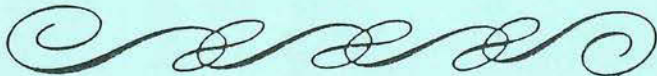


Josephine County Historical Society

SCHMIDT HOUSE 508 SW 5th STREET GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526



MINING INFORMATION IN THE JOSEPHINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Patrons are asked to please keep in mind that our information is mainly historical, not technical. There are mines and placers that were never marked on maps, and there are legends of big strikes and rich veins of gold that may never have existed.

Blue, George Verne. Mining Laws of Jackson County, 1860--1876. Photocopy of pamphlet. pub 1922.
PAM 347.99 Blue

Brooks, Howard C. and Len Ramp. Bulletin 61: Gold and Silver in Oregon. State of Oregon, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 1968.
553.4109 Brooks

Diller, J.S. Mineral Resources of Southwestern Oregon. c1914. Describes individual mining areas in detail. In fragile condition.
MSS 24-A Mineral R

Libbey, F.W. The Almeda Mine, Josephine County, Oregon. State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 1967.
On waiting shelf.

Mineral Wealth, Southern Oregon Edition. Aug. 1, 1904. This periodical is in very fragile condition. Describes individual mines of the area. Illus.
MSS Box 3-F Mineral

Nelson, A. Dictionary of Mining. New York, Philosophical Library, Inc., c1965.
On waiting shelf.

Oregon Mining Journal. The Mining Laws of Oregon-- [photocopy of pamphlet], 1899.
PAM 350 Oregon 1899

Oregon Mining Journal: also contains mining laws of Oregon. 1897.
MSS Box 3-F

Ramp, Len. Geology and Mineral Resources of Josephine County, Oregon [pamphlet], 1979. Contains mineral locality map of Josephine County.
PAM 553.0995 Ramp 1979

Reinhart, Herman Francis. The Golden Frontier: the Recollections of Herman Francis Reinhart, 1851-1869. Austin, University of Texas Press, c1962. Herman Francis Reinhart was in Josephine County from 1851 and on and off throughout the 1850s. His book describes life in early day Sailors Diggings and Kerbyville.
917.92 Reinhart

Street, Willard and Elsie. Sailors' Diggings--[pamphlet]. Wilderville, Wilderville Press, c1973.
PAM 979.525 Street

Thompson, J.W. United States Mining Statutes annotated-- [first edition]. 1915.
345 United

United States Treasury Department. Report of the Director of the Mint upon the production of the precious metals in the United States during the calendar year 1899, pub 1900.
338.2 United

Other resources on mining in the Research Library include:

Photographs
Clipping files
Pamphlet files
Maps of a few individual claims--these are not yet cataloged.

Jn88
D19

General information

The Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management has reserved four areas for recreational dredging and gold panning. These sites are limited to small dredges with an intake diameter of four inches or less. See map for the location of the following sites:

