

THE POWDER RIVER CHANNEL BELOW SUMPTER as it looked in 1906, seven years prior to dredging. The original dredge was erected in 1913 on the far side of the valley at a point just left of the slag pile.

Stumps circled in the foreground illustrate logged-off status of the land and the former presence of a pine forest. Other views of the same vintage taken across the valley from different viewpoints show even more and larger stumps.

Intact stumps located on undredged terrain bordering the tailings area, and graveyards of rotted remains of stumps dragged from the path of the dredge prior to dredging, further illustrate the extent of the forest conditions prevalent in the upper section of the Sumpter tailings area in pre-dredge times.



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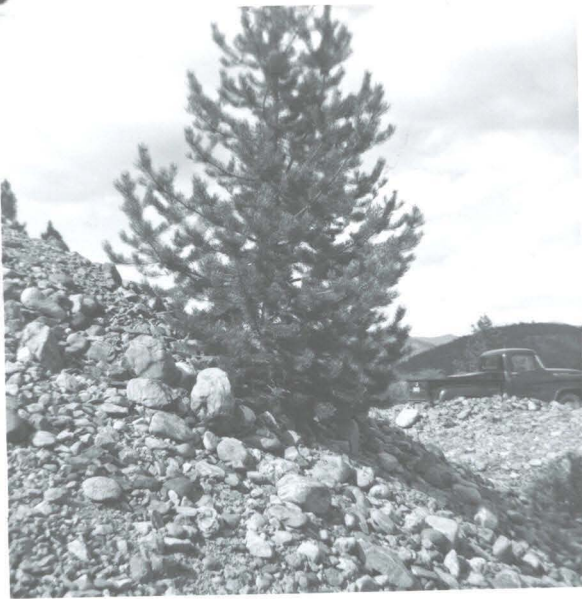
This evidence, coupled with present day tendencies for volunteer re-forestation in the tailings area (illustrated later on in this pictorial supplement) constitutes one of the reasons for believing that a planned re-introduction of trees constitutes a logical and worthwhile reclamation endeavor.





The tendency for natural re-forestation in the Sumpter area is illustrated in a different manner in this late 1930's snapshot in that while the land has been freshly cleared for placer mining with mechanized equipment, the stumps so abundantly evident in the picture are nevertheless growing from old tailings debris piles left from earlier placering operations. This particular tract is located just south of Sumpter, the outskirts of which are visible in the background. It was held at the time this picture was taken by the Northwest Development Company.

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Soil content of debris piles is demonstrated quite conclusively by trees such as those growing from raw tailings in the upper section of Sumpter tailings area.

All trees have made a comeback by volunteer re-seeding under obviously difficult conditions.

Levelled tract in the bottom-most picture was part of same cluster of debris piles shown above approximately twelve years ago, at which time levelling was accomplished in conjunction with road work. That the levelling resulted in creation of more favorable re-seeding environment is illustrated by the number of tree starts which have since taken place.



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Re-forestation on both levelled and unlevelled tailings, Bull Run Creek, Grant County. Whereas fully levelled tailings are obviously desirable from an access standpoint the trees appear to be growing about as readily on the unlevelled tailings as they are in the levelled terrain. This is why re-forestation, coupled with landscaping, is cited as a logical procedure for reclamation in the Sumpter and John Day areas.



Additional views showing extent to which re-forestation has developed in the Bull Run Creek area.

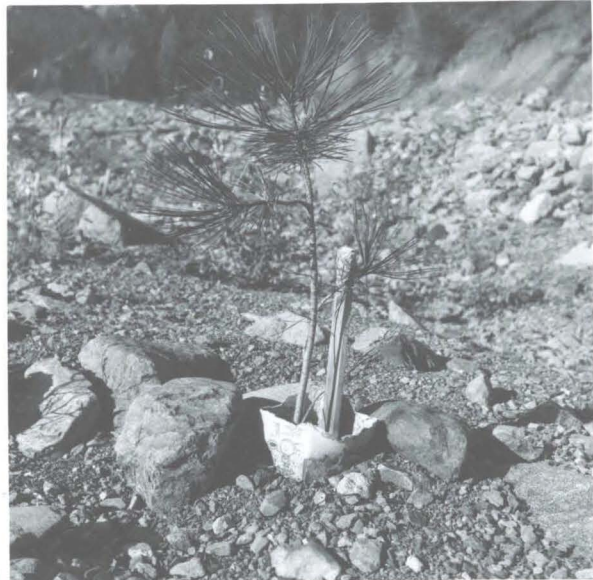
More impressive results yet can be photographed in the John Day-Mount Vernon area where cottonwoods and willows have played an even more dramatic comeback in-so-far as attained size is concerned.

While it is to be granted that cottonwoods and willows have but negligible future value from a commercial standpoint their ability to grow rapidly is pertinent in terms of campgrounds beautification. Groves of cottonwood make ideal campsites. They would also add attractiveness to the fishing pond surroundings.

The views below illustrate part of the boulder field left in the wake of the Goodrich Reservoir flood and the technique by which 3000 pine seedlings were planted with outstanding success from a survival standpoint.



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What would be the appearance of the up-river tailings areas at Sumpter had pine seedlings been planted by the Goodrich Creek technique in judiciously contoured tailings twenty-five years ago? Or conversely, what growth could be expected twenty-five years from now were the tailings to be so planted today?

The pine pictured here can be regarded as an answer to either of these questions. It is known to have been scarcely waist high when the adjacent garage was erected on the Art Woodwell property in Sumpter during the late 1930's. It grew under the same climatic conditions, in similar soil and with only a very few years head start.



Mute but eloquent yardstick.