Title Examination

Restoration of Lost Corners

Subdivision of Sections

Survey Evidence Analysis

Water Boundaries

Federal Boundary Standards and Business Practices



# Certified Federal Surveyor (CFedS)

[www.cfed.org](http://www.cfed.org)

You may be interested in working with a CFedS if you are:

Completing surveys on or near federal interest lands.

Want to ensure such surveys comply with regulations and policies.

Performing Fee to Trust transactions

Writing or Reviewing Land Descriptions



# Lesson Objective

By the end of today's lesson, you should be familiar with various types of Federal Land Status and Survey Records and how to access these important records

# The General Land Office

The GLO was created in 1812 to manage the rapid increase in land sales.

Placed within the Treasury Department

Land was, as today, considered a value, and land sales generated funds for the government

In 1815 alone more than 1.5 million acres had been sold

In its height, the GLO managed more than 400 Land Offices to facilitate the disposal of Public Domain Lands





UNITED STATES  
LAND OFFICE.





# Department of the Interior

Conceptualized as a “home department” early in the country’s history, in 1789.

The Department of the Interior was created March 3, 1849.

Created due to rising concern that many offices had little to do with the Department they were within: the GLO within the Treasury; the Indian Affairs office within the War Department; the Patent Office within the State Department



# Bureau of Land Management



The GLO and the Grazing Service merged to create the Bureau of Land Management in 1946.

Largest Land Management Agency in the World

245 Million Surface Acres

700 Million Subsurface Acres





# BLM Land Status Records of Eastern States

- Eastern States – General Land Office is the custodian of over 9 million title documents.
  - *Including Patents, Survey Plats and Field Notes and Land Status Records*
- Provides basic index for public land title research.
- Record of entries, leases, withdrawals and other actions affecting the disposal of the public domain.
- Record types most often used are: Tract Books



**BLM – EASTERN  
STATES OFFICE  
IS THE  
LARGEST LAND  
OFFICE IN THE  
WORLD**



# BLM Land Status Records of Western States

- Document ongoing state of a township's Federal and private land regarding title, lease, rights and usage.
- Each BLM State Office is responsible for lands in their jurisdiction
- Not the Official documentation of title transfers or official records of Federal Surveys
- Record types most often used are: Master Title Plat, Use Plat, Historical Index, Control Document Index.



# BLM Land Status Records

- Tract Books
- Master Title Plats (MTP's)
- Use Plats
  - Oil & Gas Plats .... and others
- Historical Index (HI)
- Control Document Index (CDI)
- Cadastral Survey Records

# Tract Books

Index of lands patented by township and section  
Similar to Tract Book you would find in a County  
Registry of Deeds Office.

Tract books were used until the 1950's.

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)





# Tract Books

Tract Book Record Items include:

- Description of tract: legal description
- Type of transaction: such as homestead, desert, forest entry
- Acreage of entry
- Name of purchasers, if a purchase, settlement or other action
- Number, receipt and certificate of purchase – number identifies the case file kept on the entry
- Patent information

Tract  
books....



...a lot of them.

# Eastern PLSS States - Tract books

Search Documents By Type    Search Documents By Location    Search Documents By Identifier

Patents  
Surveys  
LSR  
CDI  
**Tract Books ▶**

Search Clear Form

**Location**  
State: ARKANSAS ▼

**Land Description**  
Township: [ ] / [ ] ▼  
Range: [ ] / [ ] ▼  
Section #: [ ]  
Meridian: Any Meridian ▼

**To search for tract book records:**

1. Start by selecting the state.
2. Fill in a complete land description.
3. Click the **Search Tract Books** button.
4. You will be switched to the "Search Results" page.

You can get a brief description of what each field means by hovering your mouse over it. You can get more detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center. For more tips and help, check out our [Tract Book Search Overview](#).

**Search Tract Books**    *Note: This site does not cover every state. We do have [resource links](#), though, for most states.*

# Tract Books

229

Viewed by the receiver by Ex. order June 20, 1910 from Lewis & Clark Grant of Congress & Deeds  
 recorded in the books to which said register has attached under any of the following  
 No. 229 July 2, 1910

Township No. \_\_\_\_\_ Range No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sec 19 230

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT

COPIES RATE PER ACRE PERCENT MONY

NAME OF THE TRACT

DATE OF SALE

TO WHOM PATENTED

DATE OF PATENT

1 62 25

|        |                  |                      |
|--------|------------------|----------------------|
| 156-89 | 2nd May 20, 1908 | Charles William King |
| 165    | 2nd May 25, 1909 | Amelia C. Laurman    |
| 121-89 | 2nd May 20, 1908 | Gene Schelling       |
| 160    | 2nd May 20, 1908 | Louis Mangin         |
| 160    |                  | Frank H. Stone       |
| 160    |                  | Frank Stone          |
| 160    |                  | Frank Stone          |
| 160    |                  | Frank Stone          |
| 160    |                  | Albert W. Ellis      |

Apr. 26, 1916. 7833 Green Lake. Relinquished April 2, 1917.

