

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: July 23, 2009

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

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.

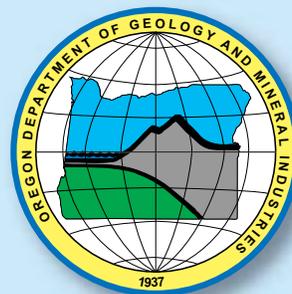
Portland, Oregon: An Oregon Plan Award that recognizes a partnership between an active gravel quarry and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Forest Service, is the highlight of this year's Mined Land Reclamation Awards presented by the Mineral Land Regulation 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 fish habitat protection (The Oregon Plan Award). This year's awards, based on an operator's performance during the 2008 calendar year, were presented at the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) annual conference in June, 2009.

"These awards are an 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."

800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 965, Portland, OR 97232
www.oregongeology.org
(971) 673-1555

Media Contact: James Roddey
Earth Sciences Information Officer
james.roddey@state.or.us
(971) 673-1543 (direct line)
(503) 807-8343 (cell)



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“Like the work being done at 3 Mile Creek, which is designed to improve bull trout habitat near Klamath Falls, 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, Division I - Cobb Rock, Inc. - Washington County

Outstanding Operator, Division II - Cinder Butte Rock Products - Deschutes County

Outstanding Reclamation - Pendleton Ready Mix Company - Umatilla County

Good Neighbor Award - Turner Gravel, Inc. - Marion 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>

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.

Outstanding Operator Division I - Cobb Rock, Inc., Beaverton Quarry, Washington County. Contact Vern Spierling - 503-649-5661

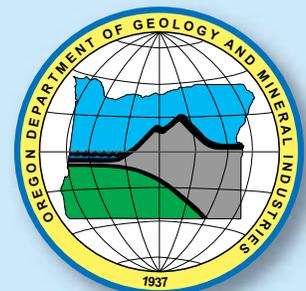
Cobb Rock, Inc. was chosen as Outstanding Operator, Division I based on their long record of voluntary reclamation, a well planned and implemented operation, and their outstanding compliance record with the DOGAMI and DEQ permits issued for this site.

Outstanding Operator Division II - Cinder Butte Rock Products, Cinder Butte, Deschutes County. Contact CB Foss - 541-548-7607

Cinder Butte Rock Products was chosen as Outstanding Operator, Division II for the work they have accomplished to visually and sonically screen this historic mine site from adjacent properties, reclaim mine related disturbance that was exempt from the reclamation rules, develop the cinder pit in a more orderly and neat manner, and for offering aggregate recycling services to the area.

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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.

Good Neighbor Award - Turner Gravel, Inc., Turner Quarry, Marion County. Contact Gary Clapshaw - 907-209-4584 .

Turner Gravel, Inc. received the Good Neighbor Award because of their efforts to improve their quarry operation, protect adjacent natural resources, and restore the confidence of their neighbors that a well run quarry need not be a liability.

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.

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>

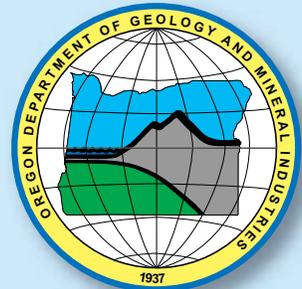
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Mineral Land Regulation
and Reclamation Program
229 Broadalbin Street, SW
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 967-2039,
Gary W. Lynch, Assistant Director

Coastal Field Office
313SW 2nd Street, Suite D
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 574-6642,
Jonathan C. Allan, Coastal
Team Leader

The Nature of the Northwest
Information Center
Suite 177, 800 NE Oregon Street,
Portland, OR 97232-2162
(503) 872-2750
Donald J. Haines, Manager
Internet: <http://www.NatureNW.org>



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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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.

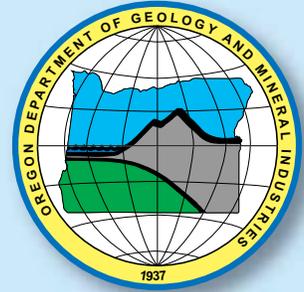
3 Mile Sand & Gravel has also completed a stormwater control plan in conjunction with the USFS and USFWS to maintain internal drainage. The only discharge is the controlled and monitored discharge to the energy dissipater.

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.

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Cobb Rock, Inc. was chosen as Outstanding Operator, Division I, based on their long record of voluntary reclamation, a well planned and implemented operation, and their outstanding compliance record with the DOGAMI and Department of Environmental Quality permits issued for this site.

The Beaverton Quarry is located two miles west of Beaverton with access from Highway 208. Mining began at this upland quarry site in 1958. In 1972, based on aerial photography, 87 acres were deemed eligible for Limited Exempt (LE) status. LE status allows an operator to mine within a pre 1972 defined boundary with unlimited annual production if they were permitted prior to 1972.

A LE was first issued by DOGAMI in 1974 and maintained through 1986. An operating permit was issued in 1986 to expand the quarry beyond the exempt boundary. The first DOGAMI inspection report for this site, dated 08/20/74, states an excellent long term development plan was in effect, all soil material was being salvaged in vegetated stockpiles for reclamation and trees were planted along the property line for visual screening.

A DOGAMI inspection report 6 years later states even though there are no reclamation requirements, the site has been developed in a logical manner and concurrent reclamation is being practiced on mined-out areas. Soils and overburden salvaged earlier were used to construct a visual berm. The operator at this time had constructed an effective stormwater control system for the 80 acre site.

Concurrent reclamation continues to be practiced, with overburden from new areas spread over mined out areas and revegetated, thereby limiting the overall area of disturbance. Over the years the stormwater control system has been improved and refined.

