



February 3, 2021

EWEB Supports Preserving and Adequately Funding DOGAMI

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee:

The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) is a consumer-owned utility serving 200,000 residents in Eugene and the McKenzie River Valley. The McKenzie River is Eugene's sole source of drinking water.

EWEB has become aware that the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is slated to be eliminated in Governor Brown's proposed 2021-2023 budget. **EWEB sees DOGAMI's work and functions as vital to Oregon's emergency preparedness and resiliency, including post-fire McKenzie River Recovery. We support the preservation of DOGAMI and stable funding for this agency and its functions, especially DOGAMI's LiDAR program.**

DOGAMI utilizes LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to provide three-dimensional images of the surface of the earth. DOGAMI coordinates the Oregon LiDAR Consortium and is the lead agency that works with federal, state, and local agencies in the acquisition of LiDAR products across Oregon. The residents and the watershed of the McKenzie River suffered a devastating wildfire in September of last year. High quality, high density LiDAR collection along the McKenzie River this year could be extremely valuable to local, regional, and state agencies managing the ecological devastation of the Holiday Farm wildfire. This data could be the basis of derivative elevation products, forestry analytical service, and improved analytical hydrologic understanding of the region. EWEB is working with DOGAMI to conduct a debris flow and landslide mapping and modeling analysis of the fire impacted area to understand the risks to infrastructure, homes, and water quality. These elements are crucial to protecting lives and watersheds from landslides and water turbidity by informing effective plans to implement erosion controls.

Recently, a grant application to USGS for funding to conduct LiDAR collection through DOGAMI on the McKenzie River was denied. The denial letter (attached) cited the uncertainty over the future of DOGAMI as basis for denial. Another federal grant application for debris flow and landslide mapping on the McKenzie River may also be jeopardized. Federal funding is being left on the table instead of supporting post-fire recovery on the McKenzie River.

Thank you for considering our input on the importance of DOGAMI and its work to EWEB and our mission to provide affordable, reliable, and clean water and electricity. We appreciate this committee signaling a willingness to preserve and stabilize funding for DOGAMI and are happy to assist you in that effort.

Jason Heuser
Public Policy and Government Affairs Director
Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive

Reston, Virginia 20192

20 January 2021

Dear Mr. Edwards,

Your application submitted in response to U.S. Geological Survey Broad Agency Announcement for 3D Elevation Program, DOIGFBO200046/G20AS00104 titled **OLC McKenzie River 2021** has not been recommended for FY21 funding by the peer panel that evaluated the proposals.

The evaluation team is concerned with issuing a cooperative agreement grant due to the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. While this project has not been recommended for funding as a cooperative agreement grant, the applicant or funding partners are welcome to resubmit the proposal requesting the use of the Geospatial Product and Services Contract (GPSC).

3DEP appreciates your interest in collaborative work and encourages your future participation. If you require additional information the Contracting Officer (Ms. Vickie Floyd) can be reached by e-mail at gs_baa@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

Victoria Floyd
Contracting Officer