



# History & Development of the Oregon Coordinate Reference System

Oregon GPS Users Group  
Roseburg, OR  
15 March 2017

Ken Bays, PLS  
Lead Geodetic Surveyor  
Oregon Dept. of Transportation





# Overview

- Why the OCRS was developed. What was the need?
- Best practices used to design the OCRS
- Path & timeline to develop the OCRS
- Distortion maps: the original 20 and the 19 new OCRS zones

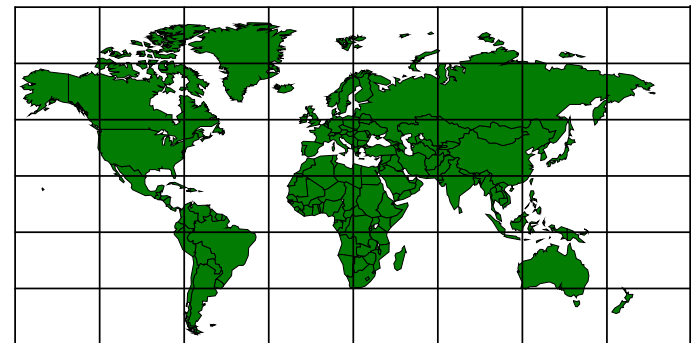
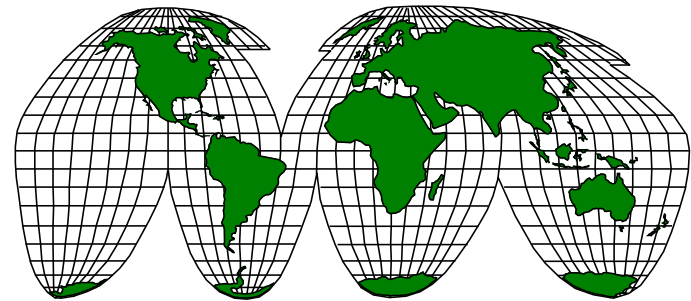


## Why the OCRS was developed: What was the need?

- Problems with the legacy State Plane Coordinate system
- ODOT Engineering Automation goals
  - Key Concepts for a 25 Year Time Horizon

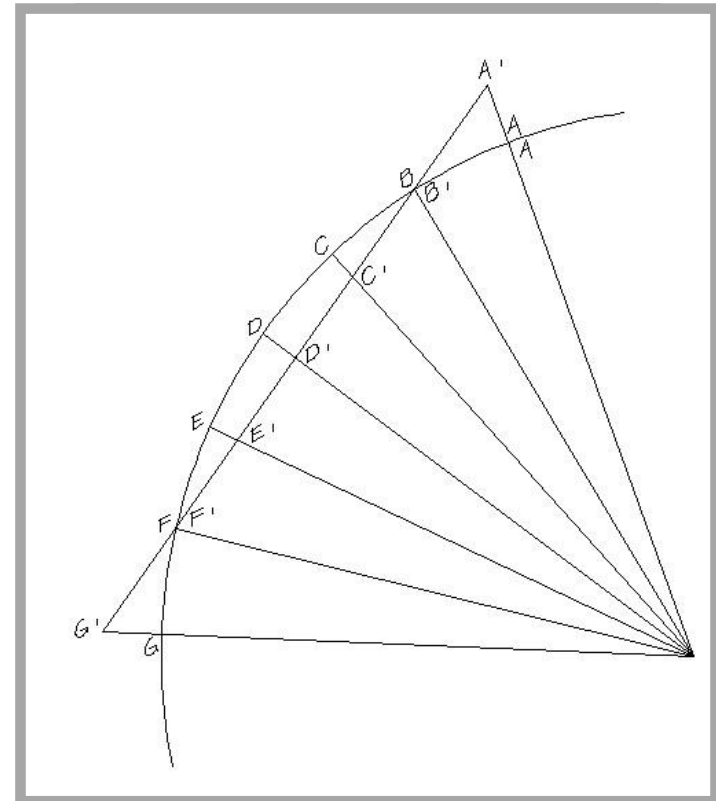
# Mapping Projections

- A mapping projection relates the coordinates of points on a **curved** earth's surface with the coordinates of the same points on a **plane**, or flat surface.
- Allows projection of a spherical surface onto a flat surface.



# Map Projection

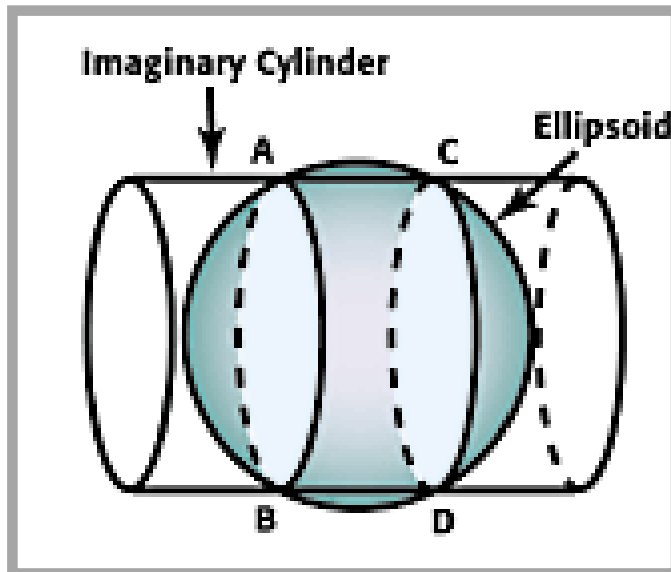
- It is impossible to represent a curved surface on a plane without introducing distortion of:
  - Angles
  - Azimuths
  - Distances
  - Areas
- An appropriate map projection must be chosen such that some of the four remain undistorted.



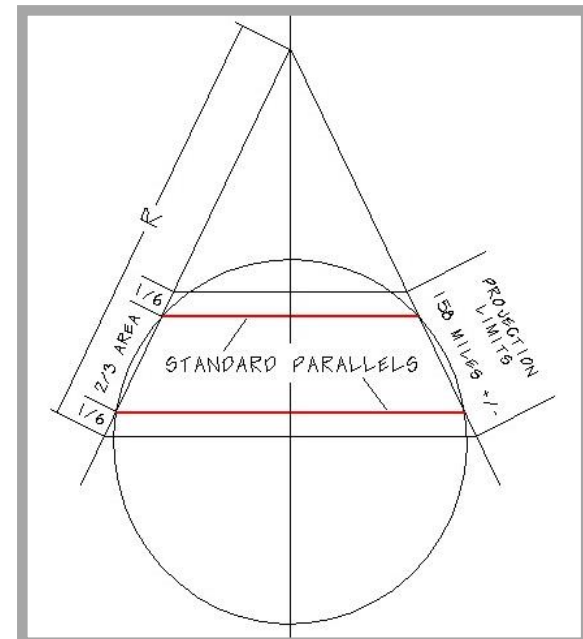


# State Plane Coordinate Systems

- Developed by USC & GS in 1933 at the request of an engineer from the North Carolina Highway Department
- Two main projection types used:



Transverse Mercator

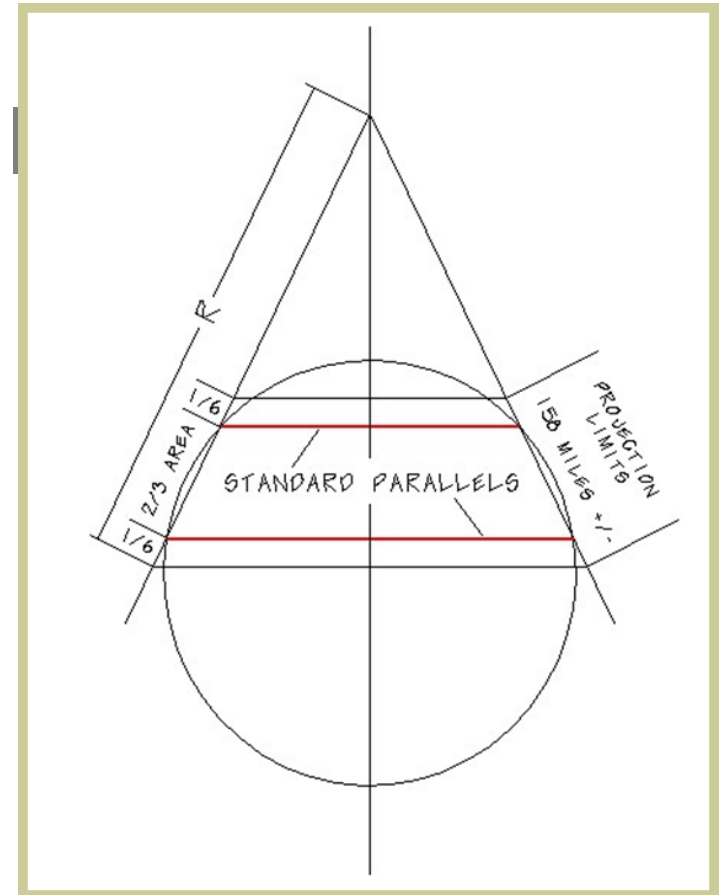


Lambert Conformal Conic



# Oregon State Plane System

- Developed by USC & GS in 1938
- Given legal status by Oregon in 1945
- Lambert Conformal Conic Projections
- 2 zones: North zone & South zone
- Each zone is 158 miles wide
- Maximum projection distortion **1:10,000**
- Original Ellipsoid used was at approximate sea level height or ground for North America
- **No consideration for distortion resulting from ground height above the ellipsoid**







## Problems with State Plane Coordinate Projections

- Do not represent ground distances
- Do not minimize distortion over large areas
- Do not reduce convergence angle
- Do not support modern surveying accuracy requirements



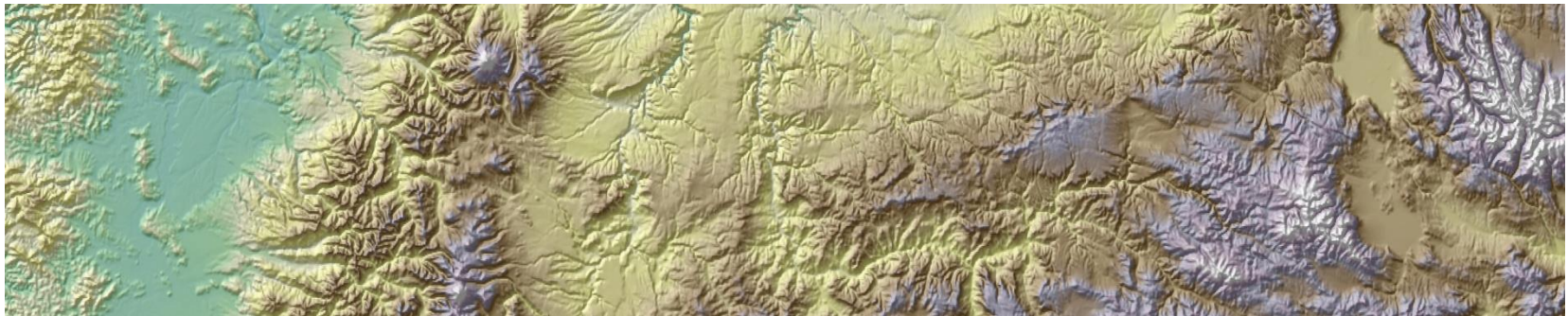
# Distortion due to Earth Curvature

Zone Width (miles)	Maximum Linear Distortion		
	PPM	Feet/Mile	Ratio
16	+/- 1	+/- 0.005	1:1,000,000
50	+/- 10	+/- 0.05	1:100,000
71	+/- 20	+/- 0.1	1:50,000
112	+/- 50	+/- 0.3	1:20,000
158	+/- 100	+/- 0.5	1:10,000
317	+/- 400	+/- 2.1	1:2,500



