Fact Sheet: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
800 NE Oregon Street #28, Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232-2162
office (971) 673-1555 fax (971) 673-1562
http://egov.oregon.gov/DOGAMI/

Vicki S. McConnell, Director
Vicki.McConnell@dogami.state.or.us
office (971) 673-1550
mobile (503) 709-8529

Gary Lynch, Legislative Coordinator
Gary.W.Lynch@mlrr.oregongeology.com
office (541) 967-2053
mobile (541) 619-4656

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

Our offices

DOGAMI maintains an administrative office and western field office in Portland, the Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation office in Albany, and two other field offices (Newport and Baker City) to serve all regions of the state.

Who we are and who we serve —

The Agency serves as the Geologic Survey for the State of Oregon. We sit at the interface between the geosciences, the arena of public policy, and social applications of earth science. We advocate the use of science to develop public policy to sustain a safe and prosperous way of life for all Oregonians.

We serve the State by being the liaison between basic earth science research and development and practical, applied uses of those data and information. As such, we partner with nearly all Oregon State natural resource agencies, as well as the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), The Oregon University System (OUS), DAS GEO, and Health Services.

For example, data gathered from aircraft using light detection and ranging (lidar) technology allow DOGAMI and our partners to map and interpret Oregon's topography in unprecedented detail. DOGAMI uses these new data to better understand earthquake and landslide hazards, but other uses include land use planning, forest management, and watershed protection.

Landslide debris fan (orange) mapped as part of Highway 30 landslide study. Note that the fan crosses infrastructure and a populated area.

DOGAMI Programs

Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation (MLRR)

MLRR is responsible for regulating the exploration, extraction, production, and reclamation of geologic resources for the purposes of conservation and secondary beneficial use of mined lands. This program is the lead regulatory agency for upland mining, oil and gas exploration and extraction, and geothermal energy exploration and development in the state of Oregon. Customers are mine owners and operators and the general public.

The program is authorized to conserve the mineral resource, provide for secondary beneficial use of affected lands, and protect the environment while recognizing economic realities and engineering constraints on mining or drilling activity. The program maintains a philosophy of regulatory streamlining while accepting the responsibility of environmental protection for Oregonians. The Agency has authority to perform the reclamation in situations of default given the bonding authorities and other authorities of the statutes.

The MLRR Program has recognized experts for the state on mining, reclamation, recovery, and restoration of mined land for ecological land management. Presently, MLRR focuses on restoration in the Applegate, Rogue, and Willamette Rivers.

Geologic Survey and Services

Statewide Minerals and Mapping

Geologic maps provide the baseline geologic information for hazard and resource assessment. The state must produce geologic maps in critical areas to guide efforts in groundwater study, environmental protection, rural economic development, and public safety.
DOGAMI maintains statewide databases of mineral and geochemical data, geothermal resources, earthquakes, landslides, and mining activity. These data are needed to guide conservation of mineral resources, reclamation, production, and economic development in the area of community planning, growth, and even brokering of public lands for the public benefit.

Geohazards

Every year Oregonians are forcefully reminded that damaging earthquakes and landslides occur in Oregon. Earthquake ground response, hazard mapping, and landslide inventories in priority areas provide the key to saving Oregon lives and property. Agency efforts are conducted in partnership mode and in full cooperation with earthquake, landslide, and tsunami specialists in universities, the private sector, and other agencies. The Agency is member of and subject matter expert for the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission and the Interagency Hazards Mitigation Team.

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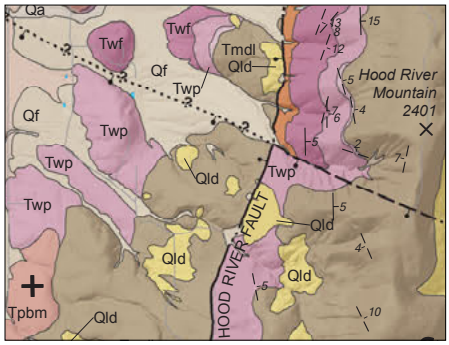
Coastal Section (Newport)

The Coastal section produces tsunami evacuation brochures and maps and coastal erosion and hazard maps. Field office staff are available for project contracts of broad public benefit. The section coordinates with other state agencies on the coast and is Agency lead for coordination with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies dealing with coastal hazard and physical resource issues. Staff serve as technical advisors and alternate to the Director on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council. The office is strategically co-located with the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association as part of a broader effort to communicate closely with coastal communities.

