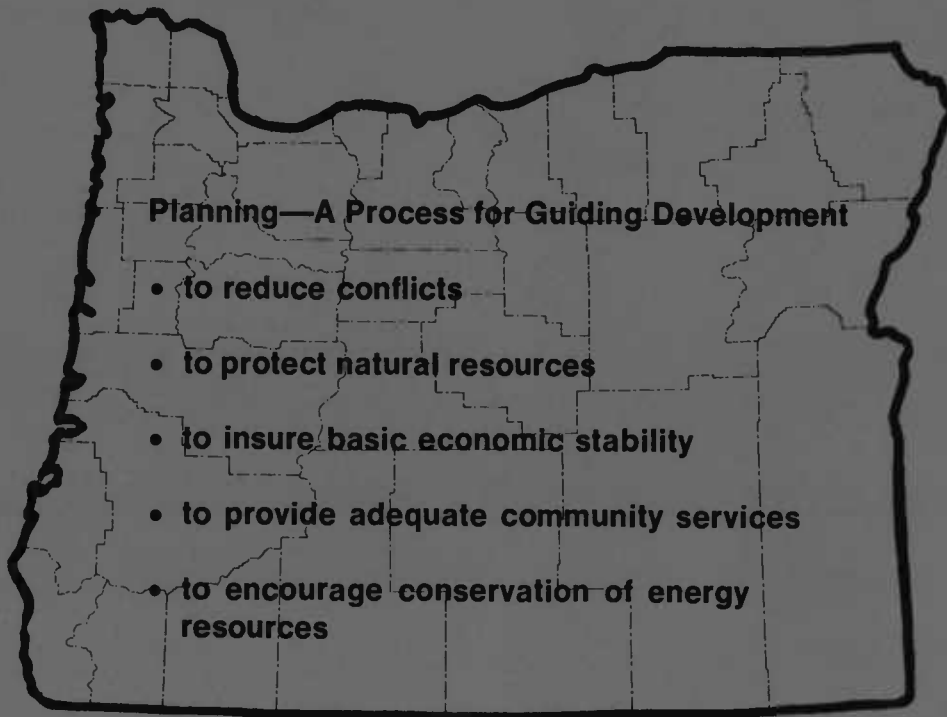


The Organization of Planning Programs in Oregon



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Planning as we know it in Oregon today traces its origin to model legislation prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce in the 1920's. In particular, the Standard Planning Enabling Act introduced the concept of planning through the creation of a planning commission and the development of comprehensive plans.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is a generalized, coordinated land use map and policy statement of the governing body of a state agency, city, county, or special district that interrelates all activities relating to the use of lands, including sewer and water systems, transportation, recreation, natural resources, and land development. (ORS 197.015)

In 1973, the Oregon legislature passed the state land use planning act, often referred to as Senate Bill 100, which requires all cities and counties to adopt comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. It also requires all units of government—counties, cities, special districts, state and federal agencies—to *coordinate* their comprehensive plans.

In addition to this, the state planning act:

- requires that citizens have the opportunity to take part in all phases of land use planning
- established the *Land Conservation and Development Commission* (LCDC) and the *Department of Land Conservation and Development* (DLCD) to manage a program of state review and assistance to local planning programs
- provides for statewide standards (goals) for local planning

LCDC and Statewide Goals

The state planning act directed LCDC to adopt statewide planning goals by January 1, 1975. These goals are to be used by cities, counties, special districts, and state and federal agencies in preparing, adopting, revising, and implementing comprehensive plans.

While none of the goals are ranked higher in importance than others, it is generally understood that the citizen involvement goal is of first concern to a community.

