

"Good fences make good neighbors."

Robert Frost wrote, "Good fences make good neighbors", as a social comment, but good fences can make good neighbors. The Badger Run Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Keno, Oregon has grown, and the time has come to put a fence around a portion of the Center's property. The fence will keep some of the Center's patients from munching on the neighbor's flowers and pets. The Center wanted to put the fence on their side of the property lines. The Center asked Oregon Institute of Technology's (OIT) survey program to find and mark their property lines.

Lead by professional surveyor Mitch Duryea, a crew of students began the search for the invisible property lines. Starting at Klamath County Offices, the students obtained the deeds and map which defined the Center's land. Both the deeds and map contained detailed information on the Center's property lines.

With the map in hand, the students headed to the Center with a compass, measuring tape, shovel, and metal detector to begin the search. The map provided the students with the direction and distance of each property line. The map showed that there was an "iron pin" at the end of each property line. It was up to the students to find these iron pins.

The Center's coordinator, Liz Diver, set the students off on the right path. Liz was able to show the students one of the iron pins. From that iron pin, the students used a hand compass and a measuring tape to find their way around the Center's property lines. The hand compass showed them the direction that each line went. The measuring tape showed them how long each line was. The students were able to locate nine out of the ten property corners. The one missing corner would require more complex equipment to find.

On the students' next visit, they brought with them a modern transit called a total station (TS). The TS is capable of measuring angles and distances. The TS uses an Electronic Distance Measurement device (EDM) to measure distances. The EDM uses light to measure distances.

The students believed the missing property corner was buried under a road. Not wanting to dig several holes in the road, the students needed an accurate spot to start digging. By placing the TS over a known point, the students determined where the missing corner should be. With the missing corner's position fixed within a foot the students started to dig. They dug, and dug, and dug. Within a short time the missing property corner was found.

With all the property corners found, the students were able to mark the property lines. It is often difficult to know where property lines are in rural areas. Frequently the original corner monuments are lost, damaged, or destroyed. By taking the time to have its property surveyed, the Center will be able to be a good neighbor and keep any new fences on its side of the property line. This project also provided the OIT students an opportunity to demonstrate skills that they developed in the classroom. Working together, Badger Run Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and OIT survey students completed a worthwhile project.