



# County Assessors

## Statewide Aerial Imagery



County Assessors increasingly rely on high-resolution aerial imagery as an integral part of their valuation responsibilities. There are impediments for counties to have it, however, including cost of acquiring and managing the technology. Other state and local agencies are experiencing this same increased demand for aerial imagery and associated challenges in bringing this technology to public safety, economic development, natural resource management, and other key government functions.

## ABOUT AERIAL IMAGERY

Aerial imagery generally refers to high resolution photography taken from an airplane. It is an indispensable tool for topographical mapping and the interpretation of places, objects, and features.

State agencies and local governments increasingly rely on high resolution aerial imagery to conduct their business. Local disaster agencies use aerials for public safety efforts. County assessors use oblique pictures as an integral part of their valuation activities. State agency officials rely on aerials for development of commerce plans and to manage natural resources effectively.

Aerial imagery can be highly cost-effective, reducing travel and staff-related costs associated with on-site collection and capturing unexpected changes to land and property, such as those resulting from flooding. Creating a coordinated, state-wide repository for high quality aerial imagery for distribution between state and local governments would certainly result in lower costs to all users, better informed decisions, more frequent updating of data, and reduced waste from duplication of efforts by multiple agencies.

The Washington Association of County Officials and Washington State Association of County Assessors propose that the Washington State Legislature compel a comprehensive study of the aerial imagery collective needs for state agencies and local governments culminating in a report with recommendations to the legislature.

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