

## 2008 Mined Land Reclamation Awards

**Outstanding Reclamation - Pendleton Ready Mix Co, Mission Pit, Umatilla County. Contact Jayne Clarke - 541-276-6951**

**Pendleton Ready Mix has won the Outstanding Reclamation Award this year for their dedicated efforts to successfully turn the Mission Pit into a popular area for bird and wildlife viewing.**

This site is located four miles east of Pendleton, two miles north of I-84, within Umatilla Tribal Lands, and adjacent to the Umatilla River. In 1985, 19 acres were permitted by Umatilla County, who at that time administered a county reclamation program. In 1989, Umatilla County relinquished their reclamation program, with DOGAMI assuming administrative control. Mining at this site was completed in 2003 and final reclamation was completed in 2006, when revegetation efforts of the final pond were successful.

Sand and gravel was mined at this site in four separate phases over the years. Mining took place with concurrent reclamation being practiced. Excellent water management practices were used in the pits during mining, which allowed dry mining and protected water quality. Proper sloping of the excavated pits, spreading of soil, and planting of riparian vegetation allowed mined areas to quickly stabilize, creating wildlife habitat.

During a DOGAMI site inspection in 1993, dozens of wildfowl were noted at the reclaimed ponds, while mining continued nearby.

This site was developed behind an old US Army Corps of Engineers dike, which prevents the Umatilla River from encroaching into the floodplain. Plans to connect the ponds to the river were never considered when the site was originally developed. At the time of permitting in 1985, conventional wisdom was to isolate the ponds from the river as well as possible. With residences now established between this site and the river there are no future plans to connect these ponds to the river system.

Because of excellent mine management practices, from development through final reclamation, a thriving wetland area has been created in an area where wetlands did not previously exist. Outstanding reclamation practices are recognized at this site for pond development, including shallow areas for wetland plant establishment, irregular shorelines, creation of predator free nesting areas, and revegetation with native species.

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**Because of excellent mine management practices by Pendleton Ready Mix, from development through final reclamation, a thriving wetland area has been created in an area where wetlands did not previously exist.**



**Outstanding reclamation practices at this site include shallow areas for wetland plant establishment, irregular shorelines, creation of predator free nesting areas, and revegetation with native species.**

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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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