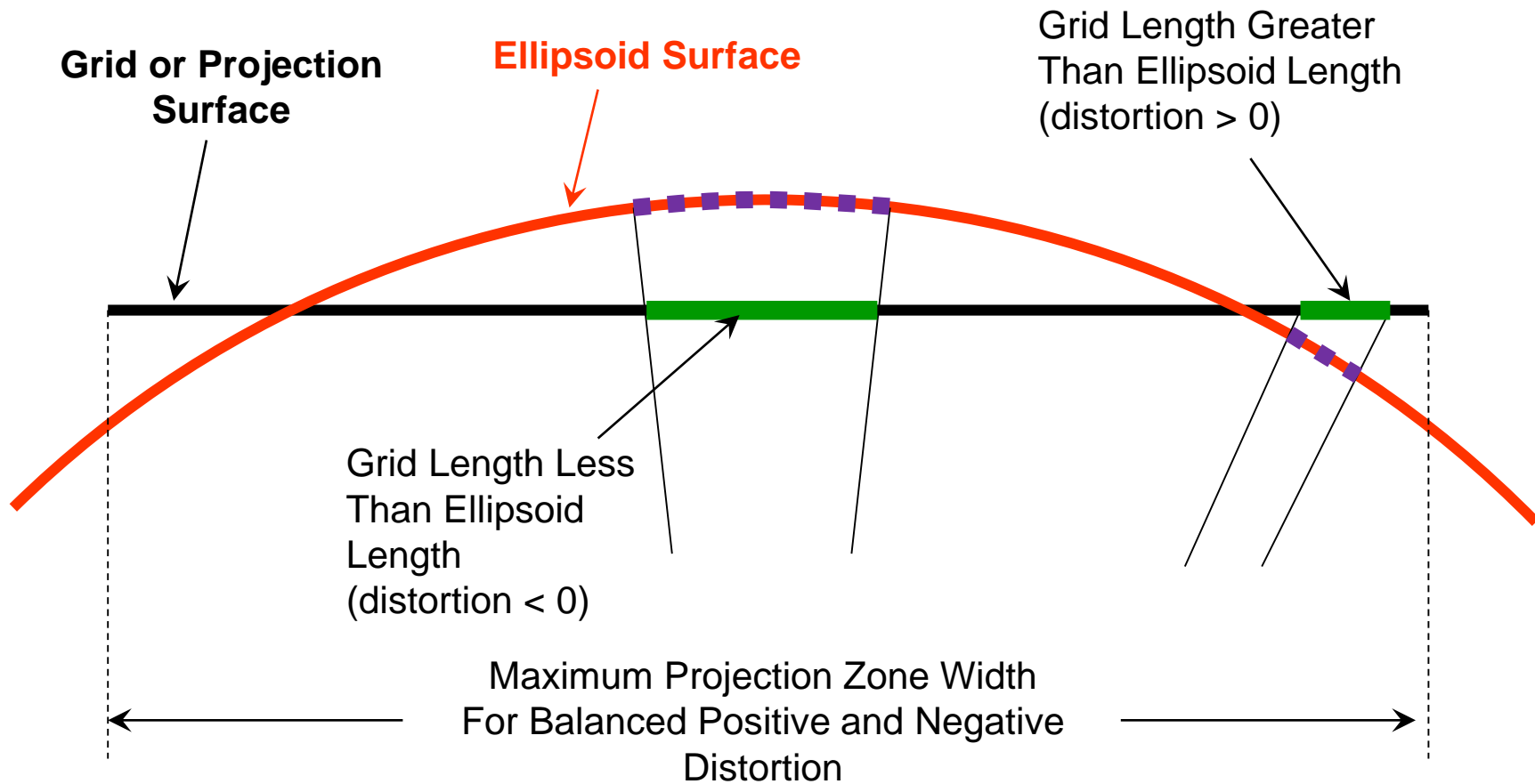
# Linear Distortion

- Difference in distance between a pair of **grid** coordinates when compared to the **ground** distance.
- Can be positive or negative
- Negative - grid length is **shorter** than ground
- Positive - grid length is **longer** than ground





# Earth Curvature Factor



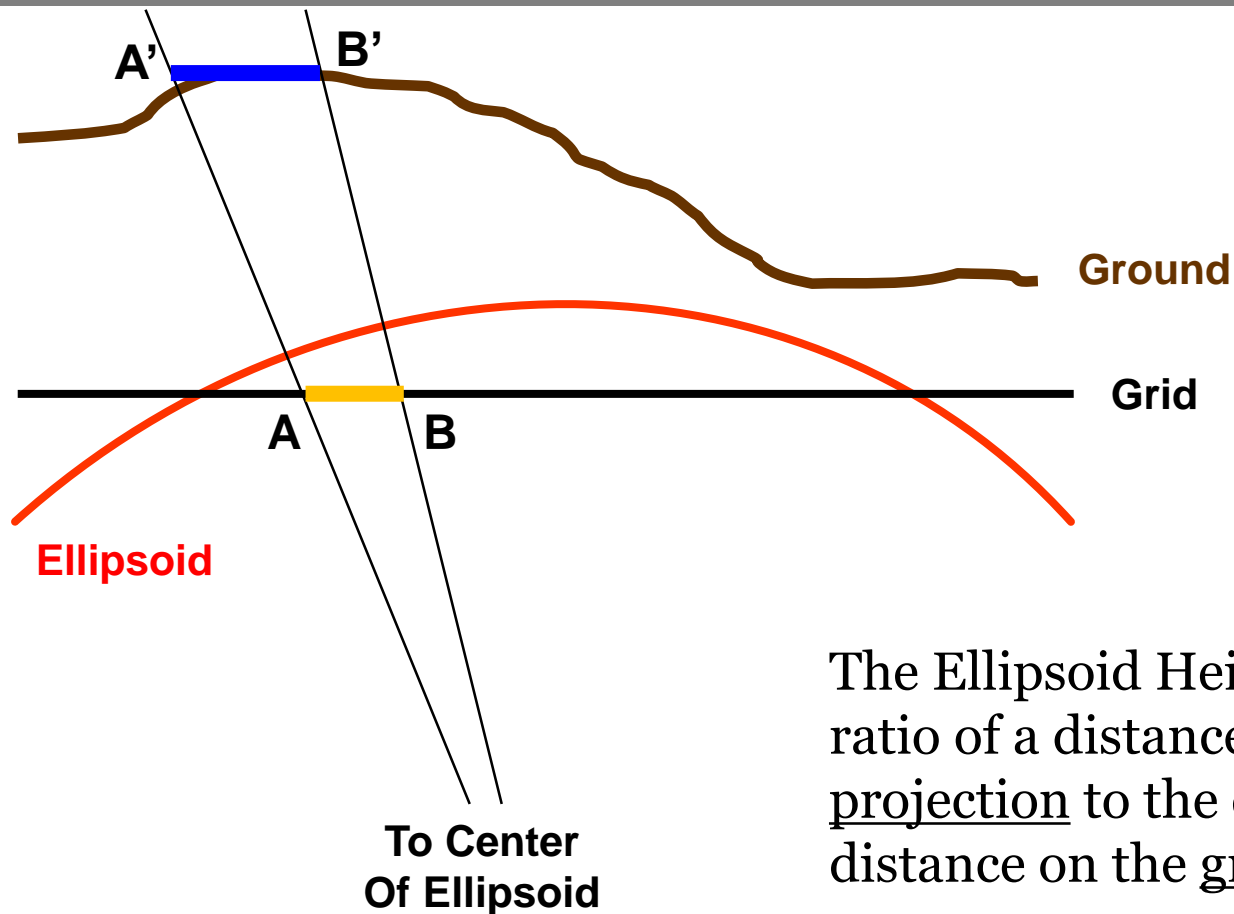


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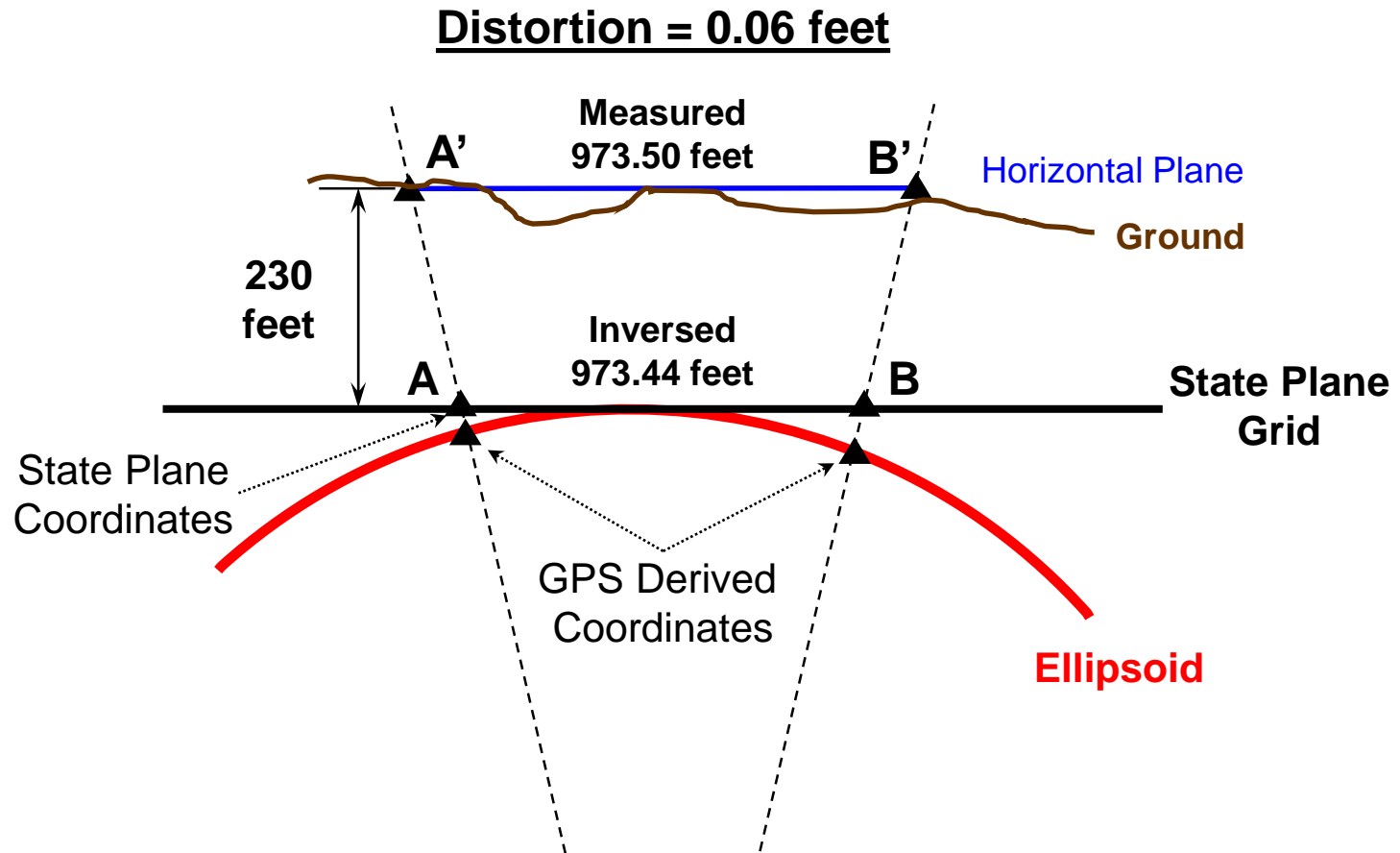
# Ellipsoid Height Factor



The Ellipsoid Height Factor is the ratio of a distance on the grid projection to the corresponding distance on the ground plane.

