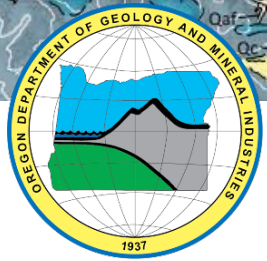


# Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee  
on Natural Resources  
May 6, 2025



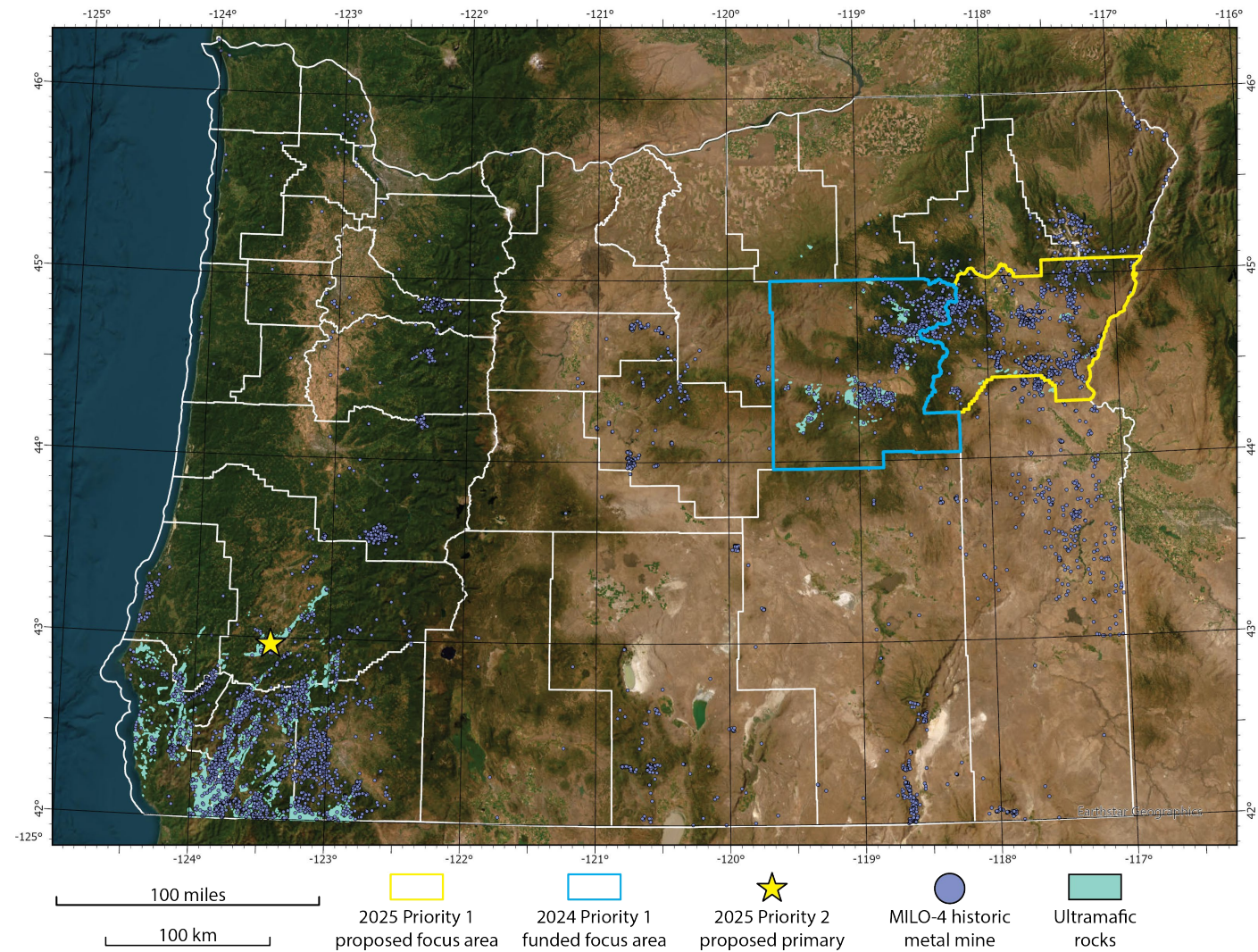
# USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative: Mine Waste

## Proposal

- National mine waste inventory: ***Oregon Blue Mountains***
- Mine waste characterization: ***Nickel Mountain, SW Oregon***
  - Geochemical sample analyses at the USGS
- Earth MRI workshop: ***In-person attendance***
  - Present at the annual USGS Earth MRI workshop in Reston, VA

