



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

Oregon Department of Geology  
and Mineral Industries

January 2025

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# Agency Introduction

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## Agency Mission Statement

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) provides earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

## Agency Leadership

A five-member Governing Board, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, sets agency policy and oversees general operations, and adopts a strategic plan every six years to guide DOGAMI's mission and objectives. In 2024, the Governing Board adopted a new Strategic Plan, included as an appendix to this report. The Governing Board meets at least quarterly. As active members of their communities, Board members provide an important connection between Oregonians and DOGAMI's work.

Ruarri J. Day-Stirrat – Agency Director and State Geologist

Sarah Lewis – Program Manager, Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program

Jason McClaghry – Program Manager, Geological Survey and Services Program

Steve Dahlberg – Chief Financial Officer

## Environmental Justice Personnel

Alexander Lopez – Environmental Justice Council Liaison

Christina Appleby – Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Liaison

Jason McClaghry – DOGAMI Liaison to the Legislative Council on Indian Services (LCIS)

## Agency Revenue and Expense Sources

| 2024 Calendar Year Financials |       | Revenue      | Expenses     |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| General Fund                  |       | \$3,397,889  | \$3,397,889  |
| Other Fund                    |       | \$4,758,529  | \$5,020,301  |
| Federal Funds                 |       | \$2,264,820  | \$2,146,278  |
|                               | Total | \$10,421,238 | \$10,564,468 |

## Agency Programs

### Geological Survey and Services

The Geological Survey & Services (GS&S) program develops maps, reports, and data to help Oregon manage natural resources and prepare for natural hazards. In 2024, GS&S also began exploring geoscience-related technologies, including critical mineral mapping and geologic carbon sequestrations, to contribute to Oregon's successful attainment of its climate goals. GS&S core program areas include:

- Studying hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and coastal erosion, community vulnerability to those hazards, and ways to reduce risk.
- Geologic mapping to support healthy ecosystems and guide rural and urban development.
- Collection of lidar, which provides accurate high-resolution images of the earth's surface, for use in new-generation mapping, natural resource management, planning, and many other applications.
- Geologic carbon sequestration and critical mineral resources as part of Oregon's overall climate change mitigation strategy.

### Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation

The Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation (MLRR) program oversees the state's mineral production and works to minimize impacts of natural resource extraction and to maximize opportunities for land reclamation. The fee-based, statewide program regulates all upland and underground mining on lands within the State, and works collaboratively with other state agencies, local governments, Oregon's federally recognized Indian Tribes, industry, and the public. In 2024, the MLRR program continued working towards the implementation of an e-permitting system to streamline the permitting process and facilitate access to permitting information.

## Agency Environmental Justice Highlights

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During the 2024 calendar year, DOGAMI continued engagement with the Environmental Justice Council, including continued participation in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. Additionally, DOGAMI has continued its agency-wide and programmatic efforts aimed at ensuring that environmental justice communities and concerns are included at all levels of project work.

Highlights of DOGAMI's environmental justice work in 2024 include:

- A Member of the Burns-Paiute Tribe continues to serve on the DOGAMI Governing Board.
- In 2024, the DOGAMI Governing Board adopted a new Strategic Plan that reaffirms the Agency's commitment to equity and environmental justice in all agency operations (Attachment A).
- DOGAMI has taken an active role in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. In conjunction with DOGAMI program managers and staff, Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Liaison, Christina Appleby, has developed and submitted a preliminary list of datasets to be included, and continues to collaborate with project staff on the development of the tool.
- DOGAMI geologic mapping activity is guided by participation in the Oregon Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee (OGMAC). Kate Ely, hydrogeologist with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation serves as a voting member of OGMAC.
- The MLRR program actively works with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to identify potential cultural and/or historic sites in the earliest phases of the MLRR mine permit application process.
- Since 2012, DOGAMI has been a member of the Tribal-State Natural Resources Workgroup and Cultural Resource Cluster Group.
- DOGAMI has developed and maintained effective working relationships with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS), Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the nine federally recognized Tribal governments in Oregon to work cooperatively to continue to identify and address mutual goals and concerns that affect Tribal interests.

