

Geoscience in Your State: Oregon

WHAT IS GEOSCIENCE?

Geoscience is the study of the earth and the complex geology, natural resources, and physical processes that sustain life and the economy. Understanding the earth's history and evolution, its resources, history, and geoscientists are developing solutions to environmental, natural, and public challenges.



By the numbers: OREGON

- 4,914 geoscience employees (excludes self-employed)¹
- 1.48 billion gallons/day: total groundwater withdrawal³
- 47 million acres of undeveloped public land in 2017
- 7 total license categories, including 40 types, 40 hours, and 7 years from license 2023/24²
- 45 million 45-42 years old in 2017

OREGON'S GEOLOGY

- 40 million acres of undeveloped public land in 2017
- One public, natural, and public land area, owned by the state, federal, and local governments

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3. Groundwater withdrawal (total and by sector)	4. Undeveloped public land in 2017
5. Geoscience employees (excludes self-employed)	6. Undeveloped public land in 2017

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- \$474 million: value of nonfuel mineral production in 2017⁴
- 73 total disaster declarations, including 40 fire, 14 flood, and 13 severe storm disasters (1953-2017)?
- \$143 million: NSF GEO grants awarded in 2017¹⁴...

Read more in this Geoscience in Your State Factsheet...

Agencies Working on Geoscience Issues in Oregon

Oregon Department of Energy

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Pages/index.aspx>

ODOE is focused on helping Oregon remain an energy leader and reach the state's energy and climate goals.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Pages/index.aspx>

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is a regulatory agency whose job is to protect the quality of Oregon's environment. DEQ's mission is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

<https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/Pages/index.aspx>

DOGAMI's mission is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.

Oregon Department of State Lands

<https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/pages/index.aspx>

The mission of the Department of State Lands is to ensure a legacy for Oregonians and their public schools through sound stewardship of lands, wetlands, waterways, unclaimed property, estates and the Common School Fund.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

<https://www.oregon.gov/OEM/Pages/default.aspx>

The OEM mission is to lead statewide efforts to develop and enhance preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation capabilities to protect the lives, property and environment of the whole community.

Oregon Water Resources Department

<https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/pages/index.aspx>

The Department's mission is to serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management through to restoration and protection of streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

Maps & Visualizations



Interactive database for geologic maps of the United States

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey hosts the National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB). This interactive tool serves as a national archive for high-quality, standardized geologic maps created by the U.S. Geological Survey and state geological surveys. The MapView section of the NGMDB displays geologic maps...

Search all Maps & Visualizations [➤](#)

Case Studies & Factsheets

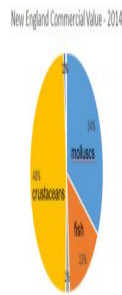


Dry well usage across the United States

Introduction Dry wells improve stormwater drainage and aquifer recharge by providing a fast, direct route for rainwater to drain deep into underlying sediment and rock. Dry wells are most common in the western U.S. where clay or caliche layers slow down the natural drainage of water into underlying...

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Webinars & Forums



Ocean Acidification Impacts on Fisheries

This webinar addresses how geoscience helps us to understand ocean acidification, ocean acidification's impacts on marine life, and what states and municipalities can do to reduce the fishery-related economic impacts of ocean acidification.

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