



**U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
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***PRESS RELEASE***

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**For Release: Immediately**

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**BLM's Eastern States Web Team Honored with  
Vice President Gore's NPR Hammer Award**

*Team recognized for its creation of web site  
for researching Federal land records*

BLM Acting Director Tom Fry will present the Vice President Gore's National Performance Review (NPR) Hammer Award to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Eastern States General Land Office (GLO) Web Site Development Team, in Springfield, Virginia, on January 20. Eastern States is being recognized for creating an on-line research tool for Public Land managers, historians, surveyors, and genealogists.

The Hammer Award is given to Federal employees who exemplify the principles of making Government work better, cost less, and those who are breaking down unnecessary bureaucracy to build a better Government. The award recognizes the Team efforts to make Government operate more efficiently by meeting the needs of its customers and by saving time and money. The Team will receive one hammer plaque with a card signed by the Vice President. Each Team member will receive a hammer lapel pin and a certificate from the Vice President. The hammer is a prominent icon of Vice President Gore's answer to previous waste in Government.

The Eastern States Office currently maintains and protects the Secretary of the Interior's official, duplicate copies of some nine million GLO Records, dating from the late 1700's. These historic papers, the survey plats and field notes, homestead certificates, cash patents, military warrants and railroad grants are among the very first land records to result from the Land Ordinance of 1785. Since 1989, BLM has been automating these Federal land title records through state-of-the-art optical imaging technology to make their valuable information more accessible.

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On May 1, 1998, BLM dedicated the GLO Records Automation Web Site. This site, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> provides live database and image access to more than **two million** automated Federal land title documents for the Eastern Public Land States, dating back to 1820.

To date, BLM has received 7 million data and image requests and over 500,000 visitors have viewed over 18 million GLO Web Site pages. The Web Site allows researchers to view text data from GLO records and images of the actual documents. These documents contain a wealth of information for surveyors, land title companies, historians, especially genealogists.

The GLO Web Site offers researchers a source of information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal Government to individuals. In addition to verifying title transfer, this information allows researchers to connect to an individual with a specific location.

The Web Site was designed to meet the growing demand for land records research and to preserve the land records that are housed within the BLM's Eastern States Office. Nearly 9 million Federal land documents are housed in the Springfield, Virginia facility, many documents nearly 200 years old.

For more information about the GLO Records Web Site, visit us at:  
<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>