

Nevada State Specific Professional Land Surveyor Exam Category Descriptions and Reference Material



Map image courtesy of Nevada Magazine

Introduction

Nevada State Specific Professional Land Surveyor Exam

Following conditional approval for licensure, per Nevada Administrative Code 625.310 (4), the applicant is complete a 2-hour open-book examination on the laws of this State and the procedures for the practice of land surveying in Nevada. A professional land surveying applicant taking this exam will have already passed two different national land surveying exams prior to this exam. This exam will not focus on mathematical computations, except for those relevant in the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) questions. The exam is intended to prepare and evaluate a professional land surveying applicant in the practice of surveying in Nevada.

The exam is multiple choice format and the total number of questions in the exam is 55. A minimum passing grade of 70% is required. Exam results are typically available 2-3 days after the exam via an email notification.

The exam is proctored virtually over webcam from Reno and is available Monday – Friday (non-holiday) at 10am PST/PDT.

For information, contact board@boe.state.nv.us or 775.688.1231

Contents

Exam Specifications

Exam Category Descriptions and Reference Listing

Practice Exam

Acknowledgement



Specifications

Nevada State Specific Professional Land Surveyor Exam Specifications

Number of Questions

Category



15-20

Standards of Practice & Licensing



15-20

Public Lands Survey System



10-15

Subdivision Law



5-10

Mining Law



2-5

Common Interest Communities



2-5

Water Rights & Water Law



2-5

Nevada State Boundary



2-5

Nevada State Coordinate System



55 Total Exam Questions

Specifications

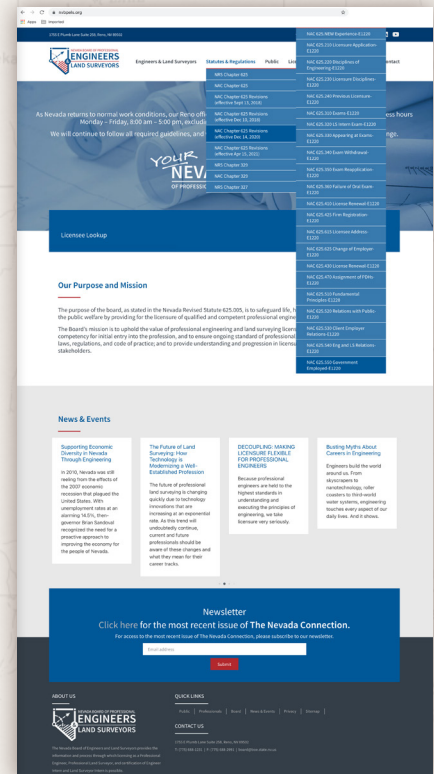


Standards of Practice & Licensing

Quoted from NRS 625.005 “The Purpose of this chapter is to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensure of qualified and competent professional engineers and land surveyors.”

Primary references

Links to the statutes and administrative code can be found on the Nevada Board's website nvbpels.org under the **Statutes & Regulations** heading.



