

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# Riparian

With Belle Craig

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CADASTRAL SURVEY

# Riparian

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This edition of the Manual greatly expands the instructions on dealing with water boundaries. Here is Belle Craig to summarize these additions to the instructions.

We are going to talk about water boundaries. Water boundaries in this Manual are covered in Chapter 3. In Chapter 3 it basically covers original meanders. Chapter 8 discusses resurveys in water boundaries.

What's new in the Manual? This Manual greatly expands the coverage of water boundaries. And when I say greatly, I mean literally not figuratively. We are going from about seven pages of information to 100 pages of information. The subject of water boundaries is founded on legal principles from case law, IBLA decisions, and BLM policies.

This Manual includes concepts and case studies of water boundaries in addition to a discussion of survey methods. Again like I said before, Chapter 3 focuses on meandering for original surveys.

A meander line is a traverse that approximates the margin of a permanent natural body of water. The reason that we meander is to segregate the water from the upland so that we can calculate acreages of the land. Chapter 3 also includes case studies on the location of ordinary high water marks.

Chapter 8 of the Manual is dedicated to the subject of resurveys and water boundaries. This Manual discusses the most relevant court cases and administrative law decisions effecting water boundaries within the PLSS. The Manual provides instructions on unsurveyed islands, reemergence and partition lines. Like Chapter 3, Chapter 8 also contains case studies.

The case studies are on navigability, avulsion, gradual changes in boundaries that would be accretion, reliction, submergence and reemergence, islands and the island rule, erroneously omitted land, the Basart doctrine and title lands. This Manual provides additional guidance and general instruction on both simple and complex water boundary surveys.