1. Little Applegate
2. Tunnel Ridge
3. Gold Nugget
4. Rogue River (between Applegate River and Grave Creek.) *

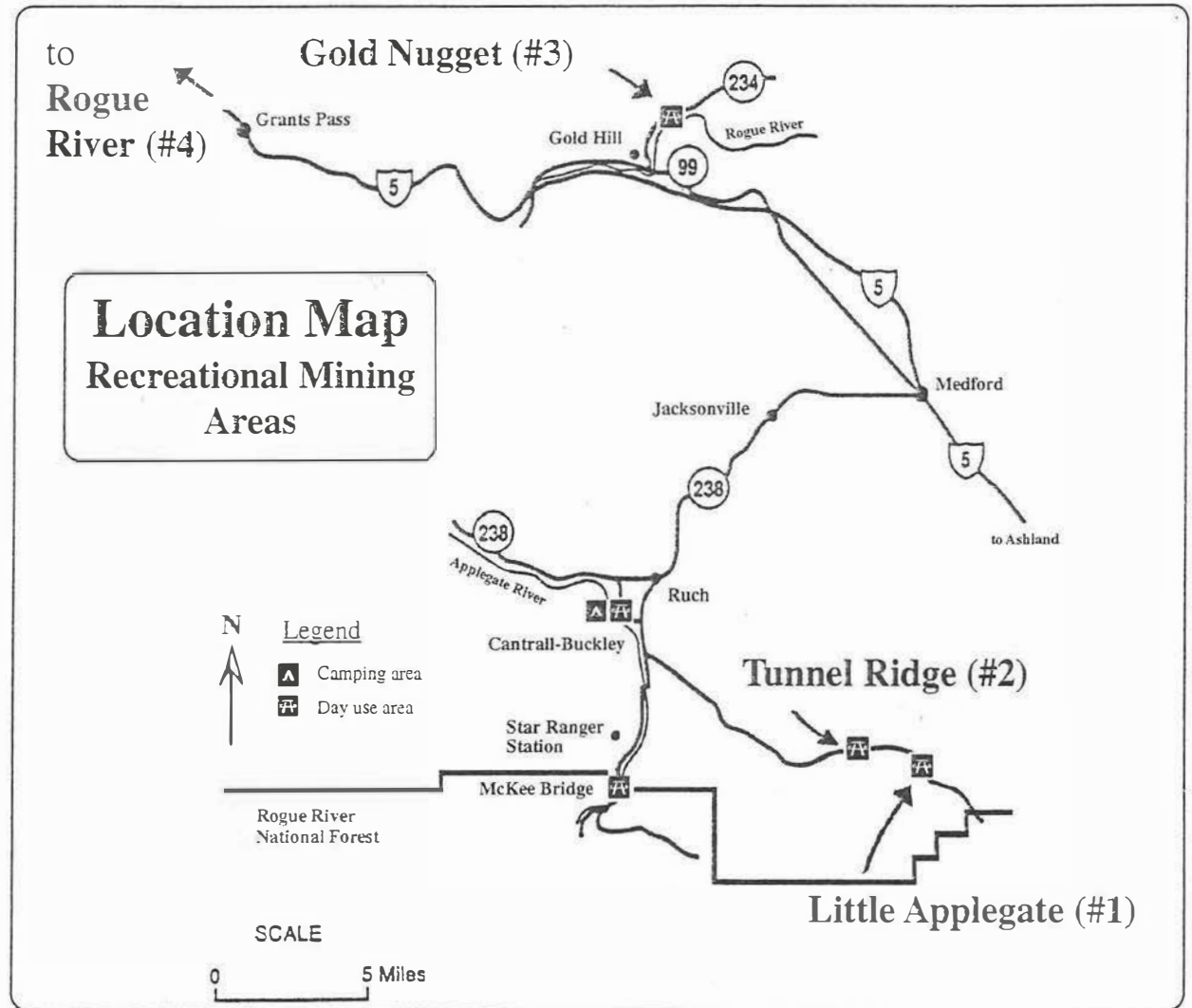
These sites are open to dredging from approximately June 15th to September 15th. Check with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for exact starting/ending dates.

A free BLM permit is necessary to dredge at sites 1, 2 and 3. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis at the Medford BLM office. Permits are not required at site #4.

All four sites are open to gold panning year-round. No permit is required to pan for gold.



*See Hellgate Recreation Section brochure for map of this area.



Rules and Regulations

Dredges are permitted to operate from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily.

Digging into or undermining the side bank of the water way is not permitted for any mining activity.

Dredging is to be done in the water channel below the level of the water.

Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days in any 90 day period and is **not** permitted at Gold Nugget, Tunnel Ridge or any other posted day-use sites.

To operate a suction dredge in Oregon, a 700-J Permit must be obtained. This permit is free for dredges with an intake of 4 inches diameter or less and is available at:

Department of Environmental Quality
201 W. Main
Medford, Oregon 97501
phone (541) 776-6010.

For more specific rules and regulations regarding the Rogue River area, see the flier "Dredging and Gold Panning on the Rogue River".

The Star Ranger District office, south of Ruch, also manages sites for recreational dredging.

Rogue River National Forest
Star Ranger District
6941 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530
phone (541) 899-1812.



