

**Beatty Quarry
Frequently Asked Questions**
Last updated: November 19, 2008

1. Why was a quarry sited in this area?

Maintaining and constructing highways requires high quality sources of aggregate materials. More than 90% of a highway consists of rock or soil products. Sources of aggregate, an essential road building material, are an integral part of ODOT's mission "To provide safe, efficient transportation systems to support economic development and livability for Oregonians".

A quarry in this area will ensure a long-term source of aggregate to support highway construction and maintenance of this rural section of OR 140.

2. What are the benefits to Oregonians?

The benefits to Oregonians are realized through a cost effective transportation system. The location of the Beatty Quarry is proximate to an important state highway in southern Oregon, OR 140. Close proximity to highways reduces the haul cost for the rock products thereby lowering the cost of the construction or paving of highways.

The site also encourages competition among private rock sources, ensuring that Oregonians realize the lowest prices for aggregate materials and the projects. By obtaining the lowest possible bid for the project, the tax dollars can be utilized more effectively, in essence obtaining more projects for the dollar.

3. Will there be noise from the aggregate site?

Yes, there will be noise generated by operating in the aggregate site. ODOT (and ODOT's contractors) is required to meet all local, state, and federal regulations for noise abatement, and is required to meet the established noise levels. Some of the measures ODOT uses to reduce noise impacts include limitations on hours of operations, muffling of equipment, and use of existing and/or constructed noise barriers/berms.

4. Will there be dust from the aggregate site?

Yes, there will be dust generated from the aggregate site, but dust must be controlled to meet air quality standards. In order to control dust, ODOT requires all operators in the site to develop and implement a dust control plan, and to maintain air quality permits on all portable equipment. This dust control is also required on the access roads during hauling activities.

5. Will there be blasting at the aggregate site?

Yes. Most aggregate mining requires blasting. ODOT sets standards for blasting in the quarry site requiring contractors to employ measures to ensure safe blasting practices. These measures include resident notifications, submitting blasting plans for review, and controlling fly rock and ground vibrations. ODOT limits blasting activities to certain hours of the day and days of the week.

Actual blasting events are only seconds in duration, with most quarries generally requiring only one to two episodes per operation, therefore, the total blasting event associated with any given operation will have duration of less than a minute.

6. What does an aggregate site look like and how does it operate?

An aggregate site like Beatty Quarry consists of a steep rock face, a flat expanse of ground below the working face where the machinery operates, and an area adjacent to the flat area where crushing and mixing operations are conducted and aggregate materials are stockpiled. Typical equipment on the site includes bulldozers, front end loaders, hauling vehicles (dump trucks), portable rock crushers, shaker screens for sorting rock, and conveyor belts. Portable asphalt plants may be used for mixing rock with asphalt to produce pavement.

Unlike privately owned aggregate quarries, this site **will not** be in operation continuously and not in operation for profit. Beatty Quarry will only be used for public highway construction and maintenance purposes. The duration of any particular operation will depend largely on the size and type of the highway project. On a large project, drilling, blasting, crushing, batching and hauling activities may last 3-4 months, and will occur during summer months when temperatures are high enough for paving.

During each project, new material is mined, and areas no longer needed for mining are reshaped and vegetation is planted consistent with the development and reclamation plans prepared and approved for this site. For the Modoc Billy Creek to Fish Hole Creek Project, an additional ½ acre is expected to be mined.

7. How often will the site be used?

The frequency of mining in this quarry site depends on a number of factors including transportation funding levels, transportation system needs, and availability and cost of alternate sources of aggregate. In general, the Beatty Quarry will serve sixteen (16) miles of OR 140 between mile posts 32 and 48. Historically, this section of highway is repaved every 18-22 years. In between major paving projects, the site will remain inactive except for minor highway maintenance use or emergencies.

8. How big is this quarry site?

The quarry is located on a 77 acre parcel of state owned land. Approximately only 10 acres of this parcel will be used for mining at any given time. The development and reclamation plan for Beatty Quarry includes elements of concurrent reclamation, with various areas undergoing reclamation as other areas are undergoing development.

