

**Hello Surveyors, Engineers, and GIS Professionals:**

As you are aware by now RCW 58.20 was changed in preparation for the Modernized NSRS now delayed. One of these changes was RCW 58.20.185 which adopts a different value for the length of a foot for use in future state plane coordinate systems. The use of this unit of measure is new in Washington State.

The Standard Foot, or International Foot as it is known around the world, is the basis for all conversions by the NGS in developing the Modernized NSRS. Once the Modernization is released all Land Survey values developed using the Washington Plane Coordinate System will use the Standard Foot.

Another change RCW 58.20.111 adds a definition of and requirement for metadata. Necessary metadata for all surveys going forward will include, among other items, the geodetic reference system utilized and the factor used to convert from meters to feet.

The most recent version of the state plane coordinate system for the state of Washington, which has been established by NGS, is NAD83. The meter to foot conversion for The Washington Coordinate System, produced and published by NGS for NAD83, is the US Survey Foot or 3.2808333333.

**Until NGS publishes a Modernized NSRS we advise the only correct way to use or report Washington State Plane Coordinate values is in terms of the US Survey Foot.**

Comments to:

Bob R. Knuth, PLS 36617, CfedS 1439  
Manager, Public Land Survey Office  
801 – 88th Ave. SE Tumwater, WA 98501-7019  
Office 360-902-1197