10-2012

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

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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.
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
- Coastal Goals
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!
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