



## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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## **Mined Land Reclamation Awards recipients announced**

*Outstanding habitat restoration, innovative approaches to reducing mine impacts, and the reclamation legacy of Canby Sand & Gravel's Robert Traverso honored*

REDMOND, Ore. – The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) today announced the recipients of its annual Mined Land Reclamation Awards.

A multi-million dollar multi-year project to restore Willamette River fish and wildlife habitat, a consistently innovative approach to reducing mining operation impacts on nearby neighbors, a site where mining operations began more than 100 years ago, and a late mine owner whose vision for reclamation ensured fish and wildlife habitat protection are among those recognized for their outstanding efforts during the 2015 calendar year. Honorees are:

Outstanding Reclamation: **River Bend Sand & Gravel Co.** of Salem for ongoing water quality protection and thoughtful operation practices that supported final reclamation – which included planting more than 20,000 native tree seedlings and grasses and creating wetland areas – at the Ellendale Quarry site near Dallas, Ore.

Outstanding Operator: **Britt Sand & Gravel** of Baker City for improving the safety and productivity of mining operations at the Grey Eagle Mine, which began operating in 1907, as well as embracing new mapping requirements that improved the accuracy of permit boundary lines.

Good Neighbor Award: **Wildish Sand & Gravel Co.** of Eugene for commitment to reducing the potential impacts of their operation on neighbors and the environment through actions such as working with partners to develop a river bank stabilization plan, building a materials transport bridge to ensure safe boating access to the McKenzie River, and bringing in an archeologist to document cultural and historic resources discovered on their properties.

Oregon Plan Award: **The Nature Conservancy** for the ongoing Willamette Confluence Project, which seeks to restore fish and wildlife habitat for approximately 1,300 acres of previously mined land in the Middle/Coast Fork confluence area, with the project's \$1 million Phase 1 achieving improved fish passage, creation of riparian habitat, and restoration of vegetation for approximately 130 acres.

Special Recognition Award: The late **Robert D. Traverso** of Canby Sand & Gravel for his lifelong commitment to seeking out and implementing best practices for mining operations, as well as his dedication to returning mined land to fish and wildlife habit. Mr. Traverso's vision of what mine reclamation should be far exceeded any regulatory standards, and his legacy is exceptional restoration of mined land to thriving habitat.

**About the Mined Land Reclamation Awards**

Each year, DOGAMI's Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation program and an independent panel of experts select mine sites and operators to receive awards for excellence in reclamation, mine operation, and habitat protection. The awards were presented June 23, 2016 during the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) Annual Meeting at the Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond.

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Editorial note:

Additional information about the awardees is available for download at:

<http://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/awards.htm>

Photos are available on the Oregon Geology Flickr at: [www.flickr.com/photos/oregongeology](http://www.flickr.com/photos/oregongeology)