Statewide Planning Goals—Summary

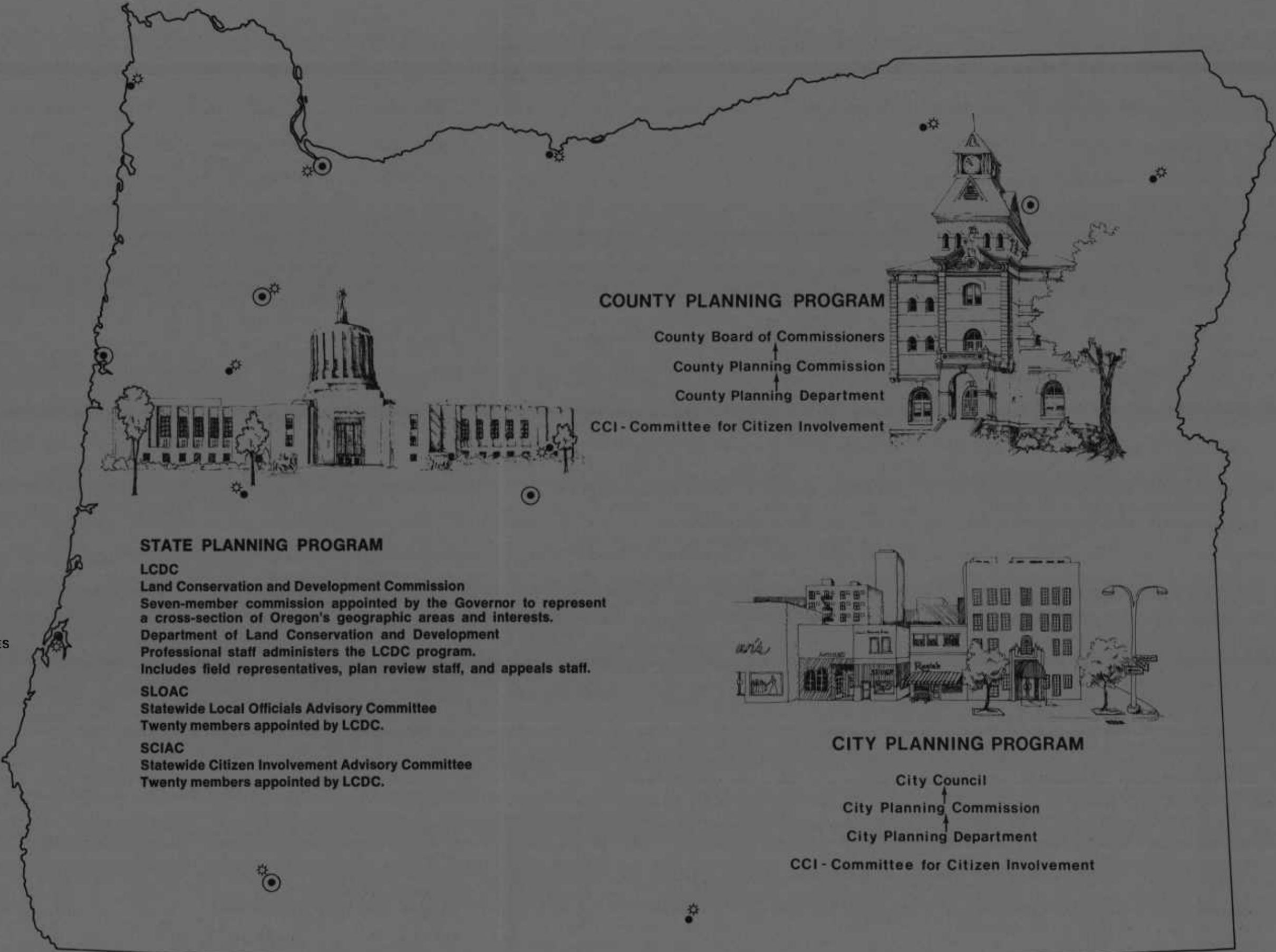
- Goal 1. *Citizen Involvement:* To develop a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.
- Goal 2. *Land Use Planning:* To establish a land use planning process and policy framework as a basis for all decisions and actions related to use of land and to assure an adequate factual base for such decisions and actions.
- Goal 3. *Agricultural Lands:* To preserve and maintain agricultural lands.
- Goal 4. *Forest Lands:* To conserve forest lands for forest uses.
- Goal 5. *Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources:* To conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources.
- Goal 6. *Air, Water and Land Resources Quality:* To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state.
- Goal 7. *Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards:* To protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards.
- Goal 8. *Recreational Needs:* To satisfy the recreational needs of the citizens of the state and visitors.
- Goal 9. *Economy of the State:* To diversify and improve the economy of the state.
- Goal 10. *Housing:* To provide for the housing needs of the citizens of the state.
- Goal 11. *Public Facilities and Services:* To plan and develop a timely, orderly and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development.
- Goal 12. *Transportation:* To provide and encourage a safe, convenient and economic transportation system.
- Goal 13. *Energy Conservation:* To conserve energy.
- Goal 14. *Urbanization:* To provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use.

☼ COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES

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North Bend
Portland
Salem
Corvallis
Eugene
Roseburg
Medford
The Dalles
Redmond
Lakeview
Pendleton
Enterprise

● LCDC FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

Newport
Portland
Salem
Medford
Bend
La Grande



- Goal 15. *Willamette Greenway*: To protect the scenic and recreational qualities of land along the Willamette River.
- Goal 16. *Estuarine Resources*: To protect and provide for appropriate orderly development of estuaries.
- Goal 17. *Coastal Shorelands*: To protect and provide for appropriate development of coastal shorelands.
- Goal 18. *Beaches and Dunes*: To protect beaches and dunes and reduce hazards to life and property.
- Goal 19. *Ocean Resources*: To conserve the long-term values, benefits and natural resources of the nearshore ocean and the continental shelf.

LCDC Guidelines

In addition to the stated goals, LCDC has developed guidelines designed to serve as suggested directions to help local plans conform to and carry out the statewide goals. However, other methods may be used to accomplish the goals.

