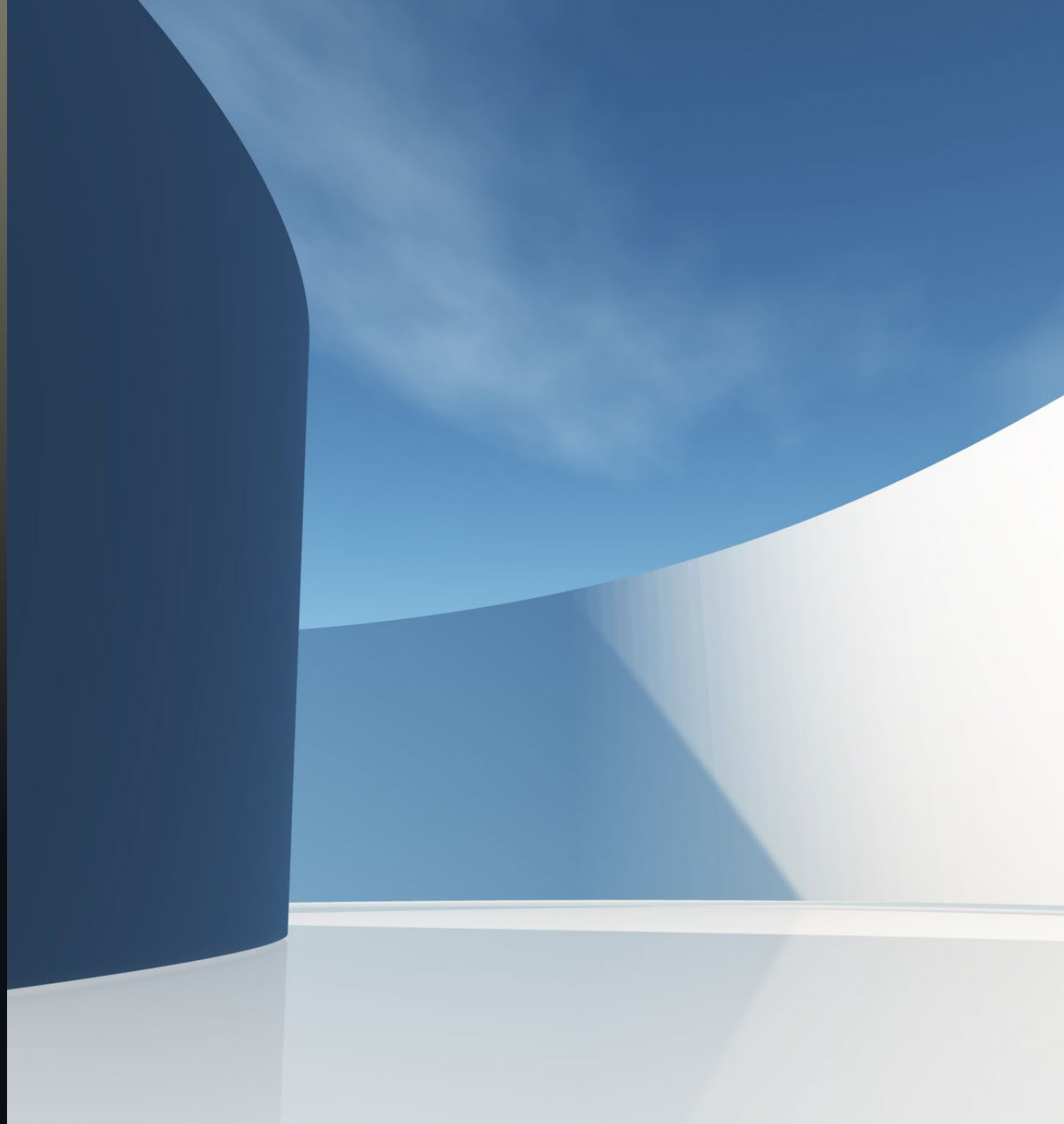



Oregon EJ Mapping Tool Decision Points

BACKGROUND INFORMATION




Decision Points: Why are they important?

Composite indices are complex and there are many options for the EJ Council to choose from that will determine how the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool is structured and how the information is displayed.



HB 4077, sections 10-12 include language that will help guide the EJ Council through the decision-making process, but the content leaves a lot of room for flexibility.



All environmental justice mapping tools get evaluated, critiqued, and scrutinized. Therefore, it is important to have a rationale that supports each decision made in the development of the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool.

