

CABLE COVE DISTRICT

Geography:

The county line between Baker and Grant counties follows the divide which separates the Powder River drainage from that of the north fork of the John Day. The Cable Cove mining district covers both sides of this divide and, therefore, is in both Grant and Baker counties. It includes about 10 square miles, mostly in the headwaters of Silver Creek. It extends about 3 miles along the trend of the ridge and a mile or two down on each side. The elevation at the camp is about 7,000 feet, while the higher points are about 700 feet above. Baldy Mountain, about 2 miles southwest from the camp, has an elevation of 8,330 feet.

Cable Cove proper is on the Baker county side at the head of Silver Creek, about 10 miles northwest from the railroad at Sumpter, and is reached by a good mountain road up Cracker and Silver Creeks. Near Cable Cove the road emerges from the thick timber in the bottom of the valley and

the head of the creek appears as a wide amphitheatre with steep slopes sparsely timbered. To the west Baldy (Ireland) Mountain rises with bare light gray glaciated outcrops. Eastward a number of sharp and high granite peaks meet the eye as a continuation of the Elkhorn range. Looking north and west from the divide, wide glaciated mountain ridges and valleys can be seen.

Although of moderate elevation, a great deal of snow falls in the various basins, of which Cable Cove is a type. Glaciation caused these basins to have their present form. Snow is apt to cover the ground for about 6 months, but the roads are well protected from winds, so that it is not difficult to maintain them practically throughout the winter.

Geology:

The geology of all of the veins is simple, since the country rock is nearly all intrusive granodio-

rite, and aside from aplite only a few dikes are seen. The veins are of normal fissure type, the result of an extensive system of parallel shearing planes. The vein matter consists largely of granodiorite crushed and chloritized. Close to the ore lenses in the more important veins, which are usually on the hanging wall side, the granodiorite is largely altered to sericite and kaolin. These high-grade lenses are rarely more than a foot in width and consist of a small quantity of quartz and calcite gangue, the remainder being heavy sulphides. In a few places concentrating ore of lower grade is found up to a few feet in width alongside the higher grade lenses. The ore minerals are arsenopyrite, galena, chalcopyrite, pyrite and zinc blende, with gold and silver. The slopes of the divides are dotted with dumps and prospect holes along the closely-spaced parallel veins which cut across the district in a NE.-SW. direction.

History:

Ore was discovered in the district in 1872, but not until 1885, when the transcontinental railroad was completed, did the district become active. Work was at its height in this camp about 1900, a period of great activity in mining everywhere in eastern Oregon. One mill was erected previous to 1900, and others have been built since, but activity has been small and irregular now for many years.

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Cable Cove District

NAME	OLD NAMES	PRINCIPAL ORE	MINOR MINERALS
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T	R	S
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PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Baker COUNTY

Cable Cove AREA

..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... 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

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REPORTS

Cable Cove Dist. - Oregon Metal Mines Handbook

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SHIPMENT AND ASSAY RECORDS

MAPS

Claim map of Imperial, Crown Point, Red Chief

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See also Cracker Cable Cove Map

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BALD MT.
ELKHORN R.

CABLE COVE DISTRICT

Cable Cove is about 10 miles from the railroad at Sumpter, and is reached by a good wagon road up Cracker and Silver creeks. The elevation of the camp near the creek is about 7,000 feet, while the higher points are about 700 feet above. Although but of moderate elevation a great deal of snow falls in the various basins near here, of which Cable Cove is a type. The slopes of the divides are dotted with dumps and prospect holes upon the closely spaced parallel veins which cut across the district in a NE.-SW. direction.

Work was extremely active in this camp about 1900, a period of great activity in mining everywhere in eastern Oregon. Ore was discovered in the district in 1872, but not until 1885, when the trans-continental railroad was completed, did the district become active. One mill was erected previous to 1900, and others have been built since, but only a small mill was in operation in 1914.

The geology of all of these veins is simple since the country rock is entirely the intrusive granodiorite and aside from aplite only a few dikes are seen. Glaciation caused these basins to have their present

form. The veins are normal fissure veins, the result of an extensive system of parallel shearing planes. The vein matter consists largely of granodiorite crushed and chloritized, and close to the ore lenses in the more important veins, which are usually on the hanging wall side, the granodiorite is largely altered to sericite and kaolin. These high-grade lenses are rarely more than a foot in width and consist of a small quantity of quartz and calcite gangue and the remainder is heavy sulphides. In a few places concentrating ore of lower grade is found up to a few feet in width alongside the higher grade lenses.

The ore minerals are arsenopyrite, galena, chalcopyrite, pyrite and zinc blende, with gold and silver.