## Agency Environmental Justice Considerations

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While much of DOGAMI's work only tangentially involves environmental justice issues, the Agency continues to work toward increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Agency and geosciences as a whole to advance participation by members of underrepresented and underserved communities. Additionally, DOGAMI projects continue to include robust community engagement to ensure that any environmental justice considerations are identified and addressed.

### Agency-wide Environmental Justice Considerations

- In addition to a clear commitment to environmental justice, DOGAMI's 2024 Strategic Plan includes objectives related to diversification of stakeholder groups, expanded engagement with Tribes, and accessibility of DOGAMI information for Oregon communities.
- DOGAMI continues to utilize training on internalized bias during the recruitment and hiring process to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in agency staff.
- DOGAMI continues to use social media and listservs to distribute Agency publications and job recruitments in order to reach a diverse audience and increase accessibility of Agency work.
- The Agency engages annually with educators, emphasizing Title I and rural Oregon schools, on Earth Science Week initiatives. In 2024, DOGAMI delivered 149 Earth Science Week educational toolkits from the American Geosciences Institute to school districts along with an offer to provide school district specific outreach.
- When applying for competitive grants, the Agency ensures that applications include funding for community outreach and where applicable, environmental justice considerations.
- DOGAMI continues to participate in Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (OSBGE) outreach efforts to Oregon colleges and universities to make information about state licensure accessible to a diverse audience.

### Geological Survey & Services Program Environmental Justice Considerations

- The GS&S program continues to work with the US Geological Survey and DOGAMI's Tribal partners to replace offensive place names on legacy maps and documents.
- Almost all DOGAMI projects rely on the input of diverse stakeholder engagement groups, such as the Oregon Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee (OGMAC), Post-Fire Debris Flow (PFDF) stakeholder groups, etc.
- Agency work related to climate change will directly and indirectly impact environmental justice communities and GS&S project planning continues to include environmental justice and community engagement considerations.
- In 2024, GS&S community engagement included participation in events specifically related to diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, including participation in the Girl Scouts of America STEM day event.
- Near the end of 2024, DOGAMI received notification of funding approval for two projects related to climate change: one on geologic carbon sequestration and the other related to evaluation of critical mineral resources in the state. Both projects include significant funding for community outreach and engagement to ensure

that all potentially impacted communities are engaged in the development of climate change mitigation technologies and initiatives.

#### Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation Program Considerations

- The MLRR program continues to work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to identify potential cultural and/or historic sites in the earliest phases of the MLRR mine permit application process.
- Although MLRR does not have jurisdiction over land use decision-making, program staff work closely with local authorities on land use decisions. Staff can include information about environmental justice issues in those consultations.
- The MLRR program continues its development of an e-permitting system that will streamline the permit application process and increase accessibility of MLRR permitting information to the public.
- The permitting process for the Grassy Mountain gold mine project included a dedicated Environmental Justice analysis.

## Public Participation and Meaningful Involvement

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Much of DOGAMI's work related to environmental justice centers on ensuring that the perspectives of impacted communities and individuals are considered when planning and executing work.

#### Agency-wide

- A Member of the Burns-Paiute Tribe serves on the DOGAMI Governing Board.
- Meetings of the DOGAMI Governing Board are open to the public and include an opportunity for public comment and input on agency operations.
- During the development of the Agency's 2024 Strategic Plan, DOGAMI solicited input via a Stakeholder engagement survey to gather information about how Oregon communities perceive the Agency's work and responsiveness to community needs.
- In-person and virtual outreach events ensure that affected communities have the information they need to mitigate risks from geologic hazards. For example, in 2024, the Agency participated in the City of Creswell Arbor Day Festival, and the Creswell Safety Fair where community members had access to information on local natural hazards.

