

## **Appendix 2-D: Future of Willamette Basin and North Coast Explorer Projects Statement of Intent**

OSU remains committed to the vision of a natural resource digital library that enables users to quickly find, retrieve, integrate and synthesize well-organized and geo-referenced natural resources information through a web portal. Natural resources information includes digital documents, maps, spatial data, computer models, numerical database, spreadsheets, analytical results, video and audio, photographs, satellite imagery, presentation materials, people contacts, etc. relating to Oregon's physical, biological, social and economic elements.

The Willamette Basin Explorer and the North Coast Basin explorer are serving as prototypes for the development of a statewide natural resources digital library—the Oregon Explorer. OSU Libraries and the Institute for Natural Resources Information Office will lead the development of the Oregon Explorer. OSU Libraries intends to continue to build the collection of information that is available from the Willamette Basin and North Coast Basin Explorer sites, while work proceeds on the Oregon Explorer. For example, OSU libraries will retain staff to continue the programming, maintenance, coordination, training and outreach of the existing Explorer sites (Willamette and North Coast), as well as the integration of this information and these services within the larger statewide Oregon Explorer site. INR intends to continue to seek additional funders and participants interested in helping to build the site, such as local governments and additional state agencies.

The first phase of the Oregon Explorer will be developed in 2005. In phase one, the Oregon Explorer home page will provide access to the Willamette Basin Explorer, the North Coast Basin Explorer, and a small set of statewide data, tools and database of expertise for the remaining eight basins and eight ecoregions as well as for the entire State of Oregon. The home page will feature a new search tool that enables searching across collections, both within the library and outside. It is the intent to facilitate access to information for the full geographic extent of each basin and ecoregion, even if it crosses State borders.

OSU will develop a content development strategy and set of collecting guidelines for the Oregon Explorer. To assure that information remains relevant and useful, OSU will convene at least two workshops per year where users and partners will be asked to evaluate the Oregon Explorer and advise on areas where new content, tools and/or services need to be added. Participation at these workshops will be requested from, but not limited to, the following organizations:

- Institute for Natural Resources
- OSU Libraries
- Basin representatives
- Conservation organizations
- State natural resource agencies
- Local agencies
- Federal natural resource agencies
- OSU natural resource colleges
- OSU Extension
- Oregon University System
- K-12

