

Oregon Geoscience – Soils Data Workgroup

Minutes of April 19, 2005 meeting

Attendees:

Chad McGrath, NRCS
Ian Reid, NRCS
Cy Smith, DAS/GEO
Diana Walker, ODA
Robert Harmon, OWRD
Jimmy Kagan, OSU/ONHP
Paul Staub, DOGAMI

This Geoscience – Soils group, in prior meetings, reviewed two proposals from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for possible OGIC/Framework funding assistance. One proposal was to update the STATSGO dataset for Oregon. This task has now been approved for funding by NRCS. The other proposal was to fund an effort to further populate the SSURGO dataset - tabular content only. At an Oregon Framework Implementation Team (FIT) meeting in December, 2004, further options were requested for potential OGIC/Framework funding.

The intent of this meeting was to discuss further options for how Oregon FIT/Geoscience could cooperate with the NRCS. The following ideas were discussed:

1. Apply the OGIC funds to a developing effort to collect LiDAR data for Oregon. Though LiDAR data is very useful for many applications including soil and geologic mapping, the effort to coordinate the acquisition, storage, and distribution of public domain LiDAR in Oregon is just beginning.
2. Apply the funds to the 2005 orthoimagery project. This option did not initiate much discussion.
3. Use a portion of the Soil data funds to sponsor two hands-on training sessions working with SSURGO data. The entire group supported this option. The goal of such training is to enable better understanding and usage of the SSURGO dataset. Preliminary plan is to schedule sessions in Portland and Salem.
4. NRCS at the national level is developing a 'Web Soil Survey' application, scheduled for start-up in June, 2005. This application will enhance online viewing/querying of the SSURGO data for any user-specified area of the U.S. This effort has direct application to a number of other Oregon Framework themes and a suggestion was made to apply Soil data funds to assist with this project, the benefit to Oregon being that the GEO office obtains the application for use in the planned Oregon GIS Utility. The group supported this option.

Action items from this meeting:

Training sessions – It was suggested that ~\$2,000 be allocated for the Soil Data training sessions. Paul will look into a Portland training site, possibly at PSU Geology computer lab. Cy will research Salem sites, possibly at Department of Revenue.

Web Soil Survey application – It was suggested that ~\$28,000 be allocated to this effort. Chad McGrath agreed to research the possibility of this option and to provide the specifications to Cy Smith. Time is of the essence here, as Soil Data funds will need a firm Intergovernmental Agreement finalized and signed before the end of this biennium (June 30, 2005).