

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

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## Two Coastal Geologic Reports released

**Portland, Oregon:** Two coastal geologic reports are being released by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI):

**Open-File Report O-08-02, Beach and Shoreline Response Due to Dune Lowering on the Elk River Spit, Curry County, Oregon, by Jonathan C. Allan and Roger Hart, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries was commissioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to carry out a beach monitoring study of the effects of dune lowering undertaken on the Elk River Spit in July-August 2006. The purpose of the dune lowering is to rehabilitate portions of the spit for the purposes of developing a Western Snowy Plover breeding habitat.

The Pacific coast population of the Western Snowy Plover is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Western Snowy Plover breed primarily on coastal beaches from southern Washington to southern Baja California. They breed and winter along the Oregon coast, which is located at the more northern extent of their range. The birds are currently found at nine sites along the south-central Oregon coast between Cape Blanco and Heceta Head. However, they were historically found at more than 20 sites along the coast from Pistol River to the Columbia River. Current estimates indicated that about 110 birds breed in this area and about 70 birds are present during the winter.

This project involves the cooperative efforts of DOGAMI, private landowners (the Wahl and McKenzie families), the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD), and the South Coast Watershed Council.

800 NE Oregon Street  
Suite 965, Portland, OR 97232  
[www.oregongeology.org](http://www.oregongeology.org)  
(971) 673-1555

**Media Contact: James Roddey**  
Earth Sciences Information Officer  
[james.roddey@state.or.us](mailto:james.roddey@state.or.us)  
(971) 673-1543 (direct line)  
(503) 807-8343 (cell)

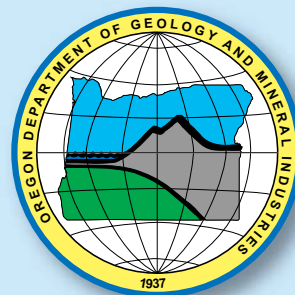
Mineral Land Regulation  
and Reclamation Program  
229 Broadalbin Street, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 967-2039,  
Gary W. Lynch, Assistant Director

Baker City Field Office  
1510 Campbell Street  
Baker City, OR 97814  
(541) 523-3133,  
Mark L. Ferns, Regional Geologist

Coastal Field Office  
313 SW 2nd Street, Suite D  
Newport, OR 97365  
(541) 574-6642,  
Jonathan C. Allan, Coastal  
Team Leader

Grants Pass Field Office  
5375 Monument Drive  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
(541) 476-2496,  
Thomas J. Wiley, Regional Geologist

The Nature of the Northwest  
Information Center  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177  
Portland, OR 97232-2162  
(503) 872-2750  
Donald J. Haines, Manager  
Internet: <http://www.NatureNW.org>



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**O-08-05, Geomorphic and Hydrologic Assessment of Historical Water Level Changes at Cleawox Lake, Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park, Lane County, Oregon, by Robert C. Witter and Jonathan C. Allan, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and Gerald H. Grondin, Oregon Water Resources Department.**

Water levels in Cleawox Lake, located in Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park (Figure 1), have risen by more than 3 ft. since 1937 and now threaten historic park resources. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) commissioned the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to evaluate the cause of rising lake levels (including both natural and human processes that may influence lake levels), and to propose future monitoring strategies and recommend mitigation options, including both long- and short-term solutions, to manage water levels and to protect park facilities.

These 2 reports are available on CD-ROM for \$10 each. They can be purchased from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177, Portland, Oregon, 97232. You may also call NNW at (503) 872-2750 or order online at <http://www.naturenw.org>. There is a \$4 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items. For additional information, please contact the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. Additionally, these items as well as all department maps and publications can be purchased at DOGAMI Field Offices including 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, (541) 476-2496 and 1510 Campbell Street, Baker City, (541) 523-3133.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State, and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards are key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon's geology by going online at:  
<http://www.oregongeology.org>

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Earth Sciences Information Officer  
[james.roddey@state.or.us](mailto:james.roddey@state.or.us)  
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