

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: February 18, 2009

New maps show landslide hazards in a portion of Washington County which includes the West Bull Mountain Planning Area

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has released *O-08-09, Regional Landslide Hazard Maps of the Southwest Quarter of the Beaverton Quadrangle, West Bull Mountain Planning Area, Washington County, Oregon*, by William J. Burns, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

“These maps of the West Bull Mountain Planning Area (WBMPA) of Washington County are some of the most detailed and accurate landslide maps in the United States due to the use of high-tech laser based terrain mapping called lidar,” said Vicki McConnell, State Geologist and Director of DOGAMI. “They are also the first in a series of landslide maps DOGAMI will be releasing for the Portland metro area in the months to come.”

Landslides are one of the most widespread and damaging natural hazards in Oregon. In order to begin reducing losses and risk from landslides, areas of landslide hazard must first be located. The first step in landslide hazard identification is to create an inventory of past (historic and prehistoric) landslides. The inventory can then be used to create susceptibility maps that display areas at risk for future landslides.

This report contains 3 different maps:

1). A lidar based landslide inventory map identifying 98 existing landslides in the mapped area, including 47 within the WBMPA. The vast majority are shallow-seated landslides which occur within the top 15 feet of the surface. Other types of landslides are deep-seated landslides and debris flows, a dangerous type of rapidly moving landslide that can travel great distances.

2). A shallow-seated landslide susceptibility map that shows about 15 % of the 13 square mile area is highly susceptible to shallow-seated landslides.

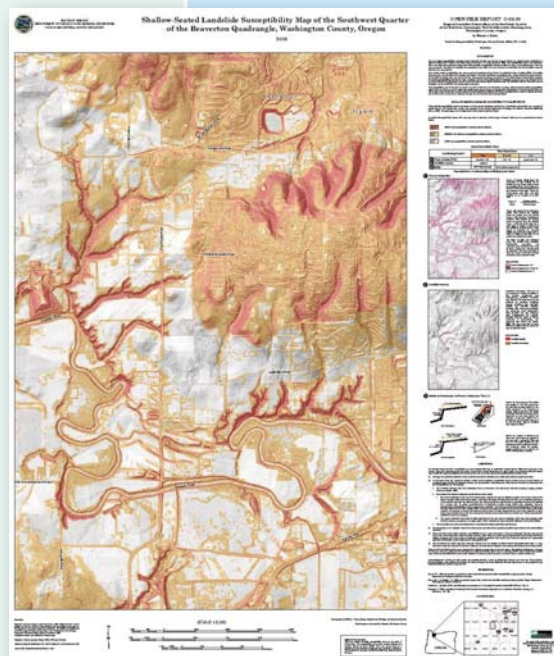
800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 965, Portland, OR 97232
www.oregongeology.org
(971) 673-1555

Media Contacts:

James Roddey
Earth Sciences Information Officer
james.roddey@dogami.state.or.us
(971) 673-1543 (direct line)
(503) 807-8343 (cell)

Anne Madden

Washington County Department of
Land Use and Transportation
anne_madden@co.washington.or.us
(503) 846-4963



Map showing shallow seated landslide susceptibility
in West Bull Mountain area of Washington County.

You can view copies of the maps online at:

<http://www.oregongeology.org>

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

3). A deep-seated landslide susceptibility map that shows large areas in the 13 square mile area are at high to moderate risk of these types of landslides that occur at least 15 feet below the surface. These types of landslides tend to be much larger and can move repeatedly over thousands of years.

Washington County will be using these maps in their planning and decision making process for the development of the WBMPA as well as overall planning and mitigation for the mapped area.

“We have always been concerned about these areas and have required studies and engineering,” said Washington County Building Official John McAllister. “We now feel the new DOGAMI maps validate what we have been requiring for quite some time.”

These maps are intended to provide users with basic information regarding landslides and the susceptibility to landslides within the mapped area. These maps contain useful information to guide site-specific investigations for future development, to assist in regional planning and development, to mitigate existing landslides and slopes, and to prepare for emergency situations, such as storm events and earthquakes.

The maps are not appropriate for site-specific evaluations, however the data contained in the CD-ROM are valuable for regional screening for landslides and selection of appropriate areas on which to focus further site-specific studies. The data are particularly suitable for incorporation and consideration into regional Graphic Information System (GIS) databases for a multitude of purposes, including city and county hillside development ordinances, issuance of building permit conditions, public works planning and operations, and environmental and sustainability issues.

Open File Report O-08-09, *Regional Landslide Hazard Maps of the Southwest Quarter of the Beaverton Quadrangle, West Bull Mountain Planning Area, Washington County, Oregon*, is available on CD-ROM for \$10. Three individual map plates are available as printed sheets for \$15 each (landslide inventory, shallow-seated landslides, deep seated landslides). 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.

Learn more about Oregon’s fascinating geology by going online at:
<http://www.OregonGeology.org>

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

Media Contacts:

James Roddey
Earth Sciences Information Officer
james.roddey@dogami.state.or.us
(971) 673-1543 (direct line)
(503) 807-8343 (cell)

Anne Madden
Washington County Department of
Land Use and Transportation
anne_madden@co.washington.or.us
(503) 846-4963

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>