Specifications



Public Lands Survey System

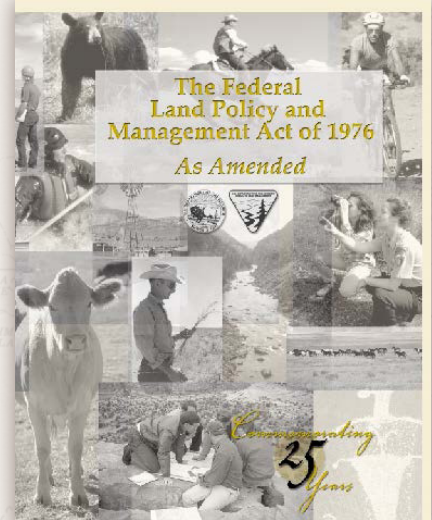
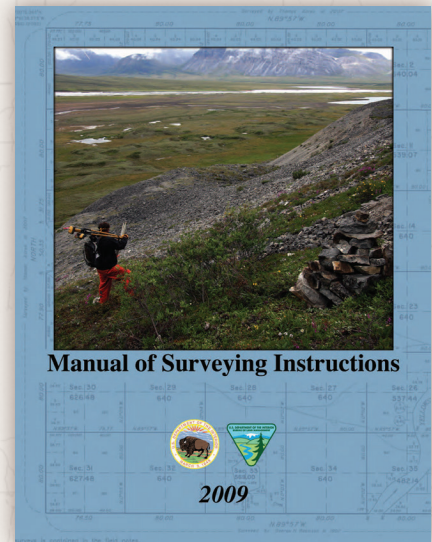
A complete understanding of the Public Lands Survey System is extremely important in Nevada. Having knowledge of the subdivision of standard and fractional sections, how to survey against a Township Line or Range Line, how to deal with meander corners and closing corners and knowing the significance of which Manual of Survey Instruction is being retraced, are all important to know thoroughly.

Primary reference

The primary reference is the **Bureau of Land Management – 2009 Manual of Surveying Instruction**. A PDF copy of the manual can be sourced by searching the blm.gov website.

Secondary reference

A secondary reference is **The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 – As Amended**, which can be downloaded from the Laws and Regulations section of blm.gov website.



Specifications



Subdivision Law

Since a map is commonly considered the graphic result of a field survey, NRS 278 is of paramount importance. The various types of recorded maps are thoroughly detailed, along with necessary components thereof. The subdividing of parcels of land necessitates the creation, approval, and recordation of a map for ownership transfers to occur. This means a solid, complete comprehension of this chapter is essential.

Primary reference

The primary reference is **Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 278 – Planning and Zoning**. A link to NRS 278 can be found at the Nevada Legislature website leg.state.nv.us by searching the Law Library – Nevada Revised Statutes section.



The screenshot displays the Nevada Legislature website. The top navigation bar includes 'Session Info', 'Interim Info', 'Law Library', 'General Info', 'Counsel Bureau', 'Research/Library', 'Assembly', and 'Senate'. The 'Law Library' section is expanded, showing a list of resources: Nevada Revised Statutes, Administrative Code, Nevada Register, Statutes of Nevada, Court Rules, City Charters, and Selected Local and Special Acts. The 'Nevada Revised Statutes' link is highlighted. Below this, a search interface for 'Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 2019' is shown, featuring a search bar, a 'Search' button, and options for 'Results per page' and 'Sort results by'.

Specifications



Mining Law

Land surveying activities related to mining claims will most likely be some type of location survey. Whether locating a new mining claim or retracing older mining claims, a land surveyor in Nevada should be familiar with where the mining claim information is kept and the different options available to gather all data to assist with an accurate survey. The rights for a mining claim could come from local customs or rules in a particular mining district, the Mining Act of 1866, the Mining Act of 1872 or a variety of other sources.

Primary references

The primary references for mining law are **Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 517 - Mining Claims, Mill Sites and Tunnel Rights, Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 517 – Mining Claims**. Links to the statutes and administrative code can be found at the Nevada Legislature website leg.state.nv.us by searching the Law Library Revised Statutes and Administrative Code sections.

