



GPS Satellite

Prism Pole

GPS Receiver

Total Station

Control Point

What does a Surveyor do?

The Division of Water has a surveying section that takes measurements and makes maps of floodplain areas.

High in the sky is a **GPS Satellite**. GPS stands for the Global Positioning System. On the left is a **GPS receiver** on a tripod. The satellite sends a radio signal that the receiver picks up. The receiver will tell the land surveyor where he or she is on the earth. The land surveyor calls this place a **control point**.

In the center is a surveying instrument called a **Total Station**. Near the tree on the right is a land surveyor holding a **prism pole**. The total station is set up on a control point that was previously located with the GPS. By pointing the total station to the prism pole, the surveyor measures the location of the pole. After measuring enough points in the area, the surveyor can use that information and make a map.