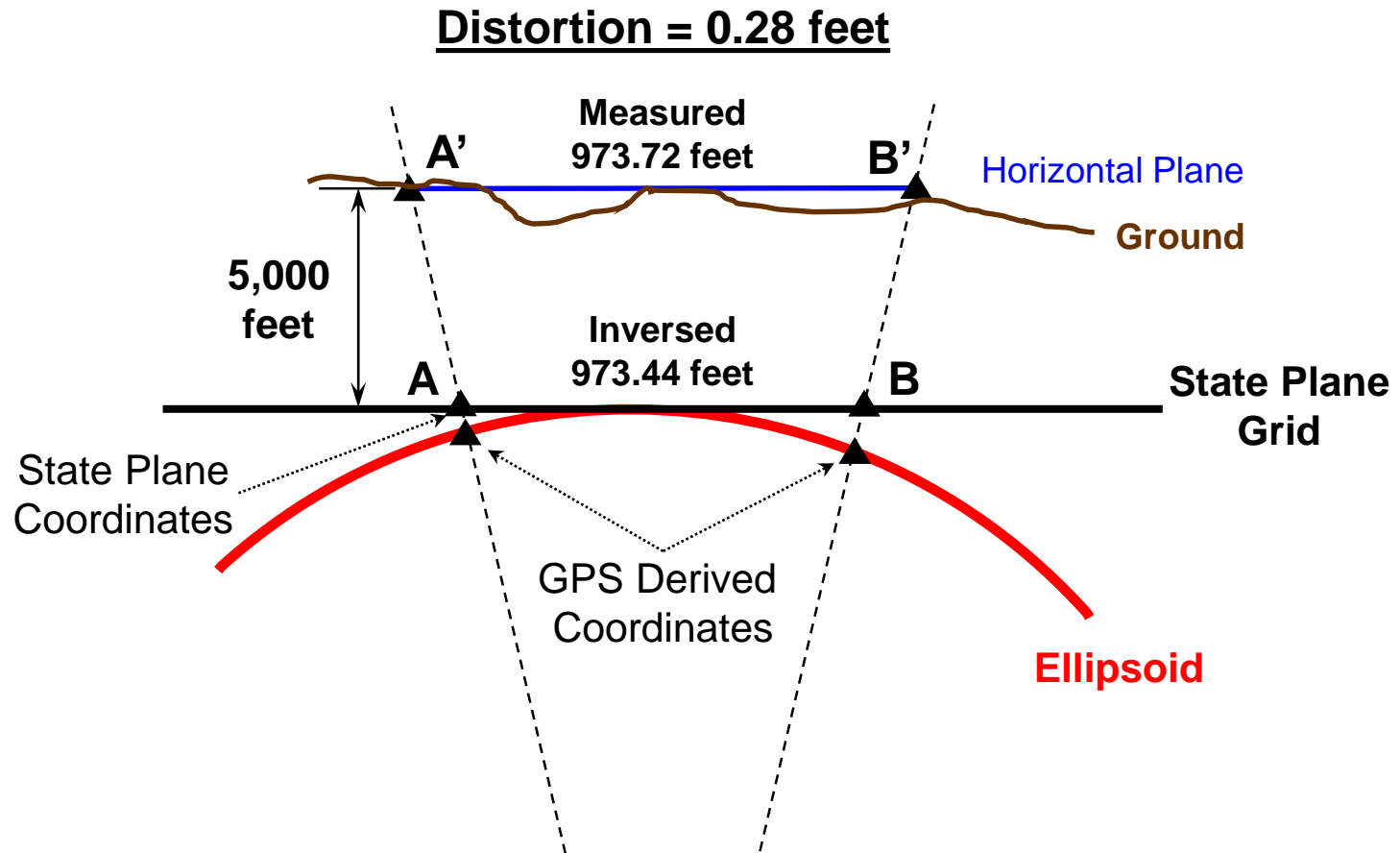


# Distortion Due to Elevation





# Distortion Due to Elevation







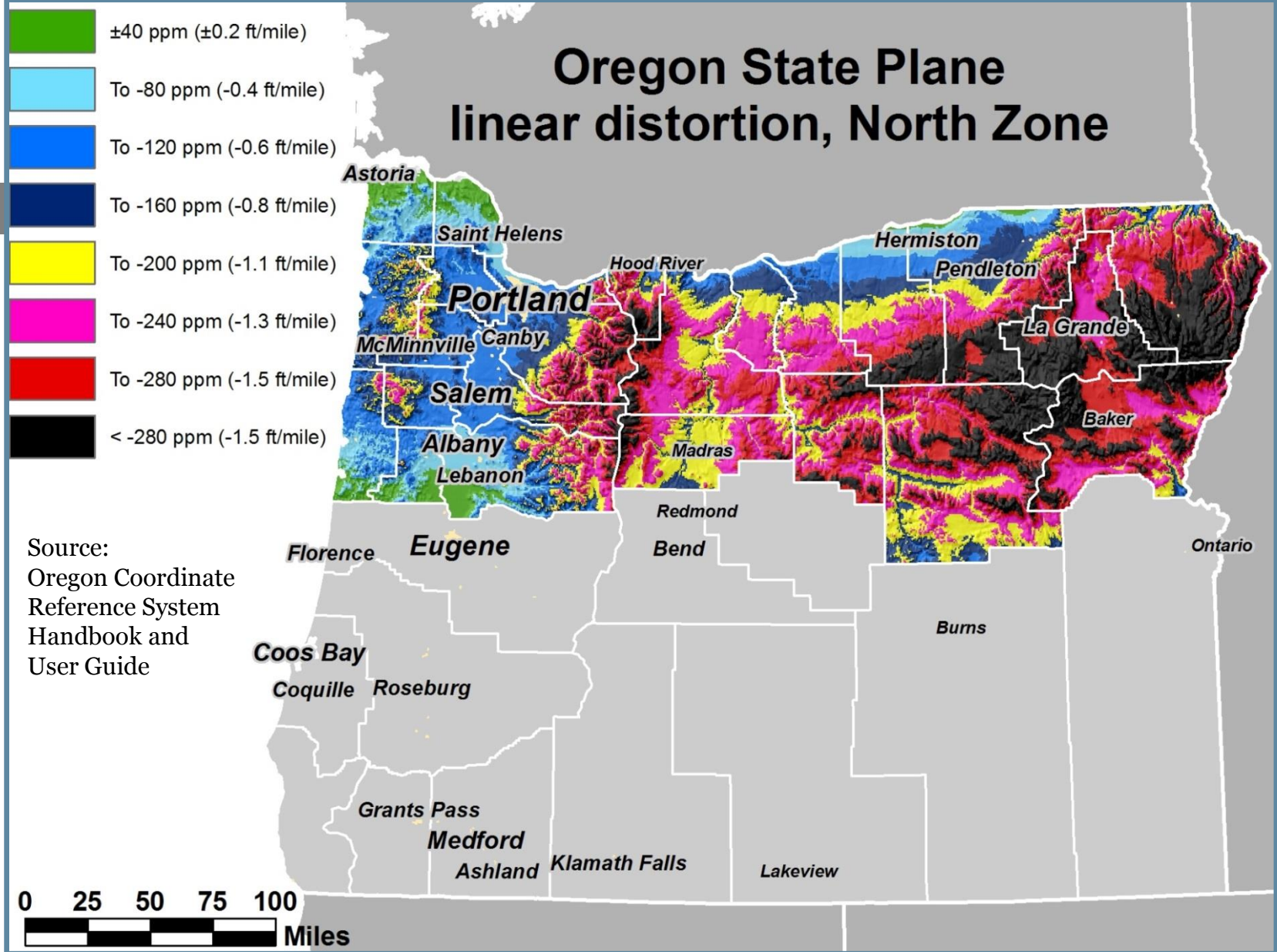
# Distortion due to Height Above Ellipsoid

Height Above Ellipsoid (feet)	Maximum Linear Distortion		
	PPM	Feet/Mile	Ratio
100	4.8	0.03	1:209,000
400	19	0.1	1:52,000
1,000	48	0.3	1:21,000
2,000	96	0.5	1:10,500
4,000	191	1.0	1:5,200
7,000	335	1.8	1:3,000



# Total Linear Distortion

- Combination of distortion due to earth curvature and height above ellipsoid
- Often, the distortion due to the height above the ellipsoid is greater than due to curvature

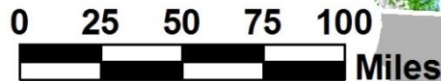
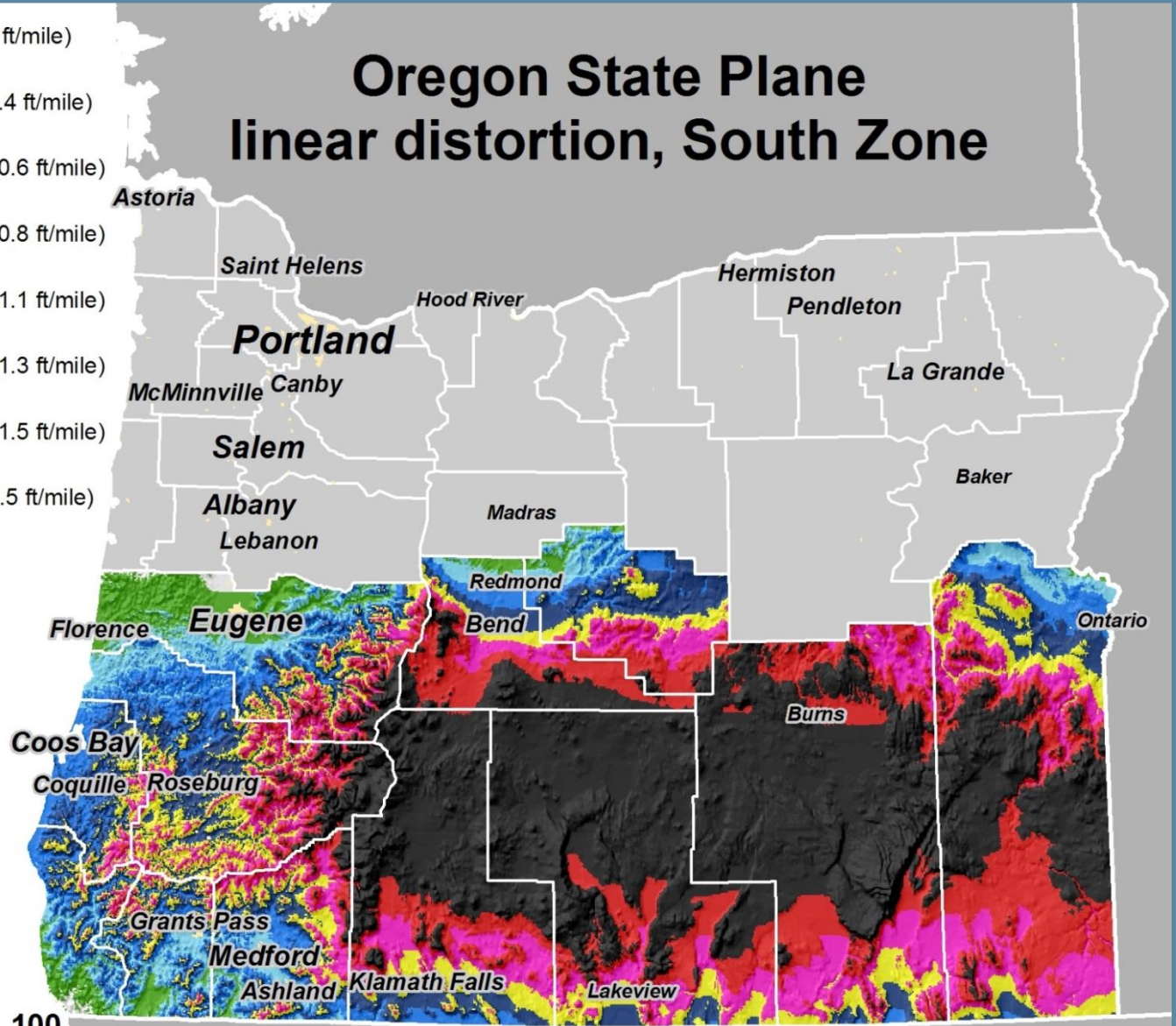




