

Oregon geologic maps, reports now free online

PORTLAND — The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has launched Publications Center, a web hub for free download of maps, reports, data, articles and more.

Everything DOGAMI has published since 1937 is now available, from early mining reports to spectacular imagery created with cutting-edge lidar technology to geodatabases.

Making the agency's science freely available to all helps Oregon communities learn more about the natural hazards, mineral resources and geology around the state.

"Accessing this wealth of information is easier than ever," said Ali Ryan Hansen, DOGAMI earth science information officer. "Whether you want a field trip guide, a historic map, or the latest landslide inventory geodatabase, you can download it immediately from Publications Center."

Oregonians also get a look at the state's history through the lens of mining and geology. A 1965 lunar geological field conference guidebook, published as Bulletin 57, includes a welcome from Governor Mark O. Hatfield, as well as guides to Oregon's well-exposed and accessible lunar-like geology.

Gold, discovered in the Oregon Territory in 1851, is a popular topic, from a 1961 Ore Bin article on skin diving for placer gold to 1984 maps of Grant County geology and gold deposits.

Among the best sellers at Nature of the Northwest Information Center, which closed in July, were the "Oregon: A Geologic History" map, recreation maps of Oregon peaks, and stunning lidar images of Oregon scenes — all now free for download at Publications Center online at www.oregongeology.org/pubs.

Tonight's STEP meeting to focus on shellfish

Carri Andersen, sampling and research shellfish biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will be the guest speaker at tonight's meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with a short business meeting, including reports on the hatchery, steelhead and coho trap activity.

The public is invited to attend.

Andersen will discuss the biology of the Dungeness Crab, including its development and molting behaviors. She will also give a general overview of recreational and commercial

crab fisheries and briefly touch on the impact that domoic acid can have on the shellfish.

Prior to Andersen's talk, there will be a short business meeting. The installation of the Whittaker Creek steelhead trap will be shared as well as the progress of the steelhead eggs at the club's hatchery facility in Florence.

The club installed a trap at Whittaker Creek yesterday, Jan. 5, and put the weir in place today. After that, the trap will be "fishing" and volunteers will travel to the site three days a week to live-spawn the steelhead and take counts of the returning fish.

The Oregon Department of

Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced the reopening of recreational bay crabbing from Heceta Head to the California border last week.

This includes crab harvested in bays and estuaries and off docks, piers, jetties and from the ocean.

Shellfish samples taken from the area indicate levels of the marine toxin domoic acid have dropped and remain below the alert level.

With the reopening of that region, recreational harvesting of crab is open along the entire Oregon Coast.

Commercial crab season began Monday, Jan. 4.

ODA and ODFW will continue monitoring marine toxins in crab and shellfish to ensure that the concentrations remain below the alert level.

Despite the recent closure, crab and shellfish products sold in retail markets and restaurants are safe for consumers. It is recommended that crab always be eviscerated prior to cooking, which includes removal and discard of the internal organs and gills.

For more information, call ODA's shellfish safety information hotline at (800) 448-2474 or visit the ODA shellfish closures.

HELP KEEP DOGS SAFE DURING TRAPPING SEASON

SALEM — With many furbearer trapping seasons underway until March 31, ODFW reminds dog owners to be aware that trapping activities could occur in areas where they walk or hike with their dogs.

Traps can be set on public land, but state regulations require they be set at minimum distances from designated trails and public use areas. Traps may also be set on private land by permission of the landowner.

"Dogs running loose run the risk of being accidentally captured in legally set traps, which could cause serious injury or even death," said Derek Broman, ODFW furbearer coordinator. "To help keep dogs safe and prevent such tragedies from happening, we want their owners to be aware of the possibility of trapping activity in areas where they spend time outdoors with their dogs."

ODFW also recommends

that dog owners:

- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Or, keep your dog in sight and under voice command — don't let the dog wander off, especially out of sight.
- Keep your dog on designated trails and within designated public use areas. Traps must be set at minimum distances away from these locations.
- Remember traps are often found near water as many furbearers (beaver, muskrat, nutria) are targeted under water or the water's edge.
- Remember lures and baits used by trappers can attract dogs, too (another reason to keep the dog under control).
- If the dog is often off trails and designated public use areas, understand how to release a dog from a trap.
- Carry the appropriate tools (cable cutter and length of rope) to be prepared in case you need to release your dog from a trap or snare.

Furbearer regulations set

restrictions on the type and size of traps that can be used and also where trappers may set traps and snares on state and federal lands.