Apr. 26, 1916. 7868 Green Lake. Relinquished May 22, 1917.

Apr. 26, 1916. 7855 Green Lake. Relinquished May 23, 1917.


May 22, 1917. 09203 Green Lake. Relinquished Aug. 7, 1919.

May 1, 1919. 09504 Green Lake. 7. 10. Feb 26, 1920. Patented June 11, 1920.

Apr. 1, 1919. 7821 Green Lake. 7. 10. Apr. 16, 1920. Patented Aug. 11, 1920.

Apr. 1, 1919. 7822 Green Lake. 7. 10. Apr. 16, 1920. Patented Aug. 11, 1920.

Aug. 7, 1919. 09558 Green Lake. Cancelled by Act. 8-1919.





Kod ~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~

Kod ~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~ 54.60

Kod ~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~ 42.98

Lot 1, 2, 3, 4

Hq

~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~

Hq

500<sup>4</sup>

Kod ~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~ 45.17

Kod ~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~ 45.17

Kod ~~1, 2, 3, 6.~~ 45.17

Charles William Kroyd  
Arnold C. Lauerman  
Oscar Schilling

Louis Mangerin  
Frank R. Storey

Frank Street

David D. Mc Carrell

Albert H. Ellis.

1 62 25

156 89 Oct-May 20, 1908.

165 - Oct-May 20, 1908.

122 88 Oct-May 20, 1908.

160 - Oct-May 20, 1908.

160 - Oct-May 20, 1908.

160

122 88

156 89

Charles William Kroyd

Arnold C. Lauerman

Oscar Schilling

Louis Mangerin

Frank R. Storey

Frank Street

David D. Mc Carrell

Apr. 26, 1916.

58533 Cass Lake. Relinquished April 2-1917.

Apr. 26, 1916.

58565 Cass Lake. Relinquished Mar. 22, 1917.

Apr. 26, 1916

58552 Cass Lake. Relinquished Mar. 23, 1917

Mar. 22, 1917

09203 Cass Lake. Relinquished Aug. 7-1919.

Mar. 1, 1919

011824 Cass Lake F. C. Feb 36, 1925. Pat 461509 Jan 12, 1925.

Apr. 11, 1917

58218 Cass Lake. F. C. Apr. 14, 1922 Pat 475124 July 14, 1922

Apr. 2, 1917

09223 Cass Lake. F. C. June 8, 1921 Pat 475124

Aug. 7, 1917.

09535 Cass Lake. Cancelled by H Oct. 8-1919.

# Master Title Plat (MTP)

A composite of the survey plats of a township on which is shown the ownership and land status. (BLM Glossary)

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

for *most* states

# Master Title Plat (MTP)

Master Title Plats include notations for:

Agency jurisdiction

Current Federal ownership

Acquisitions, exchanges, and sales involving Federal lands

Federal ownership of the subsurface mineral estate

Indian reservations

national forests

Rights granted or permitted to private parties for commercial activities (such as power lines, pipelines, and communication sites)

