

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: June 14, 2010

Mined Land 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.

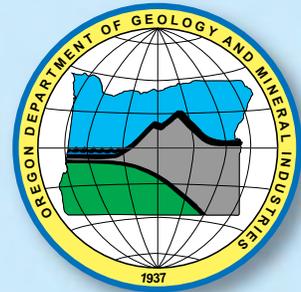
Portland, Oregon: An outstanding reclamation project that involved local high school students working on wildlife habitat restoration is the highlight of this year's Mined Land Reclamation Awards presented by the Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program (MLRR) of the Oregon Department of Geology 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. This year's awards, based on an operator's performance during the 2009 calendar year, will be presented at the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) annual conference this month.

"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 surface mining and reclamation they are working to have as little impact as possible on the environment and be good neighbors."

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“Like the restoration work that’s been done by River Rock Properties at the Mace Pit along the Rogue River in Jackson County, the companies and government organizations we recognize with these annual awards show a commitment to the environment where the mine is located 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.”

Mined Land Reclamation Award winners include:

Outstanding Reclamation - River Rock Properties - Jackson County.

Outstanding Operator - Jim Turin & Sons, Inc. - Clackamas County.

Outstanding Planning - Whetstone Engineering - Jackson 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>

Outstanding Reclamation - River Rock Properties - Jackson County. Contact: Bill Leavens (541) 840-7790.

Bill Leavens and River Rock Properties are recognized for the outstanding reclamation work spanning decades. Exceptional reclamation practices have included concurrent reclamation to stabilize this site as mining progressed; the involvement of local students in the reclamation process; the donation of equipment, personnel time, and materials in the 2000 Rogue River stabilization project that received an Oregon Plan Award for fish, wildlife and habitat restoration ; and the excellent results of final reclamation.

Outstanding Operator - Jim Turin & Sons, Inc. - Clackamas County. Contact: David Turin (503) 816-3523.

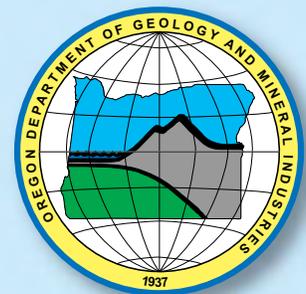
The Turins have operated Mt. Hood Rock Products for over two decades. They took over the troubled Brightwood Quarry site on the flanks of Mount Hood in the late 1980s and have, since that time, developed and instituted a new operating and reclamation plan. Their continued focus on best management practices through the orderly development of this quarry in very steep terrain includes successful on-going efforts to meet stormwater discharge challenges in an area that typically receives 80 - 100 inches of rain a year.

Outstanding Planning - Whetstone Engineering - Jackson County. Contact: Matt Dusenbury (541) 664-9344

With social and environmental concerns surrounding mining for aggregate materials increasing, the permitting of upland quarry sites becomes more important, as does the work to reclaim the disturbed land. Whetstone Engineering,

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working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Hi Banks Rock Products, has developed an outstanding reclamation plan that will take an inactive quarry site near the Rogue River and restore the area as a pond for wildlife that will also include nearby wetlands and vernal pools.

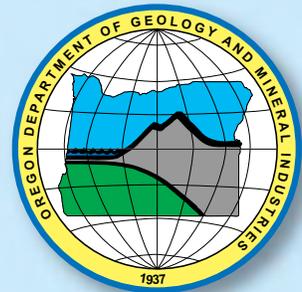
The Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation program at DOGAMI serves as a steward of the state's mineral production, while encouraging best practices within the industry. MLRR's goals include environmental protection, conservation, effective site reclamation, and operational guidance regarding other 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.

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Gary W. Lynch, Assistant Director



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Mined Land Reclamation Awards

Based on an operator's performance during the 2009 calendar year.

Outstanding Reclamation - Mace Pit, River Rock Properties - Jackson County. Contact: Bill Leavens (541) 840-7790.

Bill Leavens and River Rock Properties are recognized for the outstanding reclamation work spanning decades. Exceptional reclamation practices have included concurrent reclamation to stabilize this site as mining progressed; the involvement of local students in the reclamation process, wildlife and habitat restoration and the excellent results of final reclamation.