Traps may not be set within 50 feet of any designated public trail or within 300 feet of any designated trailhead, public campground or picnic area.

Also, killing traps with a jaw spread between 7.5 and 9 inches set on public land cannot be placed more than 50 feet from a permanent or seasonal water source.

It is illegal to disturb or remove the traps or snares of another person. Individuals that see traps they believe are illegally set should not disturb the trap, but contact Oregon State Police. OSP can identify the owner of a legally set trap through a unique branding number required on each trap.

Oregon has about 1,200 licensed trappers. Before becoming licensed, trappers in Oregon must take an education course and pass an exam that

deals with topics like wildlife identification, trapping ethics, and setting traps to catch target animals and avoid non-target animals.

Those requirements and the Oregon furbearer regulations both incorporate scientific findings on the best management practices for regulated trapping in the United States for animal welfare, trap efficiency, trap selectivity, trapper and public safety, and the practical application of various trap types.

Most trapping seasons opened Nov. 15 or Dec. 1 and end Feb. 28 or March 31. A few seasons are open the entire year, but winter is the most popular time to trap because pelts are in prime condition.

Trappers are required to submit an annual report on their efforts, harvest, and wildlife observations, which provides insight on over 16 wildlife species statewide.

Siuslaw Baseball Association
Annual Board Meeting
 Tuesday, January 12th, 6:00 pm
Siuslaw Public Library - Bromley Room
(Open to the Public)
 For more information contact siuslawbaseball@gmail.com

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Avoid tragedy by ensuring guns are stored safely

Regardless of your opinions about gun ownership, the issue of safe storage is one that everyone should take seriously.

Every gun owner should carefully consider the reasons for having a gun. If there is no compelling need to own a gun,

remove it from your home.

- If you own firearms, carefully consider where to keep them. Hall closets, nightstands, drawers by the outside doors of your home and other traditional places are often where criminals and curious children look first.
- Store guns unloaded, locked up and with a lock on the trigger. Consider a lock box for handguns. There are also gun safes for long-barrel firearms. Store ammunition

separately — and locked up.

- If you are a family member and are experiencing high levels of anger, fear or depression, remove guns from your home. It is during these times a gun is often used against a loved one or against oneself.
- Never handle a gun after consuming alcohol or other drugs.
- Never leave a gun in your vehicle. Guns are often stolen from cars.
- Teach children never to

touch a firearm without supervision, and to immediately tell an adult if they find a gun.

- Know where your firearms are at all times. You are accountable for them, and it is your responsibility to ensure your gun is not used against a family member.
- All gun owners should receive training in the safe handling and care of their guns and ammunition.

— Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

ARE YOU A
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THIS WEEK'S LUCKY WINNERS:

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| Tuesday 12/29 | Susan Hyland Danny Miller | Coos Bay Florence | Three Rivers Casino Resort Grocery Outlet |
| Wednesday 12/30 | Joseph Arsenault Donna Riggs | Florence Florence | Oil Can Henry's Grocery Outlet |
| Thursday 12/31 | Clara Anderson-Kuhn Clara Anderson-Kuhn | Florence Florence | Bay Street Grill Bay Street Grill |
| Friday 1/1 | Elke Dodd Brandi Taniguchi | Florence Florence | Ichiban Japanese/Chinese Restaurant Three Rivers Casino Resort |
| Saturday 1/2 | Peggy McHale Rodney Howland | Florence Florence | Florence Liquor Agency Grocery Outlet |
| Sunday 1/3 | Patty Panther Fred Guettier | Florence Florence | City Lights Cinemas Grocery Outlet |
| Monday 1/4 | Robert Stevenson Donna Henderson | Florence Florence | Safeway Safeway |

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Viks from 1B

advance to the finals round. The Vikings went on to place second and easily advance to the finals with a 184 average.

Playing North Bend in a two-game match to earn a chance to bowl for the title, the Vikings narrowly missed playing for the championship after coming up just eight pins short against the Bulldogs.

Siuslaw then faced the Millers of Springfield and led from start to finish to secure third place — and their best finish of the season.

Marshfield claimed the tournament title, followed by North Bend, Siuslaw and Springfield.

The Pirates were a dominant force, rolling a perfect 300 game in the qualifying round.

This Sunday, the Siuslaw boys will be on the road at North Bend, with the Lady Vikings at Cottage Grove.

Both tournaments begin at 8:30 a.m.

Cape from 1B

For information, call the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.