## Oregon State Plane linear distortion, South Zone

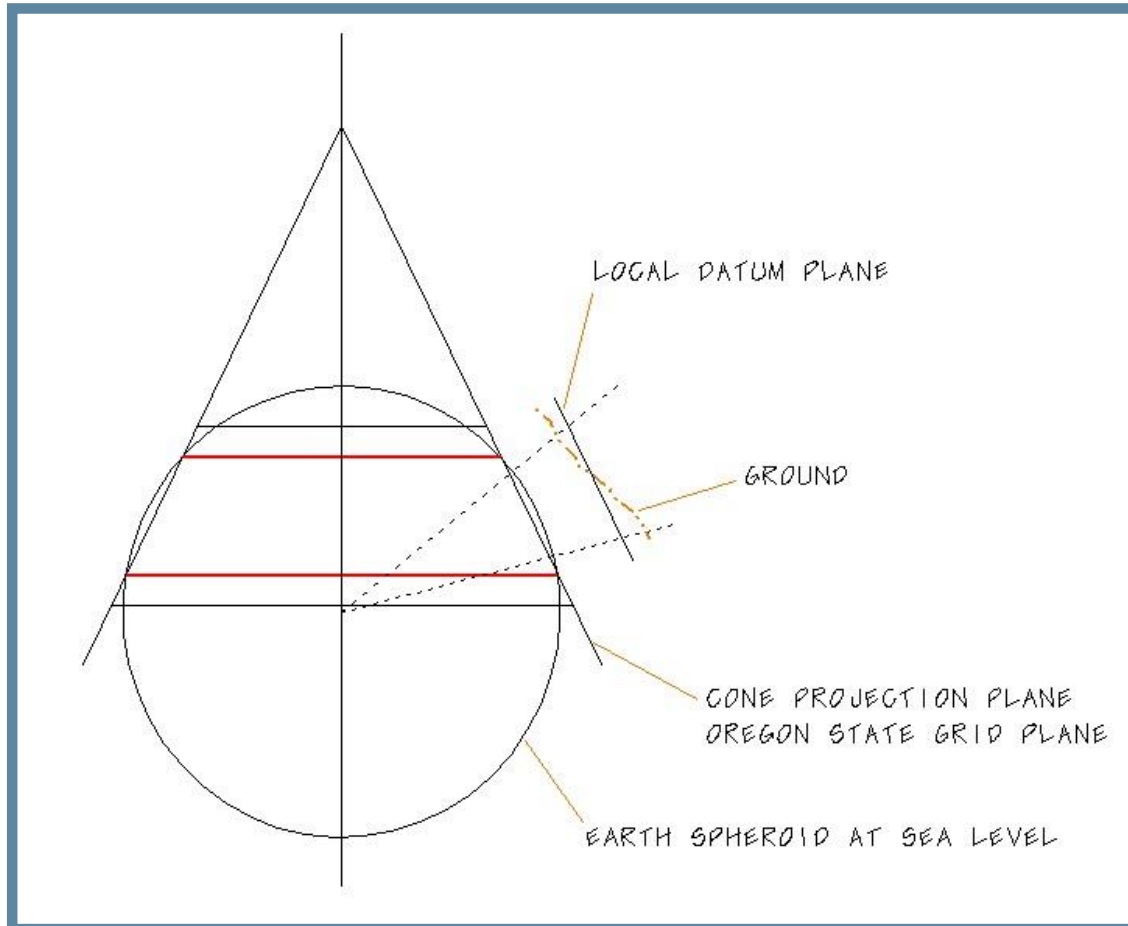


Source:  
Oregon Coordinate  
Reference System  
Handbook and  
User Guide





# Local Datum Plane Coordinates

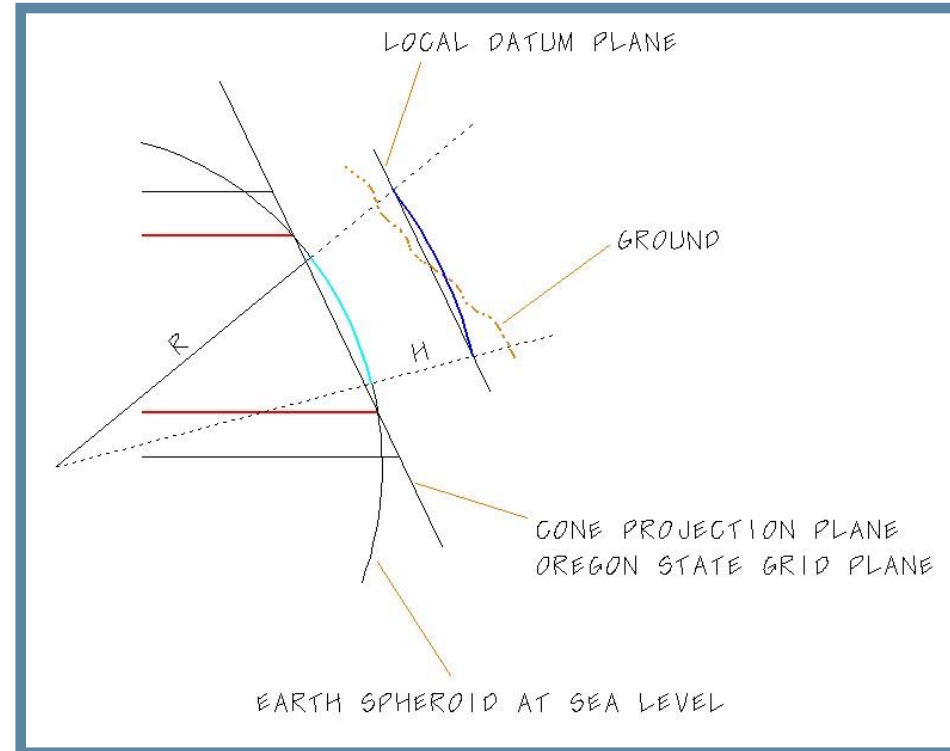


Developed by  
ODOT shortly after  
the implementation  
of the State Plane  
System



# Local Datum Plane Coordinates

- Creates a plane close to the project elevation that is parallel to the State Plane grid
- Scaled by a Combined Scale factor
  - Projection factor
  - Height factor





# Problems w/ scaling State Plane Coordinates

- Look too similar to State Plane Coordinates
  - Easy to confuse with State Plane Coordinates
- Metadata (scaling factor) documentation often separated from coordinate data.
- Unable to share data in geospatial software without scaling back to State Plane Coordinates.









**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Highway Division**

Authored and Presented by

*Ron Singh, PLS  
Geometronics Manager  
Chief of Surveys  
(503) 986-3033*

Reviewed and Endorsed by

*The Engineering Automation  
Steering Committee*

**Engineering Automation**  
Key Concepts for a 25 Year Time Horizon

8 March, 2009



## Revision History

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Authored by

[Ron Singh](#), Geometronics Manager / Chief of Surveys

-----

First Draft - 10 March, 2008

For review by the Engineering Automation Steering Committee

-----

First Release - 21 April, 2008

Based on comments from the Engineering Automation Steering Committee

-----

Second Release - 3 November, 2008

Added Executive Summary and made minor edits

-----

Third Release - 8 March, 2009

Updated the status of Digital Signatures relating to new Oregon Administrative Rules.

Digitally Signed:

*Ranvir Singh*

-



## KEY CONCEPTS FOR THE FUTURE

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**DIGITAL DATA – CREATION, STORAGE, RETRIEVAL, AND FORWARD MIGRATION**

**MANAGING INFRASTRUCTURE LIFE CYCLE DATA**

**STRUCTURED DATA EXCHANGE - LANDXML**

**DIGITAL SIGNATURES**

**DATA SILOS**

**ENGINEERING DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**ENGINEERING DATA AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**POST CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS**

**UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATION**

**DYNAMIC DOCUMENTS**

**ENGINEERING DATA AND THE GIS CONNECTION**

**IT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**WIRELESS COMMUNICATION**

**NEW STATEWIDE COORDINATE SYSTEM**

**THE OREGON REAL-TIME GPS NETWORK**

**HEIGHT MODERNIZATION**

**REMOTE SENSING**

**HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGERY/POINT CLOUDS FOR DESIGN**

**3D AND 4D DESIGN**

**VISUALIZATION**

**CONSTRUCTION AUTOMATION**

**MAINTENANCE AUTOMATION**

**ENGINEERING DATA AND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION**

**DESIGN DATA AS PRIMARY AND CONSTRUCTION PLANS AS SECONDARY**



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DIGITAL DATA – CREATION, STORAGE, RETRIEVAL, AND FORWARD MIGRATION

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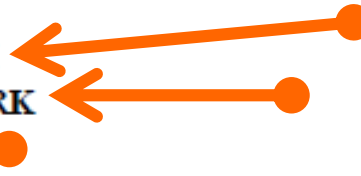
VISUALIZATION

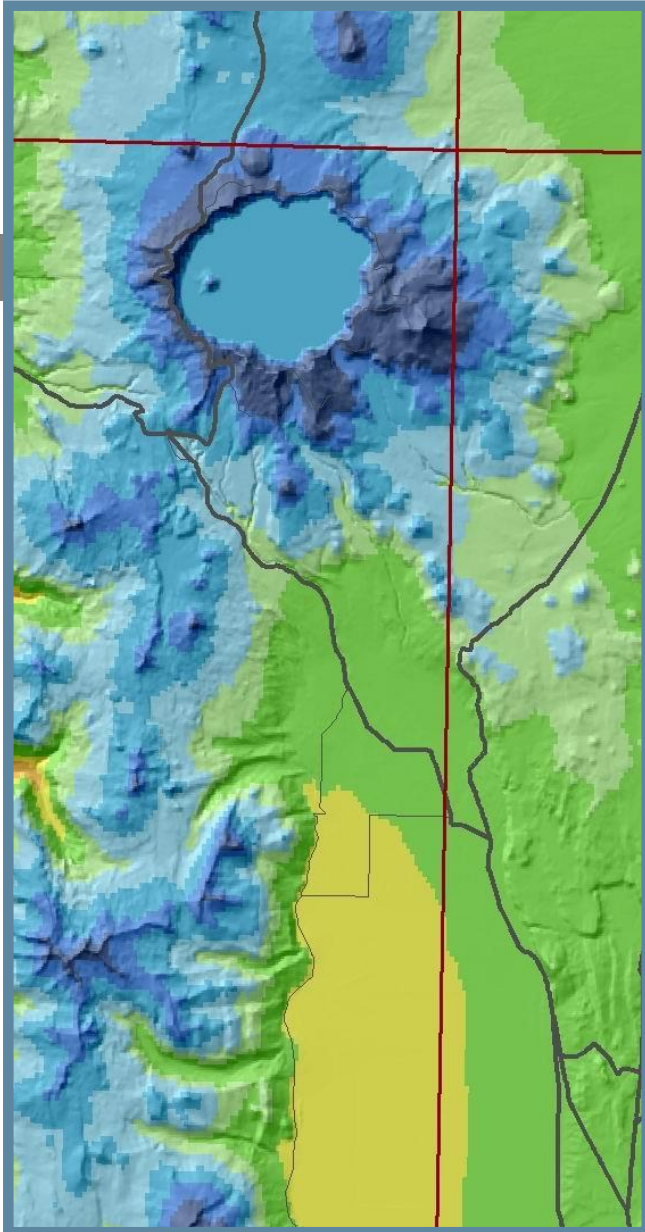
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# Low Distortion Projections

