

Cadastral Data Framework Layer Status Report

INTRODUCTION

The 1999 Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Land Information System (OLIS) Fund to help fund the creation of a statewide cadastral base map for facilitating and improving Oregon's property tax mapping system and for providing other Geographic Information System (GIS) benefits, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 306.132 and 306.135. The resulting Oregon Map Project (ORMAP) evolved as a model project for maintaining tax lot data, and other cadastral data, to produce a standard set of digital tax maps for the entire state. See <http://www.ormap.com/>. The tax lot layer has been identified as one of the key base layers within the Oregon Geographic Information Council's (OGIC) Framework Initiative.

Targets, both intermediate and long term, have been set within the ORMAP program to achieve uniform technical specifications that will enable public and private GIS applications while supporting the needs of the Assessment and Taxation (A&T) system. For a variety of reasons, not all cadastral data provided by the counties to the state conform at this time to guidelines established in the "*Cadastral Data Exchange Standard*" as developed by the OGIC Cadastral Framework Implementation Team (FIT). The guidelines were developed to be software-neutral and as easy to use as possible, while still providing enough detail about tax lot data to serve the goals and vision of the ORMAP project.

WHERE WE WERE / WHERE WE ARE

Counties provide their tax lot data to the Department of Revenue (DOR) for the purpose of achieving the ORMAP goals, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 306.132 and 306.135, but these data are not shared by DOR with other state agencies *unless* DOR receives specific authorization from the County Assessor to release the data. Additionally, limitations on any subsequent use and disclaimers on liability are prescribed by agreement with each county.

In January, 2008, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) requested from DOR the current county tax lot data (as it existed within ORMAP) to aid Measure 49 claimants in the determination of their options for initiating a Measure 49 claim. Working with the Oregon State University Digital Library, DLCD has designed a web portal that enables claimants to enter their tax lot identification number or address and then zoom to a map of the tax lot overlaid with each of the restrictive resource layers used in the Measure 49 program. Among other things, the portal is intended as a service provided by DLCD to inform taxpayers of issues that otherwise might have to be addressed by counties.

In late January, 2008, DOR sent to counties a request for authorization for the DOR to provide the tax lot data to DLCD. Half the counties (18) responded affirmatively, although several expressed some reservations, and at least one county objected in writing. Concerns were expressed about the disclaimer language, the accuracy of the base data, and what was perceived as a lack of observance of certain procedures and protocols.

As a result of these concerns, the nature of the data being displayed at the web portal and the disclaimers that apply are in flux, and the data are either still not available in the portal at the time of this writing or are just now available (<http://www.oregonexplorer.info/LandUse/M49Analyzer/>).

Pre-dating the aforementioned Measure 49 data sharing request, the Cadastral FIT forwarded a proposal to DAS-GEO that would establish a fund in the amount of \$36,000 total for the 2007-09 biennium whereby each county would receive \$1,000 compensation to offset costs incurred by the county for providing their tax lot data according to the “*Cadastral Data Exchange Standard*”. That proposal was approved recently by OGIC.

By accepting compensation, each participating County will agree to allow DOR to make the tax lot data available to other state agencies in accordance with the FIT standard. This equates to a licensing of the local data for use by all state agencies for the conduct of State business, with no redistribution of the data to other non-State parties. Importantly, a data sharing agreement would necessarily be entered into with each county specifying the terms and conditions (including limitations on liability) whereby each county is willing to share their data with DOR and other state agencies.

When fully implemented, the Cadastral FIT plan and data sharing agreement should go a long ways toward effectively and efficiently addressing future data request needs represented by the recent DLCD/Measure 49 example.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

The Cadastral Framework Implementation Team, working in conjunction with the ORMAP Technical Group, is currently developing a plan, including business requirements, for counties to apply for funds in exchange for tax lot data that conform to the data exchange standard. Allowing for input from the stakeholders, the plan should be completed by July 1, 2008.

BENEFITS

The business purposes served by fully implementing the Cadastral FIT plan and data sharing agreement include:

- Reduces DOR data processing costs since each county submits their data in a standardized format.
- Provides a formal means of data sharing based on a contractual arrangement with standard monetary compensation.
- Creates a Statewide tax lot base as part of the Framework Initiative.
- Provides easier access to tax lot data for all state agencies.
- Establishes a “quid pro quo” arrangement between local governments and the state.
- Promotes government efficiency and optimizes government services.
- Avoids unnecessary duplication of effort and cost, and improves government interactions.
- Supports government business processes and provides new strategic capabilities.
- Advances the timeframe for availability of standardized tax lot data throughout the state.
- Builds a foundation for supporting other state, regional, and local GIS applications.
- May be used as a model for developing data sharing agreements for other datasets.