Verifier Certification Process

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

@SETT Staff

Statute

NAC 232.480   Training and certification of verifiers by Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team; maintenance of list of trained and certified verifiers. (NRS 232.162)

The Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team shall:

1.   Train and certify persons to be verifiers; and

2.   Maintain a list on the Internet website of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program of all verifiers who have been so trained and certified for the current calendar year.

Certification Process

- Verifier Training is end of January, annually
  - Free
  - Two types of certification – Desktop and Field
  - The Desktop Certification additionally allows the Verifier to run the Desktop Automation, which includes identifying and delineating map units and anthropogenic features
  - A Field Certification allows the Verifier to oversee the data collection being done in the field for each project

- For verifiers without an active certification, training is a multi-day in-person commitment where both a debit and credit project are walked through step by step from project concept to transaction

- Returning verifiers can attend an online refresher to be reminded of specifics and to learn about any new changes to the Program
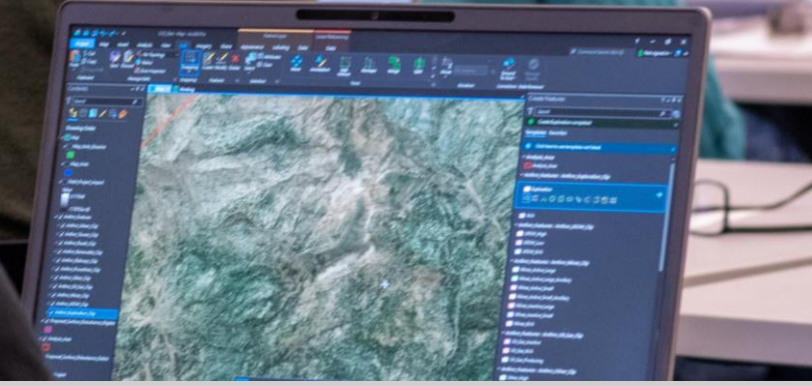
Certification Process

- Verifiers who have not completed a full project must take a test to be certified
  - Open book
  - Have a month to complete
  - A grade of 80% or better is required for the Field Test to obtain a Field Certification
  - A grade of 70% or better is required for the Desktop Test to obtain a Desktop Certification

- Certification lasts for 1 year and must be renewed with the refresher course

- PFC training for those doing Credit projects is also required every 5 years

Updates to the Certification Process

- Now every verifier must go through the full training every 5 years
  - All verifiers go through the full training this year
  - Every full retraining requires a retaking of the test

- Changes to the tests
  - Verifiers in the non-refresher course must take a test to be certified
    - Mix of open and closed book
    - Still have a month to complete the open book portion
    - All materials will still be supplied in advance of the training

Decertification Process

- Following guidance in NAC and NRS

- Lists the causes for disciplinary action, includes
  - Disgraceful personal conduct, which impairs the performance of their own or someone else's job or causes discredit or misrepresentation of the Program.
  - Discourteous treatment of the public, staff, or other Verifiers while representing the Program.
  - Incompetence or inefficiency.
  - Fraud in securing certification (cheating)
  - Dishonesty or willful misleading or misinformation to the Program or its Proponents.
  - Falsification or misrepresentation of any records.

Decertification Process

1. Verbal Warning
   a) Depending on the action, full retraining and retesting may be required
   b) This step may be done multiple times for various offenses

2. Written Warning
   a) The warning must outline the concerns and give the Verifier a timeline to show improvement

3. Suspension of Certification and Hearing pursuant to NRS 233B

4. The Program Manager may reinstate a former Verifier following his or her decertification from the Program after a period of 5 years, so long as the subject Verifier formerly reapplies and abides by all the requirements for Verifier certification. Additionally, the Verifier needs to have completed and/or finished any requirements that the Finder of Fact from the decertification hearing required of the Verifier in fact-finder's written findings before the Verifier may apply for recertification.
   a) The Program Manager may, in their discretion, decline to re-certify a Verifier if the Verifier was originally de-certified for a serious offense that would cause a reasonable Program Manager to conclude that the Program and/or public would be put in physical, financial, and/or or other serious danger due to the former verifier's actions.

Questions?