

Oregon HAZUS Users Group meeting
September 20, 2002
Oregon Emergency Management
595 Cottage St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Attendees

Ed Arabas	State Department of Administrative Services Oregon Geospatial Data Center
Cy Smith	State Department of Administrative Services Information Resources Management Division
Jim Kennedy	Oregon Emergency Management
Robin Faulkner	Yamhill County
Patty Rueter	Portland Office of Emergency Management
Dennis Sigrist	Oregon Emergency Management
Mark Darienzo	Oregon Emergency Management
Ed Parks	City of Beaverton
Amy Clark-Zimmerly	Washington County
Jett Seale	Linn County
Carol Hasenberg	Portland State University

Agenda

1. Presentation by Nate Wood, US Geological Survey, on "U.S. Geological Survey's Portfolio Analyzer: an interactive GIS linking science to natural hazard mitigation decisions"
2. Discussion of the draft standards and goals document for HAZUS use in Oregon
3. Discussion of a HAZUS data repository for Oregon and the newly formed HAZUS Resources Coalition (HRC)
4. Next Meeting

1. Nate Wood is a geographer with the Western Geographic Sciences Center of the US Geological Survey (USGS). He talked about his present project, the Portfolio Analyzer, which is a GIS-based economic model that allows users to develop and compare hazard mitigation strategies. It runs on

ArcView/ArcGIS. The economic impacts are market costs and do not take into consideration social costs. There is no information in the Portfolio Analyzer and it runs on local data only. It is an economic analysis, based on portfolio theory methodology, over an entire study area that strives to maximize community wealth, minimize uncertainty, and diversify mitigation investments across a study area. Analyses can be conducted based on hazard type or land use. It is an issue driven program. It compares potential mitigation policies rather than define the best policy. It is essentially a prioritization tool. It complements HAZUS. In the future it will take into account social, cultural and environmental concerns

2 and 3.

The need to improve HAZUS databases, the major problems with databases, and HAZUS education were the major topics of discussion. Data sets are different depending on their source. Local data requires tweaking to fit into HAZUS. There is a need to enlist help from county GIS to gather local data. Uniform data collection is important and standards for collection should be developed. The type of data that needs to be collected should be identified. Data should not be collected for data's sake but should fit a broader goal. Build the data set, then use an appropriate application tool (i.e HAZUS). Data development should be the focus, not the specific application program.

Educate public that HAZUS data collection is important for public safety. Educate about Hazard Mitigation Planning and that HAZUS is one tool to assist with planning. What will HAZUS be used for in the next five years? Emphasize what the product is and how it will be used. There needs to be a broader education effort to complement local training efforts. Elicit FEMA's help. Provide on-line HAZUS training.

Cy Smith brought up the Oregon Geographic Information Council's Framework Implementation Team (FIT). (www.gis.state.or.us/coord/ogeof.html). FIT is a joint federal, state, and local government effort that would obtain and maintain the best available baseline data for the state of Oregon. The Framework

Implementation Team (FIT) currently coordinates efforts on the 7 framework layers identified by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC): elevation, [hydrography](#), geodetic control, [tax lots](#) (cadastral), [transportation](#), [administrative boundaries](#), and [digital aerial photography](#) (orthoimagery). The FIT group has also defined several additional framework layers specific for Oregon: Bioscience, Climate, [Cultural](#), [Geoscience](#), Land Cover/Use, and Utilities. The Geoscience group is chaired by Paul Staub of DOGAMI.

Bring in HAZUS Users to talk at future meetings, for example Don Ballantyne and Stephanie Chang (I-5 corridor study), San Francisco Bay area users group, others. Invite Cy Smith to speak about FIT at our next meeting.

4. Next meeting

Cy Smith suggested having our meetings prior to the Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC) and FIT meetings (first week of December, March, June and September).