

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: August 10, 2007

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

Portland, Oregon: An Oregon Plan Award for restoring floodplain habitat in an urban environment is the highlight 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).

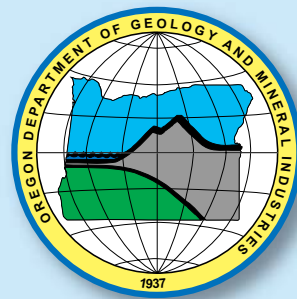
Each year the MLRR office, with an independent panel of experts, selects specific mine sites and operators to receive awards for outstanding reclamation, mine operation and salmon protection (The Oregon Plan Award). This year's awards, based on an operator's performance during the 2006 calendar year, were presented at the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) annual conference in June, 2007.

"We consider these awards important recognition to those owners and operators that go beyond the basic requirements of rules and regulations," said Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist and Director of DOGAMI. "By using innovative ideas and responsible techniques of reclamation they are working to improve the environment and be good neighbors."

This year's Oregon Plan Award recognizes the City of Eugene for the restoration of Delta Ponds, a 150 acre natural area in the heart of

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Eugene that borders the Willamette River. For many community members, Delta Ponds has become a favorite spot for bird and wildlife viewing, fishing, walking and biking. But it hasn't always been that way.

In the late 1800s, the Delta Ponds area was part of a river floodplain network of side channels, sloughs, and tributaries that provided a rich habitat well-suited for many fish and wildlife species. Over time, flood control management, urbanization, and gravel mining changed the area so that only a few remaining ponds and sloughs offered refuge to fish and wildlife. The highly disturbed ground and steep banks were quickly colonized by invasive plants, such as Armenian blackberry, Scotch broom, and English ivy. There were no trails or parking areas to allow people to enjoy what wildlife that did find refuge there.

In the past five years, that has all changed. Invasive plants have been removed and native trees and shrubs have been planted. The ponds are being re-linked to the Willamette River and to each other. The City of Eugene built the final section of the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail through the Delta Ponds area, including a unique raised causeway that takes users out over a portion of the ponds to view wildlife up close. Walking trails and parking lots have improved access to and enjoyment of this natural gem in the middle of Eugene.

"Like the work the City of Eugene has put into restoring Delta Ponds, the companies and government organizations we recognize with these annual awards really show a deep commitment to the environment and to the communities where they are based," notes Gary Lynch, Assistant Director of Regulation for DOGAMI's MLRR office. "It's also an encouragement to others in the mining industry to follow suit."

Other Mined Land Reclamation Award winners include:

Outstanding Operator - Westside Rock - Washington County

Outstanding Reclamation - Hap Taylor & Sons Inc. - Deschutes County

Outstanding Reclamation, Exploration - Newmont North America Exploration Ltd. - Malheur County

A brief description of each award winner follows. Click on the red links following each description for a detailed look at each winner.

Oregon Plan Award - City of Eugene - Lane County

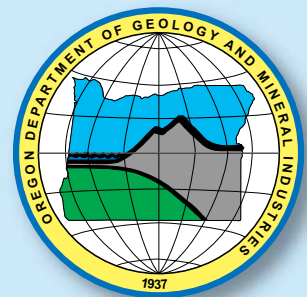
Contacts: Scott Milovich, City of Eugene - 541/682-6086

Doug Putman, US Army Corps of Engineers - 503/808-4733

Over the past seven years the City of Eugene, working with *Oregon Solutions* (<http://www.orsolutions.org/willamette/deltaponds.htm>) has planned and executed a large-scale floodplain restoration project at Delta Ponds in partner-

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ship with the US Army Corps of Engineers and other natural resource agencies and volunteer groups. The goal of the project has been to reestablish the floodplain of the river and improve habitat conditions and diversity for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species with an emphasis on Chinook salmon, western pond turtles, and neo-tropical migratory birds. **Learn more about the Delta Ponds Floodplain Restoration Project**

Outstanding Operator - Westside Rock, Hayden Quarry, LLC - Washington County. Contact John Malnerich - 503/351-2917

The Hayden Quarry is located approximately four miles southwest of Cornelius. Westside Rock has demonstrated an ability to move onto an existing quarry site and dramatically improve the entire operation, paying particular attention to the stormwater control system. **Learn more about the Outstanding Operator Award Winner Westside Rock**

Outstanding Reclamation - Hap Taylor & Sons Inc. - Deschutes County Contact: Hap Taylor - 541/388-0445

The Klipple Pit, operated by Hap Taylor and Sons, Inc. (HTS) is located 2.5 miles west of Tumalo and bordered by Tumalo Creek. The Deschutes River is located nearby. HTS is recognized for an outstanding job of reclamation and stormwater control in a sensitive area nearby 2 important waterways. **Learn more about the Outstanding Reclamation Award Winner Hap Taylor & Sons Inc.**

