

ANALYSIS

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Earth Mapping Resources Initiative

Analyst: April McDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Geological Survey, in the amount of \$330,000, for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI).

Analysis: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) initiated the Earth MRI program in 2018 with the goal collecting geophysical, geologic, and topographic data to improve knowledge of the geologic framework throughout the states, and identify areas that have the potential to contain undiscovered critical mineral resources, valuable energy resources, groundwater, and geologic hazards. This program was designed as a cooperative agreement with the state geological surveys, and this is the first time that Oregon’s Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) intends to apply. The USGS has set aside \$330,000 specifically for Oregon and worked with DOGAMI to develop the letter of solicitation and requirements. The proposed project is titled “Advanced geologic mapping and mineral resource evaluation (lithium) of the northern sector of the McDermitt caldera, Malheur County, southeastern Oregon.”

The USGS deadline is March 3, 2023, and if awarded, DOGAMI intends to begin their three-year project in July 2023. There is no match requirement, however, the grant criteria encourage an in-kind match. Therefore, DOGAMI plans to contribute up to \$179,000 in staff time and supplies to the project as an affirmation of their commitment. No additional staffing is needed.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Filimoehala

Request: Authorization to apply for a federal grant of \$330,000 for Resource Mapping in Malheur County from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is requesting authorization to apply for a grant totaling \$330,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey. The grant would support work to map lithium resources in the northern sector of the McDermott caldera in Malheur County.

The grant does not require a match; however, the department will contribute \$179,000 through in-kind donations of staff time and supplies to meet ranking criteria for future funding. The grant application is due March 3, 2023 and the grant would last for three years.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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February 17, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The purpose of this letter is to request legislative approval regarding a federal grant application. The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) intends to submit a proposal to the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program in the amount of \$330,000.

The Earth MRI program was initiated by the USGS in 2018 as a cooperative agreement with state geological surveys to collect geophysical, geologic, and topographic data in areas of critical mineral potential, other economically valuable mineral and energy resources, groundwater resources, and geologic hazards across the Nation. This is the first application that DOGAMI has made to the program. The final grant proposal is due to USGS by March 3rd, 2023. DOGAMI would begin this three-year project in July 2023.

This grant proposes to fund one project entitled:

- “Advanced geologic mapping and mineral resource evaluation (lithium) of the northern sector of the McDermitt caldera, Malheur County, southeastern Oregon”.

The primary goals that will be achieved by these projects include completion of geologic maps for the specified area that is essential to characterize and assess the state’s mineral, energy, and water resources and serve as the foundation for derivative geologic and other natural hazard studies.

The proposed grant has no required funding match. A portion of the overall Earth MRI funding is expressly directed towards state geological surveys and is not a competitive grant. However, one ranking criteria for future funding is the level of in-kind matching funds offered. Therefore, DOGAMI will contribute up to \$179,000 in additional staff time and supplies to the project. DOGAMI will charge the full indirect rate.

This grant opportunity supports DOGAMI's mission and goals to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous and also supports Key Performance Measure #2 (KPM) – Detailed Geologic Map Completion.

Agency Action

Under DOGAMI's funding model it is essential that the Agency pursue relevant federal grant funding opportunities as they become available to satisfy biennial budget projections.

Action Requested

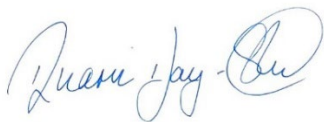
The Agency is requesting approval to apply to USGS for the above Earth MRI grant. DOGAMI will not require an increase in our federal fund expenditure limitation or position authority.

Legislation Affected

Legislation affected by this grant proposal is SB 5510 (2023) if additional federal limitation is necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 971-610-8968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ruari J. Day-Stirrat". The signature is cursive and includes a large, stylized initial "R" and "D".

Ruari J. Day-Stirrat
Executive Director/State Geologist

cc: George Naughton, Chief Financial Office
Sione Filimoehala, Chief Financial Office
Karin Power, Governor's Office
April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office