



Case Study

Magellan MobileMapper CE Flawless In
More than 5000 Hours of Field Operation



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Tom Caperton and his son, Stephen, have been flagging and painting timber parcel boundaries for DeNoon Lumber Company, an Ohio-based lumber and timber company, using a MobileMapper CE for the past three and a half years. With Caperton's non-stop work load, he estimates he's in the field operating the MobileMapper CE about 30 hours virtually each and every week during the past 3 ½ years. Caperton swears by his MobileMapper CE. "We put a lot of wear on it. We work in a lot of rough places," says Caperton. "I've never had the MobileMapper CE fail me, never a reboot, never a hang-up, never a repair; we've never done anything to it in almost four years of virtually continuous service."

After DeNoon buys the timber on a parcel, Caperton is asked to flag and paint the harvest boundaries to ensure DeNoon's harvesting crews do not encroach upon adjacent properties. DeNoon operates between 10 and 15 timber harvesting crews working 150 to 200 parcels annually in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Using a MobileMapper CE with TDS SOLO Field GIS mapping software, Caperton is continually on the move from timber parcel to timber parcel throughout the region. His schedule is so hectic Caperton says, "Sometimes logging crews are waiting for us on site when we arrive."

Caperton carries an external antenna in his backpack as well as the MobileMapper Beacon. With the backpack external antenna, Caperton says he gets meter to sub-meter accuracy. "The timber harvest crews are instructed to leave a small buffer zone between the flagged boundaries and the harvest line" he says. He uses SBAS and WAAS corrections. But because most of the areas he works in are not serviced by beacons and often he is down in deep ravines, a beacon signal is not always available. All of Caperton's work is done in real-time. "We never go back to the office to post-process data. We must flag and paint while we are on the parcel."

Editors note: Additional information, including photos, a fuller story about Caperton's GIS effort, is available on request.

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