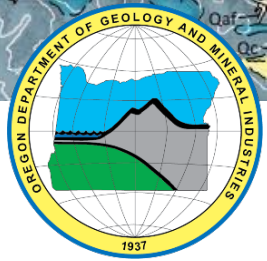
## Budget

- \$306,000 federal funds
- No match required



Map of Oregon showing the locations of ***proposed mine waste*** study areas

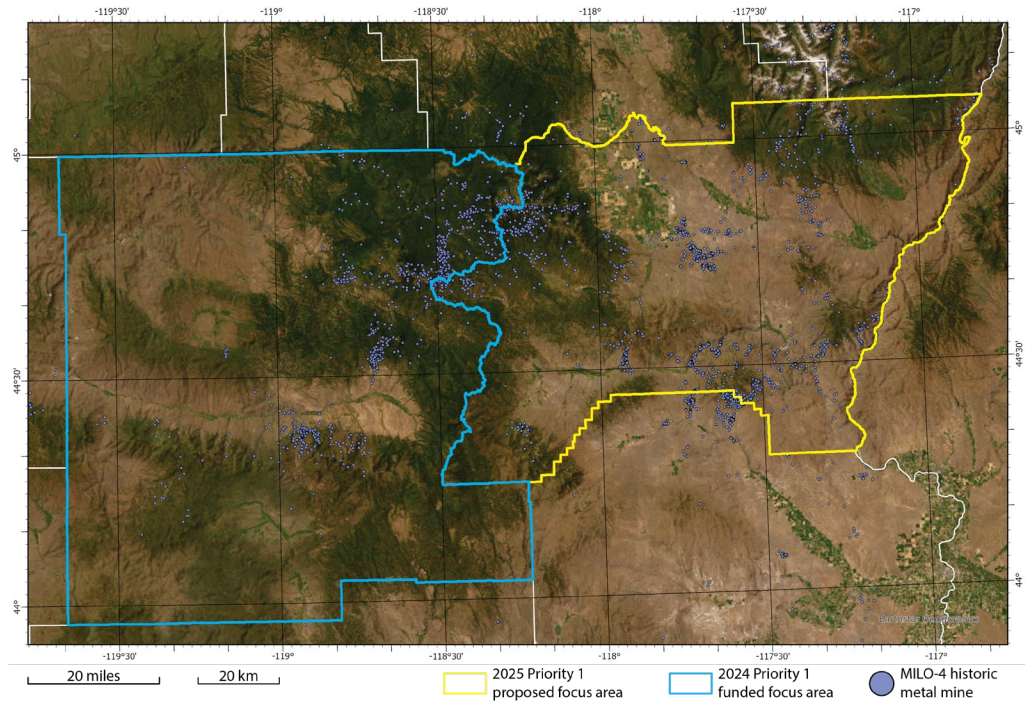




# USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative: Mine Waste

## National mine waste inventory: *Oregon Blue Mountains*

- Compilation of mine waste materials, expanding previous inventory of Grant County into Baker County, as part of the USGS national mineral deposit database project (USMIN)
- >2000 mine sites documented in Baker County in the Mineral Information Layer for Oregon (MILO-4) dataset
  - Delivery of 100 USMIN-formatted sites expected
  - Report published



Map of the proposed mine waste inventory area (yellow)