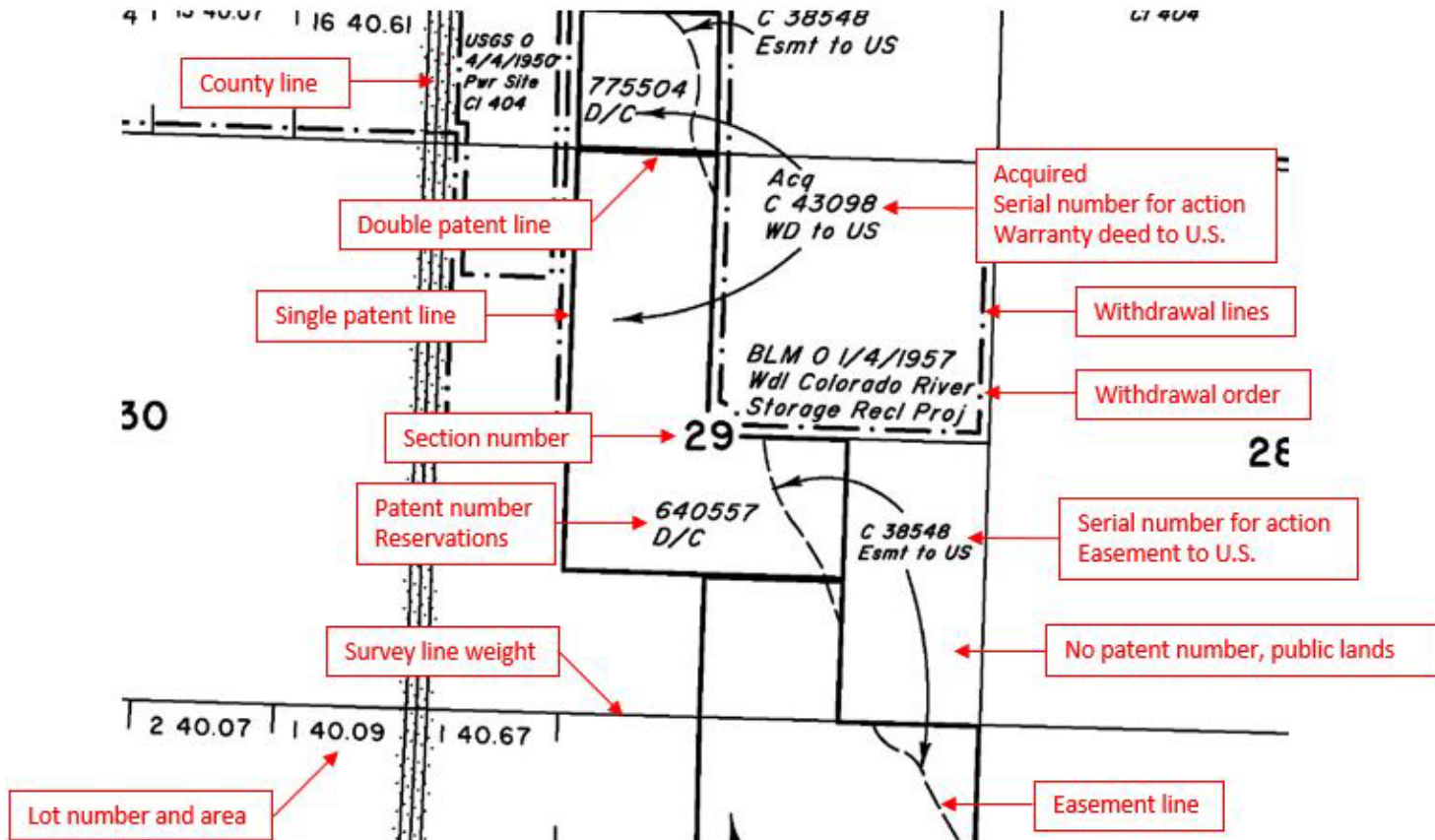
Wildlife refuges

Private lands (identified with the original land patent number)

Rights reserved to the Federal government on private land



# Master Title Plat (MTP)



# MTP Tips & Tricks

- Abbreviations – consult the [help sheet](#)
- Good info located at lowest extremity within the entry
- Status lines must close
- Line symbols and weights represent different status
- Make sure to always read the remarks column
- <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/reference/downloads/LSRabbreviations.pdf>

[MT MTP example](#)





# Use Plats

Use Plats are Master Title Plats that show the location and identification of oil, gas, and geothermal leases (issued by the BLM), and other fluid and solid mineral activities.

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

for *most* states

# Use Plats

In addition to containing the same information that is on the MTP, the Use Plat is used for specific uses that affect the status of land and resources.

Some specific lease uses for which a separate Use Plat would be generated are:

- Recreation & Public Purpose (R&PP) (Use Plat)

- Coal (COAL Plat)

- Oil and Gas (OG Plat)

- Sodium (SOD Plat)

- ... and others



# Historical Index (HI)

Historical Indices are chronological narratives of all past and present actions which affect the use of, or title to, public lands and resources. Every township with a Master Title Plat will have a Historical Index.

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

for *most* states



# Historical Index (HI)

Ledger type document with notations that elaborate on the information shown on the MTP. Shows action taken, file/order number, date of action, and additional remarks.

Page No. 1 of 13

## TOWNSHIP 16 NORTH RANGE 20 EAST OF THE MOUNT DIABLO ME

| SECS | SUBDIVISION |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |      |    |    |    | Acres | Kind of Entry or Purpose | Serial N<br>Order |      |                   |
|------|-------------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|------|-------------------|
|      | NE ¼        |    |    |    | NW ¼ |    |    |    | SW ¼ |    |    |    | SE ¼ |    |    |    |       |                          |                   | Lots | Other Description |
|      | NE          | NW | SW | SE | NE   | NW | SW | SE | NE   | NW | SW | SE | NE   | NW | SW | SE |       |                          |                   |      |                   |
| 16   |             |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |       |                          |                   |      |                   |

For orders effecting disposal or use of unidentified lands withdrawn for classification, minerals, water, and/or other public purposes, and Indian

All

Last Revised: 10/31/2019

## ABLO MERIDIAN, NEVADA

| Serial Number or<br>Order Number                               | Action Date | Remarks |
|--|-------------|---------|
| : purposes, and Indian treaties, refer to Misc. Document Index |             |         |







# Control Document Index (CDI)

Copies of original patents and other documents, such as public laws, proclamations, and other orders.

