

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: July 7, 2009

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries reorganizes field offices

Portland, Oregon: Reductions to the 2009-2011 biennial budget for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) will result in closing the Grants Pass Field Office and downsizing the Baker City Field Office.

“I have to tell you that it is a difficult and emotional decision to close offices and reduce our services to the local communities,” says State Geologist Vicki McConnell. “We are talking with the Baker and Josephine county commissioners to find the best way to keep information and important materials in those communities. First though, we need to carefully catalogue and archive our exhibits, maps and publications. We ask everyone’s patience as we work through the reorganization.”

The Grants Pass Field Office, presently co-located with the Oregon Department of Forestry, is now officially closed to the public for map and publication sales.

The Baker City Field Office will remain open to the public for map and publication sales until the end of September 2009. At that time the office will be downsized and moved to the Baker County Courthouse in Baker City. The office will be open to the public for technical services, but not for retail sales.

“Our field offices in Grants Pass and Baker City have been part of those communities since 1939, when our agency began,” said McConnell. “It really hurts to have to make these changes, especially since I began with DOGAMI in the Baker City Field Office.”

Publications and maps can still be purchased through the Nature of the Northwest Information Center website at: <http://www.naturenw.org/>.

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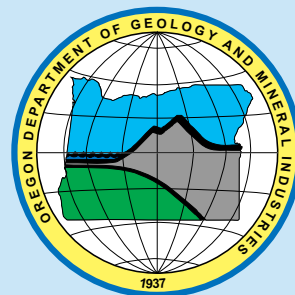
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The Nature of the Northwest Information Center and retail store located in the Portland State Office Building on the first floor will physically relocate to the DOGAMI administrative office on the ninth floor in September 2009.

The mission of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

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.org>

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