- To the extent allowable under existing and future grants, DOGAMI utilizes GIS and demographic data to identify potential intersections with environmental justice communities to prioritize future work.

#### GS&S Program

- DOGAMI geologic mapping activity is guided by participation in the Oregon Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee (OGMAC) where a tribal representative from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is a voting member.
- DOGAMI anticipates continued collaboration with Tribal governments on the collection of lidar data for enhanced characterization of Tribal lands, facilitating resource management by Tribal governments.
- GS&S continues to coordinate with Tribal cultural and natural resource departments in geologic mapping, research on resources such as groundwater, and the identification of natural geologic hazards on Tribal lands for educational and planning purposes.
- GS&S continuously engages with communities on all levels to identify community needs and guide decision-making related to grant funding opportunities. Based on the Agency's history of engagement, communities frequently reach out to DOGAMI with questions and concerns.

#### MLRR Program

- During pre-application meetings with permittees, MLRR continues the practice of recommending that permit applicants have early conversations with Tribes and potentially affected communities.
- The MLRR program is in the process of developing an electronic permitting system (ePermitting) that will expand information accessibility to facilitate greater public access and participation in the MLRR permitting processes.
- Division 37 (Consolidated) permits have well-developed public participation processes and communications coordination procedures with other state agencies that facilitate public awareness and engagement.
- DOGAMI utilizes an up-to-date listing of Tribal areas of interest to circulate all proposed permit actions to Tribal governments whose interests lie within that geographical region.
- DOGAMI engages Tribal representatives through early notice, sent at the beginning of the application process for new mine permits. This approach related to cultural resources allows additional time for coordination and consultation with Tribal stakeholders.

- Representatives of Tribal governments continue to have an exclusive opportunity to review and comment on all permit applications to DOGAMI for mineral and energy development projects.

## Agency Environmental Justice Impacts

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DOGAMI uses its robust community engagement channels to monitor the Agency's impacts on environmental justice communities and issues.

### Agency-wide

- DOGAMI continues its work on outreach and community engagement as broadly as resources will allow to maintain open lines of communication with communities impacted by Agency work.
- Upcoming proposals for grant funding will continue to contain specific planning related to community outreach and engagement, and environmental justice considerations.

### GS&S Program

- The Agency's Geologic Mapping Program has focused on geologic mapping in rural and low-income areas of eastern Oregon (e.g., Prineville, Dufur, Burns, Milton-Freewater/Athena, Ontario, Payette, Weiser, northern Malheur County) for over a decade. These mapping efforts help economic development and safety in underserved communities and provide information about geology, mineral and groundwater resources, and potential geologic hazards. Continued engagement provides information on how DOGAMI's work impacts local communities.
- GS&S landslide and hazard studies have historically and currently focused on issues in rural eastern Oregon, including the Counties of Wasco, Grant, Morrow, Malheur, Curry, and Jackson. New projects will continue in these areas.

### MLRR Program

- In applicable situations, MLRR requires mine permit applicants to contract with archaeological consultants to conduct cultural resource surveys of proposed developments to ensure cultural resources are not disturbed. MLRR may also require environmental justice baseline studies to identify communities potentially affected by mine projects and to provide alternatives to address impacts.
- For proposed mines that fall under Division 37 (Consolidated permits), new permits require the consideration of socio-economic and environmental justice factors for all involved natural resource agencies.

- DOGAMI engages with DEQ during the new mine permitting process and relies on DEQ community engagement and environmental justice considerations to assess each project’s impact on environmental justice communities.
- The MLRR program continues to explore whether other Tribes with cultural interest in an area would like to be included in notification and commenting lists, specifically by engaging with Nevada and California Tribes.

