

Greg's bio

Greg began his surveying career as an engineering aide for the Calif. Dept. of Water Resources in 1966. After three years of learning the basics, he moved to Idaho and worked for several years in municipal type of surveying for City of Boise and the Ada County Highway District.

Several years of working in the private sector for JUB Engineering and CH2M-Hill doing boundary surveys, subdivision layout, construction staking and related tasks eventually led to obtaining a professional surveyor license in 1978.

Shortly thereafter Greg took on the responsibility of managing the survey department for Blakley Engineers in Caldwell and after 3 years in that position decided to open Skinner Land Survey, of which he was the sole proprietor until 1989, at which time he formed a corporation with Gerald Earl, doing business as Skinner, Earl and Associates, Inc.

Skinner Land Survey Co., Inc. became reality in 1997 when Greg and Gerry Earl parted ways and has continued to conduct survey business in the Treasure Valley since that time. Greg moved to Grangeville in 2003 to establish a branch office and currently resides there while overseeing the Canyon County office.

In the span of forty plus years that Greg has been surveying the industry has progressed from plumb bob, chain and transit to theodolite and electronic distance measure to total station to Global Positioning Systems; from Curta hand-crank calculators to electronic hand held calculators to hand held computers used as data collectors.

The space-age technology has had a tremendous impact on the field of surveying and the means of accomplishing the various tasks involved and on the capability to collect massive amounts of data accurately. However, many of the non-technical facets of surveying have changed very little if at all. Some of these non-technical aspects are as follows:

- Deed research and interpretation including tracking chain of title
- Searching for existing monuments and perpetuation of same
- Comparing existing surveys and legal descriptions and checking for ambiguities and errors
- Observing lines of occupation versus deeded ownership and mapping any differences
- Checking existence of easements and rights-of-way to ensure legal access to any given property

Most of these things are made easier by available technology but are still issues that often need to be addressed, sometimes also requiring judgment calls based on experience. In the field of surveying, there is no substitute for experience.