

From: [Dennis Hebard](#)
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: comments on SB 1579
Date: Monday, February 17, 2020 10:47:30 PM

Please consider amending,
SB1579 is up for a public hearing & work session Wed. Feb. 19th in the joint ways & means might be a chance to change needing the DOGAMI exclusion certificate for weekend gold miners
its set as 5000cy **or less** it should not cover less than 1500cy or least 500cy some relief anyway
the lowest tier WPCF 600 for small scale mining is set at < 5 cubic yards/a day, or 1,500 CY/a year.

for Eastern Oregon miners this has been hard on them since they added charging fees for 5000cy or LESS in the 2015 legislative session and now they want more on the small miners and prospectors.

I would like to see some relief at least for the little guy. I'm for funding DOGAMI but this discourages building revenue sources especially in Eastern Oregon

a lot of mining claim owners on federally managed lands and prospectors only have weekends or vacation time there should be some carveout for casual mining and prospecting as written in the mining laws & FLPMA to freely look for gold at a federally described casual level.

Need: relief for pick and shovel miners from having to register under the exclusion certificate. Originally this was meant for smaller gavel extraction as a means of extra funding for DOGAMI

small scale gold miners were included, casual level should be exempt, but would still include mid size miners that don't fall under an Operating permit. (>5000cy)

Last year **SB46 "Clarifies applicability of surface mining exclusion certificate"**

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB46>

Passed out of committee with a unanimous Do pass, but did not get a floor vote with amendments;

SECTION 1. ORS 517.753 is amended to read:

517.753. (1) Notwithstanding the yard and acre limitations of ORS 517.750 (16), a person [*must*] shall

obtain an exclusion certificate from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries [*to 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.]

for each surface mining operation that, within a 12-month period, results in the extraction of between 500 and 5,000 cubic yards of minerals.

(2) Mining conducted under a valid exclusion certificate may expand the affected area by not more than one acre of land within any 12-month period unless the total acreage of surface disturbance by the mining operation exceeds five acres.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hebard

aircraft8976@comcast.net

541-606-2872

From: [Dennis Hebard](#)
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: comments for Feb 19th... please amend SB 1579
Date: Monday, February 17, 2020 11:25:54 PM

Please amend SB1579 to read

SECTION 3.
ORS 517.753 is amended to read:
517.753. (1) Notwithstanding the yard and acre limitations of ORS 517.750 (16), a person [must obtain an exclusion certificate from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to]

May not engage in surface mining that results in the extraction of **between 500 and 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.

Or refer to Last years 2019 SB46 "Clarifies applicability of surface mining exclusion certificate"

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SB46>

Passed out of committee with a unanimous Do pass

Sincerely,
Dennis Hebard
aircraft8976@comcast.net
541-606-2872