



Redefined Horizons
3938 Kimball Lane
Stockton, California 95206

Practical Management Of Field
Surveys

Speaker Outline

Who am I?

- Licensed in California and Nevada. Certified Federal Surveyor and Certified Remote Pilot. Run a small land surveying and land planning business focused on private real estate.

Quote: “Know the rules so you can break them effectively.”

- I’m not a wizard.
- This is hard.
- There are multiple ways to manage your field work.

Why is this important?

- The world is not yet a giant survey-grade point cloud.
- Field work is the foundation of everything we do. Land surveyors have their role in society because we are expert measurement makers.
- Field work is especially critical for boundary surveyors. Measurements are evidence. Physical evidence of boundary location is collected in the field.
- Don’t just fall out of your truck and start surveying!

What could possibly go wrong?

- Everything.
- Disturbed control monuments.
- Missing property corner monuments.
- Busted measurements.
- Corrupted raw data.
- Illegible field notes.
- No field photos.
- Half-drowned field surveyors.

What are we going to talk about today?

- Preparing for field surveys.
- Executing field surveys (responsible charge, written guidelines, and a basic workflow). Not talking about details for specific types of land surveys.
- Reviewing field surveys. (Just a bit about looking at your raw data.)
- How GIS can help you at local agencies or utilities.



Redefined Horizons
3938 Kimball Lane
Stockton, California 95206

Practical Management Of Field
Surveys

How do you prepare for field surveys?

- The licensed surveyor in responsible charge needs to have a role.
- Instructions should be provided in writing – we use a field package for that.
- What goes in a field package?
 - 1) Survey plan exhibit.
 - 2) Copy of the current control/site calibrations/information on CRS.
 - 3) Copies of documents needed by the field crew.
 - 4) Site contact.
 - 5) Office contact.
- Should you check a field package?

How do you properly execute field surveys?

- Have a set of written guidelines to cover the basics and general circumstances.
- Provide instructions for specific cases in your field package.
- Have a process that is followed on every field survey.
 - 1) Pre-Survey Site Walk (Safety and Plan of Execution)
 - 2) Establishment of Control/Control Check-Ins
 - 3) Survey Execution
 - 4) Post-Survey Site Walk (Safety and Photos)
- Use checklists!

How do you properly review field surveys?

- Don't just grab points out of the data collector!
- Three (3) questions to ask when you are reviewing raw data.
- Making decisions about coverage and methods.
- Preparing a punchlist of follow-up tasks.
- Evaluating field crew performance.
- Evaluating assistance surveyor performance.