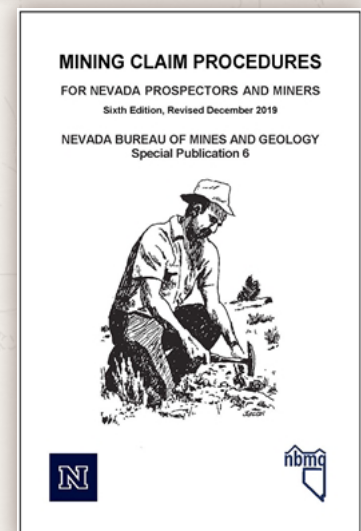
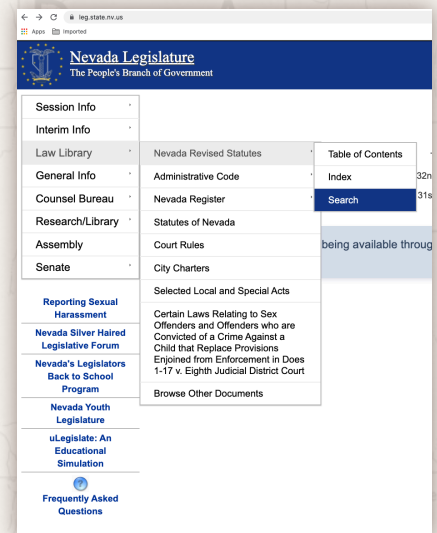
An additional reference of interest is **Mining Claim Procedures for Nevada Prospectors and Miners –Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Sixth Edition**.

This publication can be downloaded from the board website or from the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology nbmg.unr.edu website by searching the Special Publications section (the download is free).

Reproduced here with the generous permission of Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Papke, K.G. Davis, D.A., Ross, C., Pedersen, R., Micander, R., and Robison, N., 2019, Mining claim procedures for prospectors and miners (sixth edition): Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Special Publication 6, 71 p.

Click the thumbnail image to the right to access the file.



Specifications

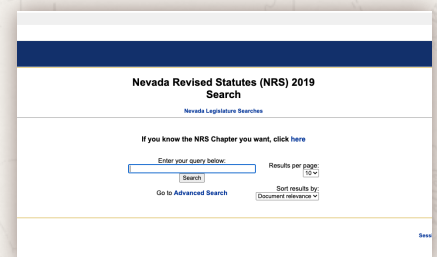
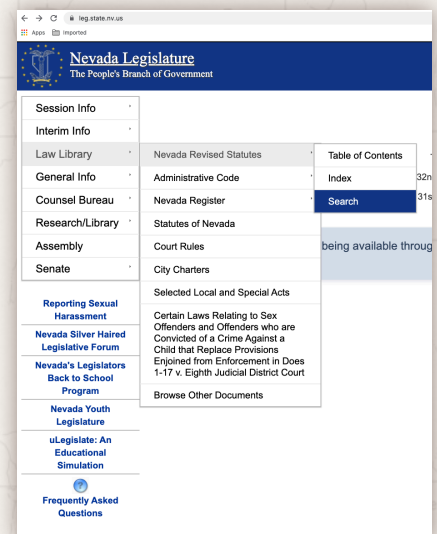


Common Interest Communities

Details common-interest communities, to better understand the components. In its most basic form, the differences and similarities between unit ownership and allocated interests, such as common elements, must be understood. The significance of governing documents, and an understanding of the various types of communities, must be clear regarding the survey and mapping exercises. Additionally, an understanding of NRS 116B is necessary to be competent in the surveying and mapping of condominium hotels.

Primary references

The primary references are **Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 116 - Common-Interest Ownership** and **Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 116B - Condominium Hotel Act**. Links to the statutes can be found at the Nevada Legislature website leg.state.nv.us by searching the Law Library Revised Statutes section.



Specifications

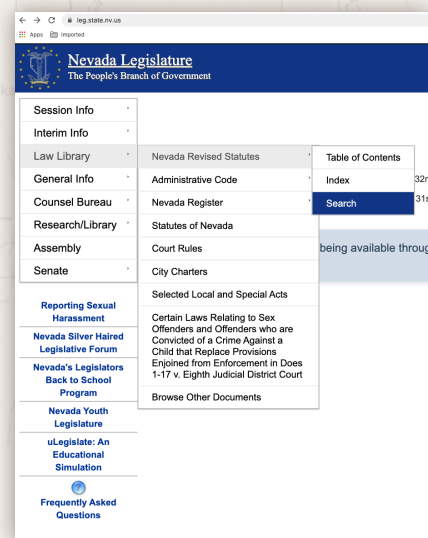


Water Rights & Water Law

Water is a precious resource in Nevada. Understanding the eligibility and processes of water surveying is important.

