

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: December 2, 2008

Mined Land Reclamation Awards announced by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Portland, Oregon: An extensive clean-up of a long neglected mine site and a Good Neighbor award in Linn County are the highlights of this year's Mined Land Reclamation Awards presented by the Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program (MLRR) of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

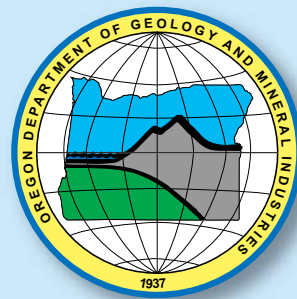
Each year the MLRR office, with an independent panel of experts, selects specific mine sites and operators to receive industry and Department recognition for outstanding reclamation, mine operation and salmon protection (The Oregon Plan Award). This year's awards, based on an operator's performance during the 2007 calendar year, were presented at the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) annual conference earlier in the year. No Oregon Plan award was presented this year.

"We consider these awards important recognition to those owners and operators who go beyond the basic requirements of rules and regulations in operating a mine site," said Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist and Director of DOGAMI. "By using innovative ideas and responsible techniques of reclamation they are working to minimize the impact on the environment and in the process also be good neighbors."

"The companies and government organizations we recognize with these annual awards show an understanding of the issues involved in surface mining today and are committed to protecting the undisturbed environment around the site. They also are committed to the

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The Knife River Corporation in Tangent donated materials and expertise to help the Jefferson Cemetery Commission build a restroom at their historic cemetery.

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communities where they are based,” notes Gary Lynch, Assistant Director of Regulation for DOGAMI’s MLRR office. “The recognition is also an encouragement to others in the mining industry to follow suit.”

The 2007 Mined Land Reclamation Award winners include:

Outstanding Reclamation - S.A. Moore LLC, Deschutes County.

Outstanding Operator - Stein Enterprises, Inc., Josephine County.

Good Neighbor Award - Knife River Corporation, Western Oregon Division, Linn County.

A brief description of each award winner follows. Detailed online information for each winner can be found on our website: <http://www.oregongeology.org>

Outstanding Reclamation - S.A. Moore LLC, Deschutes County. Contact: Scott Moore - 541-548-4525

The site of this outstanding reclamation project, Lower Bridge, is located seven miles west of Terrebonne, along the Deschutes River, in a growing residential area. Mining began at the Lower Bridge site in the 1920s for diatomaceous earth.

Over the decades of mining at the Lower Bridge site, hundreds of tons of scrap metal, equipment, junk, old tires and discarded conveyor belts had accumulated. Scott Moore, having taken over from his father, began the process of cleaning up the site. By 2006, Mr. Moore had disposed of all discarded equipment and debris, literally digging up old tires and scrap metal and hauling them to recycle centers.

Scott Moore is being recognized for his efforts to clean up several decades worth of refuse left by others, and in the effort, also reclaim for secondary beneficial use, areas that had not required reclamation.

Outstanding Operator - Stein Enterprises, Inc., Josephine County. Contact: Brett Loper - 541-660-5861

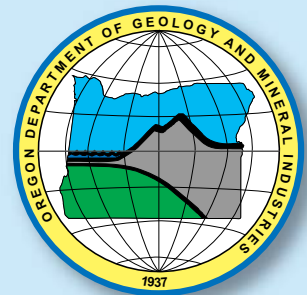
This upland quarry is located in Wilderville, six miles south of Grants Pass. A DOGAMI operating permit was first issued in 1979 and has been more or less maintained since.

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Scott Moore is being recognized for his efforts and expense to clean up several decades worth of refuse at his mine site.



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After a previous operator was found in violation of several DOGAMI and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) statutes, Stein Enterprises purchased the property in 2002 and immediately began to bring the site into compliance.

Stein Enterprises is being recognized for taking a troubled site and making it an example of the best in industry practices, while mending fences with neighbors and restoring and reclaiming land damaged by others.

Good Neighbor Award - Knife River Corporation, Western Oregon Division, Linn County. Contact: Steve Mote - 541-928-6491

The City of Jefferson nominated Knife River Corporation, and specifically Steve Mote of Knife River, for the DOGAMI Good Neighbor award for 2007.

Early in 2007, the Jefferson Cemetery Commission proposed to construct a restroom at the Jefferson cemetery. Mr. Mote not only agreed to help with the supply of concrete and gravel, but also reviewed the plans, visited the job site, and made recommendations on the type of materials best suited for this project. Mr. Mote also provided advice on the construction of the foundation stabilizing the underground vault.

Without the assistance of Mr. Mote and Knife River providing the concrete for the restroom pad and gravel for the parking lot, this project could not have been completed.

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 and the Mined Land Reclamation Awards, presented by the Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program, by going online at: <http://www.oregongeology.org>

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