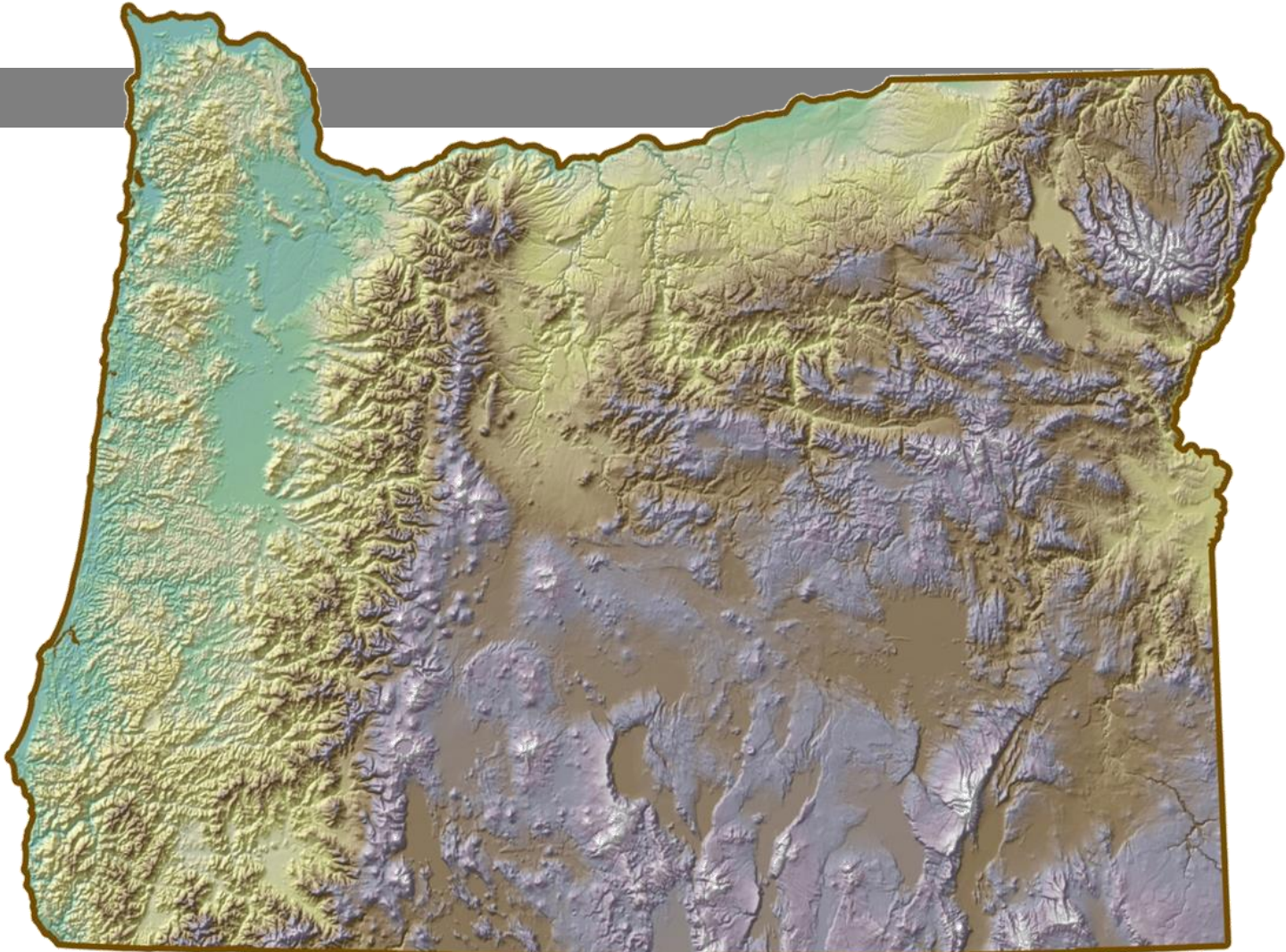


# Low Distortion Projections

- Minimizes difference between “Grid” and “Ground”
- Central Meridian and Latitude near site, reducing distortion and Convergence Angle
- Well documented – easy to transform between LDP and National Spatial Reference System
  - Easily used in geospatial software to share data




# Oregon Coordinate Reference System








# O.C.R.S. History/Timeline

- 
- Mar. 2008 - Presentation to ODOT
  - July 2008 - Presentation to OGUG
  - Nov. 2008 - ODOT/OGUG Workshop
  - Jan. 2009 - Presentation to PLSO
  - Apr. 2009 - Created Technical Development Team
  - July 2009 - Developed Test Projections
  - Jan. 2010 - Developed 15 Projections
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  - June 2011 - SB877 passed revising ORS 93 & 209
  - Dec 2011 - OTC approves OCRS OARs; OAR filed with Secretary of State
  - Jan. 2012 - New OAR becomes effective



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# OCRS Design Team

- Michael Dennis, PE, PLS, (GIS)
  - Private consultant: Geodetic Analysis
- Geospatial professionals from Oregon
  - ODOT
  - Private Surveyors
  - GIS professionals
  - Academia



## Section 1.3: Best Practice Goals

- The Technical Development Team developed 21 “best practices” in an effort to focus on the critical elements that would be used to design the new low distortion OCRS mapping projections.



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Highway Division  
Geometronics Unit**

*Joseph Thomas, PLS  
Geometronics Unit Manager/  
Chief of Surveys*

*Mark L. Armstrong, PLS  
NGS Northwest Region  
Geodetic Advisor*

*Ken Bays, PLS  
Lead Geodetic Surveyor  
Geometronics Unit*

*Michael L. Dennis, RLS, PE  
Geodetic Analysis, LLC*

**2017 Edition**



## Oregon Coordinate Reference System

**Handbook and Map Set**

**Version 3.01 2-28-2017**

**Lead Author - Mark L. Armstrong**

**CONTAINS 39 OCRS ZONE MAPS**



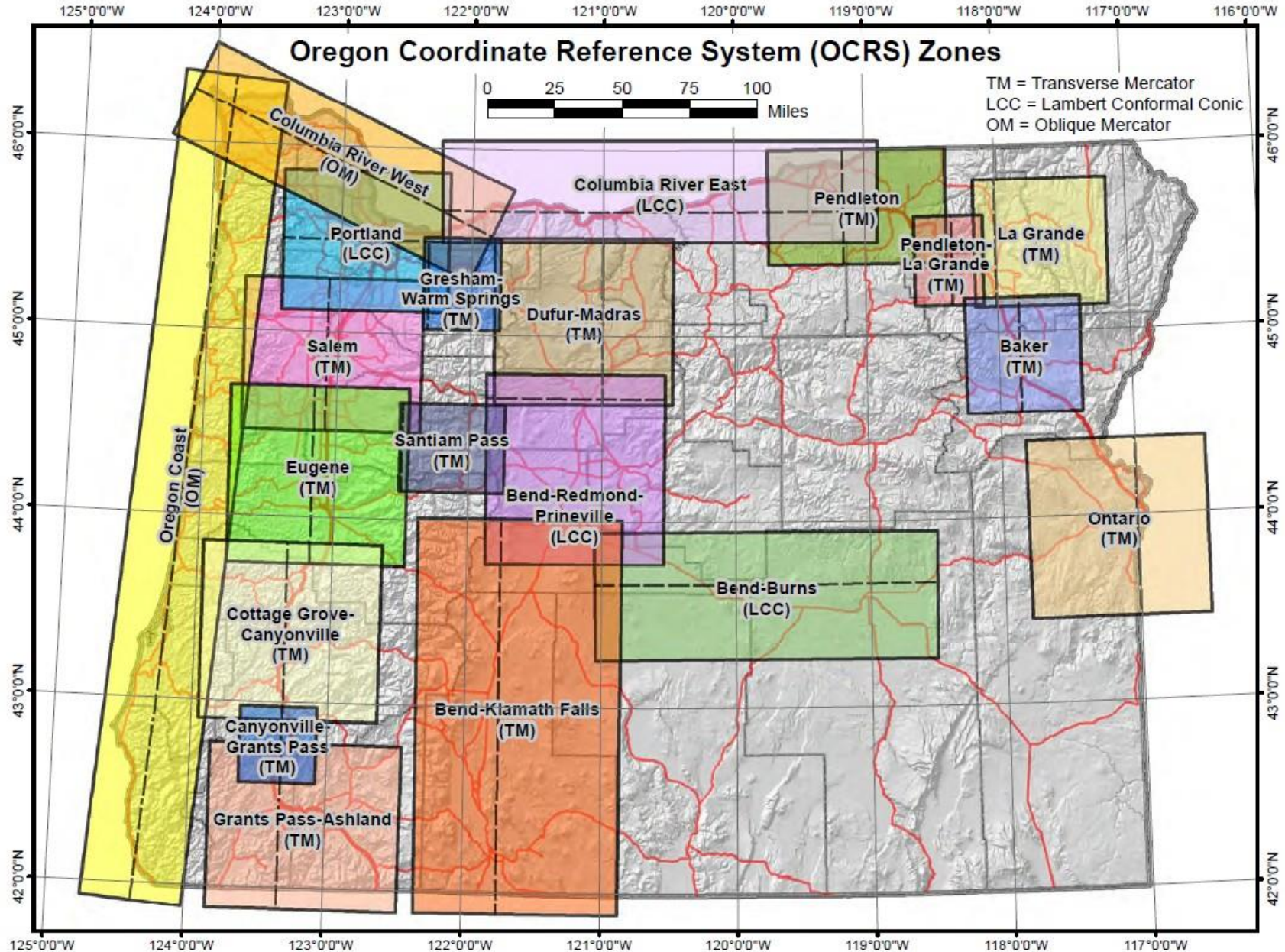
# Combined Distortion Goals

PPM	Feet/Mile	Ratio
+/- 10	+/- 0.05	1:100,000
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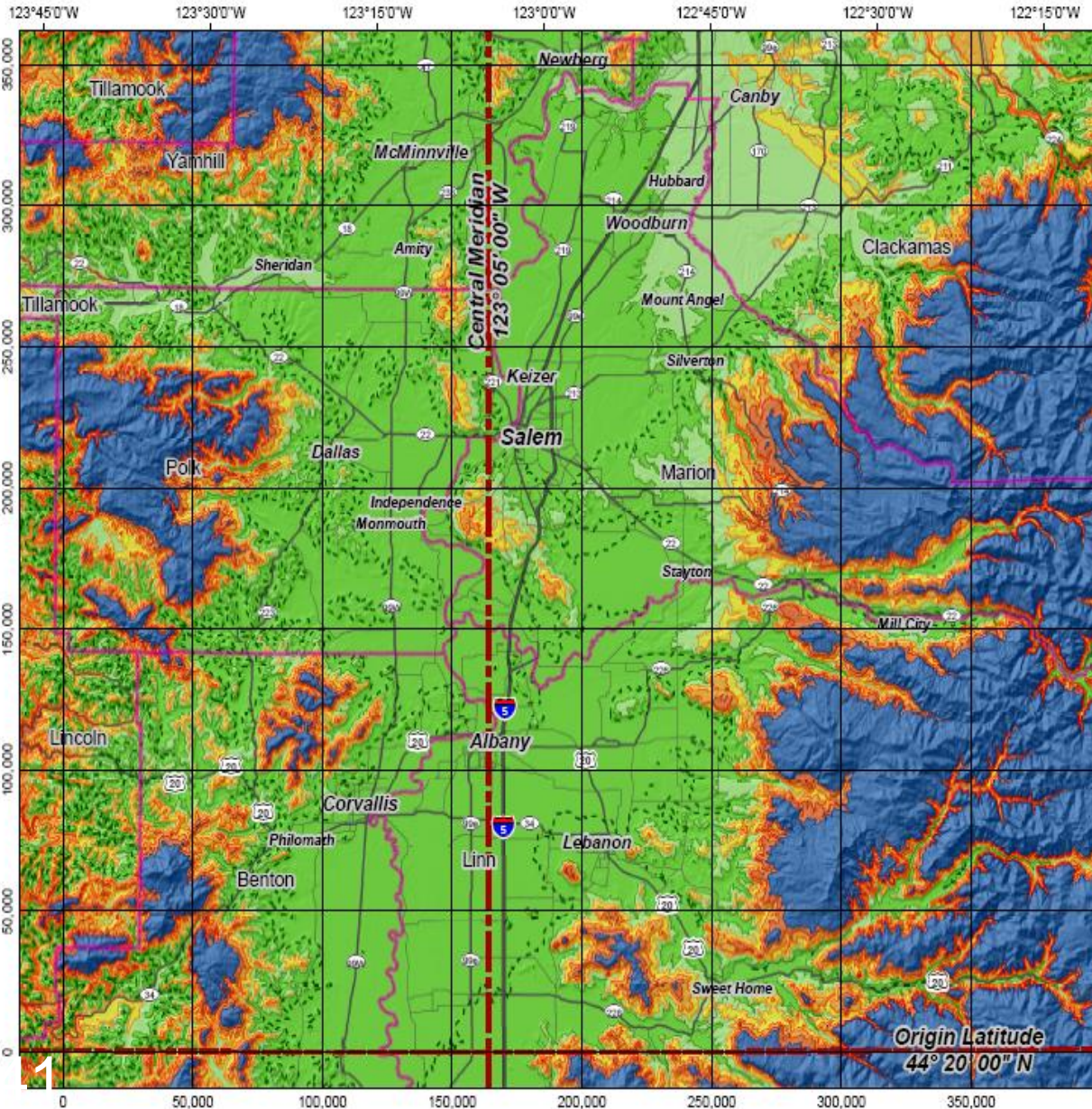


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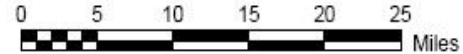
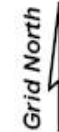




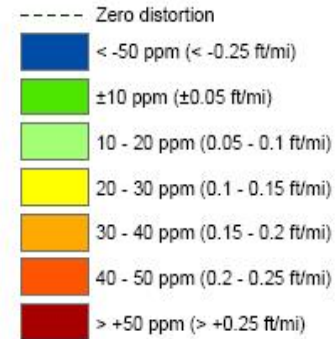
## Oregon Coordinate Reference System Salem Zone

**Transverse Mercator projection  
North American Datum of 1983**

Latitude of grid origin: 44° 20' 00" N  
 Central meridian: 123° 05' 00" W  
 False northing: 0.000 m  
 False easting: 50 000.000 m  
 Central meridian scale: 1.000 010 (exact)



### Linear distortion




NOTE: Map grid is shown in units of international feet.

