

# Background Report



Monday, February 09, 2015

**To:** Community Advisory Committee

**From:** Rithy Khut

**Re:** Natural Resources – Mining, mineral and aggregate resources

---

## SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding mineral and aggregate resources within Multnomah County.

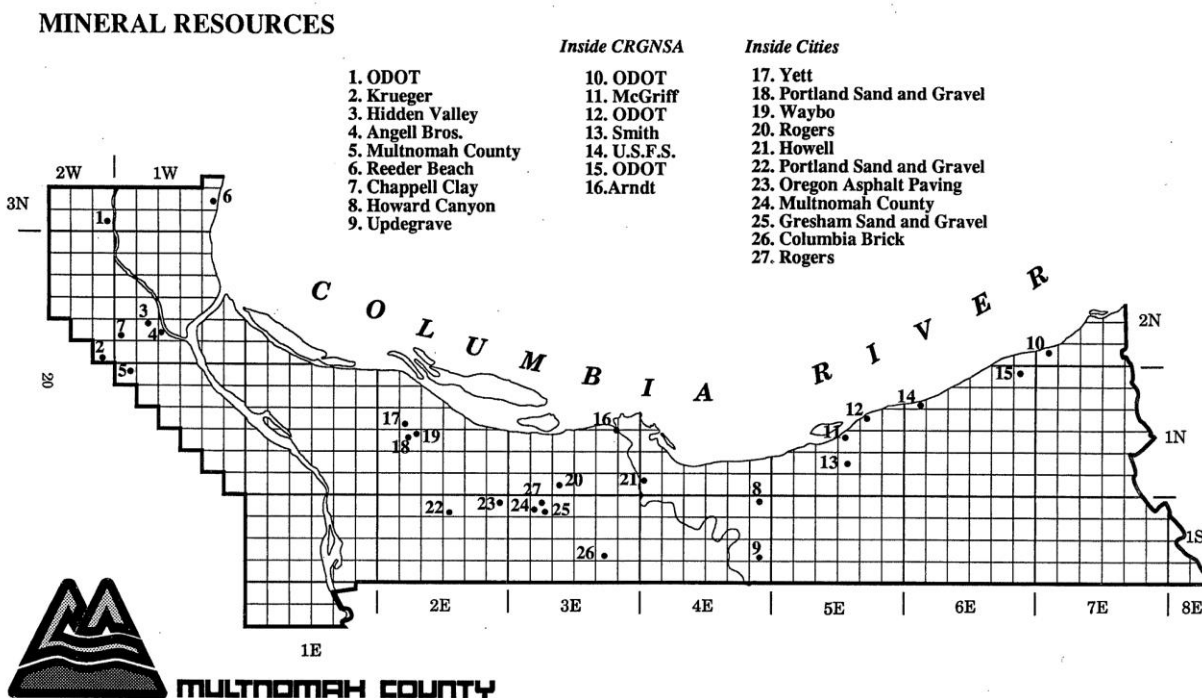
## BACKGROUND

As part of the Comprehensive Plan process, there are a set of rules and conditions that must be met to meet Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals. One of the goals, Goal 5, relates to natural resources, scenic and historic areas, and open spaces. Within this goal, natural resources include mineral and aggregate resources, which are extracted and processed as gravel or similar rock products. To meet this goal, the state requires that local municipalities create an inventory to determine which resources should be added for protection. The rules and regulations of this process come from Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 660, divisions 16 and 23, to give local governments guidance to achieve these goals.

From identification to the creation of an inventory, there are multiple steps to document significant natural resources. The first step is identifying resources within the county. Based on the information that is present, each resource site must be classified as significant, not significant or unknown due to insufficient information. Once that is accomplished, the local government is required to identify conflicting uses and then examine the impacts of allowing, conditionally allowing or not allowing the use within those inventoried Goal 5 resource sites. The impacts of the use are analyzed by looking at the economic, social, environmental and energy (ESEE) consequences of each use. Based on the determination of the ESEE consequences a designation of preserving the resource by prohibiting the conflicting use, fully allowing the conflicting use or limiting the conflicting use is placed upon the resource area.

Multnomah County conducted their mineral and aggregate resource inventories and ESEE analyses between 1977 and 1997 as part of their Comprehensive Plan and Rural Area Plan update process. In 1977, the county completed a full identification of mineral and aggregate resources within the County. From their research, it was found there were ten sites that had permits on file with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) for mining. Those sites do not include any quarry which produces less than 5,000 cubic yards of materials and disturbs less than five acres per year because those mines are exempt from state and county statutes. Of those ten sites, nine were within the county's ownership or jurisdiction (see figure 1 – sites #1-#9).

Figure 1 – Mineral Resources in Multnomah County (1988)



Note: 28. through 35. are National Forest owned sites within the CRGNSA and are not shown on this Figure.

Figure 1.

Subsequently, as part of the Rural Plan Update process, it was determined that only two mines, Angell Brothers and Howard Canyon, are significant Goal 5 resources. Based on the ESEE analysis these mines were allowed to operate under conditional use permits to limit the surrounding conflicting uses. However as it currently stands, the Angell Brothers mining site is the only active mine in Multnomah County.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND RURAL AREA PLAN POLICIES

The County's policy is to protect and ensure appropriate use of mineral and aggregate resources and minimize conflict between surface mining activities and surrounding land uses. A majority of the strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Framework Plan have either been completed (i.e. Goal 5 inventory process) or have been codified into the development code. Within the rural area plans, the West Hills has two policies to allow expansion of the Angell Brothers quarry to provide needed aggregate materials for the Portland Metropolitan area while also balancing the need for aggregate material with the protection of scenic views, streams and wildlife habitat in the vicinity of the Angell Brothers quarry. In the East of Sandy River plan area there is one policy to allow mining on the Howard Canyon quarry site under the conditions set forth in the Howard Canyon Reconciliation Report.

## CONCLUSION

While the mineral resource policies set forth in the existing Comprehensive Plan and Rural Area Plans are still relevant, most of the strategies have been completed so they are no longer necessary. In Multnomah County's case, the Goal 5 mineral resources inventory process has been made easier because the County only has two mineral extraction sites that are considered significant Goal 5 resources. For these reasons, the updated County Comprehensive Plan needs very few policy statements or strategies to address mining, mineral and aggregate resources.

Staff recommends the following mineral resource policies and strategies are included in the updated comprehensive plan:

### **Mineral and Aggregate Resources:**

It is the County's policy to protect and ensure appropriate use of mineral and aggregate resources of the County and minimize conflict between surface mining activities and surrounding land uses.

### **Strategies:**

- A. The County shall protect significant gravel and mineral resources consistent with Statewide Planning Goal 5 and Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 660, Division 16.
- B. Allow mining and the expansion of the significant goal 5 mineral and aggregate resources, in accordance with state rules, statutes and local conditional use permit requirements, to provide needed aggregate materials for the Portland Metropolitan Area.
- C. Require new or expanded mineral and aggregate extraction operations to develop programs based upon an economic, social, environmental and energy (ESEE) consequences analysis that will minimize any negative effects of mineral and aggregate-related activities on surrounding affected uses.
- D. Utilize the Protected Aggregate and Mineral Resources (PAM) Overlay to protect identified mineral and aggregate resource sites and to reduce potential impacts of resource extraction on adjacent uses.
- E. Balance the need for aggregate materials with the protection of scenic views, streams, and wildlife habitat within the vicinity of significant goal 5 mineral and aggregate resources.