## **Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Involvement**

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DOGAMI continues to take an active role in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. DOGAMI’s Mapping Tool Liaison, Christina Appleby, in conjunction with the Agency’s Environmental Justice Liaison, has developed a preliminary list of datasets for inclusion in the tool. Through consultation with DOGAMI program managers, the final list of datasets has been communicated to the Mapping Tool development team. As work progresses on the tool, DOGAMI will continue to provide resources, information, and datasets to ensure success of the initiative.

## **Environmental Justice Council Engagement**

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In 2024, DOGAMI dedicated staff time and resources to engagement with the Environmental Justice Council. Moving into 2025, the Agency plans to continue allocating dedicated staff for participation in Environmental Justice Council work. Additionally, DOGAMI will continue participating in the development of Mapping Tool.

## **Agency Environmental Justice Council Legislation Citations**

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- ORS 182.550 – Reports by natural resource agencies (amended by HB 4077 (2022))

# Agency Meaningful Involvement Legislation Citations

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- Oregon statutes (ORS 182.162 to 182.168) direct state agencies that work with Tribal governments to submit annual reports describing their relationship in response to six factors that should be codified in an agency policy.
- Oregon Administrative Rule 632-037 (Consolidated Permitting of Mining Operations) includes provisions related to cultural resources and environmental justice for new permit applications.

## Looking Ahead

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### Climate Change Projects and Community Engagement

- In 2025 DOGAMI will begin working on multiple projects related to climate change mitigation, including geologic carbon sequestration and critical minerals assessments. As part of this work DOGAMI will be conducting robust public engagement and outreach, with specific emphasis on accessibility and environmental justice.
- DOGAMI will continue to include environmental justice considerations in future grant applications and project planning.

### Environmental Justice Opportunities

- DOGAMI would like to expand Tribal consultation on mapping projects and review of reports pre-publication.
- The development and implementation of the MLRR online permitting system will provide expanded access to mine permit information to communities and members of the public.
- In the future, DOGAMI could further develop its methodology for including environmental justice considerations in land use consultations with local jurisdictions.
- The Agency plans to continue expanding the accessibility and usability of reports by Oregon communities.
- DOGAMI will include robust environmental justice considerations in its continued work developing a regulatory program related to geologic carbon sequestration (Class VI) wells in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality.

### Agency Needs related to Environmental Justice

- DOGAMI's efforts related to environmental justice would benefit from expanded funding for community engagement in future grants.
- The Agency would benefit from identifying and providing training related to environmental justice and impacts on Oregon communities.

## Definitions

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### **Environmental Justice: (ORS 182.535 Section 3)**

"Environmental justice" means the equal protection from environmental and health risks, fair treatment and meaningful involvement in decision making of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration status, income or other identities with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn and practice spirituality and culture.

### **Environmental Justice Community: (ORS 182.535 Section 4)**

"Environmental justice community" includes communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.

### **Meaningful Involvement: (ORS 182.535 Section 7)**

"Meaningful involvement" means:

- (a) Members of vulnerable populations have appropriate opportunities to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment or health;
- (b) Public involvement can influence a decision maker's decision;
- (c) The concerns of all participants involved are considered in the decision-making process; and
- (d) Decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of members of vulnerable populations.

### **Environmental Burdens: (ORS 182.535 Section 2)**

Environmental burden" means the environmental and health risks to communities caused by the combined historic, current and projected future effects of:

- (a) Exposure to conventional pollution and toxic hazards in the air or in or on water or land;
- (b) Adverse environmental conditions caused or made worse by other contamination or pollution; and
- (c) Changes in the environment resulting from climate change, such as water insecurity, drought, flooding, wildfire, smoke and other air pollution, extreme heat, loss of traditional cultural resources or foods, ocean acidification, sea-level rise and increases in infectious disease.

## Appendices

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[Appendix A - 2024 DOGAMI Strategic Plan](#)

[Appendix B - 2023 DOGAMI Annual Report to the EJC](#)

[Appendix C - 2024 LCIS Report](#)