For permit information or for other information, contact:

Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
(541) 770-2200
Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m

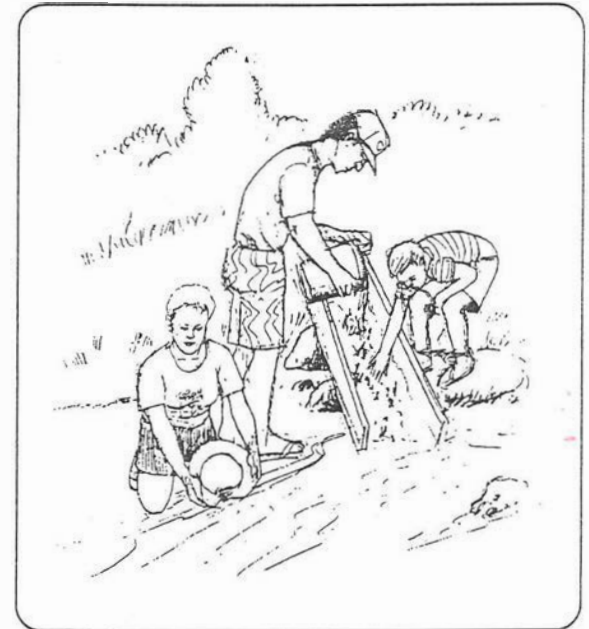
BLM/OR/WA/GI-96/035+1122.32

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 589-045 9/97

BLM

Oregon

Recreational Dredging and Gold Panning on the Medford District



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



NATURE OF THE NORTHWEST INFORMATION CENTER

Suite 177
800 NE Oregon Street #5
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 731-4444

OREGON RECREATIONAL GOLD MINING

Answers to question most frequently asked by "weekend miners"

Lode and placer gold has been mined from many parts of the state. The southwestern and northeastern corners of the state have the highest production of both lode and placer gold. Minor output has come from the other parts of the state.

Where can I obtain information about past gold mines and mining, including maps?

The following can be purchased from the Portland, Grants Pass, and Baker office or the Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (see next page):

- (1) Oregon's Gold Placers (Misc. Paper 5), 1854, 14 p., \$2.00
- (2) Skin diving for Gold in Oregon (Ore Bin, April 1961), \$1.00
- (3) Golden Years of Eastern Oregon (Ore Bin, April 1978), \$1.00
- (4) Special Gold Issue (Ore Bin, April 1973), \$1.00
- (5) Geology, Mineralization, and Mining Field Guides -- Cascade Range
(Ore Bin, June 1977, December 1977, May 1978, June 1978), \$1.00 per issue
- (6) Gold Mining In Oregon, Bert Weber, editor, Webb Research Group
(Based on Oregon Department of Geology's Bulletin # 61), \$29.95(add \$3.00 shipping)

Where can I obtain information about prospecting for gold?

The U.S. Geological Survey has three leaflets on the subject available. They are entitled Gold, Prospecting for Gold, and Suggestions for Prospecting. Copies may be obtained without charge from the U.S. Geological Survey, Books and Open-File Reports, Federal Center Building 41, Box 25424, Denver, CO 80225. Single copies may also be requested from the Public Inquiries Office, U.S. Geological Survey, Room 135 U.S. Post Office, West 904 Riverside Ave. Spokane, WA 99201, phone (509) 353-2524.

What lands are open for prospecting and mining?

Land ownership for the surface and for mineral rights can be determined from the local County Assessor's maps. Patented mining claims are treated the same as any other privately owned land. Most U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands, shown on their published maps, are open for prospecting; however, much of the better lode and placer ground will have been staked.

Do I need permission to prospect and stake a claim on public lands?

On federal lands that have not been withdrawn from mineral entry or already staked with another claim, permission is not needed to prospect or stake a mining claim. State-owned lands, however, fall under different rules and may require a prospecting permit. For information, contact the Oregon Division of State Lands, 1600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310, phone (503) 378-3805.

How can I tell if an area has been staked?

All unpatented mining claims are recorded in the local County Courthouse and with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1515 SW 5th (P.O. Box 2965), Portland, OR 97208, phone (503)952-6002. The BLM records may be easier to work with than the county's.