Prepared by:  
 Michael L. Dennis, RLS, PE  
 Geodetic Analysis, LLC  
 8775 S Cluff Ranch Road  
 Pima, AZ 85543  
 mld@geodeticanalysis.com



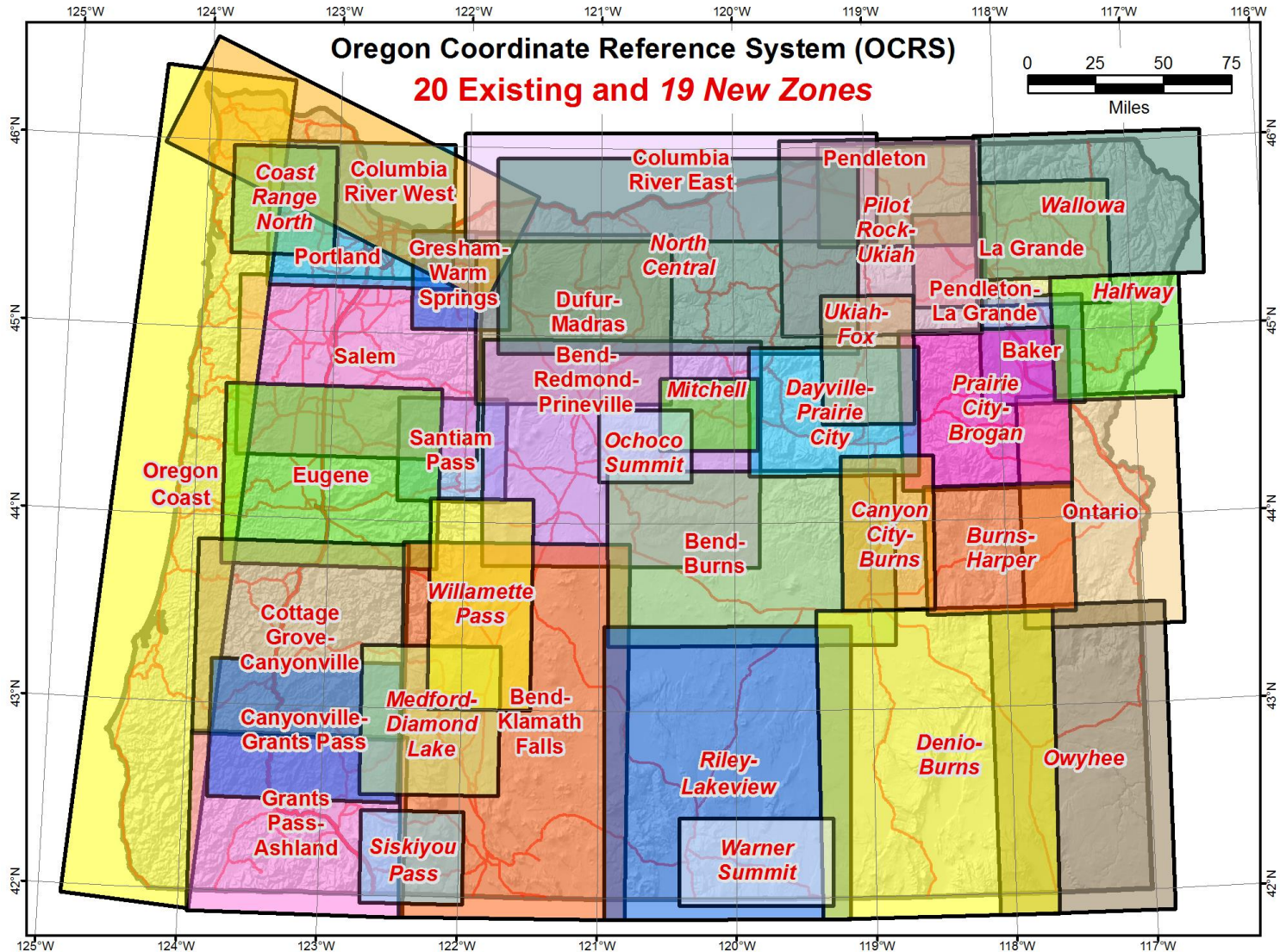


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  - June 2011 - SB877 passed revising ORS 93 & 209 ←
  - Dec 2011 - OTC approves OCRS OARs; OAR filed with Secretary of State
  - Jan. 2012 - New OAR becomes effective
  - 2015-2016 coverage -19 additional OCRS zones designed to extend OCRS coverage**
  - Dec 2016 -OTC approves the 19 additional zones.**



<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOMETRONICS/Pages/ocrs.aspx>





# Legal Status of OCRS

- The Oregon Transportation Commission adopted new Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) defining the Oregon Coordinate Systems (734-005-0005, 734-005-0010, 734-005-0015) on December 21, 2011, and the rule was filed with the Secretary of State on December 22, 2011. **The rule became effective January 1, 2012.**
- These rules implement **Senate Bill 877** by moving all definitions of the existing Oregon State Plane Coordinate System from ORS Chapter 93 to ODOT's administrative rules and placing all definitions for the new Oregon Coordinate Reference System in the new OAR.
- Amended OAR adding 19 new OCRS zones was approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission in December 2016 and became effective in January 2017 when filed with Secretary of State.



Oregon  
**Secretary of State**  
Dennis Richardson

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► **The Oregon Administrative Rules contain OARs filed through February 15, 2017** ◀

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OR MEANING OF THIS AGENCY'S RULES?**  
[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS RULES COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAY DIVISION

### DIVISION 5

#### OREGON COORDINATE SYSTEMS

734-005-0005

##### Purpose

The purpose of this administrative rule is to define the Oregon Coordinate System, consisting of three mapping projection coordinate systems that are authorized for use in the State of Oregon.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 184.616, 184.619, Ch.179 OL 2011

Stats. Implemented: ORS 209.130, 209.155, 209.250, 390.770, Ch.179 OL 2011

Hist. : HWD 13-2011, f. 12-22-11, cert. ef. 1-1-12

734-005-0010

##### Oregon Coordinate Systems

(1) The **Oregon State Plane Coordinate System of 1927** consists of two zones of mapping projections defined by the National Geodetic Survey of the National Ocean Service, one for the Oregon North Zone and one for the Oregon South Zone.

(2) The **Oregon State Plane Coordinate System of 1983** consists of two zones of mapping projections defined by the National Geodetic Survey of the National Ocean Service, one for the Oregon North Zone and one for the Oregon South Zone.

(3) The **Oregon Coordinate Reference System** consists of multiple zones developed by an Oregon Department of Transportation committee of private and public land surveying, geographic information system, and academic professionals to define a system of low distortion mapping projections wherein distances computed between points on the grid plane will represent the distances measured between the same points on the ground within published zone tolerances.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 184.616, 184.619, Ch.179 OL 2011

Stats. Implemented: ORS 209.130, 209.155, 209.250, 390.770, Ch.179 OL 2011

Hist. : HWD 13-2011, f. 12-22-11, cert. ef. 1-1-12



## OAR 734-005

(3) Oregon Coordinate Reference System Zones.

- (a) Baker Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (b) Bend-Klamath Falls Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (c) Bend-Redmond-Prineville Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (d) Bend-Vale Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (e) Canyonville-Grants Pass Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (f) Columbia River East Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (g) Columbia River West Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (h) Cottage Grove-Canyonville Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (i) Dufur-Madras Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (j) Eugene Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (k) Grants Pass-Ashland Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (l) Gresham-Warm Springs Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]

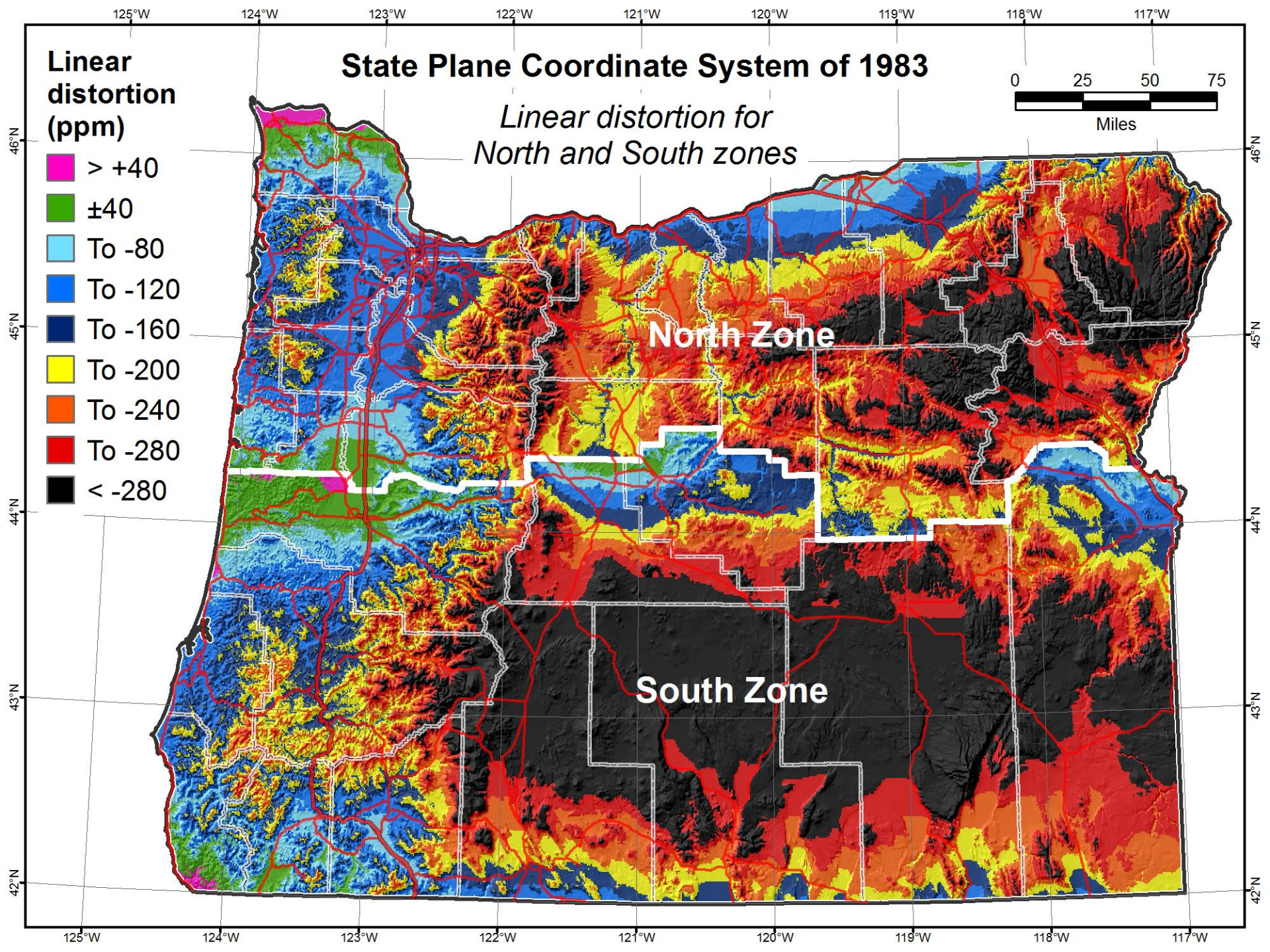
[ED. NOTE: Tables referenced are not included in rule text. [Click here for PDF copy of table\(s\).](#)]

- (q) Pendleton-La Grande Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (r) Portland Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (s) Salem Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]
- (t) Sweet Home-Sisters Zone: [Table not included. See ED. NOTE.]

