



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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**Geographic Enterprise Office (GEO) / Dept. of Land Conservation & Development
(DLCD) Partnership
Frequently Asked Questions**



Q1: If GEO moves to DLCD, how can the GIS community be sure that GEO won't be commandeered to serve one agency's mission, resulting in a reduction of services?

A: GEO is physically moving to DLCD, but will remain organizationally within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Chief Information Office. The State Geographic Information Officer, Cy Smith, will report to the DLCD director for day-to-day administration. The structure of the GEO office and staff will continue with no change in responsibilities. The DLCD Director, Jim Rue, and the State Chief Information Officer (CIO), Alex Pettit, will meet on a quarterly basis to review GEO activities and the successes or challenges of the new arrangement.

GEO coordinates with government agencies to develop and manage geographic information. It communicates about GIS issues with users. It guides development of Oregon's GIS data standards and data sharing among state, federal, and local governments. GEO is also the State's point of contact for other organizations about geographic information and GIS. GEO also hosts the Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. All of these activities will continue under the new organizational structure and the services provided to all state agencies will not change.

Q2: Will interagency agreements or contracts with GEO be administered by DLCD or DAS?

A: All financial contracting and interagency agreements will be administered by DAS.

Q3: The Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with Esri is a significant agreement for the licensure of GIS software which directly affects the GIS activities of many state agencies. How does this move affect the administration of the ELA through the '15-'17 biennium?

A: The move will not change the GEO administration of the ELA during the '15-'17 biennium. All ELA invoicing to state agencies will occur the same as in past biennia - through DAS administrative channels. GEO will lead the negotiation and contracting with Esri for the next biennium in partnership with DAS.

Q4: Why does DAS no longer want to house and manage the GEO and the navigatOR program?

A: With the passage of HB3099, operational responsibility for Enterprise Technology Services (which includes the State Data Center) has been placed under the State CIO. As a result, the CIO does not have sufficient time to devote to GEO, OGIC ([Oregon Geographic Information Council](#)) and the navigatOR GIS program. Historically, the navigatOR program has had significant challenges getting firm commitments and support from DAS leadership, so physically moving the program closer to the agencies that benefit from it presents opportunities for better support in terms of funding, staffing, etc. At DLCD, the navigatOR program and GEO, with its enterprise mission, will enjoy enthusiastic support from the director and deputy director.

This effort is also in alignment with the State CIO's plan to place enterprise activities closer to agency business. The intention is to move away from the notion of having enterprise services and programs

centered in DAS. The move will allow GEO to more closely interact with all the organizations in the enterprise defined by the draft OGIC [Executive Order](#) (see Q7 below) which includes local governments, federal agencies, universities, tribes, regional governments, etc. The enterprise with which DAS is primarily concerned only includes state government.

Q5: Will GEO staff become DLCD staff when they move over?

A: No. GEO staff will remain DAS employees. However, DLCD management will provide day to day operational direction for GEO.

Q6: What happens if the GEO move doesn't provide the anticipated benefits?

A: The GEO move is considered a pilot for the '15-'17 biennium. The results will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, but particularly in the summer and fall of 2016 in preparation for the '17-'19 biennium. Physical and administrative adjustments may occur at any time during the current biennium as needed.

Q7: Will the Executive Order (EO 00-02) that established GEO at DAS be amended?

A: A new Executive Order that rescinds EO 00-02 has been endorsed by the Oregon Geographic Information Council following their September 2015 quarterly meeting. A draft of this EO can be found [here](#). The State CIO and the DLCD Director will forward it to Governor Brown's Chief of Staff for the Governor's review and signature.

Q8: At one time, I heard that the GEO move included an effort to create GIS-based Shared Services. Is the shared services initiative still in development?

A: The GIS shared services initiative was put on a temporary hold until the physical move of GEO to DLCD is complete. Once the GEO staff are settled into their new environment, the GIS shared services initiative will be re-visited. Beginning in 2016, Cy Smith will lead an effort to review the shared services vision and to begin the design and implementation of the Initiative with the consensus of the state agencies that may be impacted.

Q9: What is the long-term plan for the GEO/DLCD partnership? How will GEO be funded in future biennia?

A: At this time, the GEO/DLCD partnership is a pilot project that will allow the entities to explore the GIS shared services initiative and a new funding model for GEO. Beginning in 2016, DLCD and GEO will review the current funding mechanism and look for a better, more stable option for the future.

Q10: Where should ideas, suggestions, issues or concerns about this new arrangement and GEO service delivery be directed?

A: All comments should be directed to the DLCD Director, Jim Rue or the State CIO, Alex Pettit.

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