REPORT

ON

THE WASHINGTON GULCH PLACER MINE

BAKER COUNTY

OREGON

The Washington Gulch Mining Claims are located in Sections 22 and 23, Township 9 South, Range 36 East of the Willamette Meridian, in the eastern foot hills of the Elk Horn Mountains, Baker County, Oregon, about 7½ miles southwest of Baker City, the nearest railway point. A fair wagon road extends from Baker City to and across the property.

The holdings consist of 160 acres of patented land extending along Washington creek for about two miles, and of which area approximately 75 acres comprise gravel deposits. The width of the deposit varies from 100 to 700 feet.

The property is partly covered with a growth of yellow pine, fir and tamarack timber of some commercial value.

Washington Gulch comprises a small canyon, with a northeasterly course, which has been partly filled by detrital material, chiefly quartzite gravels derived doubtless from pre-existing channels of an earlier geological age. The gradient of the Gulch thru the property is moderate, approximately 300 feet to the mile. At the lower end near the section line between Sections 14 and 23, an upthrust of andacite has retarded the erosion, and from this point north the grade is much steeper. It is believed that the upward movement of this andacite dyke is to a certain extent responsible for the partial filling of the original canyon with the gravels. Lack of time prevented the working out of this point and is of value only as to the probable values to be secured at bedrock for a distance above this point.

Placer gold was first discovered in this district near the crossing of the old emigrant road on Griffith Creek about a mile south of Washington Gulch, in the early sixties. The water from Washington Creek was taken by a ditch from the upper reaches of the creek across to Griffith Creek where it was used to hydraulic the gravels occuring along that creek, which accordin to reports produced a considerable amount of placer gold.

The geological conditions governing the deposition of the gravels, and the gravels themselves on Griffith Creek and in Washington Gulch are strongly similar and similar gold values should have existed on both creeks.

The gravel deposits along Washington Creek were located at an early date, but the removal of the water to Griffith Creek workings reduced the flow to a point insufficient for hydraulic operations. The smaller gulches leading into Washington Gulch, such as Shot Gun and others where the gradient was greater, and the gravels not as deep as along Washington Gulch proper, were worked by ground sluicing and rockers in the early spring when the water from melting snow was available.

These grounds were worked prior to the advent of the railroads and supplies were freighted in by teams from points on the Columbia River. Ground that would not produce better than $20.00 a day to a man with a rocker was not considered pay dirt. Yet each of these gulches from the deeper gravels at their confluence with Washington Gulch to their source have been worked to bedrock throughout their entire length, which tends to corroborate the report that a large amount of value was taken from these diggins. Lack of sufficient water for hydraulicing and properly working the ground has prevented the workings of the gravels of Washington Gulch and securing the values contained in these Gravels. The various holdings were secured and consolidated in 1892 by the Washington Gulch Mining Company, when a systematic sampling of the ground was undertaken. The property was transferred to F. M. Franklin, A. Swank and C. C. Smiley in 1906, who continued the sampling of the property. Thru the death of the owners the property passed to the heirs and for a number of years nothing was done towards working the property. It was secured under lease and bond by the present holders under date of February 28, 1925.

The country rock along Washington Gulch comprises slates, limestone, quartzite, granodiorite and feld-spar porphyry. The gravels are composed chief-

ly of water worn quartzite with a smaller amount of porphyritic and granitic rock with fragmentary vein quartz and country rock, the major portions of the gravels can be handled thru a sluice. Some boulders occur, but not of a sufficien amount to materially interfere with working the property. A topping of soil from 1 to 4 feet occurs over the major portion of the gravels. The gravel is loose and will break down readily before a giant. Calcereous cementation was noticed at one point only and is believed to be local to a small area adjoining a limestone bedrock forming a portion of the western border of the gravel deposit. A super-imposed bed or clay is to be noticed at several points where prospect cuttings have been made. It is, however, only a few inches thick and is of minor importance, but in mining the property its presence should not be ignored. The bedrock beneath the gravels is decomposed for several inches and upon exposure to the atmosphere disintegrates.

The gravels have been prospected by sinking a number of shafts to bedrock along the reaches of the gulch and by a cut thru the gravel near the center of the property 840 feet long where the bedrock has been exposed for some 300 feet of the distance. The log of the shafts is not available and as they have largely been filled by caving, only conjecture can be made as to the values exposed by sampling the material removed and still remaining on their dumps.

The cut previously mentioned gives a fair opportunity to sample the ground exposed and the condition of the bedrock thru that portion.