Suppose I find some gold, what then?

The gold is yours to keep, give away, or sell. There is no limit to the amount. The U.S. Government no longer buys gold. Gold may be sold to individuals, jewelry manufacturers, or gold buyers. Best prices are received for good-sized nuggets or visible gold mineral specimens that have a collector's value rather than a metal value. There is no fixed price for gold. The current price published in the financial sections of many newspapers should serve as a guide.

What are the rules and regulations for gold mining?

Federal regulations are for sale at the Bureau of Land Management. Many office-supply stores carry forms used to record either a lode or placers claim. If prospecting or mining is to go beyond the hand-tool stage, then the U.S. forest service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management may require a notice of intent or a plan of operations, and the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries may require a surface mining permit, depending on the size of proposed mining development.

Most gold panners, however, are not interested in locating a mining claim and desire only to do some recreational placer mining. Such people do not need any permits, and unless they unduly muddy the waters in a stream, there will be no problems. A report, which gives the best time to work in a stream, entitled Oregon Guidelines For Timing Of In-Water Work To protect Fish And Wildlife Resources, may be obtained from the Habitat Conservation Division of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2501 SW First Avenue, P.O. Box 59, Portland, OR 97207, phone (503) 229-5400. The Quartzville Corridor near Sweet Home, Linn County, is open land. Good outdoor manners and concern for the environment are essential.

Where can I have my samples assayed for gold?

The department does not provide in-house assaying services. The public is encouraged to send samples directly to private labs. A list of these is available from the Department upon request. The labs were selected for ability to provide high-quality results at reasonable cost.

The Oregon Department of Geology and mineral Industries Suite 965, has its main office at 800 NE Oregon Street # 28, Portland, OR 97232; and field offices at 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97526, phone (541) 476-2496; and 1831 First Street, Baker OR 97814, phone (541) 523-3133. You are invited to visit the field offices to obtain detailed information on local gold diggings. Geologic maps and a wide variety of bulletins are available at all three of the Department's offices.

Publication Mail Orders: Allow approximately 4 weeks for delivery. Payment must accompany orders under \$50. Foreign orders: Please remit in U.S. dollars. All sales are final.

Fossils

Finding fossils in Oregon is not so much a question of where to look for them as where not to look. Fossils are rare in the High Lava Plains and High Cascades, but even there, some of the lakes are famous for their fossils. Many of the sedimentary rocks in eastern Oregon contain fossil leaves or bones. Leaf fossils are especially abundant in the rocks at the far side of the athletic field at Wheeler High School in the town of Fossil. Although it is rare to find a complete animal fossil, a search of river beds may turn up chips or even teeth. In western Oregon, the sedimentary rocks that are primarily marine in origin often contain fossil clams and snails. An occasional shark's tooth or crab can also be found. Marine fossils are also abundant near the town of Vernonia and along the central to the south-central Oregon coast.

Collecting is permitted within the highway right-of-way, unless excavation is destructive to the roadcut, and on private land with the owner's approval. Collecting is prohibited or a collecting permit is necessary to collect fossils on state and federal lands and in parks. Collecting is prohibited in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

Places to see fossils:

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
Contains a 40-million-year record of plant and animal life in the John Day Basin in central Oregon near the towns of Dayville, Fossil, and Mitchell. The Cant Ranch Visitor Center at Sheep Rock on Hwy. 19 includes museum exhibits of fossils. Open every day 9:00-5. For general information, contact John Day Fossil Beds Nat'l Monument, 420 West Main St., John Day, OR 97845, phone (541) 987-2333.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
1945 SE Water Ave., Portland, OR 97214. Open year round, phone (503) 797-4000 for seasonal hrs.

Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History
off I-5 at exit 123 at Roseburg (PO Box 1550, Roseburg, OR 97470). Open Tues.-Sat. 9-5, Sun. noon-4, closed Mon., phone (541) 957-7007.

