

JMS
BLM/DNR Working Group Report, ~~May 14, 1996~~

Present: BLM - Linda Resseguie, Steve Hamrick, Tom Deiling,
Jerry Lewis

DNR - Denny Daigger, Julie Murrell, Carol Shobe,
Bill Brown *WSB*

T17N, R3E

The BLM survey is being reviewed by Keith Goltz of BLM'S Solicitor's Office for applicability of the "Acquired Lands" opinion. Steve reported that we shouldn't expect to hear anything soon as the Solicitor's Office is busy working on subsistence issues which are a priority with the Interior Department right now. Steve is to check on the possibility of having it reassigned to someone who can look at it sooner. ~~The Mat-Su Borough has paid for a survey that can't be finalized until this is resolved and they have a purchaser on hold.~~

Monument Exchange

Most of the meeting involved a discussion of this issue. Steve is taking BLM'S lead on this and he reported that he had been directed by George Oviatt to run the concept by BLM'S solicitor and the state director for their input. Steve passed out a one page handout of the questions he posed to the solicitor along with the response (copy attached). The solicitor's response was brief and informal, just hand written answers on the bottom of Steve's memo. Essentially the solicitor said that BLM lacked the authority to do this. The group as a whole disagreed with this opinion. Jerry stated that he thought that BLM had all the authority they needed as long as the exchange was compatible with good survey procedure, served the public interest and didn't increase their survey cost. With little discussion the group agreed with this. Steve asked the DNR representatives what approach they thought he should be taking. Bill responded adamantly that he didn't want this issue returned to the solicitor, he wanted the BLM members of the group to take it back to George and try to convince him that it is a good idea. Bill's reasoning behind this is that DNR has the option of lobbying George directly if necessary but couldn't lobby the Solicitor's Office. Steve said he would take it back to George.

Bill followed up on this by calling Steve later and asked him if he felt that he had been put in an uncomfortable position. Steve responded that he didn't have a problem with it and he thought he and Linda could have something to present to George within a week and he would get back to Bill as soon as he had an opportunity to discuss it with George.