Outstanding Reclamation, Exploration - Newmont North America Exploration Ltd. - Malheur County. Contact: Brian Johnson - 775/778-3929

The Ruiz exploration project site is located 10 miles west of McDermitt in the area of the Bretz Mine, an old mercury mine that operated between the 1920s and 1940s. This exploration project was conducted on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. Newmont is recognized for their efforts to minimize the disturbance of land during this operation, for not impacting the old mercury mine waste rock piles, and for the final reclamation of the drill pads in this harsh environment. **Learn more about the Outstanding Reclamation, Exploration Award Winner Newmont North America Exploration Ltd.**

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.com>

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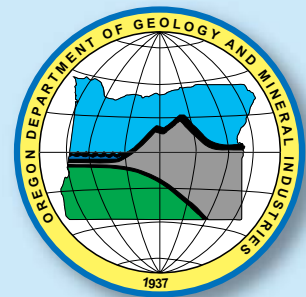
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Mined Land Reclamation Awards

Oregon Plan Award - City of Eugene - Lane County

Contacts: Scott Milovich, City of Eugene - 541/682-6086

Doug Putman, US Army Corps of Engineers - 503/808-4733

Delta Ponds is a 150 acre natural area in the heart of Eugene that borders the Willamette River. It is owned by the City of Eugene and managed by the Parks and Open Space Division. For many community members, Delta Ponds is a favorite spot for bird and wildlife viewing, fishing, walking and biking. But it hasn't always been that way.

In the late 1800s, the Delta Ponds area was part of a river floodplain network of side channels, sloughs, and tributaries that provided a rich habitat well-suited for many fish and wildlife species. Over time, flood control management, urbanization, and gravel mining changed the area so that only a few remaining ponds and sloughs offered refuge to fish and wildlife. The highly disturbed ground and steep banks were quickly colonized by invasive plants, such as Armenian blackberry, Scotch broom, and English ivy. There were no trails or parking areas to allow people to enjoy what wildlife did find refuge there.

In the past five years, that has all changed. The City of Eugene built the final section of the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail through the Delta Ponds area, completing a 12 mile loop along both banks of the river. This new trail through the ponds included a unique raised causeway that takes users out over a portion of the ponds to view wildlife up close.

In 2004, the City began a three year process of removing invasive species on 28 acres and replacing them with native trees and shrubs. This work was made possible through Bureau of Land Management Cooperative Conservation Funds and local stormwater funds. This work has utilized local contractors, employing up to a dozen workers for a 3-4 month period and has made a dramatic difference in the appearance and health of the natural area.

Over the past seven years the City of Eugene has been planning and executing a large-scale floodplain restoration project at Delta Ponds in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers and other resource agencies and volunteer organizations. The goals of the project are to reestablish the floodplain of the river and improve habitat conditions and diversity for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species with an emphasis on Chinook salmon, western pond turtles, and neo-tropical migratory birds.

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Funded by an approximately \$7.1 million partnership between the City of Eugene, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a number of local partners, this work will increase river flows through Delta Ponds by connecting the ponds to the Willamette River and to each other. Winter high flows in the river will be diverted through the ponds, creating invaluable backwater habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. Reshaping of the steep-sided pond banks to form gradually sloping riparian benches will allow the re-establishment of a diversity of native trees and shrubs. Recreational improvements, such as additional gravel walking trails, parking lots, an accessible boardwalk and over-look on the ponds' edge will improve access to and enjoyment of this natural area gem in the middle of Eugene. Finally, educational signage, volunteer opportunities, and an outdoor classroom will provide the community with a variety of ways to learn about Delta Ponds, the restoration efforts and the fish and wildlife that can be seen there.

More photos of Delta Ponds by photographer Vern Rogers can be found online at:

http://www.pbase.com/fotabug/delta_ponds

Mined Land Reclamation Awards

Outstanding Operator - Westside Rock, Hayden Quarry, LLC - Washington County. Contact John Malnerich - 503/351-2917

The Hayden Quarry is located approximately four miles southwest of Cornelius. Access from Cornelius is south on Golf Course Road for 2.5 miles, turn right on Nursery Road, proceed one mile to Hergert Road.

This site operated as a Grant of Total Exemption (GTE) until 1996, with the bulk of the site affected by mining before 1972. A full Operating Permit was issued in April 1997 for a 100 acre site. Approximately 4 acres are recognized as exempt with the rest of the exempt acres having been naturally reclaimed.

