



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

Oregon Department of Geology  
and Mineral Industries

January 2024

## Table of Contents

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL .....	0
Agency Introduction .....	3
Agency Mission Statement .....	3
Agency Leadership.....	3
Environmental Justice Personnel .....	3
Agency Revenue and Expense Sources.....	3
Agency Programs.....	3
Agency Environmental Justice Highlights .....	4
Agency Environmental Justice Considerations .....	5
Agency-wide Environmental Justice Considerations.....	5
Geological Survey & Services Program Environmental Justice Considerations.....	6
Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation Program Considerations.....	6
Public Participation and Meaningful Involvement.....	6
Agency-wide.....	7
GS&S Program .....	7
MLRR Program.....	7
Agency Environmental Justice Impacts .....	8
Agency-wide.....	8
GS&S Program .....	8
MLRR Program.....	9
Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Involvement.....	9
Environmental Justice Council Engagement 2024 .....	10
Agency Environmental Justice Council Legislation Citations.....	10
Agency Meaningful Involvement Legislation Citations .....	10
Looking Ahead.....	10
Agency Strategic Planning.....	10
Environmental Justice Opportunities .....	11
Agency Needs related to Environmental Justice.....	11
Definitions.....	11

Appendices..... 12  
2023 LCIS Report ..... 12  
2022 DOGAMI Annual Report to the EJC..... 12

# 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. 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

2023 Calendar Year Financials		Revenue	Expenses
General Fund		\$4,841,000	\$4,256,000
Other Fund		\$3,900,000	\$4,135,000
Federal Funds		\$1,662,000	\$2,090,000
	Total	\$10,403,000	\$10,481,000

## 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. 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.

#### Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation

The Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation 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.

## **Agency Environmental Justice Highlights**

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During the 2023 calendar year, DOGAMI continued to expand engagement with the Environmental Justice Council, including participating in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. Additionally, DOGAMI has continued its agency-wide and programmatic efforts at ensuring that environmental justice communities and concerns are included at all levels of project work. Highlights of DOGAMI's environmental justice work in 2023 include:

- A Member of the Burns-Paiute Tribe serves on the DOGAMI Governing Board.
- 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.
- 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 in the earth sciences by members of underrepresented and underserved communities. Additionally, DOGAMI projects continue to include robust community engagement to ensure that any environmental justice considerations are addressed.

### Agency-wide Environmental Justice Considerations

- 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 2023, DOGAMI delivered 99 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. For example, a recent grant application for the study of carbon sequestration and storage, in partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy, included information about potential environmental justice dimensions of the proposed project.
- 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.
- In 2023, DOGAMI staff engaged with Grand Ronde Tribal representatives to ensure that the Agency used the appropriate datasets as background information for DOGAMI studies and to ensure that project methodologies were acceptable to the Tribal community. Additionally, Tribal representatives were given the opportunity to review the study prior to publication.
- Almost all DOGAMI projects rely on the input of 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 2023, DOGAMI conducted an outreach workshop for the Umatilla Tribe on carbon sequestration, including the development of outreach materials, to begin laying the groundwork for community involvement in future work around carbon capture and storage technologies.

### 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.

## 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.
- As part of the ongoing strategic planning process, 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 2023, the Agency participated in the Cottage Grove Emergency Preparedness Fair, Creswell Safety Fair, and the Cannon Beach Public 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.
- DOGAMI 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.
- DOGAMI 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 a well-developed public participation process that facilitates public awareness and engagement in the permitting process.
- 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 contain specific planning related to community outreach and engagement, and environmental justice considerations.

### GS&S Program

- DOGAMI's Geologic Mapping Program continues to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to map the northern parts of reservation lands to address groundwater concerns and support renewable geothermal energy exploration.
- 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 has taken an active role in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. DOGAMI's Mapping Tool Liaison, Christina Appleby, 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 2024

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In 2023, DOGAMI dedicated staff time and resources to engagement with the Environmental Justice Council. Moving into 2024, 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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### Agency Strategic Planning

- DOGAMI staff and the Agency Governing Board are currently in the process of creating a new strategic plan. As a part of the strategic planning process, the Agency will include environmental justice considerations related to:
  - Climate change
  - Renewable energy transition
  - Collaboration with other state agencies on addressing environmental justice issues

## 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.
- The MLRR program anticipates the further expansion of public participation and engagement in the aggregate mine permitting process.
- 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.

## 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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[2023 LCIS Report](#)

[2022 DOGAMI Annual Report to the EJC](#)