9. What is the life expectancy of this site?

ODOT estimates there is approximately 10 million cubic yards of high quality rock available within the boundaries of this site. Projects like the OR 140 Modoc Billy Creek to Fish Hole Creek require nearly 43,000 cubic yards of material. Depending on the schedule of projects in the area, it is likely that this site represents a greater than 50 year life cycle.

10. What are the traffic volumes and routes associated with the operations?

Traffic from an active material source can be intense during peak construction season. The greatest amount of traffic is during paving activities. Approximately 120-160 trucks per day for a period of 20-30 days will be needed to do the paving associated with the OR 140 Modoc Billy Creek to Fish Hole Creek Project.

The haul route from this site would be via the OC&E Trail, which is reached by traveling 2.5 miles north of Beatty on Godowa Springs Road, 1 mile east on Sycan Road, ¼ mile south on Ferguson Mountain Road, and 2 miles south on Railroad Drive.

11. What are the environmental concerns?

With every proposed development, concerns are raised relative to the environment: wildlife, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, archeological and historic resources, ground water, surface water and so forth.

This site has been reviewed for all of these concerns and mitigation or protection measures have been included in the quarry design. Development of this site will not impact any threatened and endangered species. The site has been reviewed for historic and archeological resources. Surface storm water will be contained on site.

The site is located within deer winter range. To mitigate concerns, quarry operations will not be allowed from December 1 to March 31. In addition, deer habitat will be enhanced during reclamation activities.

14. What are the impacts to humans?

Development of this site will have human impact, both negative and positive. Access and use of this site will be restricted to the general public when active operations are in process. As mentioned above, active quarry operations are ground disturbing activities, and the landscape will change. Noise, dust and traffic will result from active operations. The location of this site is in a rural area, with the closest homes being a little less than a quarter mile away. The haul route will utilize existing roads.

No site can be developed anywhere that will have absolutely no human impact. As mentioned above, this site will be utilized for public transportation projects in southern Oregon. The material will be utilized to construct, improve, maintain and enhance the safety of the roads that Oregonians utilize to get to work, to stores, to schools and to recreation areas and to transport goods.

The negative impact will primarily be to those people who live in the immediate vicinity but only during quarry activities. The positive impacts will extend to all Oregonians who use the highway facilities, either directly or indirectly. This rock will be used to improve and enhance safety of the public highway system.

Summary

Purpose:

Maintaining and constructing highways requires high quality sources of aggregate materials. More than 90% of the highway is constructed of rock or soil products. Sources of aggregate, an essential road building material, are an integral part of ODOT's mission "to provide safe, efficient transportation systems to support economic development and livability for Oregonians".

Location:

The Beatty Quarry is located approximately 2.7 miles east of the community of Beatty, Oregon, north of the OC&E Trail in the SW¹/₄ of Section 17, T36S R13E. The quarry is approximately 10 acres in size.

Current Need:

The first state highway project that may offer this as a potential rock source is the Modoc Billy Creek to Fish Hole Creek Project which will repave approximately 20 miles of OR 140. The Project is scheduled for construction in 2009.

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.

Environmental Concerns:

Environmental surveys have been conducted at the quarry site, and natural and other resources are being protected as part of the quarry design.

Operations in the Aggregate Site:

ODOT sets specific conditions for any operations in the quarry site. These conditions include the following:

- Dust control plans and dust abatement
- Adherence to noise standards
- Blasting safety and protection measures
- Site- specific erosion and pollution control plans
- Long-term site safety measures
- Concurrent development and reclamation efforts

ODOT Contacts

Name	Telephone	Email Address
Amy Pfeiffer, Project Leader	541.388.6052	Amy.L.Pfeiffer@ODOT.state.or.us
Rex Holloway, Community Liaison Representative	541.388.6178	Rex.A.Holloway@ODOT.state.or.us