



## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### **South Oregon Mineral Sands project to offer the first domestic source of vital minerals to U.S. foundries**

*West Coast Resources helps develop site that will provide lower costs and spur local and national economies*

**COOS BAY, OREGON – JUNE 2011** – As the U.S. continues to take steps towards self-reliance, the need for a local source of vital minerals has recently come into play. West Coast Resources, in conjunction with Oregon Resources Corporation (ORC), has helped develop a project that is currently underway to offer the first domestic source of chromite and other valuable minerals to the U.S. This project is expected to have a significant effect on both local and national economies by effectively loosening the grip that overseas foundries currently have on the country.

West Coast Resources' efforts in helping to develop the Southern Oregon Mineral Sands project covering approximately 2,600 acres of terraced mineral sands properties near Coos Bay, Oregon is sure to garner much attention from U.S. foundries seeking a local source of heavy minerals. Currently, the U.S. must incur the expensive transportation costs associated with obtaining heavy minerals overseas. The project will bypass this expensive process by offering materials at competitively lower prices due to the reduced cost of transporting within the country.

Chromite, the main mineral that is being excavated at the site, is essential to creating a metal that induces hardness, toughness and chemical resistance in steel. Because of its ability to resist chemical and mechanical weathering, it has become a highly prized resource for a variety of uses, including steel casts, stainless steel production and auto part plating. In addition, its ability to withstand high temperatures when alloyed with iron and nickel makes the mineral ideal for heating units, ovens and other appliances. The site will also produce additional heavy metals important to U.S. economy, including garnet, zircon, ilmenite, magnetite, kyanite and staurolite.

The mining of the mineral sands will take place on a relatively small mining site, according to exploration data compiled with U.S. Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey. Company officials have stated that none of the minerals found at the site are harmful to human life. Rather, the minerals are naturally occurring and have been in the site for hundreds of thousands of years.

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Complying with a number of environmental requests to ensure the surrounding area is protected from environmental impact, West Coast Resources has implemented latest BMP's that will help prevent erosion of the earth. Additionally, extensive research of the ORC's mining shows that the excavation will not have any ill effect on local water supplies.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to handling the excavation and heavy equipment for the project, West Coast Contractors, a general contractor based in Coos Bay, Oregon, has also built the foundation for the site where the mining of the sand is processed. The main plant, which has been built on company-owned property in Bunker Hill near Coos Bay, Oregon, has been designed to process the extracted material at between 500,000 and 1.2 million tons per year.

Oregon Resources Corporation has been in the area since 1989 when the first stage of exploration started. Since that time, management has partnered with the local community to build economic growth and social infrastructure. The project has benefited the community through job creation and a stable workforce and is expected to continue to provide more local employment opportunities in the future. Oregon Resources Corporation currently employs 75 full-time employees with a \$3.5 million annual payroll and spends some \$4 million annually in goods and services.

"We are very confident and optimistic about the positive effects that this project will have on both our local and national economy," President of West Coast Resources David Kronsteiner said. "The future of domestic heavy mineral production and the benefits it will provide to the country should prove to be highly beneficial in the near future."

#### **About Oregon Resources Corporation**

Oregon Resources Corporation, Inc. engages in the exploration of mineral sands properties in southwestern Oregon. Founded in 1989 in Portland, Oregon, Oregon Resources Corporation produces chromite, which is used in the foundry industry as molding sand in making precision steel casts; garnet for use in precision water jet cutting applications; zircon for use in refractory bricks, glass making, aluminum engine block casting and investment casting, and ceramic tile glazing applications, as well as used as foundry sand; and high iron ilmenite that is used as an additive for foundry applications.

#### **About West Coast Resources**

Utilizing a strong team of experienced workers and the most up-to-date equipment, West Coast Resources was developed to assist Oregon Resources Corporation in the mining, hauling and reclamation of the Southern Oregon Mineral Sands project near Coos Bay, Oregon. A respected company for their Best Management Practices and commitment to safety, West Coast Resources has

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oregon-resources.com/FAQ.html>



effectively developed the skills and tools necessary to successfully mine valuable minerals in an efficient and timely manner.

**About Christie Communications**

Christie Communications is a full-service branding public relations, marketing, advertising agency dedicated to helping ethical businesses, entrepreneurs, and socially conscious organizations broaden their impact through effective communication services. Christie Communications goes beyond branding and other marketing buzzwords. It is a company based in philosophy, driven by passion, and known by its results. The Christie CommUnity Foundation creates a "ripple effect" of global betterment through creating and promoting innovative, results-oriented initiatives for the betterment of the world.

For further information about West Coast Contractors or for media related inquiries, please contact Jennifer Johnson of Christie Communications at (805) 969-3744 or via email at [jjohnson@christiecomm.com](mailto:jjohnson@christiecomm.com).

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