The Gold occurs as flattened pellets varying in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of a pin head to nuggets several dollars in value, several pieces of wire gold were taken from the shaft near the North end of the property, the values accompanied by magnetite or black sand, as it is commonly known, and some cube hematite. No flower or flake gold was noticed, and no difficulty should be experienced in saving the values with properly constructed riffels. The gold occurring in the gravel is as a rule clear and bright, but that occurring on or near bedrock is tarnished.

The greatest values occur at or near the bedrock. Values in the gravels are spotted. In places values are to be found extending from grass roots to bedrock, while in other places the values will be at or near the bedrock. Again, the top gravels will be barron and the values begin at the clay seams previously mentioned and extend to bedrock. This distribution of the values is due doubtless to previous existing channels in the gravels during their deposition.

The gravels exposed by the cuts and shafts show varying values, from barren to as high as $8.50 per yard. The average secured in sampling the ground where the gravels were accessible were $0.63 per yard secured in 73 samples. The values obtained are shown on sample sheet attached. This average value can not be applied to the property in the limited time that could be devoted to the sampling examination. However, the samples taken were secured over the northern 3/4 and should be indicative of the values in that portion. The richest deposits are to be found just below the mouth of Shot Gun Gulch and the old channel on bedrock should give high values thru the entire property.

Investigation of the existing water rights on adjacent streams demonstrates the futility of endeavoring to secure additional water from other sources. This being the case the proper conservation of the spring run off be impounded in reservoirs will add materially to the period of seasonal operation.

Blue Bird Gulch in the Northern portion of Section 22 offers a fair site for storage reservoir, in Section 27 and old reservoir can be repaired at a small cost. This reservoir can be supplied by water from the upper portion of Washington Gulch by repairing a ditch constructed in early days, and also from the water of upper Griffith Creek, Again in Section 33 in the northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 is a site where a reservoir can be constructed on Griffith Creek of considerable capacity. Several reservoirs of small capacity can be secured above this point.

On Washington Gulch in the northeast 1/4 of Section 28 is a site where a storage reservoir can be constructed with fair capacity. By constructing these reservoirs and holding the waters that are available, mining operations may be continued throughout the major portion of the summer and possibly for one shift throughout the entire year.

Adequate dumping facilities are to be found in the southwest 1/4 of Section 14 where the gradient of Washington Gulch is considerable greater than above.

Signed: C.W. Riddell, Mining Engineer

****

No.	Value per Yd.	No.	Value per Yd.	No.	Value per Yd.
1	$.00	27	$ .00	53	$ .28
2	.00	28	..31	54	.17
3	.00	29	.23	55	.15
4	.00	30	3.20	56	4.00
5	.31	31	.20	57	4.80
6	.49	32	.19	58	3.20
7	.45	33	.70	59	8.50
8	.32	34	.17	60	.16
9	.68	35	.00	61	.32
10	.00	36	.32	62	.40
11	.00	37	.64	63	.00
12	.00	38	.21	64	.12
13	.12	39	.32	65	.24
14	.49	40	.66	66	.32
15	.00	.41	2.20	67	.36
16	.26	42	.81	68	.16
17	.32	43	.90	69	.04
18	.20	44	.28	70	.00
19	.23	45	.20	71	.19
20	.00	46	.00	72	.23
21	1.20	47	.92	73	.44
22	.00	48	.41	74	.72
23	.00	49	.17	75	.61
24	.00	50	.00	76	.00
25	.36	51	.00		
26	.47	52	1.60		

WASHINGTON GULCH (Limestone) BAKER BAKER

Name: Washington Gulch

Owner: Chemical Lime Company, Baker, Oregon

Location: Sec. 10, T. 9 S., R. 39 E., Baker County

Reserves: 1,900,000 tons

Analysis:

CaO	98.20*
Fe_2O_3	.19
Al_2O_3	
SiO_2	.69
MgO	.32
P	.0129

* Burnt lime basis

Remarks: Explored by diamond drilling.

Washington Gulch Placer

NAME | OLD NAMES | PRINCIPAL ORE: Au | MINOR MINERALS

T	R	S
9S	39E	22-23

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Baker ..... COUNTY

Baker ..... AREA

..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

7½ miles to Baker ..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... Address .....

....

....

....

OPERATOR ....

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS on file in	P'land	G.P.	Baker
REPORTS			
Washington Gulch Placer Mine, Baker Co C W Reddell (ME)	X		X
SHIPMENT AND ASSAY RECORDS			
MAPS			
Washington Gulch Placers - Phil's Anderson - 1 print + 1 tracing			X
Washington Gulch showing section adjacent to above features the Hope Group - 1 print + 1 tracing			X