



WASCO COUNTY SURVEYOR

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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

February 11, 2025

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee.

I am Bradley Cross, the County Surveyor for both Wasco & Hood River Counties.

Over the years my counties have faced a steady decline in the value of our corner funds, this has led to a once well-equipped and staffed program, basically becoming just me.

In addition to my testimony already submitted I would like to offer a real world example of how this work can impact our citizens.

Exhibit 1:

This survey in Wasco County shows four existing section corners. These corners have been reset by County Surveyors replacing the original stones or ties to trees with a modern durable metal monument.

Unfortunately the quarter corner monuments set approximately half a mile between them have been lost due to time and development. The private surveyor calculated the position of these corners using the correct legal method, but as many surveyors know, one thing we can be assured of is that these rarely go back in the original location. The Orchard tree row of prime Wasco County Cherries is now shown as encroaching. If the position of the quarter corners was properly maintained it is possible that this encroachment would not have happened. The orchardists often knew what they were doing when they planted tree rows as they know the value of these trees.

Consider how this example could also be a clear cut line of timber causing timber trespass, or the center of a county road causing confusion in the public right of way.

Exhibit 2:

I also have an image of a monument in Hood River County that is slowly being destroyed by a tree overgrowing it. This monument was also set by a county surveyor to replace the old original stone. The tree was 2 feet away when it was set and is already needing maintenance to protect its position that controls 2 square miles of Orchard, Recreation and Timber land in the upper Hood River Valley.

Passing this bill will ensure we have a means to gain the resources again going forward and make the fund sustainable to continue this important work for now and future generations.

Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Bradley J Cross PLS
Wasco County Surveyor