

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: January 30, 2008

## Two Klamath Falls area maps released

**Portland, Oregon:** Two important geologic maps of the Klamath Falls area are being released today by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI):

**OPEN-FILE REPORT O-07-05, GEOLOGIC COMPILATION MAP OF PART OF THE UPPER KLAMATH BASIN, KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON, compiled by Margaret D. Jenks, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

**GEOLOGIC MAP SERIES- GMS-118, GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE KLAMATH FALLS AREA, KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON, by George R. Priest, Frank R. Hladky, and Robert B. Murray, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

“These new maps should be of interest to many people in the Klamath Falls area,” said James Roddey, Earth Sciences Information Officer with DOGAMI. “Geologist Margi Jenks recently gave a talk on the geology of the area to a standing room only crowd in Klamath Falls and the subsequent field trip had a caravan of 22 cars! It’s a beautiful landscape that has a fascinating geologic history that obviously intrigues many people.”

### **GEOLOGIC MAP SERIES - GMS-118**

Geologic mapping of the Klamath Falls area was begun primarily in response to two strong earthquakes on September 21, 1993, measuring M 6.0 and M 5.9, that occurred a few miles to the west in the Mountain Lakes Wilderness Area. These earthquakes caused widespread damage in the area including significant damage to the Klamath County Courthouse and 16 other buildings in downtown Klamath Falls.

“The Klamath Falls area map illustrates the dynamic geology of the region that produces the remarkable topography, as the basin holding upper Klamath Lake subsides along active faults during repeated prehistoric earthquakes,” said DOGAMI Chief Scientist Ian Madin. “GMS-118 provides a complete and de-

**800 NE Oregon Street  
Suite 965, Portland, OR 97232  
[www.oregongeology.com](http://www.oregongeology.com)  
(971) 673-1555**

**Media Contact: James Roddey  
Earth Sciences Information Officer  
[james.roddey@dogami.state.or.us](mailto:james.roddey@dogami.state.or.us)  
(971) 673-1543 (direct line)  
(503) 807-8343 (cell)**

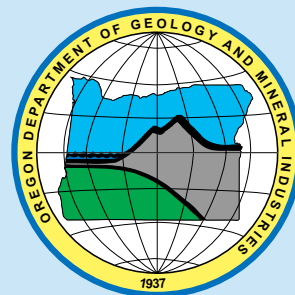
Mineral Land Regulation  
and Reclamation Program  
229 Broadalbin Street, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 967-2039  
Gary W. Lynch, Assistant Director

Baker City Field Office  
1510 Campbell Street  
Baker City, OR 97814  
(541) 523-3133  
Mark L. Ferns, Regional Geologist

Coastal Field Office  
313 SW 2nd Street, Suite D  
Newport, OR 97365  
(541) 574-6642  
Jonathan C. Allan, Coastal  
Team Leader

Grants Pass Field Office  
5375 Monument Drive  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
(541) 476-2496  
Thomas J. Wiley, Regional Geologist

The Nature of the Northwest  
Information Center  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177  
Portland, OR 97232-2162  
(503) 872-2750  
Donald J. Haines, Manager  
Internet: <http://www.NatureNW.org>



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tailed map of the Klamath Falls urban area, and contains information that bears on earthquake hazards and important groundwater and geothermal resources.”

### OPEN-FILE REPORT O-07-05

“With the publication of this compilation map, we have the first, detailed, modern map of the geology of this area,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist and Director of DOGAMI. “It is the culmination of nearly a decade of geologic research and mapping in the Klamath Basin, largely in response to the water crisis.”

Mapping efforts in the basin by DOGAMI began in the late 1990s with new mapping within the Klamath Falls urban growth boundary in support of earthquake hazard analysis (IMS-19, GMS-118). As water issues within the basin became more important, DOGAMI continued making new, large-scale geologic maps in support of the hydrologic studies of the Oregon Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resource Department. Over the years, seven DOGAMI geologists made a majority of the geologic maps that went into this publication.

“This compilation of 47 different geologic maps provides critical information for understanding the groundwater resources and the connections between groundwater and surface water in the upper Klamath Basin,” noted Madin. “It also identifies hundreds of newly mapped volcanoes in the area that have erupted over the past few million years into an environment of giant lakes.

These 2 maps are available on CD-ROM for \$10 each. Printed copies of the maps are \$15. They can be purchased from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177, Portland, Oregon, 97232. You may also call NNW at (503) 872-2750 or order online at <http://www.naturenw.org>. There is a \$4 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items. For additional information, please contact the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. Additionally, these items as well as all department maps and publications can be purchased at DOGAMI Field Offices including 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, (541) 476-2496 and 1510 Campbell Street, Baker City, (541) 523-3133.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State, and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards are key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon’s geology by going online at:

<http://www.OregonGeology.com>

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