Records that document the availability of rights, title to or use of public land.

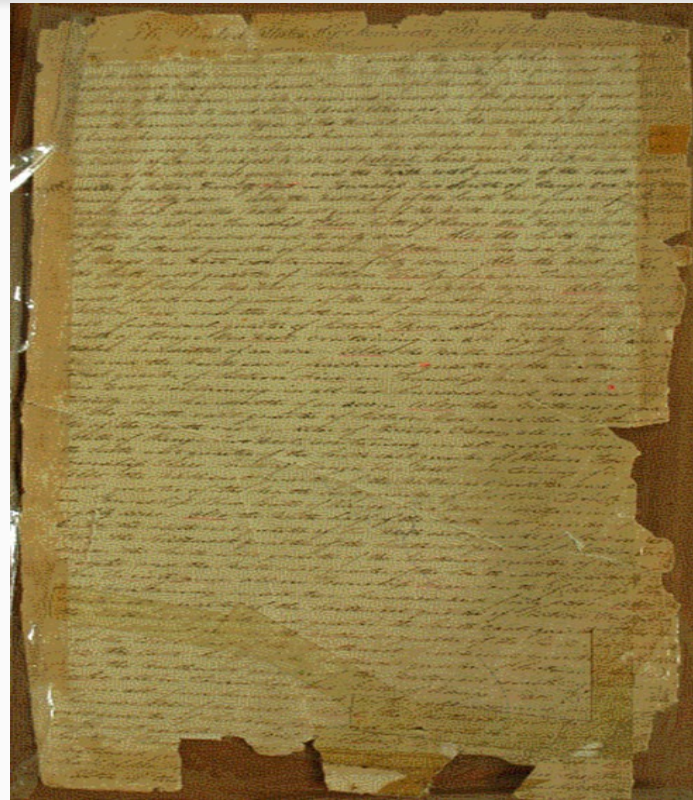
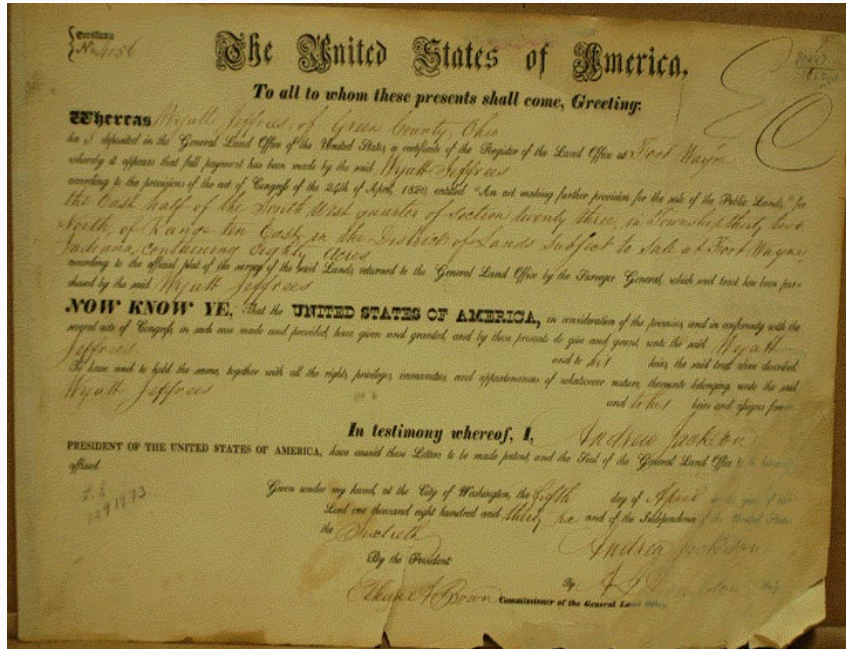
[www.glorecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorecords.blm.gov)

