Keith Sibley

GME 468

Two Oregon Institute of Technology students helped Bureau of Land Management locate survey monuments along the California and Oregon state border in Klamath County, through the months of April to June of 2010.

 During the months of April, May, and June of 2010; Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) Geomatic students Keith Sibley and Kevin Mulder, helped the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with a project of theirs. This project involved locating closing corners and mile post survey monuments along the California and Oregon State boundary within Klamath County.

These survey monuments are two inch iron pipes with brass caps marking a mile post or closing corner. These mile posts are placed one mile apart and determine the states boundaries. Closing corners are placed every mile where the six mile by six mile townships comes to a close in the Northern half sections. Each section is made up of a mile by mile lot of land within a township, making up 36 sections total within a township.

BLM office handed these OIT Geomatic students a list of instructions describing what needs to be done. The first instruction described that the students were looking for mile posts and closing corners. The second Instruction told the students to use the enclosed coordinates to help locate some of the mile posts with a hand held Global Positioning System (GPS). Third, BLM told the students to use survey grade GPS at each survey monument for better accuracy. The fourth instruction, told the students to use flagging around each survey monument to make these monuments visible. The final instruction had the students fill out enclosed Monument Recovery forms, for the Klamath County Surveyors Office and BLM files.

The task the graduating Geomatic students were given, had the students use the Klamath County Surveyors Office and BLM field notes archives to help locate each mile post and closing corner. These field notes locating the survey monuments date back to the 1920’s and 1950’s. These field notes described the area surrounding, what the survey monuments look like, and how far below the ground these monuments are.

This project along with several others helped the OIT Geomatic seniors experience real-world projects and the responsibilities to help prepare them for their future.