Primary references

The primary reference for this category is **Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 533 - Adjudication Of Vested Water Rights**. A link to the statute can be found at the Nevada Legislature website leg.state.nv.us by searching the **Law Library Revised Statutes** sections.



Specifications



Nevada State Boundary

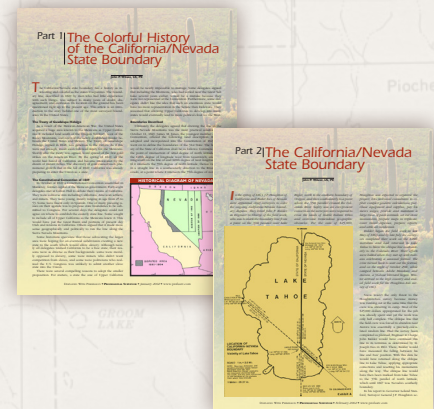
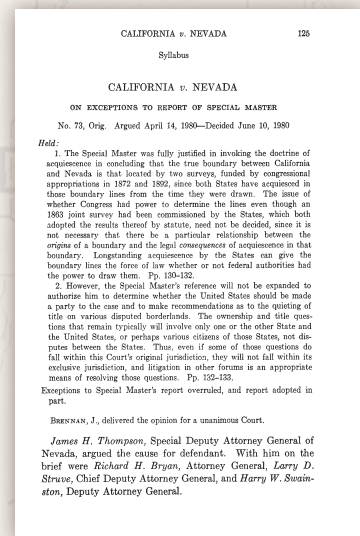
A good understanding of the overall Nevada State boundary with an emphasis on the history and monumentation on the Nevada/California boundary.

Primary references

The references for this section are the articles **The Colorful History of the California/Nevada State Boundary (part 1 and part 2)**, by John P Wilusz, PE/**PLS** about the history of the boundary line between the two states.

An additional reference of interest is the **Opinion of the Court from the 1980 California v Nevada Supreme Court Case**.

Articles are reproduced with the generous permission of the author and publisher. Click the thumbnail images to the right to access the files.



Specifications

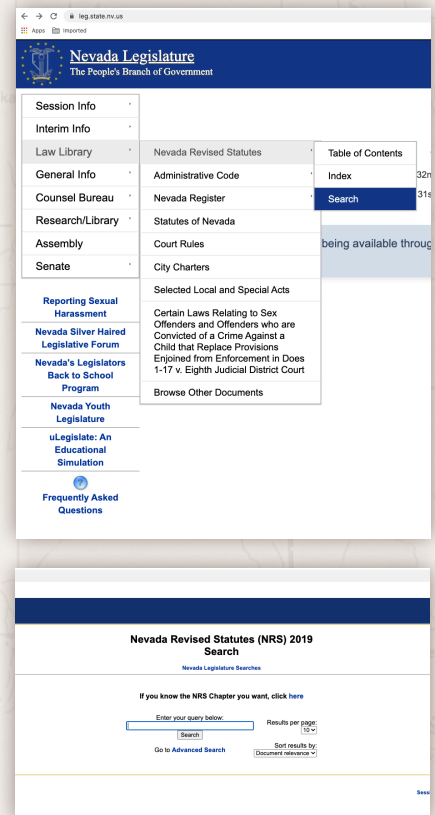


Nevada State Coordinate Systems

Knowledge and understanding of the coordinate system used in the State of Nevada.

Primary reference

The primary reference is **Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 327 - Nevada Coordinate System; Geographic Names**. Links to the statutes can be found at the Nevada Legislature website leg.state.nv.us by searching the Law Library Revised Statutes.