Mapping changes to Oregon's coast. This critical information is used by coastal managers, city and county governments, and the public to prepare for and mitigate against natural hazards.

Eastern Oregon Section (Baker City)

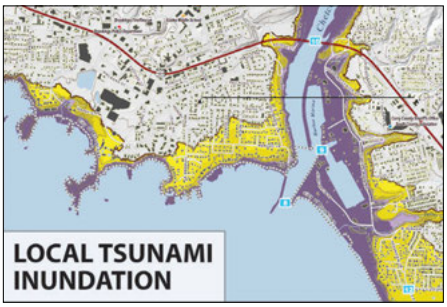
The Agency's Eastern Oregon section, located in Baker City, performs mapping, mineral geochemical studies, and public information services for Eastern and Central Oregon. The section maintains a unique specialized, self-service library with emphasis on geologic resource data (much of it unpublished) for eastern Oregon not available from other sources. The Eastern Oregon Section coordinates with other state and federal agencies in eastern Oregon concerning geologic data, geologic hazards, and mineral resource issues.



Part of 2012 geological map of Hood River area.

Technical Services: Public Education

The Agency's Technical Services section (also referred to as Public Education), located in Portland, builds GIS data layers, performs quality control of lidar data delivered by the lidar contractor, performs flood map redelineation, produces and distributes all Agency publications, constructs web-mapping tools and geodatabases, operates the Agency website, manages the Nature of the Northwest Information Center, and coordinates all Agency public education outreach.



Portion of tsunami inundation map for Port Orford. Public outreach is a key to DOGAMI's mission.

The Agency maintains the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. The Center is the entrepreneurial arm by which natural resource and related agencies of the state and federal government can provide better public contact and service in the Portland area with the capability to retail via the Internet. We plan to integrate the Center into the web-based delivery system. The Center defrays costs by charging for any material provided to the public.

Internal Services

The Agency's Internal Services section, located in Portland, includes Agency and GS&S management, as well as fiscal and administrative support staff that perform budgeting, accounts payable and receivable, financial reporting, human resources, procurement, archiving, asset management, Governing Board support, travel, scheduling, and reception services.

Nature of the Northwest

Your best source for outdoor recreation and natural resource information, plus the largest selection of maps in the Northwest. All DOGAMI and USGS publications are available here.

Nature of the Northwest Information Center
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232 tel. (971) 673-2331
Hours: M-F 9 AM to 12:30 PM & 1 to 4 PM
Closed on Federal Holidays
email: info@naturenw.org
web: www.naturenw.org

WHY OUR WORK IS CRUCIAL

DOGAMI programs are designed around the fact that the state requires geologic and hazards data to position itself to deal factually and effectively with the statewide challenges, including these:

- ***For mineral resources***, the Agency legislation directly addresses environmental protection and conservation of mineral resources, plus land reclamation. Major partners include other state natural resource agencies, federal land management agencies, Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), and local governances. We maintain open communication with state and local land use authorities.
- ***For sustainable groundwater resource use***, the Agency generates subsurface geologic interpretation to be used as background data for groundwater quantity and quality studies. The understanding of the geology is key to understanding groundwater volumes, quality, movement and aquifer recharge.
- ***For transportation***, the Agency administers closely related regulatory authority of aggregate resources and provides advice and information on hazards related to Oregon's highways. The Agency coordinates closely with the Oregon Department of Transportation in the area of seismic safety and landslide hazards for bridge construction and road development and maintenance.
- ***For risk reduction***, the Agency characterizes geologic hazards, monitors them, and provides technical advice to agencies, public utilities, local jurisdictions, and the private sector.
- ***For public safety***, needs are increasing in response to demographics, climate change, and growing knowledge of geologic hazards. The Agency coordinates with Oregon Emergency Management to measure preparedness of communities for natural hazards.
- ***For rural economic development***, the enabling legislation for the Agency provides authority to identify resources and to facilitate responsible development. Primarily in rural Oregon, Agency programs and products relate to several benchmarks. Major partners include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and a variety of local entities.
- ***For ecosystem protection***, the Agency characterizes the geology and detailed physiography of watersheds, enabling resource managers to view the entire watershed, retain in-stream water for fish habitat while providing groundwater for other uses, and address potential for economic development. The continuation of the Oregon Lidar Consortium will directly aid in these ongoing efforts.