for *most* states



# Federal Land Patents:

## Cash Certificate Patent & Swamp Land Patent



# Cadastral Survey Records

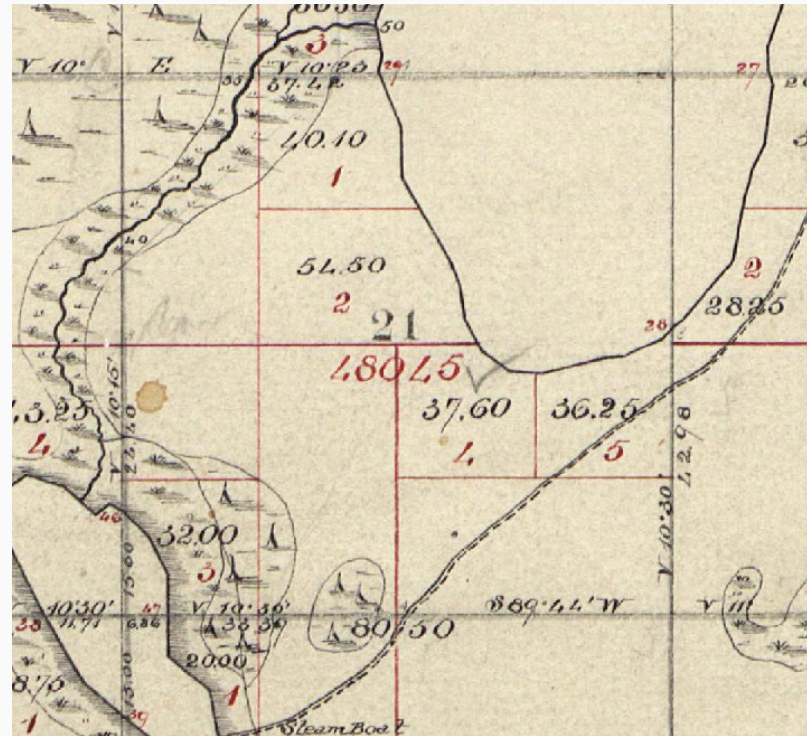
Graphic representation, drawn to scale, depicting the actual survey as described in the official field notes. Illustrates lot sizes and locations, bearings/distances, and corners of all surveyed lines for rectangular, mineral, homestead surveys and other metes and bounds parcels. Contains official acreage for land actions.

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

for *most* states



# Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sec. 21, T. 144 N., R. 31 W., Fifth Principal Meridian, MN Approved Oct. 16, 1875



# Original Survey of Sec. 21, T. 144 N., R. 31 W., Fifth Principal Meridian, Minnesota Approved May 10, 1876

M 22

Township. 144, N.

| North. between Sec<br>27. + 28.<br>Var. 11° |  |
|---|--|
| 18.00                                       | Leave Tam. Swamp. E. + W                   |
| 21.00                                       | Enter Marsh E. + W                         |
| 40.00                                       | Let. post 1/4 Sec. cor<br>No trees.        |
| 58.00                                       | Leave Marsh                                |
| 80.00                                       | Let. post cor. to Sec.<br>21. 22. 27. + 28 |
|   | S. Pine 11. N. 49. W. 80                   |
|   | " " 11. S. 55. W. 38                       |
|   | " " 3 S. 32. E 40                          |
|   | " " 4, N. 50 E 20                          |

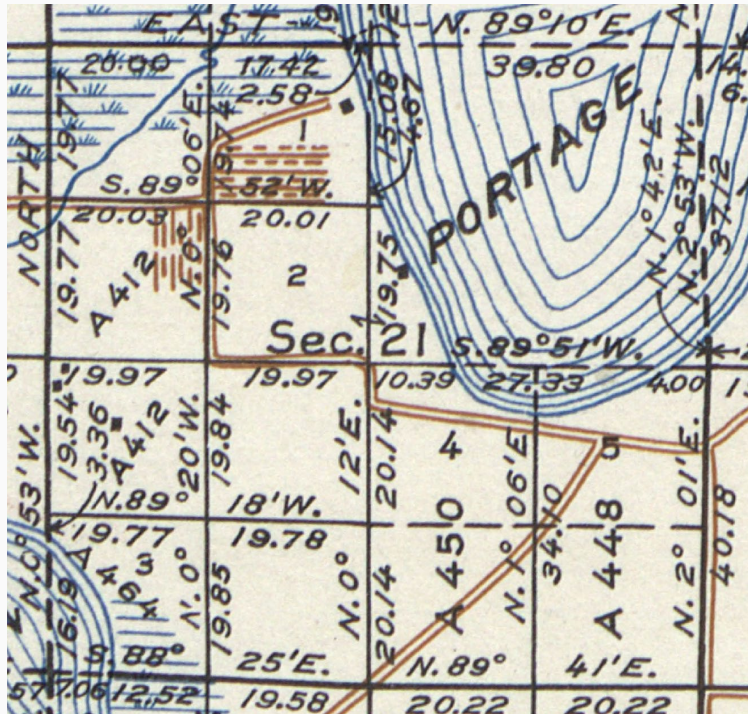
39

Range No 31. West

| North. between Sections<br>21. + 22.<br>Var. 10° 30' |   |
|--|---|
| 34.00  | Red Lake road N. E                                  |
| 40.00  | Let. post 1/4 Sec cor<br>S. Pine 11. S. 55. W. 45.  |
|  | W. Birch 8. N. 88. E 41                             |
| 42.98  | Lake + let. M. cor<br>Milling 3. N. 82. W. 104      |
|  | " 4 N. 40. E. 116                                   |
|  | Timber. Jack + St. Paul<br>Let 3 <sup>d</sup> note. |



# Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sec. 21, T.144 N., R. 31 W., Fifth Principal Meridian, MN Approved June 30, 1932



79.68 The point for the cor. of secs. 21, 22, 27 and 28, which is the intersection of partly graded roads bearing N. and E. Find remains of the original bearing trees which have been grubbed out and dragged to the sides of the roads.

