

Kevin Mulder
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Two Oregon Institute of Technology students worked with the Bureau of Land Management on a recent project along the Oregon and California border. Geomatics students from OIT, Kevin Mulder and Keith Sibley, were given instructions from BLM to research and locate survey monuments along the state border in Klamath County.

The graduating seniors completed the research of the survey monuments using resources including the Klamath County Surveyor's Office and the BLM Field Notes archives. The students then had to locate the survey monuments using the research and a hand-held GPS unit. Most of the field notes the students used to locate the monuments date back to the 1950's and some back to the early 1900's.

After the students located a survey monument, they were required to obtain coordinates of the monument for BLM to use on maps and other documents involving the state border. The students set up GPS equipment on the monuments for a set time period. The GPS equipment gathered data which was later processed by the students to obtain reliable coordinates for each monument.

The students took digital pictures of the recovered survey monuments and completed a Land Corner Recovery Sheet for each monument that they located. The Land Corner Recovery Sheets are used by BLM to document survey monuments that are found and include all relevant information about the monument.

20 survey monuments were recovered total by the students over a period of two months. The 20 survey monuments were found over a 25 mile stretch of the Oregon and California state border. This portion of the project was completed by the students on May 27.

This project was one of many that OIT Geomatics seniors had a chance to work on for a senior project involving real-world work experience. The general requirements for a project were given to small groups of students. The students were then responsible for planning and executing the project. There were professors and instructors available for assistance, but the students were fully responsible for the completion of each job.