

## 2008 Mined Land Reclamation Awards

**Oregon Plan Award - 3 Mile Sand & Gravel, 3 Mile Pit, Klamath County.  
Contact Frank Morello - 541-891-3988**

**Oregon Plan Award winner 3 Mile Sand & Gravel is recognized for their public-private partnership that has coordinated efforts to limit the spread of weeds and for their off-site volunteer work to create and enhance listed fisheries and wildlife habitat.**

The 3 Mile Pit is located 16 miles northwest of Klamath Falls. A US Forest Service (USFS) pit is located adjacent to this property. The 3 Mile site began as a Grant of Total Exemption, which limits the area of disturbance to less than 5 acres and annual production to 5,000 Cubic Yards or less. An operating permit was issued to the landowner by DOGAMI in 2001, to expand the area of operation and allow unlimited production. The DOGAMI permit was transferred to 3 Mile Sand & Gravel in 2006.

In order to protect 3 Mile Creek, DOGAMI required a 100 foot undisturbed setback between all mine operations and the creek. Previous operators had infringed on this setback. 3 Mile Sand & Gravel has successfully reclaimed the buffer between the mine and the creek.

The reclaimed mine land use for this site will be an open water pond and wildlife habitat. 3 Mile Sand & Gravel has entered into agreements with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the USFS to improve bull trout habitat along 3 Mile Creek outside of the DOGAMI permit boundary. Part of the agreement requires 3 Mile Sand & Gravel to pump water from the excavation to 3 Mile Creek from April through November to supplement the natural flow. Water quality is tested on a random basis, and water is discharged to an energy dissipater to control erosion.

3 Mile Sand & Gravel, working with the USFS and the local soil and water conservation service has attained a weed free aggregate source designation. A weed free native grass mixture is used for a cover crop for interim reclamation as well as final plantings, when mining is complete in an area. A weed eradication program is also an on-going part of this operation. Annual surveys by the USFS insures this site remains a weed free source. 3 Mile Sand & Gravel is the only aggregate source used by Crater Lake National Park because of their weed free designation.

For a mine pond, the excavated slopes must have a minimum slope of 3:1 (horizontal to vertical) to six feet below ordinary low water elevation, to allow any-

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**In a private-public partnership that includes 3 Mile Sand and Gravel, entire reaches of 3 Mile Creek are being reconstructed to bring back complexity and riparian vegetation.**



**3 Mile Sand & Gravel is working to reclaim this excavated pond for wildlife habitat, using best management practices, including a weed free seed mixture.**

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one to exit the pond after intentional or accidental entry. 3 Mile Sand & Gravel has created these slope angles along the final pond boundary along the west and north sides. Final above water slopes have been successfully reclaimed in the weed free mixture.

3 Mile Sand & Gravel has also completed a stormwater control plan in conjunction with the USFS and USFWS to maintain internal drainage. The only discharge is the controlled and monitored discharge to the energy dissipater.

Beyond the DOGAMI permit boundary, 3 Mile Sand & Gravel is working with ODFW, USFWS, and the USFS to enhance fisheries habitat along 3 Mile Creek. Agency approved barriers have been constructed to help protect listed bull trout populations. Culverts are being removed and replaced with bridges. Entire reaches of the creek are being reconstructed to bring back complexity and riparian vegetation, which includes excluding livestock from large areas of the property. Wetland areas have been identified and enhanced, again with the exclusion of livestock.

The Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation program at DOGAMI serves as a steward of the state's mineral production, while encouraging best practices within the industry. MLRR's goals include environmental protection, conservation, effective site reclamation, and operational guidance regarding other engineering and technical issues. Contact Gary Lynch, Assistant Director of Regulation, MLRR, at (541) 967-2053 for more information.

Detailed online information for each winner can be found on our website:  
<http://www.oregongeology.org>

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