

FIELD WORK

4. TIME OF YEAR



The time of year field work is performed can have a substantial impact on the planning of a survey project. Certain tasks performed in the winter will be more labour intensive than those same tasks performed in the summer. However, according to the cost study report, the time of year does not play a significant factor in the amount of time that is required to perform the activities necessary to produce surveys. Generally, the work requires the same amount of time year-round. This is mostly attributed to the fact that surveyors will advise on and select the most appropriate time of year to accomplish the work efficiently.

Recommendations

- Select a surveyor with a substantial amount of experience in the region to allow for a more accurate idea on the time of year a project should be conducted.

5. LICENCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE SURVEYOR

For surveys involving interior boundaries, a surveyor must be commissioned and licenced as a Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS). A survey of a common boundary with Provincial lands (jurisdictional boundary) will need to be conducted by a surveyor who has a license to practice surveying in that province and is also a CLS.

Recommendations

- The surveyor hired, could be licenced in both jurisdictions (Canada and Provincial) for any projects, as there may be unforeseen work along jurisdictional boundaries.

6. EXTENT OF LABOUR FOR THE TYPE OF BOUNDARY SURVEYED

Jurisdictional boundary surveys cost more than parcel surveys or right-of-way surveys. According to the cost study, on average it took over three times the total number of hours of labour to produce jurisdictional boundary surveys than either parcel surveys or right-of-way surveys. *“This might be explained by the requirements to tie into both Provincial and Federal monumentation, which essentially doubles the distance surveyed.”*

7. CLARITY OF THE SCOPE OF WORK

The clarity of scope of work can have an impact on the cost of surveys. The cost study report indicates that the average total labour was 31% higher when the scope was not clear for the project. Clarification of the type of survey required for the intended transaction, prior to the field work starting is key to ensuring the project outcome is what was expected and needed.

Recommendations

- Good communication with the surveyor and other stakeholders in the project will be key in ensuring that the project is completed efficiently as possible. Frequent communication between the surveyor and Lands Manager will enable clarity in the scope of work amongst all parties involved.
- Local knowledge provided by the Land Manager can often reduce the risks of the surveyor. Land managers should discuss the project and their knowledge of site and survey conditions thoroughly, prior to issuing a contract.
- Utilization of local resources (survey assistants, accommodation and transportation rental) can reduce costs and increase capacity.