The Mace Pit is located at the end of Highbanks Road near Central Point, on a bench above the Rogue River. The Highbanks area got its name by the tightly cemented gravels that form a 30 foot high bank along the south bank of the Rogue River above the confluence with Bear Creek. This feature is approximately two miles in length below the Table Rock buttes.

A DOGAMI permit was issued for this sand and gravel operation in 1975, and was operated by Rogue Aggregates, Inc. From the beginning the post mine land use for this site was an open water pond. By 1985, concurrent reclamation had begun in areas where mining had been completed. In 1988, an aggressive weed control program began and reclaimed slopes were covered in pasture grasses and clover.

By 1995, the majority of mining had been completed and a local high school science class was using the site for a class project in developing wildlife habitat as part of the reclamation of this pond. An island for predator free nesting was proposed and designed by the class. Several students were employed over the summer months to construct wood duck boxes and other improvements to enhance habitat.

The 1996-1997 flood event along the Rogue River significantly affected many aggregate sites in this area. The Mace Pit was one of them. The setback between the river and the pit was severely eroded. In one area just downstream from this pit a 200 foot setback from the river edge to a reclaimed ODOT mine pond disappeared overnight during the flood. It appeared the potential for the remaining setback between the Rogue River and the Mace Pit excavation could be eroded away during the next high water event. Between 1998 and 2000, the setback between the river and the Mace Pit disappeared by about 20 feet a year.

In 2000, an OWEB grant helped fund the design of a stabilization project along the Rogue River that included five separate mine ponds, including the Mace

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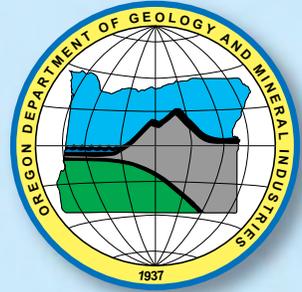
Pit. Stream barbs were engineered and constructed along three areas of the Rogue River bank. Personnel and materials were donated by Rogue Aggregates, Inc. to accomplish the work. The stream barbs are large quarry rock placed at an angle to the river flow to direct the main erosive force away from the bank. They have functioned as planned and have withstood two high water events since.

By 2006, all mining had been completed, and final reclamation began. Two large settling ponds south and east of the pit were re-graded and revegetated. Tons of old mine related equipment, that had collected over the three decades, was removed and scrapped.

Final reclamation was completed in early 2009. DOGAMI nominated this site for the outstanding reclamation award based on the early concurrent reclamation to stabilize this site as mining progressed; the involvement of local students in the reclamation process; the donation of equipment, personnel time, and materials in the 2000 stabilization project; and the excellent final results of reclamation.

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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**Outstanding Operator - Jim Turin & Sons, Inc. - Clackamas County.
Contact: David Turin (503) 816-3523.**

The Turins have operated Mount Hood Rock Products for over two decades. Their continued focus on best management practices through the orderly development of this quarry in very steep terrain includes successful efforts to meet stormwater discharge challenges in an area that receives as much as 100 inches of rain a year.

The Brightwood Quarry is an upland site located 1 ½ miles north of Brightwood, with access from Highway 26 via the Barlow Trail Road, near Mount Hood in Clackamas County. Mining began at this site in 1965, and has continued since.

The quarry is situated on a very steep ridge at an elevation of approximately 600 feet higher than the Sandy River. A buffer of some 2,000 feet separates the quarry floor and the river to the north and a 200 foot buffer separates the quarry from Boulder Creek to the west. Slope stability has been an on-going concern throughout the life of the mine. In one of the wettest areas of the state, stormwater control has also been a constant battle.

The current operators, Jim Turin & Sons, assumed the county operating permit in 1988, and have maintained the DOGAMI permit since 1992. A DOGAMI inspection report from 1992 states that indiscriminate spoiling of overburden material by previous operators had left the Turins an operational problem in that much of the area of excavation was covered in overburden debris. To remedy this situation, the Turins developed a new operating and reclamation plan with the focus on developing a more stable quarry area.