High Desert Museum
59800 S. Hwy. 97, Bend, OR 97702. Open 9-5 every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. phone (541) 382-4754

Condon Museum, University of Oregon
Open by appt. only, phone Bill Orr at (541) 346-4577.

Rock Shops
Throughout the state.

Thundereggs

Oregon's state rock can be collected at fee and free sites in central and southeastern Oregon. Unimpressive on the outside, these spherical rocks contain colorful silicic material and, when sliced and polished, make beautiful collector's items. For information on places to collect in central Oregon, contact the the Madras Chamber of Commerce, 197 SE 5th St., Madras OR 97741, phone 541-475-2350; the Prineville Chamber of Commerce, 390 North Fairview, Prineville, OR 97754, phone 541-447-6304, or the following fee sites: Richardson's Recreational Ranch, Gateway Route, Box 440, Madras, OR 97741, phone 541-475-2680 or 541-475-2839; or Hay Creek Ranch, Ashwood Star Route, Madras, OR 97741, phone 541-475-7237. In southeastern Oregon contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 100 Oregon Street, Vale OR 97918, phone (541) 473-3144, or, Thunderegg Days (held for five days around the second Wed. in July), 1 North 7th, Nyssa, OR 97913, phone (541) 372-3091.

Agates and Jasper

These semiprecious gemstones can be collected at many sites along the Oregon coast, including Agate Beach at Newport, in some of the streams draining the Western Cascades, near the town of Antelope and around Prineville in central Oregon, near Hart Mountain and Lakeview in south-central Oregon, and at Succor Creek in southeastern Oregon.

Obsidian

This volcanic glass can be collected in central Oregon at Glass Buttes on Highway 20 between Bend and Burns. An enormous flow of obsidian can also be seen at Newberry Crater, south and east of Bend, but no collecting is permitted in this national monument.

Oregon Sunstone

Oregon's state gemstone is a feldspar crystal that weathers out of certain lava flows in south-central Oregon. It may be collected on BLM land near Lakeview. Collecting on mining claims is prohibited. For information, contact BLM, 1000 South Ninth, PO Box 151, Lakeview, OR 97630, phone (541) 947-2177

The thunderegg is Oregon's state rock.

The sunstone is the state's gemstone.

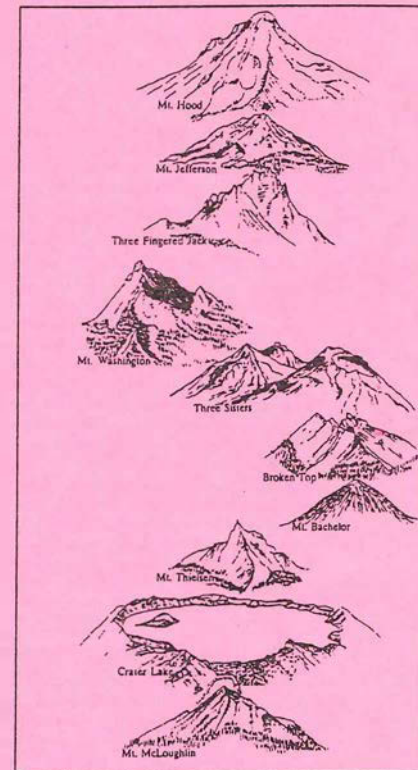
Oregon's Heritage Geologic Treasures

Gold

Gold has been mined for many years in the Blue Mountains, the Western Cascades, and the Klamath Mountains. Most areas have been already staked, but some have been set aside as fee or free sites for recreational gold panning. Gold panning is also usually permitted on nearly all banks of streams and rivers running through state land and through BLM and USDA Forest Service campgrounds in Oregon. For information about gold panning in specific areas in the Western Cascades, contact BLM, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, OR 97306, phone (503) 375-5646. For the Klamath Mountains, contact the Medford District office, BLM, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504, phone (541) 770-2200; or the Applegate Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service, 6941 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530, phone (541) 899-1812. For the Blue Mountains, contact the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, PO Box 907, or BLM, PO Box 987, both at 1550 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814, phone (541) 523-64391. The US Bank in Baker City, eastern Oregon, has a fabulous collection of gold nuggets that were found in eastern Oregon. The display is in the bank lobby and may be seen during normal bank hours.

