



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

## Department of Geology & Mineral Industries

Mined Land Reclamation

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### *Report of Onsite Inspection*

Jim Rodine  
2021 Placer Rd.  
Sunny Valley OR 97497-9707

Steam Beer Mining

#### *Date Of Inspection: March 11, 1998*

I was accompanied on this inspection by Jim Rodine and Nancy Tunberg. This was a routine inspection to determine if a Total Exemption or an Operating Permit is needed for this site. This is an old hydraulic gold mining site, which is currently being mined by Jim Rodine and his partner primarily for landscaping boulders and minor amounts of gold production as they work processing the boulders.

They are selling both the old moss covered boulders and the relatively unweathered boulders from the previous hydraulic mining operations. Their intention is to build a home on the site. Apparently the zoning with the county is already in place for this and the percolation tests have been completed for a septic system. It appears that several acres were effected by previous hydraulic mining and there remain several large cutbanks. The linear length of the highwall from the previous mining is several hundred feet. A minor portion of this highwall has been sloped by Jim Rodine. It is his intention to voluntarily reclaim parts of this exempt site, as he is able, in conjunction with this boulder mining activity.

The production of rock from the site is less than 5,000 yards at the present time and the disturbance is almost entirely within the exempt area. As long as production from the site does not exceed 5,000 cubic yards of production or 1 acre of disturbance in a 12-month period, the site qualifies for a Grant of Total Exemption. Jim Rodine indicated that he will be applying for a Total Exemption from DOGAMI and would likely submit an aerial photograph to demonstrate the extent of the exempt area on the site.

It appears that most water used on the site is associated with placer gold production and would therefore be regulated by DEQ rather than DOGAMI. It doesn't appear that any storm water is discharged from the site and all the processing is associated with the gold production. Effluent from the placer gold processing is being contained within the settling pond and doesn't appear to leave the site.

The long term plans for the former hydraulic mining areas is to create areas of wetland and reforest the remainder of the excavation floor with trees.

*Inspected by:*

Peter J. Wampler  
Reclamationist  
Mined Land Reclamation

c: Josephine County Planning Department  
DEQ - Medford

Encl.

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