[ED. NOTE: Tables referenced are not included in rule text. [Click here for PDF copy of table\(s\).](#)]

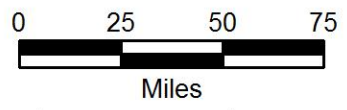
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# State Plane Coordinate System of 1983

*Linear distortion for  
North and South zones*



**Linear  
distortion  
(ppm)**

- > +40
- ±40
- To -80
- To -120
- To -160
- To -200
- To -240
- To -280
- < -280

**North Zone**

**South Zone**

125°W 124°W 123°W 122°W 121°W 120°W 119°W 118°W 117°W

46°N  
45°N  
44°N  
43°N  
42°N

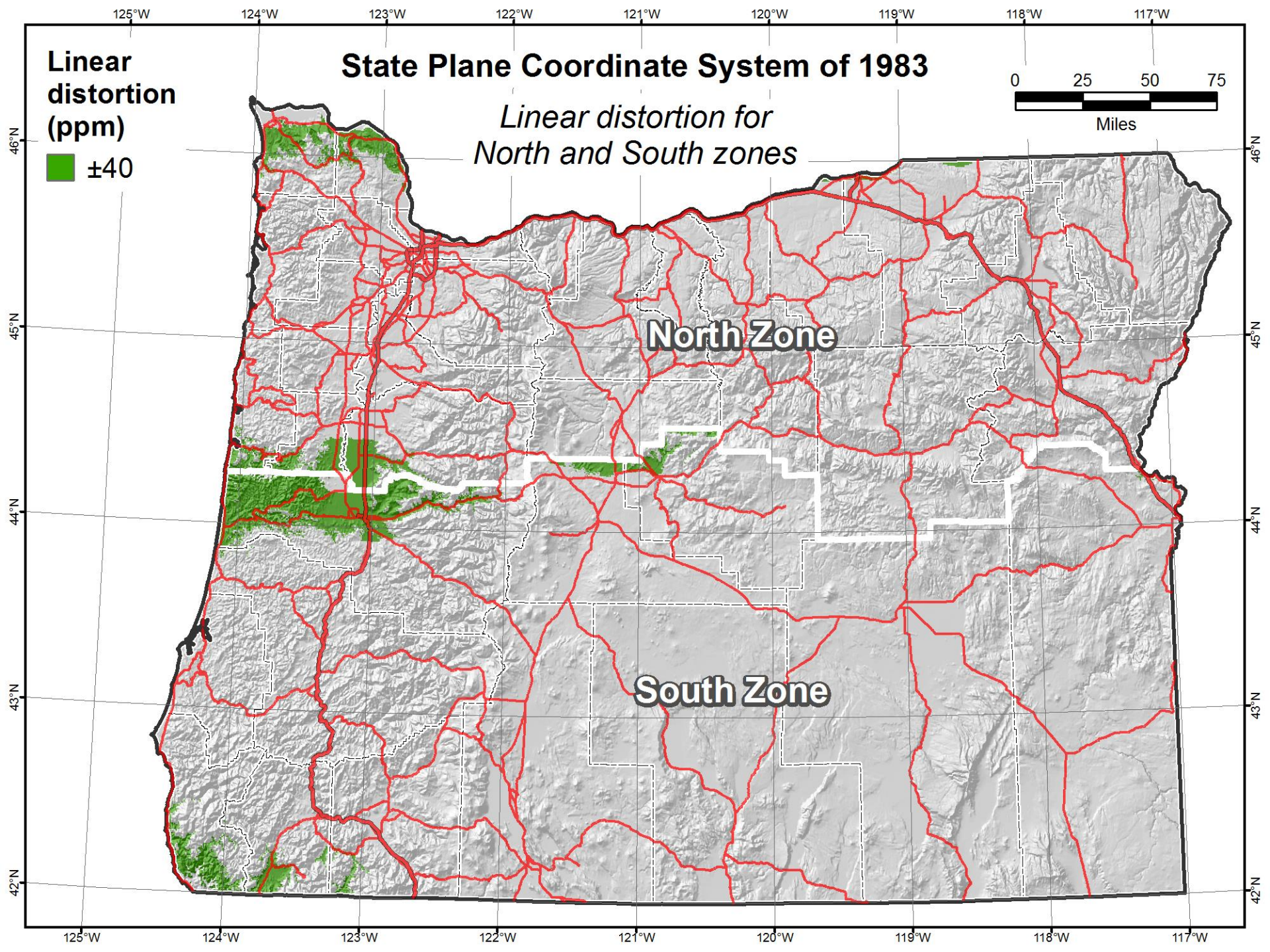
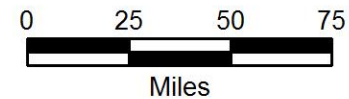
46°N  
45°N  
44°N  
43°N  
42°N

Linear distortion (ppm)

±40

# State Plane Coordinate System of 1983

*Linear distortion for North and South zones*



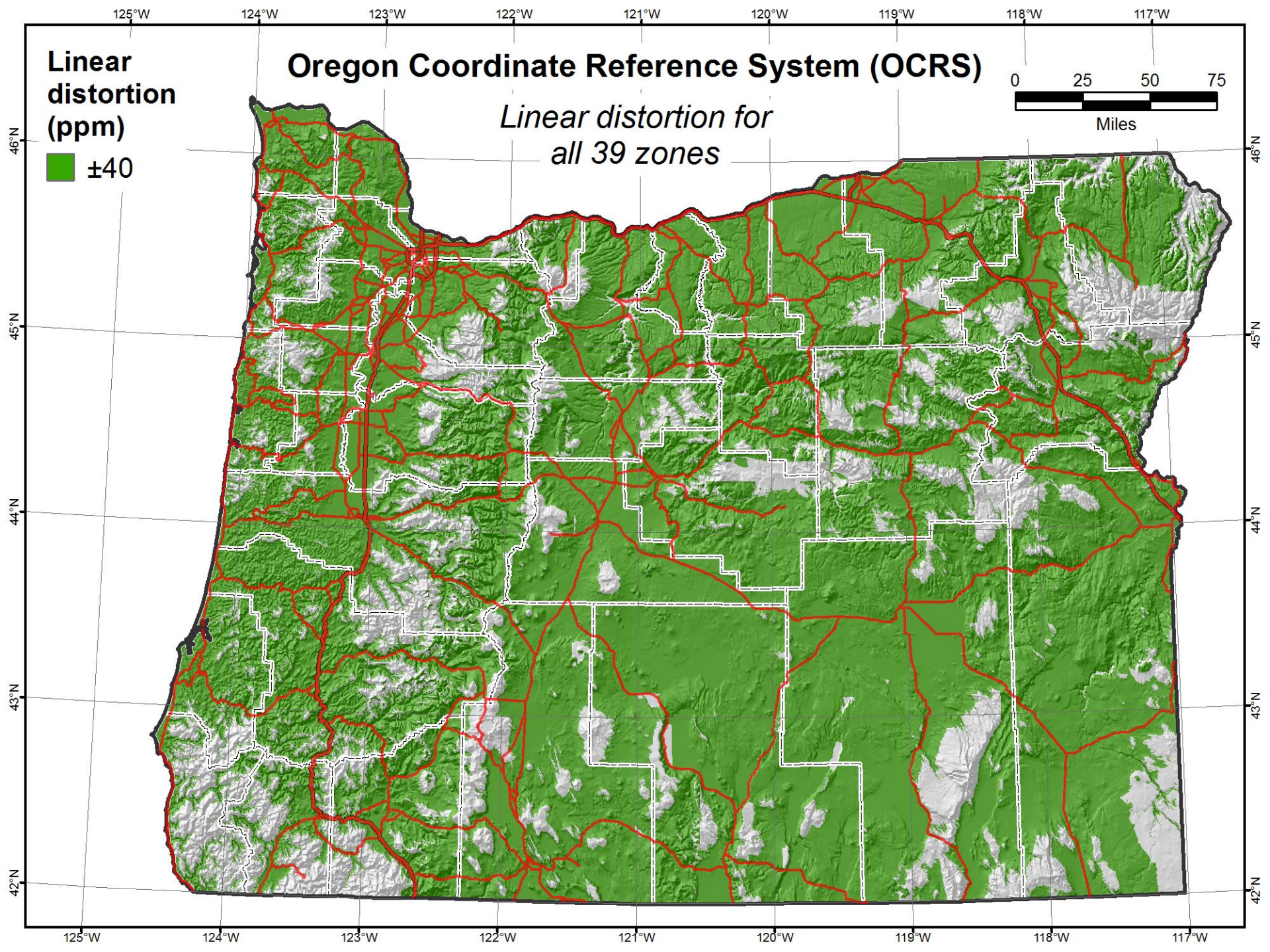
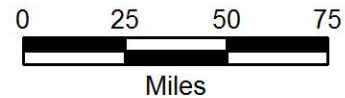


Linear  
distortion  
(ppm)

±40

# Oregon Coordinate Reference System (OCRS)

*Linear distortion for  
all 39 zones*

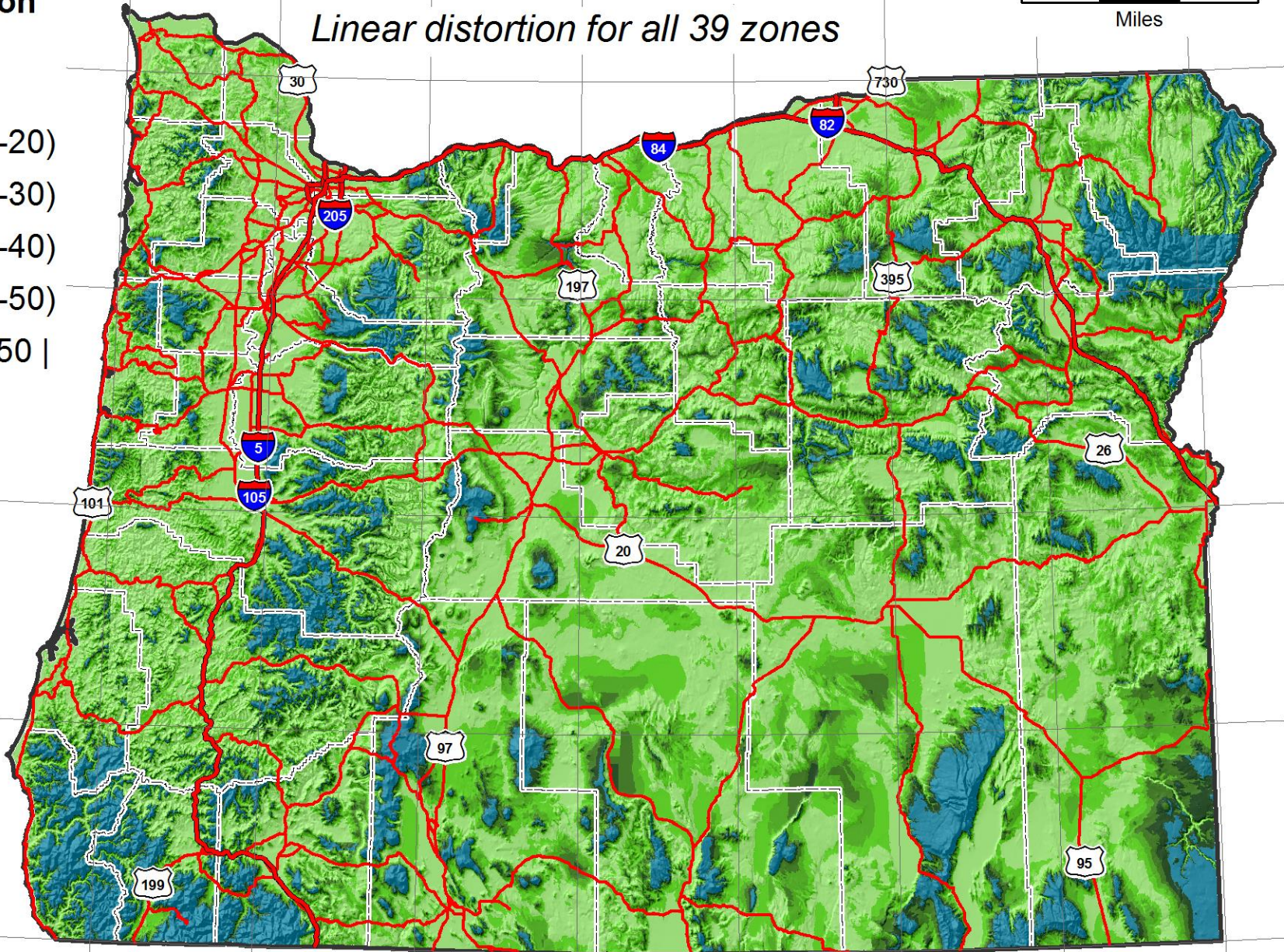
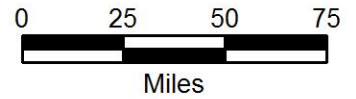


**Linear distortion (ppm)**

- ±10
- ±(10-20)
- ±(20-30)
- ±(30-40)
- ±(40-50)
- > | ±50 |

# Oregon Coordinate Reference System (OCRS)

*Linear distortion for all 39 zones*



125°W 124°W 123°W 122°W 121°W 120°W 119°W 118°W 117°W

46°N  
45°N  
44°N  
43°N  
42°N

46°N  
45°N  
44°N  
43°N  
42°N



## OCRS Website

### Geometronics



Department

Lists

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Benchmark Retrieval

Geodetic Control

ORGN (GPS Network)

OCRS: OR Coord Ref Sys

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### Oregon Coordinate Reference System

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#### About the 'OCRS'

The Oregon Coordinate Reference System is based on a group of low distortion map projection coordinate systems. Low distortion projections are based on true conformal map projections designed to cover significant portions of urban and rural areas of the state. The term 'low distortion' refers to both the horizontal distortion from presenting a curved surface on a plane and the vertical distortion because these projections are also scaled to a regional height representative of the area to be covered. The advantages of a low distortion projection are;

- Grid coordinate zone distances closely match the same distance measured on the ground.
- Limited distortion and reduced convergence angle.
- Easy to transform between other coordinate zone systems.
- Maintains a relationship to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). Can cover entire cities and counties making them GIS friendly.