DECISION POINTS 1-10

#1

- Indicator domain selection

#2

- Geographic units (tracts, grids, etc.)

#3

- Geographic designations
- Geographic comparisons

#4

- Domain/indicator weighting

#5

- Domain aggregation (multiplicative, additive, etc.)

#6

- Data standardization (percentiles, z-scores, other)

#7

- Indicator selection - community listening session priorities and data gaps

#8

- Sensitivity analysis results - revisit indicator selection and data gaps

#9

- EJ community thresholds/flags

#10

- EJ mapping tool visualizations & reporting

Geographic Units

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING
DECISION POINT 2

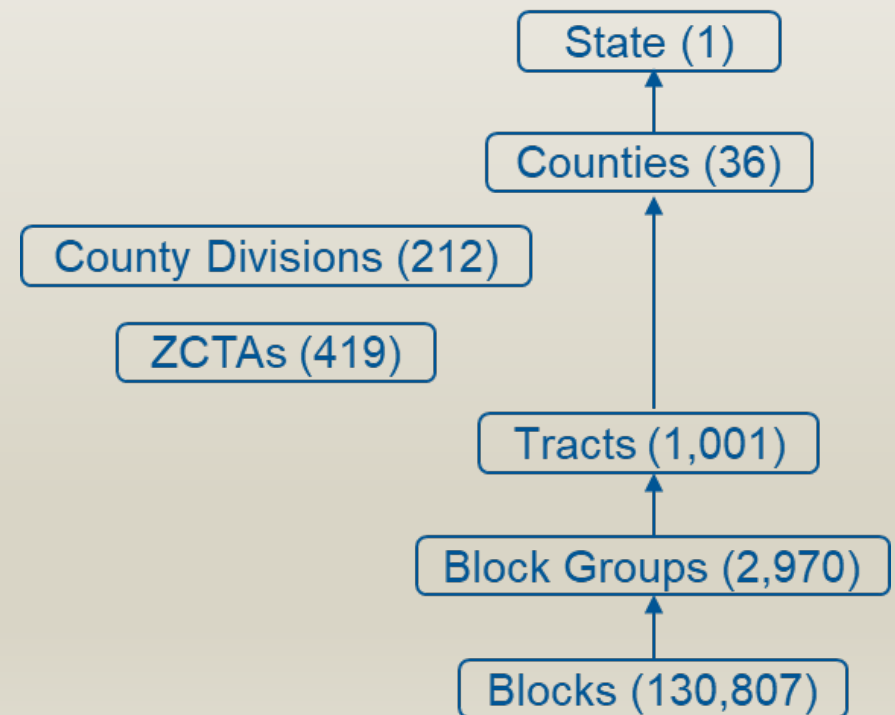
ADOPTION DATE: APRIL 11, 2025

[APRIL 11, 2024 RECORDING LINK](#)

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

What are geographic units?

- Geographic units are the spatial boundaries that will be used to define Oregon communities.
- Examples of geographic units include:
 - Census block groups
 - Census tracts
 - Census county divisions
 - Census zip code tabulation areas
 - Neighborhood boundaries
 - Uniform grids
 - Hybrid of geographic units



Why are geographic units important?

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Data reliability, privacy, and security concerns

- The size of geographic units affect the reliability of data and whether data can be displayed due to privacy and security rules.

Data aggregation concerns

- Some data will need to be aggregated by natural resources agencies to fit the geographic units that are selected.

Availability concerns

- Some data are not available for smaller geographic units, like block groups, and may not be adaptable to fit within those units.

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Methodology Workgroup Recommendation:

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Methodology Workgroup recommends **Census tracts** for the primary geographic unit defining community boundaries in the first version of the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool.

The Methodology Workgroup also recommends the inclusion of additional geographic units in the EJ Mapping Tool including Census county divisions, zip codes, and county boundaries in the second version of the mapping tool.

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Methodology
Rationale

Census tracts are the smallest geographic unit that many American Community Survey data are available at with a reasonable degree of reliability.

Census tracts are used as the primary layer in most state and federal EJ mapping tools and are the standard for many community-based mapping tools.

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Methodology Workgroup note to the EJ Council:

“The Methodology Workgroup acknowledges that Census tracts do not represent how most Oregonians identify their community.

However, we are constrained by the data available to us.”

ADOPTED DECISION POINT 2

Census Tracts for the primary geographic unit defining community boundaries for first version



Inclusion of Census County divisions, zip codes, and county boundaries for future versions