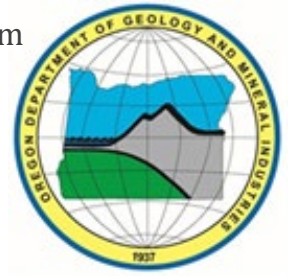


the newsletter of the **Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation** program

# ENGAGe

Summer 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. He has jumped in with both feet and has been a wonderful addition to the MLRR team.

We are also excited to announce that the DOGAMI's Governing Board has appointed Dr. Ruarri Day-Stirrat as the new 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. He has already been out on a site visit, to an MLRR staff meeting, given an agency update at the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, and even attended an Exploration pre-application meeting. DOGAMI is excited for what the future looks like with Dr. Day Stirrat as the Agency Executive Director!

Twice over the past few years, Becca Misho has come to DOGAMI as a temp worker and given us her time, her joy, and her amazing scanning skills 😊. This past December she graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Applied Ecology. We are thrilled to announce that Becca has been hired on as a Reclamationist and will join our team at the end of June! Yes, our office will continue to have a Becky and a Becca – we apologize! 😊

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, MLRR said farewell to our Chemical Process Mining Coordinator, Karl Wozniak. Karl came out of his well-earned retirement with the Oregon Water Resources Department, to join DOGAMI as our part-time Chemical Process Mining Coordinator in the of Spring 2021. Over the last year, his experience has been invaluable on the Grassy Mountain Chemical Mining Project - the first Consolidated Permit Application that DOGAMI has ever seen. We are sad to see Karl go, but wish him all the travels (he's got France in his sights), hikes and laughter he can fit in.

## **Application Timelines:**

**REMINDER:** Due to an increase in permit applications and inquiries submitted to the MLRR office, processing and response times have *increased*. Permit applications are processed in the order they are received and moved forward as applicants respond to deficiencies. This includes but is not limited to new applications for Exclusion Certificates, Exploration Permits, or Operating Permits; Transfer or Amendment applications; and Oil/Gas or Geothermal applications. Thank you for your patience.

**Contact Us at: 541-967-2039 or [mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov](mailto:mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov)**

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

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation  
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Historic Site Picture from August of 1984 in Multnomah County



## **2021 Fee Increase Performance Report**

The legislatively approved increase to the MLRR permitting fees (which went into effect Jan. 2021) had two goals:

1. Maintain current staffing and service levels,
2. Build toward a 6-month operating reserve by the end of the 2023-2025 biennium.

Based on the first year of revenues collected, the new fee structure will allow the program to meet both goals! DOGAMI-MLRR does not anticipate requesting changes in the fee structure in the next 2 years for successful maintenance of existing programs.

DOGAMI has prioritized the development and implementation of an online permitting system (ePermitting) for MLRR. In the 2023-2025 Agency Request Budget, DOGAMI requests state funding for this multi-year IT modernization project. A technology fee or change to the MLRR fee structure to pay for ongoing system support and maintenance may be required once the system is live and can accept permit applications and renewals. DOGAMI does not anticipate the system going live before 2025.

### **Invasive Species Chat: Noxious Weeds!**

Welcome to summer (or second spring if you're in the Willamette Valley)! Nicer weather generally means that sites are ramping up production. The surge in truck traffic increases opportunities for seeds of any kind to hitch a ride from location to location. DOGAMI would like to remind everyone that you should be monitoring and controlling noxious weeds throughout the life of the mine – not only to make life easier on yourselves - but to protect your neighbors, customers and community. Summer is a perfect time to do some semi-annual spot spraying or weed removal - before the seed heads mature!

Thanks to our friends at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), here is some information on the most common offenders (but definitely not the only ones) that we see:

- **Armenian blackberry** (*commonly known as Himalayan blackberry*) – widely found in the western half of the state, but populations are increasing in Hells Canyon and along other river systems. According to the ODA, “it is the most widespread and economically disruptive of all the noxious weeds in western Oregon”.  
- <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ArmeniaBlackberryProfile.pdf>
- **Scotch broom** (*also known as English broom or scot's broom*) – found throughout Western Oregon, with occasional populations appearing in pine forests within Eastern Oregon. Scotch broom is an evergreen shrub, with dark green branches and bright yellow flowers. It is known to readily invade disturbed sites, costing millions of dollars annually (\$47 million) in removal expenses and lost productivity.  
- <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ScotchBroomProfile.pdf>
- **Bull thistle** (*also known as common thistle or spear thistle*) – occurs in every county in Oregon. It's considered to be especially annoying in pastures, rangeland, and newly logged sites. This Eurasian native can be removed with herbicides, mixed species grazing, or even with a plain old shovel.  
- <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/BullThistleProfile.pdf>