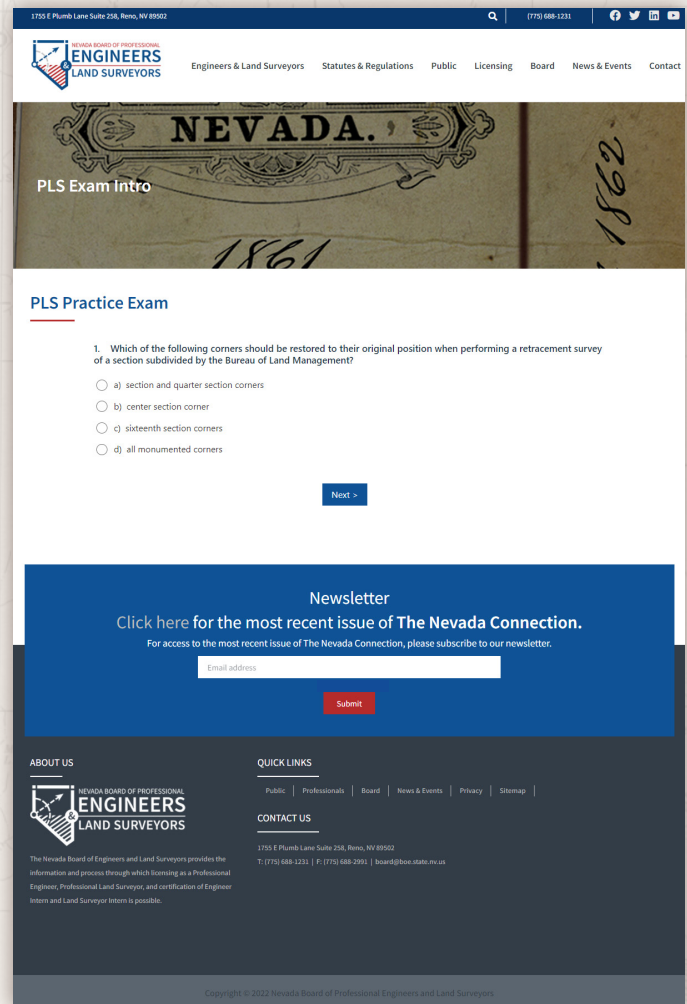
Practice Exam

Practice Exam

To help you prepare for the two-hour open-book PLS exam, An online practice exam can be accessed at the link below.

<https://nvbpels.org/apply/pls-practice-exam>

The practice exam is only available online and includes answer feedback after it is completed.



The screenshot displays the website for the Nevada Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The header includes the board's name, contact information (1755 E Plumb Lane Suite 258, Reno, NV 89502), and a search bar. The main content area features a "PLS Exam Intro" section with a question: "Which of the following corners should be restored to their original position when performing a retracement survey of a section subdivided by the Bureau of Land Management?" The options are: a) section and quarter section corners, b) center section corner, c) sixteenth section corners, and d) all monumented corners. A "Next >" button is visible. Below the question is a "Newsletter" section with a link to the most recent issue of "The Nevada Connection" and a subscription form. The footer contains "ABOUT US" information, "QUICK LINKS" (Public, Professionals, Board, News & Events, Privacy, Sitemap), and "CONTACT US" details.

Acknowledgment

Nevada State Specific Professional Land Surveyor Exam - Acknowledgement

A special Thank You to all the Nevada professional land surveyors that assisted with this exam re-write and compiling the reference material to review in preparation for this exam.

Paul Burn	Nevada PLS #011174
Robert Carrington	Nevada PLS #009103
Dan Church	Nevada PLS #006886 & CFedS
Alan Dill	Nevada PLS #007808
Jason Fackrell	Nevada PLS #017833
Kevin German	Nevada PLS #020461
Jason Higgins	Nevada PLS #013601
Russell Jamison	Nevada PLS #014633
Michael Kidd	Nevada PLS #012141
George Lindesmith	Nevada PLS #006306
Steve Parish	Nevada PLS #009475 & CFedS
Greg Phillips	Nevada PLS #017616