Field Representatives

LCDC employs regional representatives to assist local governments in meeting state requirements. These representatives are housed in Salem, La Grande, Medford, Newport, Bend, and Portland.

The Planning Commission

Planning commissions serve as advisory units to elected officials, carrying out duties delegated to them by the City Council or County Commissioners. More than 80 percent of Oregon's cities with population of over 500 have planning commissions. These commissions:

- participate in preparing comprehensive plans
- recommend plans and ordinances related to plan accomplishment to the County Board of Commissioners or the City Council
- hold hearings on zone changes, conditional uses, and variances
- review subdivisions and planned developments

On the *county level*, members of the planning commission (usually 5, 7, or 9) are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

On the *city level*, the planning commission members are usually appointed to the commission by the City Council.

No more than two persons in the same occupation (such as real estate) can serve on the same planning commission. Laws also establish standards to protect against conflicts of interest. (ORS 215.030 and ORS 227.030)

Coordination

What is coordination?

A plan is "coordinated" when the needs of all levels of governments, semi-public and private agencies and the citizens of Oregon have been considered and accommodated as much as possible. (ORS 197.015)

Since the passage of the Land Use Planning Act of 1973, counties have been given the responsibility for coordinating planning activities and integrating the comprehensive plans for all cities, special districts, and the county government unless another arrangement of a cooperative nature is established locally. A Planning Coordinator is usually appointed to facilitate this coordination. Typically there is one coordinator per county, but in some cases, two or more counties share a single coordinator. State funds are provided to support the coordinator position.

The Portland metropolitan area falls under a different requirement. In this area, including Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties and the cities within the counties, including Portland, coordination authority is given to the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG). CRAG also has certain other authorities not vested in other Councils of Government. (ORS 197.755)

What does a Planning Coordinator do?

The Planning Coordinator assists local governments in their dealings with LCDC and is responsible to the County Board of Commissioners. Other duties are:

- to review, evaluate, and coordinate the comprehensive plans of the county, special districts, cities, and state and federal agencies
- to assist cities and the county in evaluating their planning programs and developing a schedule for bringing their comprehensive plans into compliance with statewide goals
- to assist cities and the county in developing their citizen involvement programs
- to assist cities and the county in applying for state planning grants

COG—Council of Governments

What is a COG?

A Council of Government (COG) is an organization or association of local governments; it is a way for local government officials in adjacent cities and counties to work together. In 1968, Oregon was divided into 14 administrative districts by Executive Order 68-11 and organization of COG's within each district was encouraged. The governing body of a COG is composed mainly of local elected officials, with members from all counties and some cities of the COG district. Some COG's have school and other special district members.

The Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG), which provides COG services for the greater Portland metropolitan area, has special authorities under ORS 197.755. CRAG is authorized to adopt region-wide land use planning standards and to coordinate plans within its jurisdiction.

What do COG's do?

COG's are designed to aid local governments in dealing with planning matters that cross local government boundary lines and affect several communities and counties—regional concerns. They are the designated review agency to coordinate local review of proposed development projects which come under federal funding review procedures. (Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, OMB A-95 procedures)

COG's may:

- provide area-wide review and planning under federal programs
- conduct studies of regional interest, such as waste disposal or transportation
- contract with local and state governments to assist in planning and service programs

How is this done?

To carry out its program, COG's maintain professional staffs. Staff size may vary from several persons to one staff member in some of the less populous COG districts.

County and City Planning

The 1973 Land Use Planning Act (Senate Bill 100) as amended and codified in ORS 197 specifies that comprehensive plans be adopted that are consistent with the statewide goals and that zoning and other ordinances necessary to put the plan into effect be enacted. LCDC, through its statewide citizen involvement advisory committee (SCIAC), requires that plans be developed and evaluated at the local level with *citizen involvement* at all stages of the planning process. Each city and county develops a Citizen Involvement Plan (CIP) through a committee for citizen involvement (CCI). The CCI also evaluates how effectively citizens are being involved in local planning.

What happens to the comprehensive plan?

The comprehensive plan developed with the aid of citizens, the planning commission, and the local planning department is adopted by the local governing body (the City Council or the County Board of Commissioners). The plan is subject to review and revision as conditions change.

Planning on the county and city level is an ongoing process involving:

- an analysis of information
- the development and updating of plans
- the implementation of policies and regulations
- continued citizen communication and involvement

What Can I Do?

Each of us is concerned about how our community changes, how our natural environment is protected, and how we are going to provide jobs and economic opportunity in the future. You can learn more and/or get involved by contacting your local planning department or the county OSU Extension Service office. The Extension Service works with citizens to help them understand local issues and procedures.

Prepared by James R. Pease, Extension land resource management specialist, and Shirley Roberts, graduate student, Oregon State University.

Your voice can be heard.



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

**EXTENSION
SERVICE**

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