Land Use Planning in Oregon: The Quilt and the Struggle for Scale

Ethan Seltzer
Portland State University, dkes@pdx.edu

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Planning for States and Nation/States:
A TransAtlantic Exploration

15th-16th October 2012
UCD Newman House, St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2
Land Use Planning in Oregon: The Quilt and the Struggle for Scale

Ethan Seltzer
Dublin
October, 2012
Main Points

• After giving away planning authority to local jurisdictions, the State has been attempting to reassert its statewide interests in an environment that permits the scale for planning to be limited.

• Planning in Oregon is evidence of a continuum of effort, not a single initiative or moment in time.

• Oregon’s program is a reflection of the links there between landscape, politics, economy, and geography.

• Oregon’s contribution is a demonstration of the necessity of real and accountable relationships between local, regional, and state scales of interest and concern: multiple scales can coexist, successfully, and even, on occasion, work together.
Population per sq. mile

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Census 2000 Summary File 1
population by census tract.
Portland, Oregon
REGIONAL INTERESTS
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BY G.T. RENNER AND C.C. FAUNCE

Illustrations by the drafting section of the National Resources Board
Oregon Land Use Planning

- Legislature adopts pioneering 1973 statewide planning program (Senate Bill 100) to limit sprawl and protect forests and farms

- Legislation requires local plans to meet statewide goals; NO STATE PLAN!... creates LCDC

- Urbanization now focused inside urban growth boundaries
Oregon Land Use Planning Goals

• Process Goals: Citizen Involvement, Planning
• Development Goals: Recreation, Economy, Housing, Public Facilities and Services, Transportation, Urbanization
• Conservation Goals: Agricultural Land, Forest Land, Open Space/Scenic/Historic Resources, Air/Water/Land Quality, Natural Hazards, Energy, Willamette River Greenway
• Coastal Goals
Institutional Relationships

Citizens

Legislature

Governor

Laws of the State

Metro...Regional Functional Planning

Policy Committees

Cities...Comprehensive Planning

Planning Commission

LCDC...Policy and Acknowledgement

Counties...Comprehensive Planning

Planning Commission

DLCD

LUBA...Appeals
Lessons Learned

- Planning Matters.
- Things Take Time.
- Controversy Never Ends.
- Winning means being able to Collaborate and Compromise.
- The Landscape Keeps Us Honest.
- Many Issues Remain.
Thanks!
Ethan Seltzer  seltzere@pdx.edu