

Interpreting an Assessor's Map Number - inconsistencies

Oregon County Assessors are not consistent in the method by which they number their maps.¹

Some may read 2N32W11BA00100

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Another might read 232W112100100

And still another might read 2402.00N32.00W11BA.000000100 (This is the State of Oregon 29 character Cadastral standard for tax lot numbering. See "Oregon Cadastral Data Exchange Standard" (Version 2.0, June 2009). The first 2 digits denote the county, in this example the number (24) is Marion County. The numbers match the county's arranged in alphabetical order and range from 01 to 36, 01 being Baker County and 36 being Yamhill County.)

These all describe the same parcel: Tax Lot 100 in the NW1/4 NE1/4, Section 11, T2N, R32W

But there are basically 5 components to the map name, as discussed in the attached explanation from the Department of Revenue

- "2N" or "2" or "02.00N" refers to Township 2 North. Some counties, if they lie all in the area north or south of the Base Line will leave out the "N" or "S" designator. You have to know this when checking info in each county as to where they are located in relationship to the Oregon Base Line.
- "32W" or "32" or "32.00W" refers to Range 32 West. Some counties, if they lie entirely in the area east or west of the Willamette Meridian, will often leave out the "E" or "W" designator. Again, you have to know your map of Oregon and where the counties are in relationship to the Willamette Meridian.²
- 11 refers to the map's section
- The first letter (A, B, C, or D or 1, 2, 3, or 4) refers to the sections quarter. In our example "B" being the NW quarter of a section.
- The second letter (A, B, C, or D or 1, 2, 3, or 4) refers to the sections quarter-quarter. In our example "A" would be the NE ¼ of a quarter section.

. (See page 2-6 for a graphic to help understand quarter section and quarter-quarter sections.)

¹ For a review of Oregon Assessor's various methods for referring to geographic locations, please refer to Chapter 2 of the Oregon Dept of Revenue "Graphic Standards and Map Specifications", available online at http://www.ormap.com/mapmanual/pdfs/02-Chapter_02.pdf.

² For a quick review of the Public Land Survey system, with a specific reference to Oregon and the Willamette Meridian, please refer to the article "Public Land Survey system", at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/fire/olm/twnshp.htm>