

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist



NEWS RELEASE: December 15, 2011

Oregon historical mining information available online

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is making available online the historical mine and commodities records of the Portland and Grants Pass offices. The Oregon Historical Mining Information (OHMI) archive, formerly available to the public at DOGAMI reference libraries, is now available as PDF files. The first part of this ongoing project includes small-dimension maps, letters, news clippings, photographs, and reports. Large-dimension mine maps are being scanned and will be added later. The agency plans to combine OHMI records with the GIS-based Mineral Information Layer for Oregon (MILO).

The Oregon Historical Mining Information archive can be accessed here:

<http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/milo/ohmi.htm>

The Mineral Information Layer for Oregon (MILO) can be accessed here:

<http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/milo/index.htm>

Clark Niewendorp, DOGAMI Industrial Minerals Geologist who helped organize the project, notes, "This historical mining information is a connection to Oregon's mining heritage. It's also a fascinating record of the agency's response to the World War II effort, a time when the U.S. needed additional mineral resources. These OHMI records, many one-of-a-kind reports and maps, can be useful for identifying safety hazards present at Abandoned Mined Lands sites."

Niewendorp cautions that historical, underground gold, base metal (copper, lead, and zinc), and coal mines can pose a hazard if shafts or adits are still accessible to the public. People should stay out of underground mines—they are not like caves. Poisonous or bad air, explosive gases, unstable roofs, and flooded sections can pose lethal hazards. The national public awareness campaign "Stay Out! Stay Alive!"

(<http://www.msha.gov/sosa/SOSAhome.asp>) provides more information on the dangers of abandoned and active mine sites.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State and has a broad responsibility in developing an understanding of the state's geologic resources and natural hazards. The Department then makes this information available to communities and individuals to help inform and reduce the risks from natural hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. The Department assists in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards is 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 online: <http://www.OregonGeology.org>

DOGAMI's mission is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

Media contact: Carol DuVernois

carol.duvernois@state.or.us

800 NE Oregon St., #28,
Ste. 965

Portland, OR 97232

Phone: (971) 673-1555

Fax: (971) 673-1562

www.OregonGeology.org

Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program

229 Broadalbin St. SW

Albany, OR 97321

Phone: (541) 967-2039

Fax: (541) 967-2075

info@mlrr.oregongeology.com

Gary W. Lynch,
Assistant Director

Coastal Field Office

313 SW 2nd, Ste. D

Newport, OR 97365

Phone: (541) 574-6642

Fax: (541) 265-5241

Jonathan C. Allan,
Coastal Team Leader

Eastern Oregon Field Office

Baker County Courthouse

1995 3rd St., Ste. 130

Baker City, OR 978149

Phone: (541) 523-3133

Fax: (541) 523-5992

Jason D. McClaughry,
Field Geologist

Nature of the Northwest Information Center

800 NE Oregon St., Ste. 965

Portland, Oregon 97232

(971) 673-2331

Email: info@naturenw.org

Web: www.NatureNW.org

Donald J. Haines, Manager