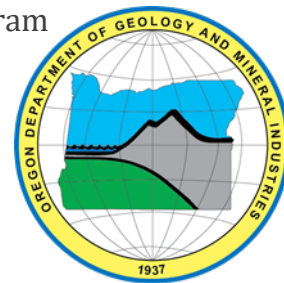


the newsletter of the **Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation** program

ENGAGe

Spring 2022



Exploration, Non-aggregate, Gas/oil, Aggregate, Geothermal

DOGAMI Staffing Update

In December, MLRR said goodbye to longtime reclamationist Ben Mundie, as he took off into the sunset of retirement. We wish him all the family time, long hikes, and Cubs games that he can fit in. On the flip side, DOGAMI hired a new Reclamationist – Jeff Lulich! Jeff attended the University of Idaho in Moscow and earned B.S. degrees in Geological Engineering and Mining Engineering. He has over 22 years of work experience in surface mining, geotechnical engineering, and construction project management in locations across the western US, Texas and Germany. Plus – he has an awesome rock collection.

We are also excited to announce that the Governing Board of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has appointed Dr. Ruarri Day-Stirrat as the State Geologist and Agency Executive Director! He comes to DOGAMI with a mix of academic, state geological survey, and industry experience. Dr. Ruarri Day-Stirrat started his new role with DOGAMI on April 1, 2022.

Exclusion Certificate/Exploration Permit Correction

The Fall 2021 issue of this newsletter contained information pertaining to exploration, Exploration Permits, and Exclusion Certificates. At that time, the department had interpreted that Exclusion Certificates were required for exploration activities that fell below the thresholds requiring an Exploration Permit.

DOGAMI received many inquiries as to how the requirements for exploration permits (ORS 517.705) and exclusion certificates (ORS 517.753) are related—specifically whether an exclusion certificate is required for activities that are truly exploration below the thresholds for which an exploration permit is required. Upon further review of this issue, it is DOGAMI's interpretation of those requirements that if a person is only completing exploration activities at a site, as defined in ORS 517.750(4) [and further described in the mineral exploration statutes at ORS 517.702-517.740], they do not need an exclusion certificate for that activity because it is not “surface mining” below the thresholds required for an operating permit, as is the trigger for an exclusion certificate. But please also note that if there was evidence presented to the department that surface mining was in fact occurring at a site where a person had asserted that only exploration was underway that person would risk enforcement if they did not hold an exclusion certificate or operating permit.

Contact us at 541-967-2039 mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov

<https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr>

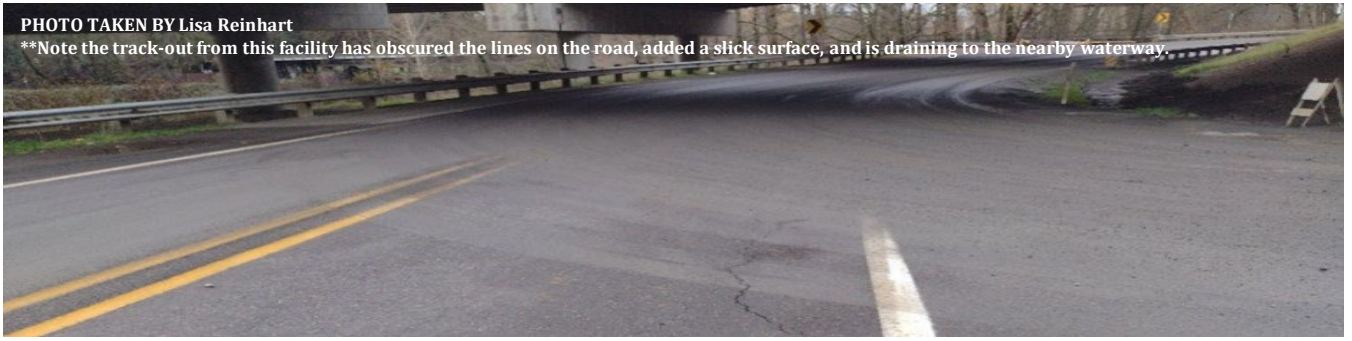
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation

229 Broadalbin St. SW, Albany, OR 97321

PHOTO TAKEN BY Lisa Reinhart

**Note the track-out from this facility has obscured the lines on the road, added a slick surface, and is draining to the nearby waterway.



Sediment Track-out and Best Management Practices (BMP's)

DOGAMI often receives complaints about track-out of dirt, mud, and rock from permitted mines onto the public road. Track-out creates a safety hazard for other vehicles in the road by obscuring traffic lanes and adding a “slick” surface, and when it dries it can create fugitive dust in the air. Simply “washing” or “sweeping” the sediment off the road causes a water quality problem downstream. Sediment fills up storm drains and catch basins that carry stormwater away from roads to nearby waterways, degrading the quality of water for drinking, recreation, and wildlife. Particularly sensitive are Oregon’s waterways, where sediment can harm protected fish and other aquatic life by reducing food supplies, degrading spawning beds, and affecting gill function.

The first line of defense to preventing track-out is at your facility’s exit. There are several different Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be implemented, including, but not limited to the following:

- Rock apron. A rock apron of angular 3”-6” rock 6”-12” deep is the simplest BMP. The length of the apron should be long enough for tires to make 4 full rotations before exiting so a good rule of thumb is 50’. Don’t forget to grade the drainage from the apron back into a sediment trap so it doesn’t overflow down the exit where it will drain to the road. You can place filter fabric under the rock to keep it from sinking down into the earth or suctioning up mud, but the strength of the fabric needs to be heavy enough that rocks don’t puncture it.
- Rock apron with rumble strips- All the above with the addition of rumble strips or mats. Rumble strips have rumble ribs or teeth that open the tire tread and promote mud release. There are several different types available so do some searching on your favorite internet search engine for “rumble strips for track-out”.
- A wheel wash may be a passive wash basin that washes mud and debris off the belly of a vehicle as it drives through, or it may be a more complex system that has advanced spray patterns and filtration systems.

Important Reminders:

- There may be many actions that could possibly occur over the life of a permit – transfers, amendments, and eventually closure. DOGAMI reminds our permittees that permits must be kept in compliance, this includes paying all permit renewals on time, through the entirety of the action (ex: transfer), until the action is complete. For example, if you’re transferring your permit to another entity, the current permittee will receive the renewals and be liable for paying them until the new permit and acknowledgement of transfer has been issued.
- Permittees also need to maintain their reclamation security through the entirety of the permitting action (ex: transfer), until that action is complete. You may not cancel your bond when you submit your transfer application, or it will halt your permitting action and cause it to take longer. Once we have received the new reclamation security or have processed the permit action, then we will issue the reclamation security’s release.
- Annual renewals will be considered complete and received “on-time”, only if they are sent to the *correct location*, include a *completely and correctly filled out renewal form*, and include a *correct form of payment (cash or correctly filled out check)*. All renewal forms and their accompanying fee should be sent to the address listed at the top of the renewal form. Please make sure things are going to the correct places!

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listserv@osl.state.or.us***