MARKING PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

It is highly recommended that before you have any timber harvesting or timber stand improvement practices performed in your woodlot, that you mark your boundaries. Boundary marking is for your protection, to avoid trespassing and timber theft problems.

By marking your property boundary lines properly the first time, you’ll avoid delays in the application or recertification process and the possibility of losing your status under OFTL. The essentials for doing it right:

1) Mark trees and/or fenceposts no more than 66 feet apart along the boundary line.
2) Place your marks at about 4-1/2 feet above ground level on both sides of the tree or fencepost along the line of sight.
3) At property corners, place three marks, one atop the next, on two sides of trees or fenceposts along the line of sight.
4) If there isn’t a tree in the right place along the boundary line, use a fencepost instead.
5) Follow the D0s and DON’Ts at the right.
Boundary Marking DO’s:

- Use good quality high visibility oil based paint.
- If using spray paint, use tree marking paint.
  - Place marks close enough to see from mark to mark during the summer.
- As a courtesy, notify your neighbors that you will be marking line for the OFTL Program.
- Mark no more than 100 feet between marks. Surveyor stakes are generally placed too far apart for this program and are easily removed.

Boundary Marking DON’T’S:

- Don’t mark dead trees.
- Don’t use cheap spray paint.
- Don’t use ribbons, flags, wire flags, or anything easily pulled down, off, or out of the ground.

Paint on boundary trees is considered the minimal “permanent” marking allowable. Ribbons do NOT qualify as permanent marking of boundaries. Posts can also be used but avoid stakes that can easily be pulled out of the ground. Boundaries of the perimeter of the property need marked. Existing roads, that are property boundaries, do not need to be painted along the road, but any intersection of the property boundary with a road should be marked and easily seen from the road.

Purchase quality oil-based paint. Machinery yellow is recommended but blue, orange, and red work also. Boundary marking paint is available through major paint suppliers, forestry supply companies, or farm supply stores. Don’t use inexpensive aerosol cans of spray paint as they do not often last for very long.

Place the marks on either side of the tree in the direction the line is going. If there is no tree on the line, locate a tree that is within 6 feet of the property line without going over on your neighbor or place a post on the line and paint it.

Refresh as needed to maintain highly visible property lines.

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