

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# Limits of Closure

With John Farnsworth

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CADASTRAL SURVEY

# Limits of Closure

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Next John Farnsworth is going to discuss limits of closure and rectangular limits.

Let us talk about the limits of closure that are to be used in the Bureau of Land Management's surveys and that can be found in Chapter 3 of this edition of the Manual. Manual limits of closure are sometimes confused with something we call rectangular limits. Now limits of closure or error of closure, refer to the precision of measurements in a survey.

Now this thing called rectangular limits are something that are utilized in original surveys and they refer to the amount that an ideal square mile section is allowed to vary in dimension and still be considered a rectangular section containing 640 acres and 16 aliquot parts. These rectangular limits are used as part of the goal of original surveys to have the maximum number of rectangular sections as possible.

Now the new error of closure listed in this Manual is one (1) part error and 2560 parts in either latitude or departures individually or combined error ratio of one in 1810. If new surveys do not meet this limit, corrective steps are needed to find the errors. In individual BLM state offices, they can adopt stricter closure limits when necessary. Now this is going to bring some judgment into play when you are going to control against older surveys.

When the old corners can be found but the bearings or distance to the line are distorted, there is going to be retracement necessary to meet closure limits especially if you are going to create any new acreages. In any case, if new acreages are to be reported, you have to meet this new closure limit to be able to report them on the plat. If you are not going to report new acres, then there is independent verification, you can survey between two corners and get closure and that will suffice for this Manual.

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