For stormwater control in an area as wet as the Brightwood Quarry, rather than concentrating stormwater into one system, the Turins developed four separate systems in various areas of the quarry to capture sediment from the processing area, the quarry floor, and two along the haul road.

The Turin's also developed a traffic pattern within the quarry that eliminates all contact of stormwater with equipment or haul trucks, which significantly reduces the generation of sediment laden water. Seeding of excess overburden stockpiles reduced the generation of sediment on-site as well.

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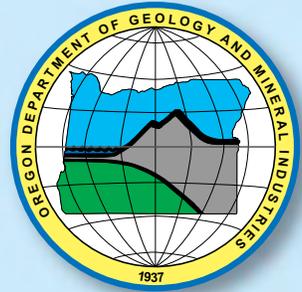
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DOGAMI nominated Mt. Hood Rock Products as an outstanding operator based on the many years of orderly development of this quarry in very steep terrain and the on-going efforts to meet stormwater discharge challenges in an area that typically receives 80 - 100 inches of rain a year.

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With social and environmental concerns surrounding mining for aggregate materials increasing, the permitting of upland quarry sites becomes more important, as does the work to reclaim the disturbed land. Whetstone Engineering, working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Hi Banks Rock Products, has developed an outstanding reclamation plan that will take an inactive quarry site near the Rogue River and restore the area as a pond for wildlife that will also include nearby wetlands and vernal pools.

DOGAMI issued an operating permit for tax lot 1001, a quarry area located near the Rogue River in Jackson County in 1997. The DOGAMI permit covered thirty acres that are outside of the 100-year floodplain of the Rogue River and Whetstone Creek. A 1997, wetland delineation found vernal pool wetlands on the property and they were protected from mining by exclusion from the DOGAMI permit boundary.

Historic aerial photos from the 1950s to the present indicate the channel of the Rogue River has remained stable in the current location over the last 50 years. The southern bank of the Rogue River in this area is characterized as a steep cut bank averaging forty feet in height. The cut bank is composed of the same highly cemented sands and gravels that are currently being mined. Based on a geomorphic assessment completed for the nearby Rogue River Stakeholders project, on-going monitoring of stream bank migration and evaluation of upstream and downstream geomorphic features, DOGAMI has concluded that this site is outside of the active channel migration zone of the Rogue River.

A probate judge has designated the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to take ownership of this parcel after the passing of the landowner and in accordance with his wishes. ODFW has identified the future use of this site to be open water for urban fishing opportunities. The engineered drawing by Whetstone Engineering provides a conceptual layout for future public access, boat ramp, site-host and pedestrian trails. The final layout, design and construction of these facilities will be the responsibility of ODFW.

Over the next 5 years, Hi Banks Rock Products, the mine operator, and ODFW will provide a detailed native plant revegetation planting and maintenance plan that will be implemented concurrent with mining. Pursuant to the will left by

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Robert Mace, the royalties from mineral extraction will provide funding for the Oregon Community Foundation Bob and Phyllis Mace Watchable Wildlife Fund.

Hi Banks Rock Products has participated in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Agate Desert Multi-species Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan/Wetland Stakeholders Committee. Part of this work has included a re-assessment of the vernal pools and a new wetland delineation completed by SWCA Environmental Consultants in 2008.

Approximately 1.17 acres of vernal pool and 0.83 acres of wetland ditches were identified within the mine impact area by SWCA. The vernal pool areas are small patches of remnant wetland features, not completely destroyed by past agricultural practices within the proposed expansion area.

The mitigation plan proposes 4 acres of wetland mitigation off-site on ODFW property at the Denman wildlife area at a 2:1 restoration ratio. The SWCA mitigation plan was submitted to Department of State Lands in September 2008 and is supported by ODFW and USFWS.

Final reclamation of this site will be to an open water pond enhanced for fish and wildlife habitat. ODFW will assume active management of this property at the end of mining.

Because of the involvement of every federal, state, and local agency in this mine site, and the numerous drafts of the mine plans to accommodate every interest, Whetstone Engineering is nominated for the Outstanding Planning award.

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