

## Oregon Geoscience Workgroup

Minutes of June 19, 2003 meeting

### Attendees:

Fred Lissner, OWRD  
Doug Terra, OWEB  
Paul Staub, DOGAMI

Courtney Cloyd, USFS  
Ian Reid, NRCS

Andrew Rorick, USFS  
Margi Jenks, DOGAMI

The focus of the meeting was to review a first draft of an Oregon geologic data content proposal. The meeting concluded with a presentation about soils data content and standards.

### Geology

Margi presented the current conceptual phase of the geology data content by reviewing a list of tables/fields along with their definitions and relationships. The content for geology has four components: spatial data; metadata; descriptive (lithology) data; and geologic data. Since the documents distributed in the meeting are included with this summary, only highlights of the review and discussion follow:

- It was noted that the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) data model (presented in last meeting) was the inspiration for much of what is proposed for the Oregon geologic model. Margi stressed that the Oregon model is designed for the statewide geologic map compilation project, whereas the IGS model is designed for individually compiled 100k tiles. Furthermore, the intent is to provide full lineage to the original geologic map units that go into the statewide compilation.
- There was considerable discussion regarding the proposed use of logical or true/false field types in the Oregon model. These fields are proposed to cover geochemistry, petrography, and paleontology. In the interests of completing statewide geologic coverage for Oregon in a timely manner, where source information contains reference to these topics, a logical field would suffice to indicate this to the user. The expectation being that a user would then pursue the original source document if they needed such information. The model would not contain this information. Comments were made that 'good model design excludes the use of logical field types'; and this practice 'shortchanges' the user by not providing the information directly in the table(s). An alternative suggestion was made to include 'hotlinks' to any available relevant image/viewing file. These fields are likely candidates for future extensions to the Oregon geologic data model.
- A question asked whether wording from source mapping would be judged or assessed before including as data in the compilation. Margi responded that the original wording would go directly into the Oregon compilation and again stressed that the intent is to carry the source data lineage in the model.
- Further discussion centered on whether specific fields should be added/removed from the model, whether alternative tables should be established, alternative naming of tables, and how fields indicate certainty regarding geologic information.

The draft list of all tables, definitions and fields was e-mailed to the Geoscience workgroup for review and comment during the month of July, 2003. A revised version of the geologic data model will be presented at the next Geoscience meeting in October.

## Soils

Ian Reid of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon office, gave a presentation on NRCS soils data and soils standards. The Oregon data consists of county level soil surveys at 1:24,000 scale, collected within the last 30 years. These soil surveys are correlated regionally in the Portland NRCS office. The data collection and management system starts with field mapping methods that follow national standards for map construction, with digitizing done to NRCS standards, and culminating in the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO). The data is managed and maintained in the National Soil Information System (NASIS), which provides MS Access data outputs. The SSURGO data structure was briefly reviewed.

The Soil Geographic Data Standard is in the final stage of endorsement by FGDC. This document (available at: <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/documents/standards/soils/>) seeks to standardize the names, definitions, ranges of values, and other characteristics of soil survey map attribute data developed by the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS).

Ian provided links for further information:

### **SSURGO**

[http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/ssur\\_data.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/ssur_data.html)

**Soil Survey Documents, Standards, Procedures**

<http://soils.usda.gov/index.htm>

### **NASIS Home Page**

<http://nasis.nrcs.usda.gov/index.html>

### **FGDC Soil Geographic Data Standard**

[http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub2\\_2.html](http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub2_2.html)

Discussion is needed among Geoscience Workgroup members regarding how Oregon should proceed with the Soils layer. Do we want to adopt the Soil Data Standard that is in the final stage of endorsement by FGDC, or do we want to modify the standard for Oregon? We will discuss how to proceed at the next meeting.