



Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation Program
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Do I need a permit or certificate from DOGAMI?

Per Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR)

ARE YOU CONDUCTING SURFACE MINING?

ORS 517.790(1) A landowner or operator may not allow or engage in surface mining on land not surface mined on July 1, 1972, without holding a valid operating permit from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries for the surface mining operation. A separate permit is required for each separate surface mining operation.

ORS 517.750 (16)(a) "Surface mining" includes: (A) All or any part of the process of mining minerals by the removal of overburden and the extraction of natural mineral deposits thereby exposed by any method by which **more than 5,000 cubic yards of minerals are extracted or by which at least one acre of land is affected within a period of 12 consecutive calendar months**, including open-pit mining operations, auger mining operations, processing, surface impacts of underground mining, production of surface mining refuse and the construction of adjacent or off-site borrow pits, except those constructed for use as access roads.

ORS 517.755 Notwithstanding the yard and acre limitations of ORS 517.750 (16), as soon as any mining operation begun after July 1, 1975, affects **more than five acres** of land the provisions of ORS 517.702 to 517.989 apply to the mining operation.

*If the answer is YES...you need an **OPERATING PERMIT** from DOGAMI*

ORS 517.753 (1) Notwithstanding the yard and acre limitations of ORS 517.750 (16), a person may not engage in surface mining that results in the **extraction of 5,000 cubic yards or less of minerals or affects less than one acre of land within a period of 12 consecutive calendar months** except in compliance with an exclusion certificate issued by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries under this section. Except as provided in ORS 517.755, a mining operation subject to a valid exclusion certificate is not subject to the operating permit or reclamation requirements set forth in ORS 517.702 to 517.989.

*If the answer is YES...you need an **EXCLUSION CERTIFICATE** from DOGAMI*

ARE YOU CONDUCTING MINERAL EXPLORATION?

ORS 517.705 (1) A person may not engage in onshore exploration that disturbs **more than one surface acre or involves drilling to greater than 50 feet** except in compliance with a permit issued by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries under this section.

ORS 517.750 (5) “Exploration” means all activities conducted on or beneath the surface of the earth for the purpose of determining presence, location, extent, grade or economic viability of a deposit. “Exploration” **does not include prospecting** or chemical processing of minerals.

*If the answer is YES...you need an **EXPLORATION PERMIT** from **DOGAMI***

ARE YOU PROSPECTING?

OAR 632-033-0010 (12) “Prospecting” for the purpose of these rules means activities conducted on or beneath the surface of the earth for the purpose of determining presence, location, extent, grade, or economic viability, but *does not disturb more than one cumulative acre.*

*If the answer is YES...you do **NOT** need a permit or certificate from **DOGAMI***

ARE YOU RECREATIONAL MINING?

ORS 517.120 (4) “Recreational mining” means mining in a manner that is consistent with a hobby or casual use, *including use on public lands* set aside or withdrawn from mineral entry for the purpose of recreational mining*, or using pans, sluices, rocker boxes, other nonmotorized equipment and dredges with motors of 16 horsepower or less and a suction nozzle of four inches or less in diameter.

*Note: Examples include the Quartzville Recreation Corridor in Linn County and the BLM Sunstone Collection Area in Lake County.

*If the answer is YES...you do **NOT** need a permit or certificate from **DOGAMI***