

# **Strategic Plan for ORMAP Wasco County, OR 1/21/2003**

## **Overview**

The Wasco County GIS is unique in that no single agency in the area has the resources to solely fund it. Therefore a consortium of public and private entities has been formed to create and maintain the system. This consortium's foundation is built on the concept that everyone pays their "fair share".

The goal is for a "share" to be determined by taking the proposed GIS budget, subtracting non-GIS-related activities from it (primarily IT activities, as the GIS Coordinator also acts as the Systems Administrator for the Public Works building), and dividing the remainder equally between all funding entities.

Currently the Wasco County General Fund picks approximately 25% of the budget, plus all overhead (utilities, supervision, administrative support, etc.). The other Members split the rest.

## **Member Types and Costs**

There are two types of membership:

1. Payment of "fair share" of GIS Department budget, and approval of the Steering Committee. The Wasco County Court has final say in the matter. The fair-share for fiscal 2002-03 is \$5,900.

The following entities fall in this category:

Wasco County Public Works (paid \$36,000)

Wasco County Surveyor

City of The Dalles

Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal District

Northern Wasco County PUD

Mid Columbia Fire and Rescue

Northwest Aluminum Company (withdrew 1/1/03 due to weak economy)

2. Data exchange. If the potential member has data which the majority of the Steering Committee finds valuable, AND the potential member can demonstrate that they cannot provide funding (not that they don't want to or can't afford to), AND they agree to actively pursue other sources to find funding, the Steering Committee can vote them in.

Non-Funding members do not have a vote.

The USDA Service Center in The Dalles is the only entity currently in this category.

### **Data Dissemination**

Wasco County has a network with centralized file servers. GIS data is stored on the Servers so that all connected departments can access it. Departments use either ArcView3.x (currently Assessor, Planning, Public Health) or an internal website with maps powered by ArcIMS3.1 (Public Works) for access. Funding partners receive shapefiles and dwg (drawing) files.

In the future we would like to make at least some of the data freely available via an Internet web interface.

### **Products and Data Sales**

Members receive free access to all (non-confidential) data stored in the GIS. Maps can be printed out, and technical support supplied, on a limited, as-needed basis. Parcel data is updated and sent (in GIS, CAD, and tabular formats) to all members on a quarterly basis. All members are encouraged to freely share data and information with each other.

GIS data and maps are sold to non-members offset the costs to the membership. Prices are set to approximate costs the Steering Committee members are incurring in their lump-sum payments to the County. The prices are very high - this is due to the unique funding situation we are in. The contention is that if prices of outside sales are lower, there is no incentive to become or remain a member – and the entire program vanishes.

Authority to set prices is given in the Oregon Revised Statutes, section 190.

Data delivered to non-members typically has a long lead-time. The primary mission of the GIS is to serve the County government and its paying partners. Outside data sales are filled as time allows.

### **Core Data Layers**

The GIS will contain a set of core layers that staff will maintain for the County's various functions. Other layers are added as time and funding allows.

The core layers are as follows:

**Parcels.** Department of Revenue maintains the CAD drawings while the County will maintain the seamless GIS layer. The parcel layer has a link to the Assessor's database. Work on this layer is in the maintenance phase.

**Zoning.** A county-wide zoning layer which includes all towns as well as unincorporated areas. Also includes zoning layer from the National Scenic Area.

**Roads.** A Centerline layer of all public roads in the County. Non-gated private roads will also be captured. It is coordinated with the Public Works Department's IRIS database.

**Soils.** Simply a copy of the USDA – NRCS soils layers.

Non-core layers are added as time and funding allows. These layers include, but are not limited to Public Land Survey, hydrography, hypsography, various boundaries, addresses, and aerial photography.