At point for cor.  
Set a brass tablet,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. diam., 3 in. stem, in a cylindrical concrete form, 24 ins. long, 6 ins. diam., 24 ins. in the ground, with top mkd.

T 144 N R 31 W

S 21 S 22

S 28 S 27

1931

from which

New bearing trees:

A birch, 6 ins. diam., bears N.  $77\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  E., 220 lks.  
dist., mkd. T 144 N R 31 W S 22 B T.

A jack pine, 8 ins. diam., bears S.  $65\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  E., 219 lks.  
dist., mkd. T 144 N R 31 W S 27 B T.

A jack pine, 7 ins. diam., bears S.  $44\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  W., 99 lks.  
dist., mkd. T 144 N R 31 W S 28 B T.

A jack pine, 6 ins. diam., bears N.  $51^\circ$  W., 80 lks.  
dist., mkd. T 144 N R 31 W S 21 B T.



# Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sec. 21, T. 144 N., R. 31 W., Fifth Principal Meridian, MN Approved June 30, 1932

From the cor. of secs. 21, 22, 27 and 28.  
N. 2°01' E., bet. secs. 21 and 22.

Over slightly rolling land, along partly graded road, with cut-over and scattering timber to E. and W.

31.10 Road forks to the W.

32.00 Leave N. and S. road, bears off to NE, thence through scattering timber and undergrowth.

40.18 The point for the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. cor. of secs. 21 and 22, as determined from the remains of the original bearing trees.

At point for cor.

Set an iron post, 3 ft. long, 2 ins. diam., 28 ins. in the ground, for  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. cor., with brass cap mkd.

$\frac{1}{2}$   
S 21 | S 22  
1931

The from which remains of the original bearing trees:

A jack pine, 14 ins. diam., bears S. 66° W., 45 lks. dist., mkd. B T.

A birch stump, bears N. 84° E., 41 lks. dist.

And new bearing trees:

A burr oak, 8 ins. diam., bears S. 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° E., 73 lks. dist., mkd.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S 22 B T.

A norway pine, 14 ins. diam., bears S. 89 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W., 277 lks. dist., mkd.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S 21 B T.

N. 1°42' E., bet. secs. 21 and 22, (N $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

Over rolling land, through timber and undergrowth.

2.89 The point for the meander cor. of frac. secs. 21 and 22, on the SE. shore of Portage Lake, bearing N. 37° E. and S. 55° W., as determined from the remains of the original bearing trees.

At point for cor.

Set a brass tablet,  $\frac{3}{8}$  ins. diam., 3 in. stem, in a cylindrical concrete form, 24 ins. long, 6 ins. diam., 22 ins. in the ground, with top mkd.

MG  
S 21 S 22  
T 144 N R 31 W  
1931

from which

The remains of orig. bearing trees:

A fallen willow, 5 ins. diam., bears N. 82° W., 4 lks. dist., badly rotted, but find traces of blaze and marks on fragments of the trunk.

A willow stump, 6 ins. diam., bears N. 12° E., 6 lks. dist., rotted to the ground.

And new bearing trees:

A white oak, 10 ins. diam., bears N. 74° E., 70 lks. dist., mkd. T 144 N R 31 W S 22 M C B T.

