



Department of Transportation

Region 4 Resource Center

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**Barr Road Quarry (Site N)
Information Paper**

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The Cline Buttes area is proximate to several highways including OR 126, US 97 and US 20. This area was identified through extensive studies conducted in the late 1990s as an area in great need of an aggregate supply. Development of a public material source in the area ensures a long term supply of quality materials needed for maintenance and construction of highways in the Bend-Redmond-Sisters Area. In addition, having a public rock source allows more contractors to bid for state highway projects, allowing the State to receive the most competitive bids possible, and the taxpayers to get the best transportation value for their tax dollar.

Rock that meets the quality requirements for paving aggregate in sufficient quantity is extremely difficult to locate in the Central Oregon area. The rock at the Barr Road Quarry site (also referred to as "Site N") has been tested and meets the quality requirements for paving aggregate. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has requested from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the appropriation of approximately 105 acres to be used as a quarry site for public road projects. It is estimated the site contains three million cubic yards of high quality aggregate and will last at least 20 years.

In the early 1990s, ODOT identified and evaluated several other potential material sources in the Cline Buttes area. The BLM analyzed those on BLM managed public land as part of the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (UDRMP). The Record of Decision for that plan (2005) determined only Site N would be available for development of mineral materials.

After the UDRMP decision in 2005, ODOT made a formal request to BLM to continue an investigation of the Barr Road Quarry site with the expressed intention to pursue it as a long-term aggregate source for public road projects. ODOT conducted extensive subsurface investigations and environmental studies in the area in 2006 and 2007, and submitted a formal application to FHWA in late 2007.

Earlier this year, ODOT, FHWA and the BLM met to review the Barr Road Quarry application. In August, ODOT submitted additional application materials which in part reduced the size of the quarry from 200 to approximately 105 acres.

The FHWA determined that site specific environmental analysis of the proposed action at Site N can be covered under a Categorical Exclusion as outlined in 23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 771.117(c)(5). The environmental requirements for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been satisfied and the environmental review process is complete.

ODOT establishes specific contractual requirements for any operations in ODOT material sites. Examples of these conditions include the following:

- Compliance with noise standards
- Blasting safety and protection measures
- Site-specific erosion, sediment, dust and pollution control measures
- Safety measures: safety berms, slope heights and angles, bench widths, buffer and no work areas
- Planned development and reclamation efforts
- Protection of inadvertently discovered cultural resources
- Noxious/invasive species management and prevention
- Wildland fire suppression

Site N will be permitted by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). DOGAMI could add additional operational and reclamation conditions to the permit. Conditions may also be developed for protecting surrounding BLM lands.

Additional background information on Site N as well as FAQs and timelines can be found on the project website at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT//HWY/REGION4/Barr_Road_Quarry_Site_N.shtml

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