Maps and publications about Oregon's geology and its geologic treasures are available from the **Nature of the Northwest Information Center**, 800 NE Oregon Street #5, Suite 177, Portland Oregon 97232, phone 503-872-2750, fax 503-731-4066. Web address: <http://www.naturenw.org>.

This brochure was published by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 800 NE Oregon St. #28, Suite 965, Portland Oregon 97232. Web address: <http://sarvis.dogami.state.or.us/>



The chain of High Cascade volcanoes in Oregon. Illustration by Elizabeth L. Orr

Geologic Sightseeing

The Oregon landscape has been shaped by plate tectonics and millions of years of volcanic activity. Visitors will find many opportunities to examine the scenic geology and see and collect samples of minerals, rocks, and fossils.

Oregon can be divided into the following geologic provinces, each with outstanding geologic scenery.

Coast Range

The heavily vegetated, elongated Coast Range province has a varied geologic history. Its basement was formed by a volcanic island chain that collided with North America about 50 million years ago. The ancient volcanoes form many of the scenic headlands along the coast, and the sediments that have accumulated around them contain marine fossils that help unravel the area's complicated geologic story.

Klamath Mountains

This province consists of four north-south-trending belts of metamorphic and igneous rocks that formed in an oceanic setting and subsequently collided with the North American continent about 150 million years ago. Complexly folded and faulted rocks are bounded by belts of sparsely vegetated bands of serpentinite. Oregon Caves National Monument lies within an enormous fault-bounded block of marble. The historic gold-rush town of Jacksonville remains today as evidence of the area's colorful gold-mining history.

Oregon Caves National Monument, located in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon, 20 miles east of Cave Junction on Highway 46. Carved in a marble block in the Applegate Group of Late Triassic age, the cave features a 75-minute tour of pillars, stalactites, and stalagmites. For information, contact Oregon Caves National Monument, PO Box 128, Cave Junction, OR 97523, phone (541) 592-2631.

Deschutes-Columbia Plateau

Between 14 and 16 million years ago, "fissure" volcanic eruptions in eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, and western Idaho produced enormous volumes of molten Columbia River basalt that flowed like water west into the Deschutes-Columbia Plateau province in eastern Washington and northeastern Oregon, with some lava continuing to flow as far west as the Pacific Ocean via the ancestral Columbia River valley. As the basalt

cooled and congealed, it formed the columnar cliffs that dominate the landscape today. Erosion by the Columbia River has exposed a particularly spectacular sequence of these rocks in the Columbia River Gorge on Oregon's northern boundary.

Willamette Valley

The Willamette Valley province forms a catch basin between the Coast Range and the Cascades. The sediments in it record multiple Ice Age floods that originated in Montana, poured through the Cascades (via the Columbia River), and backed up here in the valley before eventually draining to the Pacific Ocean.

Silver Falls State Park

located on Highway 214 east of Salem. A 7-mile hiking trail takes you near or behind 10 waterfalls which cascade over steep cliffs of Columbia River basalt that flowed into this area as molten lava 14-16 million years ago. At North Falls, chimney-like holes in the overhanging rock are tree molds formed when hot lava flowed around and over standing trees.

Blue Mountains

This area is made up of separate "exotic terranes," areas that were prefabricated elsewhere and scooped up by North America as it moved west toward the Pacific. Fossils found in this province reveal their foreign origins. Placer and lode gold mines were active here in the past, and towns such as John Day and Baker City, together with the Sumpter gold dredge, are vivid reminders of the Blue Mountains' gold mining heritage.

Hells Canyon

along the NE boundary of Oregon. Deeper than the Grand Canyon, Hells Canyon was formed when the Snake River cut through a chain of volcanic islands that had been smashed against the westward-moving North American continent millions of years ago. For information contact Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 88401, Highway 82, Enterprise, OR 97823.

