

ANALYSIS

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Earth MRI - Geologic Mapping

Analyst: Katie Bannikov

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.

Analysis: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has requested the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) submit a proposal through the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) cooperative agreements program for a non-competitive award of \$330,000 to complete geological mapping of the Cornucopia and Deadman Point 7.5' quadrangles in the Cornucopia mining district in northeast Oregon.

This USGS effort is aimed at creating geologic maps and models for areas that have potential for hosting critical mineral deposits. The cooperative agreement would be awarded under sole source authority with a performance period of three years.

There is no cost share requirement, and the Department does not anticipate needing additional staffing or expenditure limitation if awarded and work is expected to begin in November 2025.

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

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Beck

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of \$330,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey’s Earth Mapping Resources Initiative Cooperative Agreements for completion of geologic maps in the Cornucopia Mining District of Northeast Oregon.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is requesting authorization to submit a proposal for a non-competitive agreement of \$330,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) Cooperative Agreements. The proposal includes one project, titled “Geologic mapping of the Cornucopia and Deadman Point 7.5’ quadrangles, Cornucopia Mining District, NE Oregon.” The project goal is to complete geologic maps for the specified area in order to better define geologic relationships, understand mineralization events, and better quantify the critical mineral potential of the district.

USGS’s Earth MRI program is a frequent grantor of funds to DOGAMI, and this proposal falls within the normal scope of the agency’s work. This proposal has no state funding match requirement, and the agency does not require an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation. The final proposal is anticipated to be submitted by July 2025, with the three-year project anticipated to begin in November 2025.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Administrative Offices
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232-2162
(971) 673-1555
Fax: (971) 673-1562
www.oregon.gov/dogami

April 25, 2025

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

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

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) Cooperative Agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mineral Resources Program for a non-competitive agreement of \$330,000.

The final grant proposal is anticipated to be submitted on Grants.gov by July 1st, 2025. DOGAMI would begin this three-year project in November 2025.

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 grant proposes to fund one project entitled: *"Geologic mapping of the Cornucopia and Deadman Point 7.5' quadrangles, Cornucopia Mining District, NE Oregon."*

The primary goals that will be achieved by this project includes completion of geologic maps for the specified area to better define mapped geologic relationships, understand the timing and character of mineralization events, and better quantify the critical mineral potential of the district.

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

DOGAMI will charge the full indirect rate. This proposal does not require an increase in our federal fund expenditure limitation nor an increase in position authority. This proposal has no required funding match.

Agency Action

DOGAMI will submit the final grant proposal on or before July 1st, 2025.

Action Requested

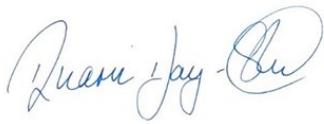
The Agency is requesting approval to apply to USGS for the above Earth MRI Geologic Mapping grant.

Legislation Affected

None

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, appearing to read "Ruarri J. Day-Stirrat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "J".

Ruarri J. Day-Stirrat

Executive Director/State Geologist

cc: Kate Nass, Chief Financial Office
Kendra Beck, Chief Financial Office
Geoff Huntington, Governor's Office
Chandra Alene, Governor's Office
Katie Bannikov, Legislative Fiscal Office
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office