Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS)
Idaho NSPS Director’s Report
Submitted by Stewart Ward, Idaho NSPS Director

As the newly elected NSPS Director for Idaho (elected in March 2018), I don’t have a lot to report back to NSPS.

However, this a major Idaho state legislative issue that is affecting Idaho surveyors right now. During the 2018 Idaho legislative session, the Idaho trespass law (I.C 6-202) was revised. The revised law redefines trespass excludes certain people; customers entering a business, meter readers, postal workers, utility company personnel, and owner or operator of any right-of-way or easement. Land surveyors were not included in the exclusions. This was, and still is, a major cause of concern for surveyors in Idaho. ISPLS and the Idaho State licensing board worked to include an exclusion for surveyors and even introduced a revised right-of-entry bill that would give surveyors access to public and private survey monuments. The revised trespass law includes a criminal trespass (I.C. 18-7008) as well. A person, or surveyor, convicted of a criminal trespass is guilty of a misdemeanor, a $300 fine for the first offense and six (6) months in jail. As you know, three (3) misdemeanors is a felony. Hopefully this never happens, but once convicted of a felony, a surveyor will lose his/her license in Idaho and any other state.

ISPLS and the state licensing board are currently working on legislation for the 2019 session to revise the state right-of-entry statute (I.C. 54-1230) to give exceptions to land surveyors within the state. The current statute only includes government surveyors in the state.

Idaho is finalizing the schedule for the 2019 ISPLS Convention. The convention will be held February 19-22, 2019 at the Shoshone-Bannock Event Center in Fort Hall, ID. The key speakers will be Charlie Tucker, “Railroad Surveying 101” on Friday, February 22, and Herbert Stoughton, speaking on ethics, legal descriptions, map projections, title research for surveyors, and the SPCS 2022 and Wednesday, February 20 and Thursday, February 21.

ISPLS, along with individual surveyors and companies, has donated $850 to the “Get Kids into Survey” campaign by Elaine Ball with Elaine Ball Marketing. We look forward to seeing our society logo on a future poster and encourage other state societies, businesses and individuals to support this campaign as well.