Canada/United States
International Boundary Commission
CANADA/USA INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
Longest Undefended Border in the World

Boundary length: 8891 km
Boundary (land): 5061 km
Boundary (water): 3830 km
Over 8600 markers demarcate the Boundary
PROCESS OF BOUNDARY DEFINITION

- Delimitation
- Demarcation
- Delineation
DELIMITATION OF THE CANADA/USA BOUNDARY

1783 Of Peace
1794 Jay
1814 Ghent
1818 Convention
1842 Webster-Ashburton
1846 Oregon
1892 Convention
1899 Agreement
1903 Convention
1905 Exchange of notes
1906 Convention
1908 Treaty
1909 Treaty
1910 Treaty
1925 Treaty
1960 International Boundary Commission Act
1984 Award of World Court

Meeting of the Alaska Boundary tribunal in 1903
MANDATE

To maintain the demarcation and delineation of the land and water boundary between Canada and the United States and to regulate all construction within 10 feet of the boundary line
BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE

- Planning
- Vegetation Management
- Monumentation
- Surveys
Planning

- 15-YEAR MAINTENANCE CYCLE
- PUBLIC RELATIONS AND LIAISON
- PERSONNEL
- SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT
Vegetation Management
Monumentation

• Infrastructure of Canada – US Boundary
• Restoration and Maintenance
MONUMENT TYPES
SURVEYS
Halls Stream – a Case Study
1923 Map of part of Halls Stream scale 1:6000
2000 Photomap of Halls Stream

CANADA

QUÉBEC

UNITED STATES

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Halls Stream – Alternative Solutions

1. Amend the treaty of 1908
2. Physically move the present watercourse
3. Leave the present situation as is
4. Demarcate the present boundary
GEOGRAPHY

A. Gulf of Maine
B. Passamaquoddy Bay
C. St-Croix River
F. Southwest and South Line

Grading and placing grass seed to facilitate the use of mowers on eastern boundary
H. Highlands

Highlands Survey

Mount Slide Down

“Crooked” boundary

Mount Pisgah

Vista Clearing
J. 45th Parallel

Haskell Library
K. St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes
(2700km of water boundary but only a total of 1 km of land boundary along The Ontario/USA Border)

GPS Lake Huron

Height of land portage

Typical shape for Reference Monument

Survey on the bridge
L. Lake of the Woods to Lake Superior

Portaging canoe during survey

GPS survey at Reference Monument 1237

Camping is at times necessary in this remote area
M. 49th Parallel

cast-iron boundary monument on the prairies

49th parallel along B.C./Idaho
P. Southeast Alaska

Vista Clearing, Alsek River

Cleared Vista, Taku River
P. Southeast Alaska

Dangers

Crossing Cascade Creek with a trolley

Footprints?
More of Southeast Alaska

Use of helicopter in remote areas

Flying in helicopter over White Pass Valley
Q. 141st Meridian

Alaska Highway crossing vista with BC on the right

Triangulation station near Beaufort Sea