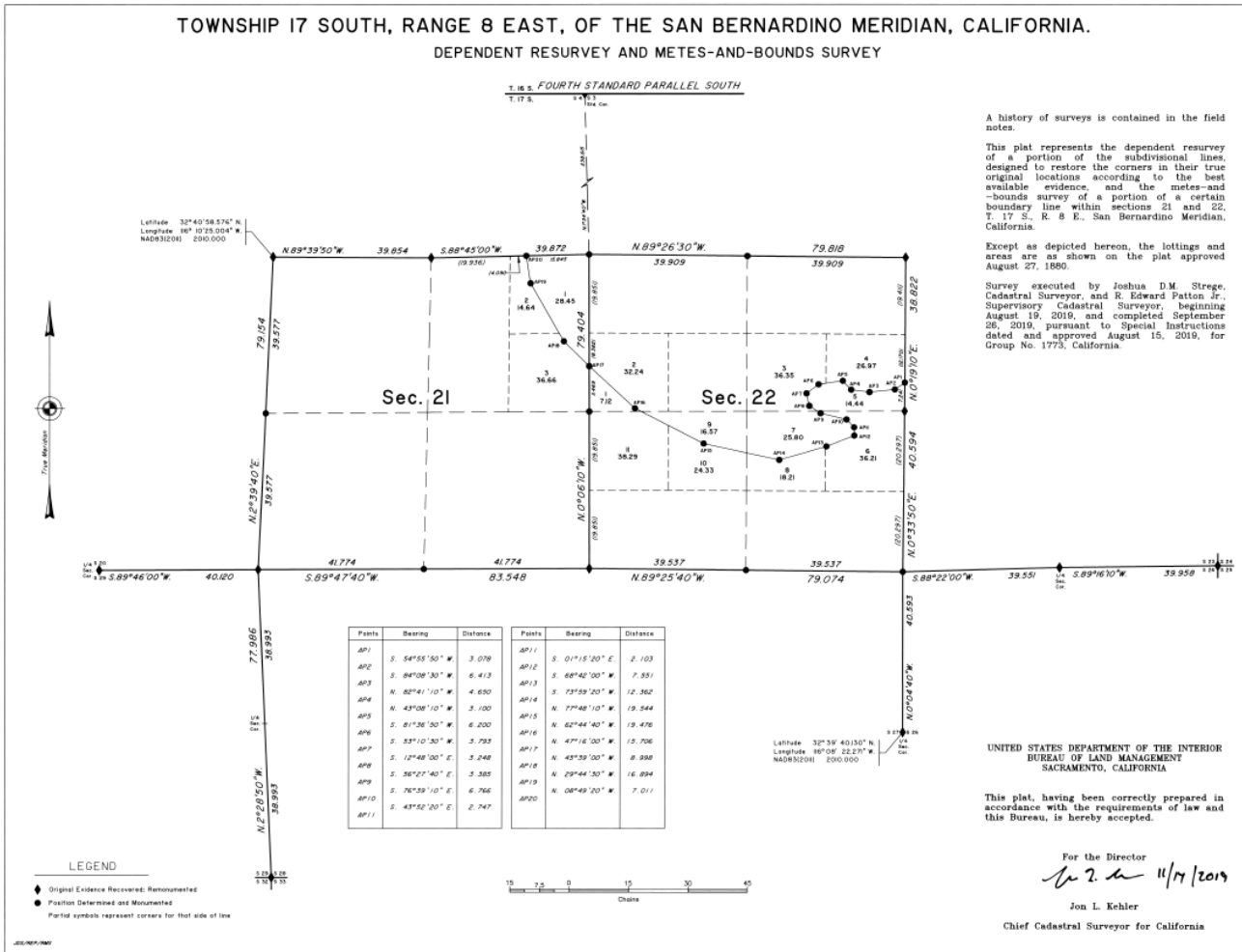
A white oak, 5 ins. diam., bears S. 34° W., 116 lks. dist., mkd. T 144 N R 31 W S 21 M C B T.





TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST, OF THE SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN, CALIFORNIA.

DEPENDENT RESURVEY AND METES-AND-BOUNDS SURVEY



A history of surveys is contained in the field notes.

This plat represents the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, designed to restore the corners in their true original locations according to the best available evidence, and the metes-and-bounds survey of a portion of a certain boundary line within sections 21 and 22, T. 17 S., R. 8 E., San Bernardino Meridian, California.

Except as depicted hereon, the lottings and areas are as shown on the plat approved August 27, 1880.

Survey executed by Joshua D.M. Streeg, Cadastral Surveyor, and R. Edward Patton Jr., Supervisory Cadastral Surveyor, beginning August 19, 2019, and completed September 26, 2019, pursuant to Special Instructions dated and approved August 15, 2019, for Group No. 1773, California.