# Geometronics On-line Toolkit

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Introduction

### Geometronics Online Toolkit Introduction

The ODOT Geometronics Online Toolkit is a tool that works within the ODOT TransGIS website.

There are two components of the Online Toolkit:

1. Oregon Real-time GPS Network (ORGN)
2. Oregon Coordinates Reference System (OCRS)

The Oregon Real-time GPS Network (ORGN) component allows users to view the status of the ORGN continuously operating reference stations, view a map of areas in Oregon where real-time GNSS correctors from the ORGN are available.

Contact Us | Disclaimer

0 117,407 feet

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-124.8402° E, 44.7138° N



# Summary

- Why the OCRS was developed. What was the need?
- Best practices used to design the OCRS
- Path & timeline to develop the OCRS
- Distortion maps: the original 20 and the 19 new OCRS zones

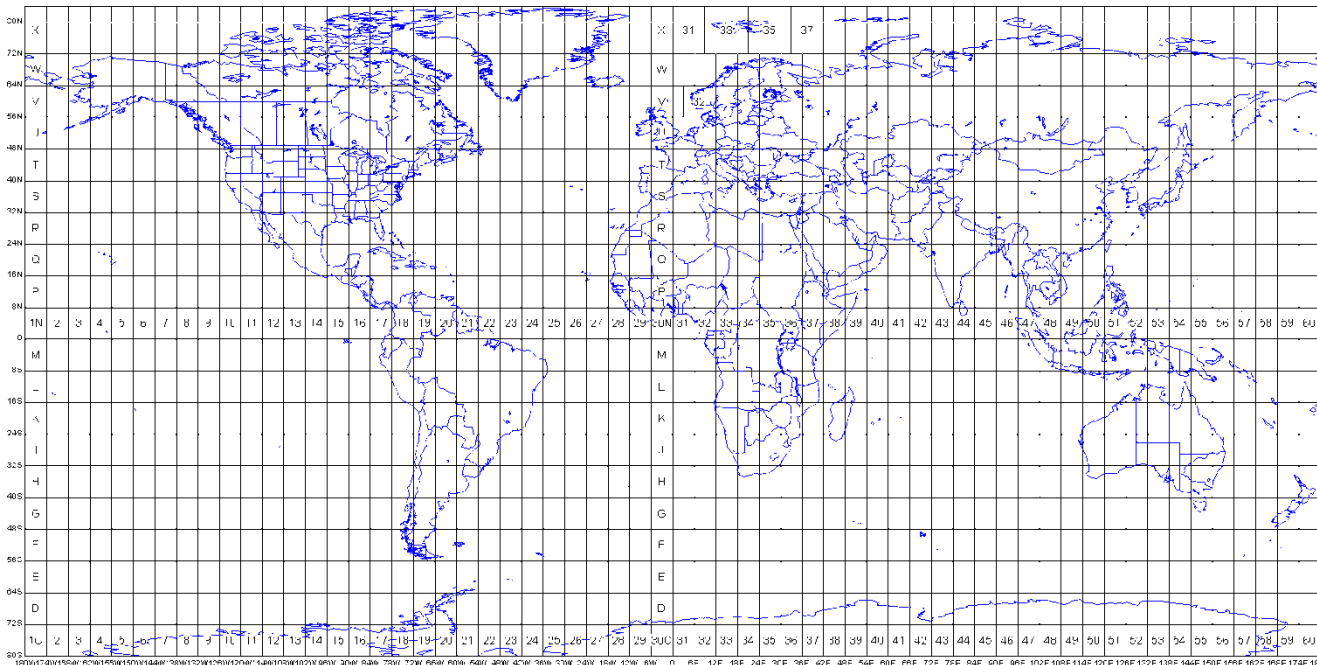


Adios, amigos!



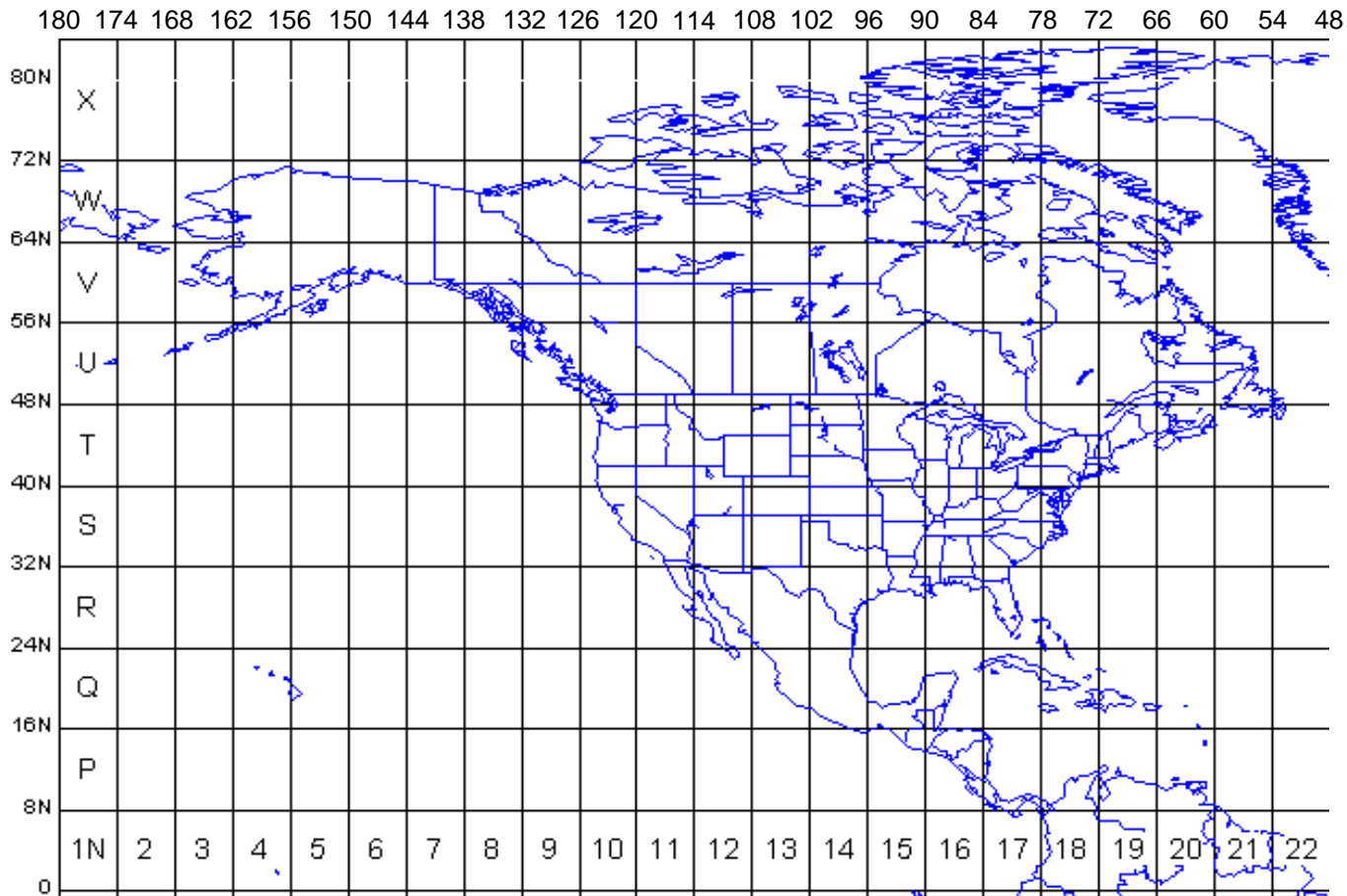
# Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM Coordinate System)

World wide coordinate system which employs 60 zones, commencing at 180 degrees West longitude, each of which embraces 6 degrees of longitude and lies between 84° North and 80° South latitudes.





# UTM Zones in North America







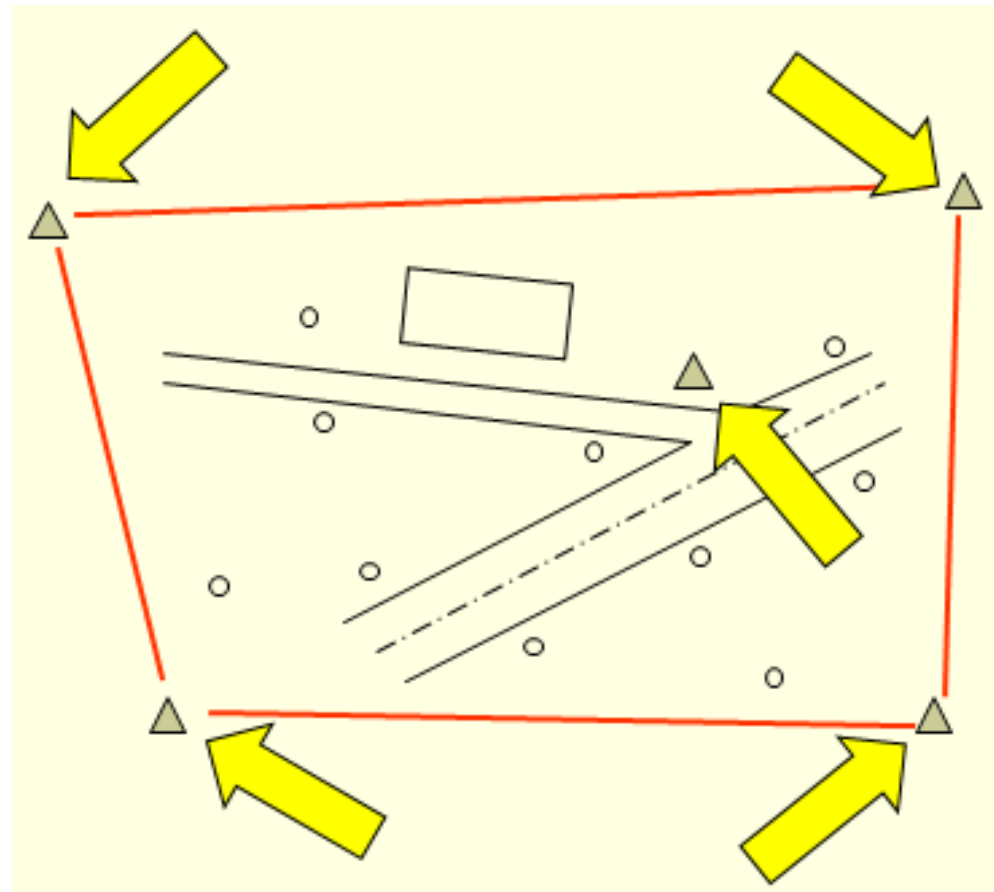
# Site Calibration

- Known by several names ... localization, transformation
- Each manufacturer or software has unique procedures, methods, reports, etc.
- Common theory between all brands... Calibrate to points that are within or surround the project which have known control coordinates in the local system.



# Site Calibration

- Calibrate to points that surround the project that have coordinates known in the local system.
- Occupy calibration points with GPS while receiving real-time correctors from the ORGN, then calibrate to the local system.





# Site Calibration Example

Occupy known control points with the GPS Rover while receiving real-time correctors from the ORGN, then calibrate the World system to your local system using the on-board or office software.

