

Oregon State Association of County Assessors
2008 Winter Conference
Gold Beach, Oregon
January 14-16, 2008

Cartography Breakout Session

At every winter conference for the Oregon State Association of County Assessors (OSACA), the counties send their cartography staff for their breakout sessions. This year there were speakers who spoke on several different topics that affect assessor's maps and legal descriptions of property. One of the topics this year was navigability. Dr. Jeff Kroft is the Senior Policy Specialist for the Land Management Division of the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) and Mark Schumock is an assistant attorney general in the natural resources section of the general counsel division of the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). They discussed the processes that are used to determine river navigability. This was a very timely talk as they were just finishing up DSL's study of an 83 mile section of the Rogue River in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Dr. Kroft discussed the federal requirement for determining a stream's navigability and how they applied it to the Rogue River study. He also talked about how the DSL investigated the history of the Rogue and its uses. Mr. Schumock was able to answer many of the legal questions that were asked by the study and how it will affect property in those counties. The cartographers had many questions, especially how this would affect the legal descriptions of property along the river.

The other speaker was Paul Levesque; Mr. Levesque has worked for Tillamook County, presently as Chief of Staff for the County Commissioners. He has also worked as a consultant to counties and law firms on public land issues and complex litigation. He is the author of a two volume history entitled, "A Chronicle of the Tillamook County Forest Trust Lands". Paul also serves on the faculty for the OSU County College.

Mr. Levesque spoke on two separate topics. The first was the history of foreclosure and how counties have disposed of those properties. Mr. Levesque talked about the processes required by the counties to foreclose on property and their options once they take possession of the property. One of the options is to keep the property for public use such as in Coos County and its Coos County Forest just north of Gold Beach.

He also spoke about "remnant parcels". These are the small parcels that are sometimes left over when property is subdivided and the legal descriptions inadvertently omit small strip(s) of property after the subdivision. This is a problem that needs to be solved by the cartographers as the counties must account for all property. Mr. Levesque spoke on how Tillamook County handles these parcels and suggested that all the cartographers consult their own county councils on how to resolve these issues.

The final sessions of the cartography breakout included an update from DOR's CIS Unit on new tools within the ORMAP/ESRI Parcel Editing Tools. This presentation was given by Rod Therriault from DOR and David Cutting from Lane County; Rod and David also answered questions from the cartographers on the use of the tools.

Phil McClellan, the ORMAP Coordinator, also gave an update of the ORMAP project and its funding, which the deposits have been down from the past few years. Phil also spoke of a grant

application presented to [DAS GEO's Framework Program](#) to help aid the counties in development of cadastral framework that meets the Data Exchange Standards. The Cadastral FIT requested the sum of \$36,000 to provide to the counties for their taxlot data as well as, real property attribute data, tax code boundaries, and map index boundaries. DOR would then put the data into a statewide shapefile and then provide it to state agencies only. DOR will administer this fund to participating counties upon the delivery and the signed agreement. To read the full request you can find a copy at, http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/EISPD/GEO/fit/framework_proposals.shtml.

Steve Lucker from DOR spoke about the continuing effort for Cartographer certification. After a 2-year pause the program is again on the department's agenda for development. The current focus is to design a "Level One" introductory course, as well as explore alternatives to training delivery (some web-based classes...?). He was asking for ideas and help in the effort.

Finally, the group got together for a roundtable discussion of issues that the cartographers were having around the state. This is a very useful tool for the cartographers as it is most issues that are not unique to the individual counties. This session allows the cartographer to get advice from other counties on how they deal with common problems.