



Release of the 2009 edition of the
Manual of Surveying Instructions

The BLM has completed its update of the historic *Manual of Surveying Instructions*, which serves as the Nation's standard and guide for the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). On September 26th, the Cadastral Survey of the BLM hosted a reception at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., to mark the occasion of the release of the updated *Manual* and celebrate 224 years of the Public Land Survey System. All participants in the ACSM Lobby Day effort attended the reception. On hand among the hosts were Tim Spisak, BLM Deputy Assistant Director, Minerals and Realty Management and Ned Farquhar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management. The 2009 *Manual of Surveying Instructions* was presented by Wilma Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Her remarks follow on the next page, together with photos from the ceremony.



Department of the Interior and BLM's Monumental Future

Remarks by Wilma Lewis
Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management



Wilma Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Resources, with Robert Dahl, BLM Cadastral Survey.

About two months ago, the Secretary had the pleasure of recognizing, in a brief ceremony, 110 cadastral surveyors of the Bureau of Land Management for their expertise in professionally carrying on the rigors of the Public Land Survey System.

Today, I am here to join you in celebrating not only the Public Land Survey System, but to also mark completion of the BLM's update of the *Manual of Surveying Instructions*, fulfilling the Congressional mandate to the Secretary of the Interior to periodically update the *Manual*.

Because of BLM cadastral surveyors—like many of you in this room—working in concert with others in the industry, we enjoy the benefits of accurate metes and bounds—and all that comes with that—across all jurisdictions and land tenures of our great country.

As our population continues to grow, communities expand, and our country's remaining wide-open spaces become more valued, your work as cadastral surveyors is even more essential.

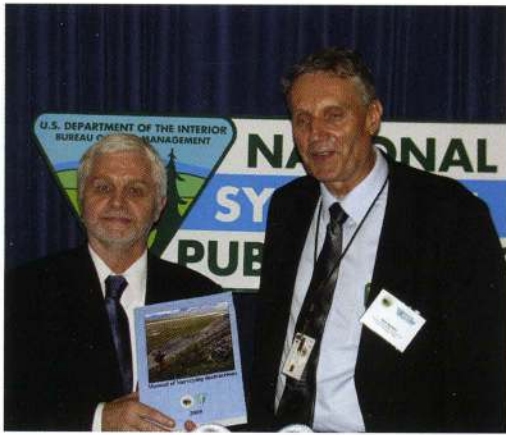
Certainly, making available to the industry such an effective tool as the *Manual of Surveying Instructions* facilitates effective management of some of America's greatest assets—its treasured landscapes and the rich resources found on and under the surface of federal lands and beyond.

For the 500-million acres of surface lands, or one acre in five of the land in the United States, and the 700 million-acre sub-surface mineral estate that the Department of the Interior administers, the Department's ability to accurately



The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Resources accepting, on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Hon. Ken Salazar, a pen crafted by John Matonich, NSPS president, from a spruce bearing tree for Corner No. 2 of the Red Star Lode claim surveyed in 1899 in the Secretary's home state, Colorado. A second pen was delivered to Congressman Kildee from Michigan to present it to President Obama. This pen was handcrafted from a piece of the Boundary Oak tree that once stood on Abraham Lincoln's father's property in Kentucky. Curt Sumner, executive director of ACSM, witnessing the presentation before his address.





Robert Dahl, holding the 2009 version of the Manual of Surveying Instructions, and Don Buhler

identify and establish (sometimes re-establish) monuments that document the legal boundaries between public and private lands is critical to this Nation's economy.

For example, the Department depends on accurate legal descriptions in order to deliver a fair return to the

This team effort will assist our country in breaking our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The Public Land Survey System, which was conceived by our country's founding fathers, will continue to be one of the key components of economic growth, which is based upon our country's vast land resources.

In the last 200 years, surveying tools and techniques have changed. It's impossible to even imagine what the next



Timothy Spisak, BLM Deputy Assistant Director for Minerals and Realty Management



Peter Borbas, ACSM Congress chair, and Frank Lenik, NSPS governor from New Jersey, admiring the view from the rooftop of the main Interior Building on C Street, Washington, D.C.

American public for the commercial sale and production of the Nation's mineral estate and natural resources.

For that matter, we couldn't begin to confidently capture the wind and solar renewable energy resources found on federal lands without knowing land boundaries and geographic features.

Our cadastral surveys provide the basic certainty that the renewable energy industry requires before they begin the long process and ultimately the huge investments in the development of wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

200—even 20—years will bring us.

However, one thing is for sure, our cadastral surveyors will continue to execute and maintain this great system of land tenure and ownership.

I'm confident that through the rich resources the Department and BLM manages—and with the assistance of cadastral surveyors—the Department's role will continue to be monumental in securing a productive future for our Nation.

Thank you.