Example of placer mining waste (dredge bucket deposits) at Sumpter

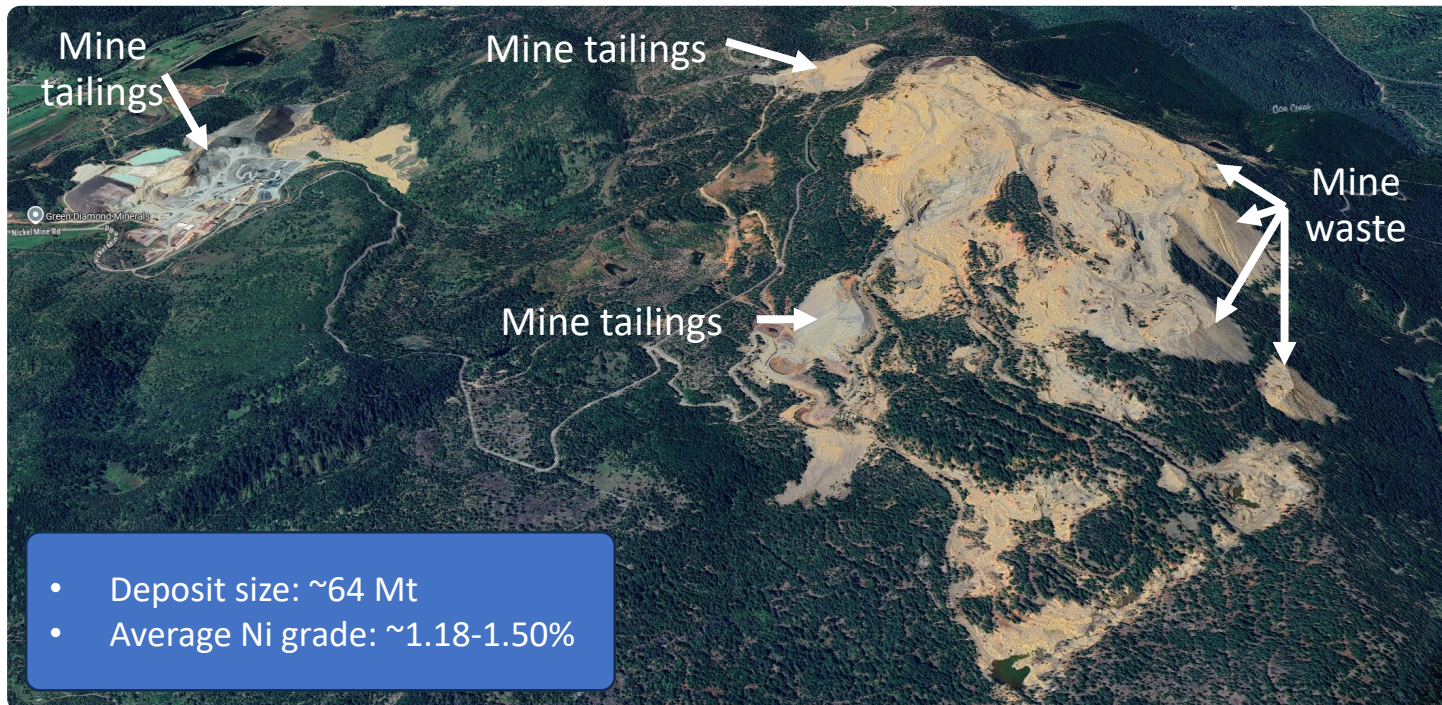




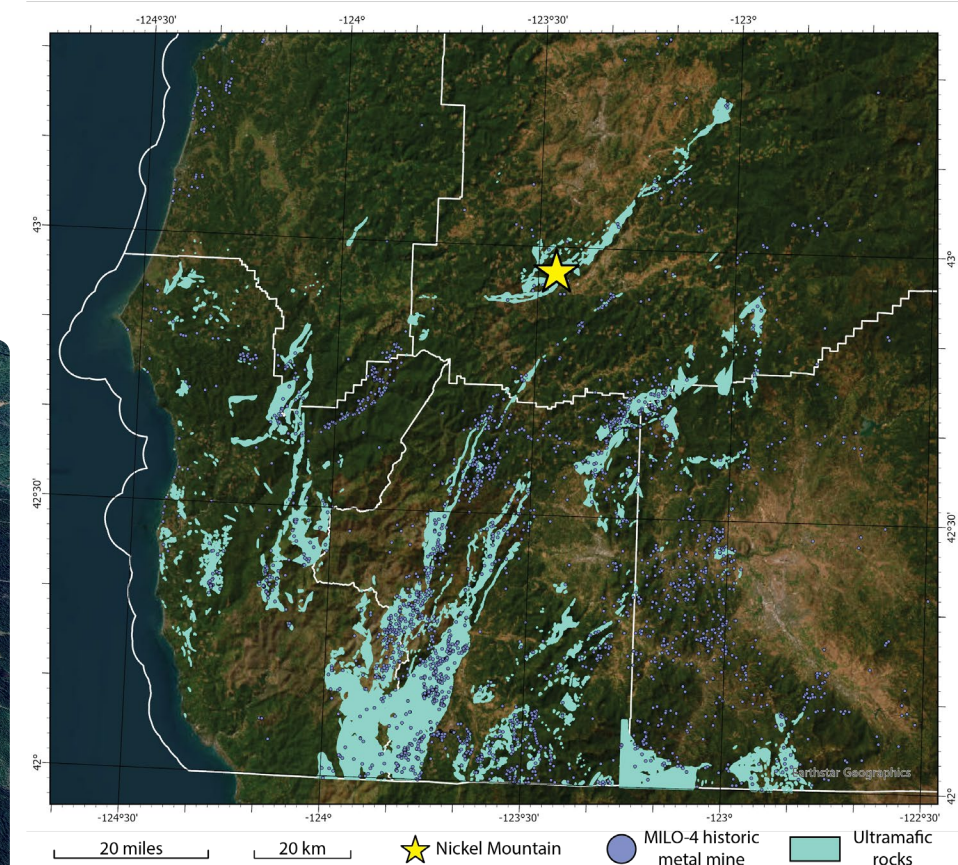
# USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative: Mine Waste

## Mine waste characterization: *Nickel Mountain, SW Oregon*

- Nickel Mountain (**Hanna Mine**) is Oregon's largest historic mining site; once the only source of nickel in the US
  - Operations ceased in 1998 due to declining nickel prices
  - Enrichment of nickel, with indication of cobalt, chromium, and gallium
  - Part of an expansive system across SW Oregon, may contain critical minerals
  - 15 Mt of byproduct that contains chromium



Oblique view (GoogleMaps) of Nickel Mountain mine: Oregon's largest historic mine site.



Map of SW Oregon showing the location of Nickel Mountain