

Researching land in Oregon

*A working guide, October 13, 2026. Sources checked on October 13, 2026.
Not legal advice.*

Researching land in Oregon

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Choose Oregon and type your address, tax account number, or map and tax lot; in Polk and Benton counties your tax lots come from the county's own map.

[follow this link · 2026-10-13] In the other tax-lot counties the site links to the county's assessor map.

What we can do automatically now

[automatic · 2026-10-13] The township, range and section, the first patents and the survey plats in the report, from the BLM's land survey data.

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Polk and Benton assessor records: values, sales where published, and buildings.

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Old Oregon newspapers from the Library of Congress, at its limit of 20 requests a minute.

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Historical topographic maps and the latest NAIP aerial photograph.

How land is described here

[follow this link · 2026-10-13] Oregon is described from the Willamette Meridian. Sections 16 and 36 of each township were granted for schools.

The assessor's and parcel records

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Benton County's tax-lot layer carries one row per owner; the site merges them into one list per tax account.

[not verified · 2026-10-13] Benton County states no terms of use (its terms page returns "not found"); a letter asking for a written okay is drafted.

[follow this link · 2026-10-13] ORMAP assessor maps say "for assessment purposes only"; the site links to them.

Deeds and past owners

[ask an office · 2026-10-13] Polk County Clerk (recording), 850 Main St, Dallas, OR 97338; office Monday to Friday 8 to noon and 1 to 5; recording until 4:30. Copy and certification fees: <https://www.polkcountyor.gov/602/Recording-Fees> (the exact copy fee is not yet checked).

[ask an office · 2026-10-13] Benton County Records & Elections, 4500 SW Research Way, 2nd floor, Suite 200, Corvallis, OR 97333; 541-766-6756; by appointment, no walk-ins. Copies \$0.25 a page; search or certification \$3.75; in-depth research \$40 an hour.

First surveys and patents

[follow this link · 2026-10-13] BLM General Land Office Records: your file opens a search already filled in for your township and range. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/s/advanced-search>

[ask an office · 2026-10-13] The land-entry case file behind a patent: National Archives NATF Form 84, \$50 a file, charged only if found. <https://www.archives.gov/files/natf-84.pdf>

Aerial and ground photographs

[follow this link · 2026-10-13] Street View is a link only; nothing from it is stored or shown on our maps.

Soils, landscape, Native and community records

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Soils and census tables appear in the report where connected.

Local offices and costs

[ask an office · 2026-10-13] Polk County Assessor, 850 Main St, Dallas; Monday to Friday 8 to 5.

[not verified · 2026-10-13] Benton County Assessor's address and hours: not yet checked.

Tasks you can do

[ask an office · 2026-10-13] Ask the county clerk for the deeds in your chain of title by recording number or by book and page.

[follow this link · 2026-10-13] FamilySearch is free with a free account.

Sources last tested

[automatic · 2026-10-13] Library of Congress newspapers (20 a minute), Polk's tax-lot server (one request every 4 seconds), Benton's tax-lot layer: tested October 13, 2026.

What remains unconnected

[not verified · 2026-10-13] The other 12 tax-lot counties' owner-name positions; Marion and Linn online search status; Oregon water-rights data terms: not yet checked.