Representative Owens,

Since implementation of database permit tracking in early 2019, MLRR has received an average of **4 permit applications/month or 48 applications per year** for Surface Mining Operating and Exploration Permits.

MLRR Program capacity (12 FTE) has not changed in over 2 decades, and is scaled to handle ~ 25 permit applications/year. Staff are also expected to
perform routine permit review and renewal, site inspections, responses to complaints, interagency permit coordination, outreach and customer service.

Fee increases in 2015 and 2021 were approved for current staffing levels only, although Agency Request Budgets included requests for ePermitting or additional staff in the last 3 biennia.
Successfully increasing the capacity of the program has 2 immediate aspects. It requires 1) moving away from our legacy paper-based process to a modern online permitting system that provides transparency, tracking, and significant efficiencies; and 2) increasing staff to cover the higher application workload.

To handle the doubling of applications and subsequent workload, 6 additional field personnel and permitting positions are requested to perform site file review, site inspections, complaint response and coordinate application submissions.This will free-up existing experienced staff for technical decision making and individual permit conditioning.

3 Operational positions are required to cover policy development, IT support, permit coordination and outreach, currently performed by technical staff and the program manager. This will ensure that existing core staff with technical and
permit knowledge can 1) continue permitting work, 2) train new staff and 3) act as subject matter experts for the development of ePermitting.

1 Supervisory Position is also needed to oversee office operations and administrative staff, allowing the Program Manager to focus on policy and program development for long-term improvements.

Because of the agency specific regulatory framework and technical nature of the work, training new staff takes 6 – 12 months. It would likely take a year to see significant shortening of permit timelines, with numbers close to the program target of 6 months within 2 years. This success is dependent on other demands on the program (ePermitting, etc), and future permit application workload (industry and economic drivers).

The cost of the 10 positions for the 23-25 biennium is estimated at: **$2,011,130.** For context, this would be equivalent to a 46% increase on fee revenues.

There are many factors contributing to the current situation and proposed solution that not captured here.

Thank you for your question. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.
Christina

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From: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:10:31 PM
To: APPLEBY Christina * DGMI <Christina.APPLEBY@dogami.oregon.gov>
Subject: RE: DOGAMI Budget Presentation

Thanks Christina – I would like to know what budget would be needed to process the amount of permit request on average in the last 5 years in a timely fashion.

Mark

Mark Owens
House District 60
Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov
503-986-1460
Frontier Oregon – The Best part of the State

From: APPLEBY Christina * DGMI <Christina.APPLEBY@dogami.oregon.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:53 PM
To: Rep Owens <Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov>
Cc: DAY-STIRRAT Ruarri * DGMI <ruarri.day-stirrat@dogami.oregon.gov>
Subject: DOGAMI Budget Presentation