

History & Geology: According to available reports (Underwood Placers, page 225, Mineral Resources of Oregon, Vol. 2, No. 4, and Pine Creek Mining Company, Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, Bulletin 14-A) this ground has been worked by both drifting and by piping.

The initial hydraulic operation was by the Boulder Creek Mining Company in 1913 and 1914. A later attempt was made by the Pine Creek Mining Company in the late '30's. Boulders and problems attendant to the stacking of tailings obviously hampered operations by hydraulic methods. It is understood, however, that very good values were recovered by the early drifting operations and later test workings. Immediately prior to the late war the Morrison-Knudsen Company considered installation of heavy equipment for a large scale earth moving type of operation, but the prospect was given up because of pressure of war contracts.

The gravel is considered as belonging primarily to the early channel system of Pine Creek. Large angular boulders have been noted however, and considered as representing material of glacial origin. Boulders of all kinds, both wash and angular include rock of granitic type, basalt, greenstone and banded hornfels, and boulders of 6 and 7 tons are reported. Very little sand was found and clay is reported as having been essentially absent to the extent that the tailing waters were quite clear a short distance below the site of operation during the various periods of early operation. Gravel depths of 50 to 65 feet are reported as having been established by the early shafts and the gold is reported as being coarse and confined to a zone relatively close to bedrock.

Equipment and
Mining Practice

The present company has cleared an initial pit site near the northern line of section 15 as shown on the claim map. A ditch and flume has been constructed along the brink of a high bench paralleling the creek. This is equipped with a grizzly at the head of the flume. Current plans are to mine with a 2 yard diesel shovel and truck the gravel to the grizzly. Mining is scheduled to be done on a contract basis with the Kieth Brothers of Medford doing the work. A fleet of 10 yard trucks is to be used. Plans call for an initial pit in the form of a trench paralleling Pine Creek. After its completion the creek will be diverted and the other segment worked. The boxes total 80 feet in length, 4 feet in width and 30 inches deep. They are made of tongue and groove 2 x 6's and are equipped with Hungarian and pole riffles. The grizzly is set on about a 3 inch clearance and the oversize discharges over the bank into the canyon. Mining water is taken from Pine Creek and returned thereto. Construction of a ditch and flume to by-pass nearby farm ditch take-offs is contemplated should muddy tailings prove to be a greater problem than is currently envisioned.

Plans are to work two 8 hour shifts. The crew will be composed of 10 to 12 men including the contractors and normal work season will extend from late April to about December.

All basic construction was completed at the time of the writer's visit and the commencement of operation awaits the arrival of the shovel and trucks. Activity by this company began June 1, 1953.

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Report by N.S. Wagner, 7-9-53

Exam date: 7-8-53

Informant: R. M. Conley

References: Underwood Placer - O.B.M. Bull. Vol. 2, No. 4

Pine creek placers, Dogami Bull. 14-A

Unpublished notes by H.K.L. and assorted correspondence relative to the Morrison-Knudsen operation.