

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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Geologic Map of the Umatilla Basin released

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has released **Open-File Report O-07-15 - Preliminary Geologic Map of the Umatilla Basin, Morrow and Umatilla Counties, Oregon**, by Ian P. Madin and Ronald P. Geitgey.

The Umatilla Basin is a large region of northeastern Oregon bounded generally by the Blue Mountains to the south and east and the Columbia River to the north. The study area comprises all of the Umatilla River drainage basin within Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The major urban areas in the study area are Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Boardman. The study area also includes the U.S. Army Umatilla Weapons depot and the lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Large portions of the area have been labeled critical groundwater areas by the Oregon Water Resources Department and are closed to new water well drilling. It is largely the concern over falling groundwater levels that prompted the Oregon Geologic Map Advisory Committee to make the Umatilla Basin a top priority for new geologic mapping. This new map is meant to be an initial compilation and digitization of existing data that can serve to guide and focus future in depth studies and detailed mapping. This geologic map was funded in part by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

“This new map will be a huge help in understanding how to enhance and protect groundwater quantity and quality, especially involving storage issues,” said Larry Givens, DOGAMI Governing Board member and County Commissioner with Umatilla County. “It helps give us the opportunity to move toward developing a sustainable water supply that’s not only critical for Umatilla and Morrow Counties, but for the whole state.”

The geologic data compiled in O-07-15 can also be found in the **Oregon Geologic Data Compilation (OGDC-4)**. The Oregon Geologic Data Compilation project and data set are an effort to bring together the best available geologic mapping and data from all relevant published and unpublished sources: state and federal agen-

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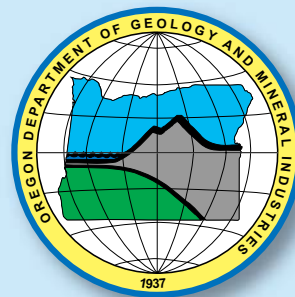
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cies, university thesis work, and other documents. OGDC-4 includes Southeast, Northeast, Central and Southwest Oregon. The Oregon Geologic Data Compilation is expected to be completed in 2009.

Creating geologic maps is commonly confused with surveying, and making road maps and topographic maps, which show hills, valleys, roads, and other natural and man-made features on the Earth's surface. Geologic maps, however, use a combination of colors, lines, and symbols to depict the composition, distribution and relationships of rocks and sediments at and near the Earth's surface. Geologic maps also reveal the structure of the rocks below the Earth's surface by depicting faults and the orientation of the rocks. Understanding this third dimension is particularly important for the discovery and assessment of mineral and energy resources; the locations of geologic hazards such as landslides and faults; and the locations and types of resources such as sand and gravel, ore deposits, and ground water.

Oregon Geologic Data Compilation - on the internet

An interactive map of OGDC data is available online at: <http://www.oregongeology.org>. Map zoom and pan controls along with an info-click function allows users to view stratigraphy, lithology, and rock types.

Open-File Report O-07-15 - Preliminary Geologic Map of the Umatilla Basin, Morrow and Umatilla Counties, Oregon is available on CD-ROM for \$10. Printed copies of the map are available for \$15.

Oregon Geologic Data Compilation - Version 4 (OGDC-4) is available on CD-ROM for \$25. Knowledge of and access to GIS and database software applications is essential to the use of the CD version of the compilation.

Both 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, this item as well as all department maps 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.

Learn more about Oregon's geology by going online at:
<http://www.oregongeology.org>

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