In 2004, an agreement was reached between Cobb Rock and an adjacent quarry to mine the setback between the two quarries rather than leaving an 'island' of rock between the two sites. By March 2009, the island of rock had been mined through, leaving a relatively level quarry floor across both sites. Removing this setback improves the post-mine land use by eliminating two steep high walls, and increases the overall stability of both sites after mining is complete.

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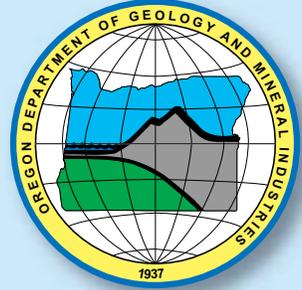
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Outstanding Operator Division II - Cinder Butte Rock Products, Cinder Butte, Deschutes County. Contact CB Foss - 541-548-7607

Cinder Butte Rock Products was chosen as Outstanding Operator, Division II for the work they have accomplished to visually and sonically screen this historic mine site from adjacent properties, reclaim mine related disturbance that was exempt from the reclamation rules, develop the cinder pit in a more orderly and neat manner, and for offering aggregate recycling services to the area.

The Cinder Butte Pit is located 2 miles north of Redmond adjacent to Highway 97. Mining began at this site in 1948. In 1975, 31 acres were deemed eligible for Limited Exempt (LE) status. LE status allows an operator to mine within a pre 1972 defined boundary with unlimited annual production if they were permitted prior to 1972. Cinder Butte Rock Products has applied to Deschutes County for land use authority to expand this site beyond the exempt acres. The land use decision is pending. The site continues to operate under a valid LE.

Tetherow Butte, where the Cinder Butte Pit is located, is a prominent feature driving north out of Redmond. According to geologist Ellen Morris Bishop, Tetherow Butte is a small volcanic vent, 5.3 million years old. There are four separate DOGAMI permits for pumice or cinders that surround Tetherow Butte.

Cinder Butte bought this operation and the DOGAMI permit in 2001. Although natural topography limits screening of this site from public view, Cinder Butte Rock Products has established a berm around the perimeter of the pit that effectively screens the processing and stockpile areas. The berm also acts as a noise barrier along the southern edge of the pit where the closest off-site residence is located. The processing plant is located on the pit floor and is well screened.

Areas along the northern pit boundary have been reclaimed where mining is complete. Internal drainage is maintained with no stormwater discharge off-site. Cinder Butte has initiated a program of recycling old concrete and asphalt rather than just burying this resource.

A DOGAMI inspection report from 2002, states "the operator has cleaned up the site compared to prior operations."

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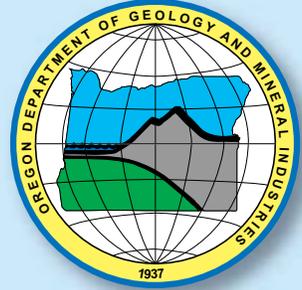
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Pendleton Ready Mix has won the Outstanding Reclamation Award this year for their dedicated efforts to successfully turn the Mission Pit into a popular area for bird and wildlife viewing.

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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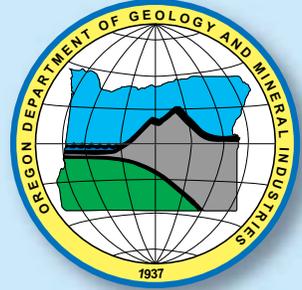
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**Good Neighbor Award - Turner Gravel, Inc., Turner Quarry, Marion County.
Contact Gary Clapshaw - 907-209-4584 .**

Gary Clapshaw and Turner Gravel, Inc. received the Good Neighbor Award because of their efforts to improve their quarry operation, protect adjacent natural resources, and restore the confidence of their neighbors that a well run quarry need not be a liability.

The Turner Quarry is located eight miles south of Salem on Delaney Road, adjacent to Mill Creek. In 1976, approximately 16 acres were deemed eligible for Limited Exempt status, having been mined before 1972, which allows an operator to mine within the exempt boundary with unlimited annual production.

By 1995, the quarry had expanded beyond the exempt boundary, requiring a full operating permit and reclamation security for the non-exempt acres. This upland basalt quarry operated with a checkered record through 2005. Violations included expansion beyond the exempt boundary, discharge of turbid stormwater, and off-site impacts from flying rock during production blasting.

The current owner/operator, Gary Clapshaw, assumed the DOGAMI permit in 2006 and began to immediately make improvements to this site. Benching of the highwall created more stable slopes, monitoring of production blasts and advanced warning to neighbors alleviated concerns, and implementing best management practices improved stormwater control on-site.

Benching of quarry highwalls is necessary not just for safety of mine workers. Benching provides slope stability and protects adjacent property lines. Benching also creates final excavated slopes that meet DOGAMI requirements.

Seismic monitoring of production blasts insures ground motion does not exceed levels known to cause off-site structural damage. This protects the operator and provides neighbors hard data on actual ground motion. Advanced warning of production blasts is probably the best measure a mine operator can take if they have to blast.

Turner Gravel, Inc. constructed a French drain in the quarry floor and the processing area to eliminate standing water. A raised gravel internal access road was constructed to reduce the generation of mud and turbid stormwater, and a series of stormwater retention ponds were created. Salvaged overburden has been used to create a buffer be-

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tween the quarry and Mill Creek, helping to contain stormwater on-site and providing visual and noise buffering to adjacent residences.

Earlier this year the operator began a new excavation process using a hydraulic breaker on the quarry face which dramatically reduces the need for production blasting, one of the main concerns of neighbors and local officials at this quarry.

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