

DID YOU KNOW

FOR A PERMIT TO REMOVE OR DESTROY A SURVEY MONUMENT

Did you know a permit is required for the destruction or removal of a survey monument?

This is not a new requirement. Even before the Survey Recording Act of 1973, the elected officials recognized the necessity to enact a law to preserve survey monuments throughout Washington State. The permit process came into existence in 1969 when a new section was added to the Laws of 1951. With the enactment of this law, the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Surveys and Maps (Public Land Survey Office) was designated to permit the removal or destruction of survey monuments.

RCW 58.24.040

The agency designated by RCW [58.24.020](#) is further authorized to:

(8) Permit the temporary removal or destruction of any section corner or any other land boundary mark or monument by any person, corporation, association, department, or subdivision of the state, county, or municipality as may be necessary or desirable to accommodate construction, mining, and other development of any land: PROVIDED, That such section corner or other land boundary mark or monument **shall be referenced to the Washington Coordinate System** by a registered professional engineer or land surveyor prior to such removal or destruction, and **shall be replaced or a suitable reference monument** established by a registered professional engineer or land surveyor within a reasonable time after completion of such construction, mining, or other development: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, **That the department of natural resources shall adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations** under which the agency shall authorize such temporary removal or destruction and require the replacement of such section corner or other land boundary marks or monuments.

Did you know this applies to all survey monuments, not just PLSS corners?

WAC 332-120-030

(3) Survey monuments subject to this chapter are those **monuments marking local control points, geodetic control points, and land boundary survey corners.**

Did you know you may request a variance to the requirement to reference the monument to the Washington Coordinate System?

WAC 332-120-040

(2) A land boundary survey corner **shall be referenced to the Washington Coordinate System of 1983, prior to removal or destruction.** See WAC [332-130-070\(2\)](#), land boundary survey standards.

An applicant may request a variance from this referencing requirement by so noting in the applicant information section on the permit and providing the justification on the back of the form. The department shall note whether the variance is approved or not approved and shall provide the reason for not approving the request.

Did you know you may request a verbal authorization for a permit to remove or destroy a survey monument?

WAC 332-120-050(2)

(a) In extraordinary circumstances, to prevent hardship or delay, a verbal authorization may be granted, pending the processing and issuance of a written permit. A properly completed application shall be submitted by the applicant within fifteen days of the verbal authorization.