



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

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File Code: 7150

Date: August 13, 2001

Mr. Jack Watson
Cornerstone Surveying, Inc.
P.O. Box 33
John Day, OR 97845

Dear Mr. Watson:

In June of this year, you notified this office, along with the Malheur National Forest office, that you had recovered original corner evidence at a number of locations within and near T. 12 S., R. 30 E., W.M., Oregon. This is the same area that the Forest Service had a contract survey completed in 1983 by Ferguson Surveying. You contend that your corner evidence is superior to those that were established by the Ferguson survey.

In the early part of July, Tim Kent of my staff and Dan Berry from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) made a field visit to this area to inspect the evidence as recovered by you. There were representatives from the Forest Service, County Surveyor's office, and private surveying firms present during this field inspection. As you are aware, there was no consensus amongst these representatives of acceptance of the newly recovered evidence.

I am enclosing a copy of the report prepared by the BLM. I requested their involvement because of their expertise and authority on corner evidence and evaluation. The summary of this report is that you have not conclusively shown that your recovered evidence should be used to overturn the survey results done by Ferguson. I concur with this finding.

Tim and Dan discussed the aspect of survey corner stability at length with you. While there is no law or regulation covering this principle within the state authority-surveying arena, I believe that your resurvey merits why corner stability is an important aspect to be considered while conducting resurveys. As professional surveyors, one of the most upsetting things done to the public is to establish multiple monuments at the same corner point. This causes chaos and confusion to the very people that surveyors are licensed by the state to protect. I am enclosing a report from the BLM California office that discusses their stability policy at length.

