

ANALYSIS

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Earth MRI - Mine Waste

Analyst: Katie Bannikov

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Geological Survey, in the amount of \$306,000, for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative.

Analysis: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mineral Resources Program is accepting proposals for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) for geological surveys for activities focusing on mine waste inventory and characterization data compilation and acquisition, sampling and mapping efforts in support of ongoing Earth MRI efforts.

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) applied and received funding for a geologic mapping grant through the primary Earth MRI program in early March 2023. This funding opportunity is to initiate the second portion of the Earth MRI program, Mine Waste Cooperative agreements. The Department will request funding in three priorities: 1) Mine waste inventory mapping in the Cornucopia Mining District in Baker County; 2) Mine waste assessment field studies to characterize and develop an assessment of mineral deposits and waste piles in southwest Oregon; and 3) Staff travel to the annual Earth MRI Workshop to share research and collaborate with other state geological surveys and USGS.

This is a competitive announcement with applications due by May 14, 2025. There is \$5 million available to award and the maximum award amount per grant is \$356,000 with no cost sharing requirement. Projects are expected to begin between July - September 2025 and the maximum period of performance is 24 months. The Department does not anticipate needing additional staffing or expenditure limitation if the grant is awarded.

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 \$306,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resources Initiative Mine Waste Cooperative Agreements for mine waste inventory and assessment projects.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is requesting authorization to apply for a federal grant of \$306,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) Mine Waste Cooperative Agreements. The agency's proposal is titled "Mine Waste Inventory and Assessment of Critical Mineral Resources in Oregon," and includes two main priorities. The first is a mine waste inventory project in the Cornucopia Mining District in Baker County aiming to map and describe historic mine waste. The second is a mine waste assessment project at Nickel (Hannah) Mountain in Southwest Oregon. A small amount of grant funding would also support the travel of agency staff to the annual Earth MRI Workshop in Virginia.

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 May 2025, with the two-year projects anticipated to begin in August 2025.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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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) Mine Waste Cooperative Agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mineral Resources Program (funding opportunity [G25AS00258](#); Posted April 10th and updated April 14th) in the amount of \$306,000. Our proposal will be entitled:

- *“Mine Waste Inventory and Assessment of Critical Mineral Resources in Oregon”*

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. DOGAMI applied and received funding for a geologic mapping grant through the primary Earth MRI program in early March 2023. This funding opportunity is to initiate the second portion of the Earth MRI program, Mine Waste Cooperative agreements. DOGAMI will request funding in two program priority areas:

- Priority 1 - *Mine Waste Inventory*, utilizing mine location data from the Mineral Inventory Layer for Oregon (MILO), lidar-data, and aerial imagery, and historical references, DOGAMI will map and describe historic mine waste in the Cornucopia Mining District in Baker County that are relevant to modern critical commodity studies.
- Priority 2 - *Mine Waste Assessment*, field studies will characterize and develop an assessment of mineral deposits and waste piles at Nickel (Hannah) Mtn. in southwest Oregon.
- Priority 3 - *Earth MRI Workshop travel support*, to support DOGAMI staff attending, sharing research, and collaborating with other state geological surveys and the USGS at the annual Earth MRI Workshop at USGS headquarters in Reston, Virginia.

The final grant proposal is due to USGS by May 15th, 2025. DOGAMI would begin this two-year project in August 2025.

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.

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

DOGAMI will submit our grant application on or before May 15th, 2025.

Action Requested

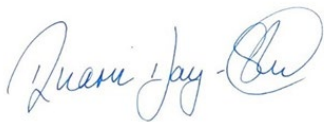
The Agency is requesting approval to apply to USGS for the above Earth MRI grant.

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, reading "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