

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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The mission of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

NEWS RELEASE: September 25, 2009

New report looks at sediment bulldozed onto a beach on the southern Oregon coast.

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has released **Open-File Report O-09-01, BEACH AND SHORELINE RESPONSE TO AN ARTIFICIAL LANDSLIDE AT ROCKY POINT, PORT ORFORD, ON THE SOUTHERN OREGON COAST**, By Jonathan C. Allan and Roger Hart, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

On December 31, 2005, a large crack developed across a portion of U.S. Highway 101, at Rocky Creek, approximately 2.2 miles south of Port Orford on the southern Oregon coast. By January 4, 2006, the crack had developed into a major landslide.

In response to the landslide at Rocky Creek, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) engineers and geologists concluded that the entire fill section overlying Rocky Creek would need to be excavated, disposed of elsewhere, and replaced with much coarser fill material, which was eventually deposited on a beach nearby. This marked the first time this technique of creating an artificial landslide onto a beach had been tried in Oregon.

The failure of the Rocky Creek landslide south of Port Orford in January, 2006 raised a number of important questions about the appropriate use of the public beach and intertidal region for the disposal of sediments (cobbles to sand and silt) excavated from the landslide that destroyed a portion of U.S. Highway 101. In particular, questions were raised about the likely impact of this sediment fill to the Hubbard Creek littoral system and to the marine biology immediately below Rocky Creek and adjacent to the landslide.

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A DOGAMI geologist surveys the toe of the artificial landslide below Rocky Creek using a portable GPS unit.

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To understand the effects of this project, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) was commissioned by ODOT to monitor and assess the impacts of 69,300 cubic yards of sediment bulldozed onto the beach in April, 2006. This report looks at those impacts.

Open File Report O-09-01 is available on CD-ROM for \$15. It can be purchased online from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW) at <http://www.naturenw.org>. For all other orders, please contact the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries at (971) 673-1555. There is a \$4 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items.

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

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