

# In Memoriam

## James A. Simpson, PE PLS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of BLM riparian survey specialist and mentor to many, James A. Simpson.



Jim graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1950 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. He held a U.S. mineral surveyor's license and surveyed many of the uranium claims in New Mexico as well as mineral claims in Oregon. In 1966, he earned his master's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University on a teaching fellowship and accepted a position at Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, Ore. In 1971, the Bureau of Land Management asked him to design a training program for Cadastral surveyors at the University of Portland, and in 1976 he was accepted for the new BLM position of specialist in riparian boundary surveys with nationwide responsibilities in water boundary determinations. In that position, he traveled extensively and testified in many court cases for the government. He is the author of many professional papers and publications, the last of which is the manual, "River and Lake Boundaries," which is held in high regard by his fellow surveyors. Jim drove with his wife from Kingman, AZ to Durango and presented a well-attended seminar at their 2007 Four Corners conference. His dedication to teaching was evident as he presented an 8-hour course at age 84.