

Monument Records Review

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Oct 13, 2023. The importance of monument records and federal corners is not lost on any land surveyor. We rely on these markers and their respective monument records regularly in the course of your work. This article is going to highlight the requirement and importance of recovering/establishing these markers and filing your monument records.

The Department of Regulatory Agencies, Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors (AES Board) is charged with helping to safeguard the public. It won't surprise you to learn that the Board understands the importance of recovering/establishing and updating the Monument Records as they benefit the public. With that lens, failure to meet Colorado Revised Statute (statute/CRS) and Board Bylaws and Rules (bylaws), is taken **very seriously by the Board**. Failing to set/upgrade critical monuments and file the Monument Records as statute/bylaws outline, is a direct harm to the public (and your fellow land surveyor).

What corners require Monument Records?

Consider section 38-53-104, C.R.S. which outlines when the submission of monument records is required.

"If a professional land surveyor conducts a survey that used any monument representing a public land survey monument (PLSM) location... as defined by the ...public land survey system... monument as a control corner, the professional land surveyor shall submit a monument record describing such monument with the board if the monument and its accessories are not substantially described in a n existing monument record previously submitted..." (select language intentionally removed for brevity).

It states monument records on monuments representing *public land survey monument* location, quarter corners, sixteenth corners, GLO/BLM lot corners are subject to the above requirement. The definition of a "public land survey monument" is defined by section 38-53-103(18), C.R.S. as being "...any land boundary monument established on the ground by a cadastral survey of the United States government, or any mineral survey monument established by a United States mineral surveyor and made part of the United States Public land records". If your controlling corner monument and/or its accessories are not current or substantially described in existing monument record previously submitted, you are required to file a monument record.

If you establish, restore, or rehabilitate any public survey monument (as described above) you must submit a monument record.

Section breakdowns of less than sixteenth corners (e.g. sixty-fourth corners) do not require monument records. However, should you be so inclined, PLSs are permitted to file a monument record on **any** monument (e.g. sixty-fourth corners, intersection pins, etc.) per section 38-53-108, C.R.S.

At least two accessories or reference points must be referenced on any monument record submitted.

What are the physical requirements of set markers?

Set PLSM (per bylaw 1.6(D)) shall be monumented with a metallic pipe or rod possessing a magnetic field and having a minimum outside diameter of 3/4", a minimum length of 30 inches and a two-inch minimum diameter durable metallic cap.

When does a federal corner have to be established or upgraded (see bylaws section 1.6(D))?

- If the monument and its accessories are not substantially in agreement with the monument record.
- The *control corner* is not extant, but a location is *established* for the survey, the PLS must set a marker and file a monument record (see section 38-53-104(1)(b), C.R.S.).
- If the federal monument is **less than** a 5/8" in diameter, the PLS is required to upgrade to a 3/4" diameter (minimum) ferrous monument with a two-inch minimum diameter durable metallic cap.
- If the monument has no cap or a cap with less than one and a half (1.5) inches
- Accessories are not substantially described.
- If your monument is in a roadway, with asphalt greater than two inches, you're required to install a monument box.

When do you have to file a Monument Record?

Per section 38-53-104, C.R.S., should you upgrade or establish a PLSM, you are required to file a monument record.

How long do you have to file your Monument Record?

As you well know, there are two dates on the Monument Record template provided by the State. Date (a), as shown on said template, is for the date that you established, rehabilitated, or upgraded. Date (b) is the date of your survey. Your submitted monument record needs to be less than 6 (six) months from Date (a) and (b).

How are federal corners to be stamped?

Per bylaws section 1.6(D)(3), you are to follow the BLM manual for stamping federal corners (and sixteenth corners).

Final notes on Monument Records:

When setting federal corners/sixteenth corners, you are required to follow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 2009 Manual for proper stamping.

Markers in rock outcrops, concrete and concrete posts shall have a durable metallic disk not less than two inches in diameter on a stem not less than three inches long .

YOU DO NOT have to upgrade the PLSM if it is original, exists in its original set location, is durable, and is readily identifiable.