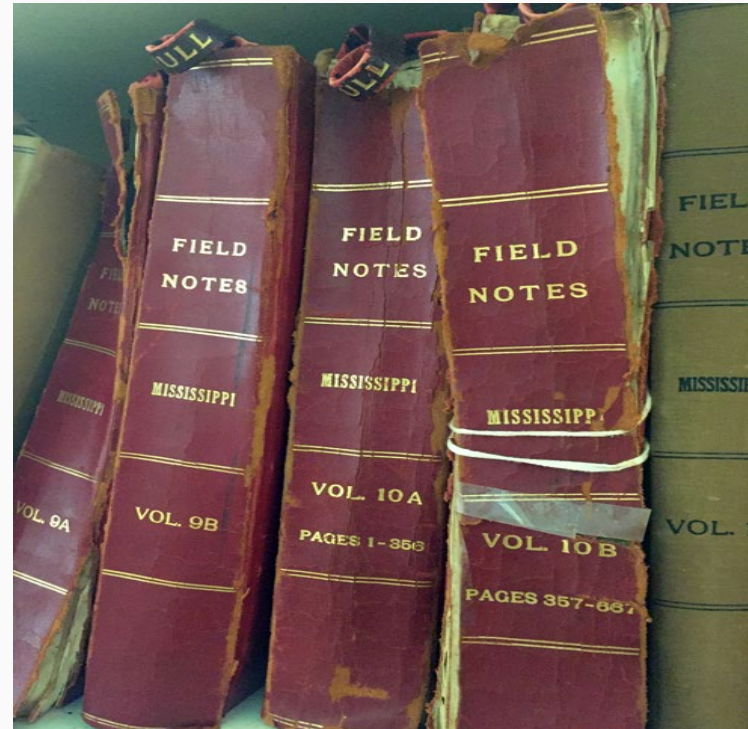


# Survey Field notes

The narrative description of the survey

Bearings, distances

Names and oaths of crew



Mississippi Field Notes



# Survey Field Notes

5

*Township 5 S Range 1 W Indian Meridian.*

*Chain Links*

*Section Lines*

*North, between sections 25 and 26.*  
*No. 10' 00" East.*  
 40.00 Set post for 1/4 sec. cor. from which  
*A Black Oak 10 in. dia. bear N. 31° W. 57 links dist.*  
*A Black Oak 8 in. dia. bear N. 39° W. 111 links dist.*  
 00.00 Dry Run, bear S. W.  
 00.00 Set post for corner to sections 25, 26, 27 and 28  
 from which  
*A White Oak 2 1/2 in. dia. bear S 30 1/2° W. 107 links dist.*  
*A Black Oak 10 in. dia. bear S. 72° W. 55 links dist.*  
 All other lines convenient, dig a pit, as per  
 instructions.  
 Set 2nd Oak  
 Spruce, Black and about Oak.

*East on a random line between sections  
 25 and 26.*  
*No. 10' 30" East.*  
 40.00 Temporary 1/4 sec. cor.  
 62.00 Set 11 links wide run S. W.  
 40.00 Subvented the Indian Meridian 26 links 7/1000

2

T. 43 N., R. 67 W., Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

CHAINS

The mean magnetic declination is 11 1/4° E.

---

Dependent Resurvey of the South Boundary,  
 T. 43 N., R. 67 W., Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

---

(Restoring the survey executed by  
 Alpheus P. Hanson in 1882)

---

Beginning at the cor. of Tps. 42 and 43 N., Rs. 66 and 67 W.,  
 monumented by William R. Robinson, Wyoming Registered Land  
 Surveyor No. 38, with an iron post, 36 ins. long, 3 ins. diam.,  
 firmly set 30 ins. in the ground, with shallow pits to the SE.,  
 SW. and NW., and a wooden post lying alongside, with iron cap,  
 4x3 ins. square, mkd.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1953         |  |
| R67W R66W    |  |
| T43N T43N    |  |
|              |  |
| T42N T42N    |  |
| R67W R66W    |  |
| W. R. R. CO. |  |

This position is accepted as the best available evidence of the  
 original cor. position.

At the corner point

Set an iron post, 28 ins. long, 2 1/4 ins. diam., 24 ins. in the  
 ground, atop a white "DEEP-1" magnetic marker, with brass cap  
 mkd.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| T43N        |  |
| R67W R66W   |  |
| S 36° S 31' |  |
|             |  |
| S 1 S 6     |  |
| T42N        |  |
| 1997        |  |

Bury the private monument upside down alongside the iron post.

S. 89° 01' W., bet. secs. 1 and 36.

Over gently rolling terrain.

FIELD NOTE PAPER

Form 9600-10a (November 1987) USDI-BLM



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ORIGINAL

FIELD NOTES  
OF THE  
DEPENDENT RESURVEY OF  
A PORTION OF THE SUBDIVISIONAL LINES,  
AND  
THE METES-AND-BOUNDS SURVEY OF A PORTION OF  
A CERTAIN BOUNDARY LINE WITHIN SECTIONS 21 AND 22,  
TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST,  
SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN, CALIFORNIA

EXECUTED BY

Joshua D.M. Strege, Cadastral Surveyor  
R. Edward Patton Jr., Supervisory Cadastral Surveyor

Under Special Instructions dated and approved August 15, 2019,  
which provided for the surveys included under Group No. 1773  
and Assignment Instructions dated and approved August 15, 2019.

Survey commenced August 19, 2019  
Survey completed September 26, 2019

# BLM Land Status Records

- Tract Books
- Master Title Plats (MTP's)
- Use Plats
  - Oil & Gas Plats .... and others
- Historical Index (HI)
- Control Document Index (CDI)
- Cadastral Survey Records

# Questions



# Lesson Objective

I hop you now understand the various types of Federal Land Status and Survey Secords and how to access these important records



**Thank you  
for your  
time and  
attention**