



Oregon

1. Organizational Approach to GIT:

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) (<http://www.odf.state.or.us/>) has increased its use of GIT for forestry related work in recent years. The ODF is self-governing in its use of GIT within the natural resource branch of Oregon state government. ODF currently uses GIT in a variety of operational or strategic planning functions in virtually every program and field office. ODF has approximately eight full-time and five part-time or temporary staff devoted to GIT. ODF's Salem Headquarters has five full-time GIT staff in its GIS/Graphic Services Unit; two full-time GIT staff in its State Forest Management Program; and one full-time staff in its Resource Planning Program. This GIT staffs are located at ODF's Salem Headquarters, and provide high-level data development, distribution and analysis capability. The GIS/Graphic Services Unit provides support over the range of ODF programs (including to field GIT staff), while the Forest Management and Resource Planning Programs provide program specific support. Field GIT staffs provide GIS support directly to field operations. In addition, all ODF district offices have staff assigned as District GIS Coordinators. For some, this is the primary function of their position. For most; however, this is a secondary role, and little time is spent doing GIS related work. The Unit's manager, who serves as ODF's lead GIT contact, is responsible for providing overall direction for the department in its use of GIS, as well as participating on multi-agency GIS policy committees and managing the department's GIS/Graphic Services Unit. Although the ODF's GIT capabilities allow it to conduct work in-house, it also relies on both county and federal government agencies, as well as private sector resources. ODF has formulated a Strategic Plan, Directive and Operations Manual regarding its use of GIT (<http://www.odf.state.or.us/gis/gisman.html>). The department is still in the process of fully implementing these policies, and expects to continue movement in the direction of department-wide GIT. Issues pertaining to GIT at ODF include full integration of GIT into department operations (and at what level), increasing GIS staffing in the field, and providing a level of central support staff appropriate to needs over time. Salem staff is currently responsible for developing base data and providing products derived from this data. Some of this work may shift to the field, and the Salem staffing level may decrease.

2. GIT Applications and Data Utilized:

Several high level design and analysis projects are conducted using ArcInfo™ by the GIS/Graphics Unit, the State Forest Management Program and the Resource Planning Program at ODF's Salem Headquarters. ArcView™ is also used at the Salem Headquarters and is the primary GIS tool used at most district offices. Several custom Map Objects applications are also being used at a variety of field offices to assist with locating **fires**, coordinating dispatch and communications, and addressing **private and state land** issues including reforestation, **natural resource protection** such as soils, and **water** resources, as regulated by the Forest Practices Act. The Forest Inventory Reporting System (FIRS) is a MapObjects application that tracks various components of fire risk such as lightning to provide spatial information about possible fire outbreak locations. ODF also employs GIS and GPS in real-time **fire** mapping efforts, including on-site mapping of large project fires with the assistance of GIS staff and equipment in vans at fire camps. In addition, digital orthophotos are used for **fire** preplanning efforts. Another MapObjects application is the Forest Activity Notification System (FANS), which is used by field foresters to identify activities that impact the forest and implement plans for **protection**. FANS is a new system that is just beginning to be used, and will undergo further development. Digital orthophotos are also used by field foresters for **private land** management.

The Resource Planning Program uses GIS for **analysis and planning** at the landscape level. The Program uses some digital orthophotos for site specific verification, but focuses on landscape level work using satellite imagery processed by private contractors and Oregon State University (OSU). These remotely

sensed (RS) data are developed into ArcInfo™ coverages pertaining to vegetation classification and stand size. At some point in the future, the Program may move towards LIDAR use for analysis and planning efforts, depending on availability of funds. Additional data being used by ODF come from a variety of sources, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), private contractors, counties, and in-house production. ODF also processes data, including digital orthophotos. These data are acquired from the statewide GIS Coordinator, as well as other state agencies. ODF has also worked with OSU and other entities on joint analysis or data development projects. Examples of data imported or contracted out include base layers (roads, hydrology, etc.) as well as some imagery. Data that ODF develops internally includes administrative boundaries, State Forest Land inventory data and information required under the Forest Practices Act, such as attributing fish presence on a stream data set at the 1:24,000 scale. ODF also enhances base data (addition of road or stream linework, or attributes). RS data currently being used includes statewide 1995 black and white digital orthophotos, various additional aerial photographs (mostly non-digital), and a limited amount of satellite imagery, used primarily by ODF's Resource Planning Program.

3. Statewide and Other GIT Linkages:

The official state GI/GIT lead office is the Office of the Statewide GIS Coordinator, located in the Information Resources Management Division (IRMD) of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), which serves as the information policy and technology division for DAS. As described above, ODF acquires data from this and other agencies, as well as OSU. The Coordinator is responsible for staffing the Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC) (<http://www.sscgis.state.or.us/coord/ogic.htm>), the primary state GI/GIT policy coordinating group. The Coordinator is also responsible for facilitating partnerships to develop GI/GIT, reducing redundant GI/GIT activities, and integrating GIT and IT. In addition, the Coordinator also supervises the activities of the Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse (OGDC) (<http://www.sscgis.state.or.us/index.html>). OGDC disseminates and provides access to statewide Foundational data for ODF, other state agencies and organizations, and the general public. In addition, OGDC assists with statewide GI/GIT coordination activities. ODF actively coordinates activities with OGDC and the Statewide GIS Coordinator, and participates on OGIC to resolve GIS policy issues.