

WCCS Data Warehouse Users Guide

Introduction

If you have experience with, or are familiar with web map server applications, much of what you see will be fairly straightforward. The WCCS survey control map server application was designed to be as simple as practicable. **But it is a good idea to read through the following:**

How a map server works

A map server application takes data records that have a geospatial component (in this case northings and eastings) and plots them on a web display map by their coordinates, for an area that you choose. In this application, we plot them by northing and easting in the respective north-south zone of a state map. The records are represented on the map by type with different symbols. If you select records by their symbols (either individually, or by a box), their additional attributes can be viewed, reported, or downloaded (more about that later).

Plug-ins

Many map servers require a **browser plug-in** (a helper program needed to display the data on a map inside your browser). When you enter the map page for the first time, it will attempt to download and install the plug-in appropriate for your current browser (generally, either Internet Explorer or Netscape though others are also supported). Be patient, it will usually only have to do this once). Depending on your type of connection, this may take from one to ten minutes. If there are problems with getting the Netscape plug-in from netscape.com, try the Autodesk Mapguide Downloads site.

The Data Warehouse Model

This application may be a little different from some that you may have used, in that we use a data warehouse model. Each of the participating counties, cities and/or agencies has provided data for this application independently, as data stewards of their own data. They are responsible for the completeness of their own records, and have input them in to a copy of the WCCS 'generic' control database. Each data steward uploads the latest copy of their database to the server periodically, and the application posts the data on the fly when the server is accessed. Certain considerations were made to accommodate this model, so the application may not appear as splashy as some you may have seen.

Navigating in the Map Application

When you first enter the application, you will see a map of the entire state. If you double-click in the north or south zone, or pick the north/south buttons (depending on your area of interest) this will put you in a map application of the respective zone.

(Note: in some browsers, if the navigation buttons are not appearing when you first enter the map application, try the 'refresh', or 'reload' browser option.)

Navigate by selecting the (+) zoom tool and window your general area of interest. As you zoom in, other reference features will begin to appear (such as arterials, townships, hydrography, cities, etc). Some reference features will auto-label as you zoom in and some may not appear until you are zoomed in to within one or two square miles (this was done in the interest of performance).

You can turn off/on the reference features via the check boxes on the left. If you know where you are going, turn off as many of these features as possible to speed up navigation.

Attributes for some of the features (section numbers, point id's, some roads) can be read via tool-tips. By highlighting the arrow symbol on the tool bar (select tool) and touching a feature (like a section line) this will display the attribute.

Selecting Control Points

With the select tool (arrow) highlighted, you can select one or more control point symbols. Hold down the shift-key to select for more than one control point. Or you can hold the mouse button down as you drag a box across a specific area to select all records in the box. All points highlighted have been selected.

Short Report

If you select the 'report' option (on the right) while some points are selected, then you get a short report of 'point id' and record types (horizontal, vertical, PLSS and combinations thereof. The '1' indicates that point is of a particular type; the combination types correspond to the symbols on the legend.

Full Report

The important piece of short report information is the 'point id'; this is a clickable link to a full report for the corresponding control point. Clicking on a 'point id' in the short report kicks off a full report for that record from the respective database. This shows up as a new page and can be printed as is.

ASCII Download

While one or more points are selected, you can click the download option (on the right), this defaults to a PNEZD (point number, northing feet, easting feet, orthometric height, and point designation) ASCII download with a .txt extension. You can choose other extensions in the dialogue box, but it will always be a comma-delimited file. This is a common format in most survey/engineering/GIS software.

Let us know what you think of the application. If you have any further questions or comments, contact Don Day via email at dayd@co.cowlitz.wa.us.