Westside Rock obtained this quarry from the previous operator in September 1999. During an inspection in February 2000, DOGAMI personnel noted that Westside Rock had done a commendable job of cleaning up the site and putting it in a more orderly condition. The quarry is in a narrow canyon and the highwall contains a bench along the southwestern end.

Overburden thickness can range up to over 30 feet above the resource and a large volume of this material has been backfilled into a depression in the eastern portion of the site. This area was an exempt over-steepened slope that has been stabilized by the backfilling process. In addition the overburden was treated with cement to improve compaction during backfilling.

Storm water at the site consists of a small ephemeral spring that drains over the highwall from the southwest end of the quarry and flows through a 12 inch pipe under the quarry floor. The pipe conveys the water to a trench along the north side of the quarry and the water then flows through a series of settling ponds before discharging off-site to a pasture area on adjacent property to the northeast of the mine.

The operator has done an excellent job in designing and installing the storm water retention structures to allow sufficient holding time for fines to settle out of the water column. Each of the outlet structures from the settling ponds contains either concrete or oversized rock outfalls, filter fabric and piping to prevent headcutting and to further remove sediment prior to discharging off-site.

The embankments around the settling ponds have become well vegetated with the establishment of some cattails. In addition, numerous drain-rock check

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dam structures have been installed in the ditch along the haul road to filter sediment before the storm water flows off-site. Monitored plantings of native species was also completed.

The access road to the quarry has been paved with asphalt to reduce dust and sediment being carried on to the county road. A truck spray station was installed at the scales to further reduce dust generation and tracking of mud onto the county road.

Trees have been planted along a vegetated berm to help visual and noise screening.

Westside Rock has demonstrated an ability to move onto an existing quarry site and dramatically improve the entire operation paying particular attention to the stormwater control system.

Mined Land Reclamation Awards

Outstanding Reclamation - Hap Taylor & Sons Inc. - Deschutes County

Contact: Hap Taylor - 541/388-0445

The Klipple Pit is located 2.5 miles west of Tumalo adjacent to Johnson Market Road to the west and bordered by Tumalo Creek on the east. The Deschutes River is located a ¼ mile further east. This site was a high bench sand & gravel deposit well outside the 100 year flood plain of either the creek or river. This area is located within a recognized winter deer range and is considered important deer habitat. Tumalo Creek is at an elevation of approximately 100 feet lower than the Klipple Pit elevation. The depth of the excavation was less than 25 feet from original ground surface.

An operating permit was issued to Bend Aggregate for the Klipple Pit in 1977 and the permit was transferred to Hap Taylor & Sons (HTS) in 1999. Sixty-five acres were covered by the DOGAMI operating permit within a 162 acre parcel. Mining was completed in 2004. Final reclamation was accomplished in 2006.

Development began slowly. A 1978 DOGAMI inspection report notes no mining yet with the only activity in the area is rapid development of housing. All available soil material was salvaged and stockpiled on site for final reclamation.

Through the 1980s and 90s this material source, located just five miles from Bend was an important resource as Bend grew. All material was hauled off-site to the processing plant at Tumalo that is currently used by HTS.

The excavation areas were relatively level open areas well above the creek. Maintaining internal drainage of the excavations protected the creek from stormwater discharges. Stormwater was contained on-site and allowed to infiltrate the subsurface.

Final excavated slopes were maintained at 3 (Horizontal) : 1 (Vertical), well flatter than the required 1 ½ : 1 slopes. The shallower slopes allowed quicker establishment of required revegetation of a native grass mixture.

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Mined Land Reclamation Awards

Outstanding Reclamation, Exploration - Newmont North America Exploration Ltd. - Malheur County. Contact: Brian Johnson - 775/778-3929

The Ruiz Project site is located 10 miles west of McDermitt, OR, in the area of the Bretz Mine - an old mercury mine that operated between the 1920s and 1940s. The elevation is between 5,200 and 5,400 feet. This is high desert sagebrush country.

This exploration project was conducted on BLM lands. A DOGAMI permit was issued in 2003.

Ten exploration holes were drilled utilizing existing access roads. Drill pads and sumps for drilling fluids were kept to a minimum surface disturbance. Prior to exploration activities old mine waste rock piles that could contain elevated mercury levels were identified. Caution was exercised during all exploration activity not to disturb the abandoned mine workings.

Drilling was completed in 2004. By June 2005, final grading of the drill pads and some minor road building was complete. Seeding of the disturbed areas was completed in the Fall of 2005 with a native grass mixture.

A DOGAMI inspection in August 2006 documented that the revegetation efforts were successful. Newmont is recognized for the efforts to minimize the disturbance during this operation, not impacting the old mercury mine waste rock piles, and the final reclamation of the drill pads in this harsh environment.