Publications related to the geology and other natural history features of Oregon, topographic maps, a 1:500,000-scale full-color geologic map of Oregon (\$11.50 for map plus \$3 for mailing), and a soft cover book, *Geology of Oregon*, by Orr, Orr and Baldwin (\$33.95 for book plus \$3 for mailing) are available from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center.

Cascade Mountains

The Cascade province is actually made up of two volcanic regions: the older, broader, and deeply eroded Western Cascades, and the dominating, snow-capped peaks of the younger, more easterly volcanoes of the High Cascades, such as Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson, and the Three Sisters (North, Middle, and South Sister). Another High Cascade peak, Mount Mazama, was destroyed about 6,800 years ago by a catastrophic eruption that left a deep caldera later filled by what is now Crater Lake.

Mount Hood Loop

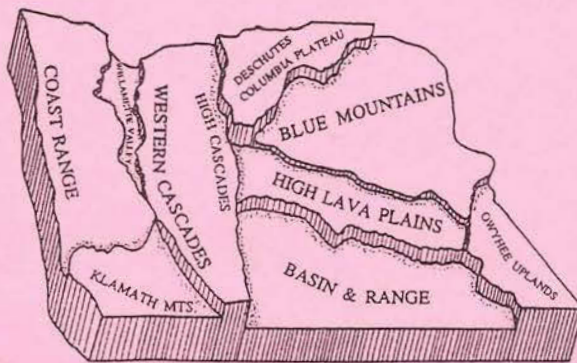
located on the northern boundary of Oregon. One of the world's most scenic highway loops goes through a gorge cut by the Columbia River along Interstate I-84, along the fault and volcano-bounded Hood River Valley (Hwy. 35), and up the flanks of Mount Hood (Highways 35 and 26). For information, contact Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, 902 Wasco Ave., Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031, phone (541) 386-2333, or Mt. Hood National Forest, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy OR 97053, phone (503) 668-1700.

McKenzie Pass Highway

crossing the Cascades along Hwys. 242 and 126 between Sisters and Eugene. This highway has a view of volcanoes, lava flows, cinder cones, and the Dee Wright Volcano Observatory.

Crater Lake National Park

located in southwest Oregon, with year-round access on the south via Hwy. 62. World-famous, 1,900-foot-deep Crater Lake lies in the caldera of what is left of once 12,000-foot-high Mt. Mazama, which was destroyed by a catastrophic eruption about 6,800 years ago. For information, contact superintendent, Crater Lake National Park, Box 7, Crater Lake, OR 97604, phone (541) 594-2211.



High Lava Plains

This area has some of the most recent faulting and youngest volcanic activity in Oregon. Well-preserved in a high desert climate, volcanic features stand out about the plains.

Lava Butte, Newberry Crater, Fort Rock, and Hole-in-the-Ground

in central Oregon, along Highways 97 and 31 south of Bend. A collection of relatively recent volcanic features including volcanoes, cinder cones, buried forests, obsidian flows, lava tubes, and a large explosion crater. For information, contact Deschutes Nat'l Forest, 1645 Hwy. 20E, Bend, OR 97701, phone (541) 388-2715; Lava Lands Visitor Center, 58201 S. Hwy. 97, Bend, OR 97707, phone (541) 593-2421; Newberry Nat'l Volcanic Monument, Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd, Suite A 262, Bend, OR 97701, phone (541) 388-5664.

Basin and Range and Owyhee Uplands

Both lie in a region that has been stretched, or extended, almost 100 percent from its original width in the last 10 million years. Evidences of this extension are massive fault block mountains such as Steens and Hart Mountains, with intervening basins containing such features as the Alvord Desert and Lake Albert. Intense volcanic and hot-spring activity over millions of years has produced fine-grained gold deposits and jasperoids that are prized by rock hounds.

Steens Mountain

located 60 miles south of Burns in southeastern Oregon. In summer, you can drive to the top of this 9,670-foot-high fault block mountain to look over the Alvord Desert more than 5,000 feet below. Other unusual geologic features in the area include Diamond Craters, which has an extraordinary collection of volcanic features, and glaciated Kiger Gorge on Steens Mountain. For more information, contact the Burns BLM, HC74-12533 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, phone (541) 573-4400.