

**Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Dr. Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2005 Mined Land Reclamation Awards
announced by the Oregon Department
of Geology and Mineral Industries**

Portland, Oregon: Creating a new park for the city of Lyons, making new neighborhoods from reclaimed gravel pits in Keizer, and creating new pasture lands in central Oregon are some of the highlights of the 2005 Mined Land Reclamation Awards presented by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

Each year the MLRR office, with an independent panel of experts, selects specific mine sites and operators to receive awards for outstanding reclamation and mine operation. The Oregon Plan Award for salmon protection was not awarded this year. The awards, based on an operator's performance during the previous year, were presented at the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) annual conference in June 2006.

"We consider these awards important recognition to those owners and operators that go beyond the basic requirements of rules and regulations," said Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist. "By using innovative ideas and responsible techniques of reclamation they are working to improve the environment and be good neighbors."

"The companies we recognize with these annual awards really show a deep commitment to the environment and the communities where they are based," notes Gary Lynch, Assistant Director of Regulation for DOGAMI's MLRR office. "It's also an encouragement to others in the mining industry to follow suit."

A brief description of each award winner follows. Detailed information for each winner can be found on our website: <http://www.oregongeology.com>

**Good Neighbor Award –
Freres Lumber Company, Lyons, Linn County.
Contact: Randy Silbernagel, (503)-859-2121**

Freres Lumber Company (FLC) purchased this mine site in Lyons in 1969 and began deepening and linking existing gravel ponds into one large pond. The deeper pond became a refuge for water fowl, fish, and beaver. The City of Lyons grew up around the pond, which is now a central feature of the town.

FLC began reclaiming portions of this site in 1986. In 2002, an independent landscape architect drew up plans to convert this site into a city park. In 2004 mining was complete, and FLC began the process of turning the property over to the city.

FLC is recognized with the Good Neighbor Award for their commitment to give something back to the community they have been a part of for 50 years, but they could also have been recognized for Outstanding Reclamation award and/or the Voluntary Reclamation award.

**Outstanding Reclamation, Government Agency –
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Region 5, Burns, Harney County.
Contact: Gary VanHouten, (541) 963-1334**

Folly Farm, operated by ODOT, is an upland quarry site that has been used by the county and state since at least the mid 1950s. The quarry is located along the Steens Highway, southeast of Burns.

ODOT Region 5 has done an excellent job of maintaining this site. Use of existing topography has also effectively screened this site from public viewing areas along the Steens Highway.

ODOT Region 5 is being recognized for the extra effort that went into maintaining and mothballing this site after the last extraction project to insure there are no off-site impacts.

**Outstanding Small Operator –
Sierra Cascade LLC, Chemult, Klamath County.
Contact: Dana VanPelt, (541) 365-2440**

The Sierra Cascade Site, an upland pumice pit owned by Sierra Cascade LLC, is located in the shadow of Mt. Mazama, one mile south of Chemult, along Highway 97. Mining began in the early 1980s. The previous permit holder had a history of non-compliance with DOGAMI reclamation regulations.

In 2003, Sierra Cascade LLC purchased the property and assumed the DOGAMI permit. Sierra Cascade has developed a system where a one-acre parcel is mined and the overburden and soil from the next cell are placed on the mined out acre, while using boiler ash waste and

sewage lagoon bio-solids to add organic content to the soil. This creates a cost efficient and environmentally friendly job of concurrent reclamation.

Sierra Cascade is awarded the Outstanding Small Operator for 2006 for its willingness to go beyond the basic requirements of mine reclamation.

**Outstanding Reclamation –
PGE - Property Services, Madras, Jefferson County.
Contact: Bruce Carroll, (503) 464-8126**

The Pelton Pit is an upland basalt quarry pre-dating the 1972 reclamation laws by at least a decade. The quarry was initially opened as a material source for the Pelton Dam in the early 1960s. This site is located 5 miles northwest of Madras overlooking the Deschutes River.

This area has been successfully reclaimed to grazing pasture land. PGE is being recognized for Outstanding Reclamation for efforts to reclaim a quarry that was primarily exempt from reclamation laws.

**Outstanding Reclamation-Exploration –
Malheur Mining Corporation LTD, Malheur County.
Contact: Alan Glaser, (775) 738-9531**

In 1991 DOGAMI personnel commented that “as has been the case in the past, Malheur Mining continues to do an excellent job of reclamation. A DOGAMI inspection report from 1995 describes how difficult it was locating access roads that had been reclaimed previously. During a July 2005 inspection, the exact location of roads and drill sites could not be determined. The recovery of planted and volunteer native species has been “exceptional in this harsh growing environment.”

For its consistent and outstanding reclamation at this site over the years, Malheur Mining is awarded for Outstanding Reclamation-Exploration.

**Outstanding Operator –
Windsor Rock Products Inc., Salem, Marion County.
Contact: Bill McCall, (503) 393-8920**

This large gravel mine on Windsor Island, operated by Windsor Rock Products Inc., is located north of Keizer and has been in operation since the early 1960s. The property lies entirely within the 100-year floodplain and is bordered on the east by a former channel of the Willamette River, which is now a slough, and on the west by the main stem of the river. The property is owned by the Division of State Lands.

Windsor Rock undertook an aggressive approach to stabilize this site after the devastating floods of 1996/1997 and has continued to work to turn it into a model operation. For these efforts Windsor Rock is awarded Outstanding Operator for 2006.

**Outstanding Voluntary Reclamation –
Staats Corporation, Salem, Marion County.
Contact: Jay Compton (503) 363-9281**

The McNary Pit operated by Staats Corporation is a sand and gravel operation located within Keizer city limits. This 100-acre pit was mined prior to 1972 and was exempt from reclamation rules and regulations.

Staats Corporation purchased the property in 1996 and began the process to develop this parcel into residential housing. Construction began in late 1998. They completed the reclamation of this exempt gravel pit by creating a pond and island for wildfowl habitat and riparian plantings. A neighborhood association was formed in 2001.

Staats Corporation is awarded Outstanding Voluntary Reclamation for transforming an exempt sand and gravel pit into a new neighborhood for the city of Keizer.

Detailed online information for each winner can be found on our website:
<http://www.oregongeology.com>

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 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.

DOGAMI field offices can be contacted at: 1510 Campbell St., Baker City, (541) 523-3133; 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, (541) 476-2496; and the Mined Land Regulation and Reclamation Program, 229 Broadalbin St. SW, Albany, (541) 967-2039.

Learn more about Oregon's geology and the 2005 Reclamation Awards by going online at:
<http://www.oregongeology.com>

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