



navigatOR news

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ORTHOIMAGERY AT YOUR SERVICE

It's been a long time coming, but the ortho-imagery portal is ready. The portal serves up the latest statewide aerial photos (orthoimagery) using cutting-edge technology. Browse Oregon's cities, mountains and deserts. Find your house by entering its address. If you want to download data, you can easily zoom to an area of interest and have it clipped, zipped, and shipped to you. There's a choice of coordinate systems.

If you prefer imagery on the fly, just add the Web Mapping Service (WMS) to your map document. Pan and zoom without the bother of storing large amounts of data on local drives or servers. Mix the imagery with other data to generate maps and make decisions. After installing a free viewer, add the imagery service as an object to office productivity applications, such as word processing and presentations (*see Dave's Tech Tip on the back page*). Wow your audience as you pan and zoom within the presentation. Check out the portal at <http://www.oregonexplorer.info/imagery>.

The orthoimagery portal, *Oregon Imagery Explorer*, is the first of several portals designed to provide easy and appropriate access to [Framework](#) data. It was developed in partnership with the Oregon State University Valley Library and is a fusion of visions involving [Oregon Explorer](#) and [navigatOR](#), Oregon's GIS utility. *Oregon Explorer* specializes in making natural resources information available to a wide audience. **navigatOR** makes Framework base data widely accessible. The [Institute for Natural Resources](#) was instrumental in carrying the concept forward.

The [Orthoimagery Framework Implementation Team](#), led by Randy Sounhein, Department of State Lands, provided guidance for imagery contract specifications. Cy Smith, Oregon's Statewide GIS Coordinator, in typical octopus fashion, kept the project on track and facilitated the partnerships.

The portal is hosted by the State Data Center. Dave Mather, of the Geospatial Enterprise Office, and OSU staff administer the site. A hearty thanks goes out to everyone involved in this ground-breaking project.



FRAMEWORK NEWS

There's a new Framework Coordinator at GEO. Gail Ewart, who has been coordinating Framework activities for nearly three years, will become Idaho's Geospatial Information Officer. Milt Hill has assumed the Framework Coordinator's responsibilities on six-month rotation from ODOT. For the past five years, Milt has managed environmentally focused GIS services and projects for ODOT's Maintenance and Environmental Programs. Prior to ODOT, Milt worked for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife as GIS Coordinator. Please welcome Milt in his new role. His phone number will be (503) 378-3157. His email remains the same (Milton.E.Hill@state.or.us). Check out all the Framework activities at <http://gis.oregon.gov>.



Dave's TECH TIP

For those who want to see orthoimagery in common office documents, navigatOR's imagery server, [Oregon Imagery Explorer](#), provides imagery streaming into a number of applications, including Microsoft® Word and PowerPoint.

The embedded image allows full, interactive pan and zoom of the state's color orthoimagery and is surprisingly fast. The URL is ecwp://imagery.oregonexplorer.info/ecwimages/2005orthoimagery.ecw.

First install the free software that enables this capability. Visit ermapper.com and register. Download *ER Viewer* that bundles with *ER Mapper Image Compressor*, and install.

Open *ER Viewer*, and select Help Topics "Opening an image from a URL via OLE" for full instructions. Questions, call Dave at (503) 378-2166 or e-mail: david.mather@state.or.us.

"CY"CHO BABEL

We haven't had a newsletter for quite a while and we're hoping this will be the start of a better communication trend for Oregon's geospatial community. There's always so much going on that it's difficult to take the time necessary to tell each other about it. Better communication should help keep us from duplicating each other's efforts and give us an enhanced sense of community. A community working and communicating well ultimately provides us with better support from each other and helps us do our jobs more efficiently.



One of the critical components of the [navigatOR](#) initiative is stewardship of the various Framework

datasets. Stewardship is management of state-wide, shared datasets, including integration of data that originates with multiple custodians (e.g., tax lots, city limits, road centerlines), integration of Framework datasets with each other and quality control. Stewardship is challenging because there's no existing mechanism in place to provide authority or accountability for one organization in government to manage shared data that many others rely on over time. Without some kind of system in place for this purpose, multiple organizations find it necessary to duplicate data development and management to ensure that they have uninterrupted access to reliable data needed to conduct their business.

The [Oregon Geographic Information Council](#) is in the process of designing an appropriate mechanism to accomplish stewardship for shared datasets. Establishing a means for this kind of collaborative government activity will take time, but we hope to have the details ironed out by the end of next year. Already, two agencies have taken on many of the responsibilities of data stewardship: ODOT for transportation Framework data and county boundaries, and the Oregon Dept. of Revenue for tax lots. Thanks to those two agencies for stepping up to this important role.

You Might Be A GIS Professional If:

- ◆ you hear the words spatial and enterprise and do not think of *Star Trek*
- ◆ your idea of curling up with a good book is with a Rand McNally Atlas
- ◆ you are the only person in your organization that realizes the term 'GIS system' contains a redundancy
- ◆ you can give directions without mentioning McDonalds or Starbucks
- ◆ you actually care about what datum was used
- ◆ you see an address and wonder how that codes into the centerline
- ◆ you find yourself critiquing Mapquest maps
- ◆ you can navigate a southbound trip without turning the map upside down
- ◆ you laugh at hikers who say "we're almost there, the GPS says it's just few hundred feet away"
- ◆ you get excited thinking about the next census!

Attribution: gisnuts.com/humor/forum