

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon  
Report by: N. S. Wagner  
Informant: R. O. Shelley  
March 6, 1945

Sumpter Area - Baker County

Name: Sumpter Valley Dredging Company

Foreward: The following report supplements existing Departmental records in that it presents certain changes in both the organization and plant of the above named company.

Owner - Operator: Sumpter Valley Dredging Company, Board of Trade Building, Portland, Oregon.  
Clayton R. Jones, President.

Current Activities: Under a "7 manpower release" work began February 19, 1945 in general re-conditioning of the dredge and on the installation of jigs as a replacement of the gold saving system previously employed.

The jigs are Pan-American and 12 stages of double units are being installed.

Reserves, as based on past recovery, are sufficient to insure normal operations for five years, or somewhat more, but if the jigs permit successful exploitation of lower grade gravel, as is anticipated, then the life of operations here will be increased appreciably.

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

~~1069 State Office Building~~

~~702 Woodlark Building~~

Portland 5, Oregon

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGING

Sumpter District

Baker

This is a letter and not a file report, but it might better be filed with the Sumpter Valley dredging records just the same, for the reason that the subject matter is something you will doubtless wish to use sometime.

Woodwell has a very complete set of maps for the Sumpter Valley dredging. These date from old ones on the original company for which he worked, and include also most of the records of the various subsequent companies, for most of which he also worked. From these records Woodwell has calculated that the total area dredged in the valley embraces some 2,603 acres and some 60,625,514 cubic yards were handled. Furthermore he feels these figures are accurate to within 5 percent. While the above acreage does not include various doodlebug tracts for which he has no maps, the records he does have nevertheless frame some of these tracts so that he feels that an estimate of 200 additional acres is quite accurate.

Woodwell calculated these figures for the U.S.B.M. as the result of a request from them to me.

N. S. Wagner

DEC 1963

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building  
Portland 1, Oregon

## SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE TAILINGS

Sumpter District

Baker County

Location: T. 9 & 10 S., R. 37 & 38 E., Baker County

The following figures represent a tabulation of the acreage of tailings per section. This was calculated from the tailings area as indicated on the USFS planimetric map of the Sumpter 4 quadrangle, Scale one inch to the mile.

Because of the smallness of the map scale and the manner in which the tailings area is depicted thereon the acreage figures must be recognized as being only approximate. They do however provide a reasonably realistic picture of the tailings distribution for general reference.

The tabulation as detailed below begins at Sumpter City and progresses southeastward through the valley.

Compiled by:

N. S. Wagner  
March 29, 1962

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STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOG  
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Location		Tails	Undredged	Total Tail Acreage
T 9 S, R 37 E, Section 32	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	65	95	180
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	130	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	85	75	
		<u>180</u>	<u>460</u>	
T 9 S, R 37 E, Section 33	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	10
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	10	150	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
		<u>10</u>	<u>630</u>	
T 10 S, R 38 E, Section 5	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	10
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	10	150	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
		<u>10</u>	<u>630</u>	
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 4	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	90	70	175
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	5	155	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	80	
		<u>175</u>	<u>465</u>	
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 9	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	10
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	10	150	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
		<u>10</u>	<u>630</u>	
T 10 S, R. 37 E, Section 3	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	100
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	80	80	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	20	140	
		<u>100</u>	<u>540</u>	
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 10	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	105	55	345
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	155	5	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	5	155	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	80	
		<u>345</u>	<u>295</u>	

Location		Tails	Undredged	Total Tail Acreage
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 11	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	90	70	430
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	25	135	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	155	5	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>160</u>	<u>0</u>	
		430	210	
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 14	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	145	15	235
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	80	70	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>	
		235	405	
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 12	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	145
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	120	40	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>25</u>	<u>135</u>	
		145	495	
T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 13	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	145	15	385
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	155	5	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	5	155	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>80</u>	<u>80</u>	
		385	255	
T 10 S, R 38 E, Section 18	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	95	65	380
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	10	150	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	140	20	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>135</u>	<u>25</u>	
		380	260	
T 10 S, R 38 E, Section 19	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	10	150	105
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	95	65	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>	
		105	535	
T 10 S, R 38 E, Section 17	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	35
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	0	160	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	35	125	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>	
		35	605	
T 10 S, R 38 E, Section 20	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	150	10	345
	NE $\frac{1}{4}$	120	40	
	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	5	155	
	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	<u>70</u>	<u>90</u>	
		345	295	

4/25/38

PLACER SUMMARY

*Sumpter Best*

*Baker Co*

1. ~~Present name of property~~ Sumpter Valley Dredging Company  
Operating company (or individual Sumpter Valley Dredging Company  
Address P. O. Box 108, Portland, Oregon (Public Service Bldg. County Baker  
Location Powder River below Sumpter. W. H. Cullens, Portland, President  
Area of holdings J. R. Bowles, Portland, Sec.-Treas.  
1100 acres. O. E. Coombs, Superintendent  
B. A. Coombs, Dredge Master  
R. D. Shelley, Assistant Superintendent
2. ~~History of property - past and recent:~~  
Began operations June 26, 1935.
3. ~~History of production - yardage moved and bullion shipped:~~  
Monthly average: 300,000 yards.
4. ~~Development - acres mined, exploration of drilling, shafts, cuts:~~  
Ground has been entirely drilled. Values to 60 feet. No deeper tests made, although gravel goes further, possibly to 100 feet.
5. ~~Water rights - number of ditches, length, priorities, water allowed by law, amount actually used (average), length of mining season, av. date begin mining in Fall, av. date mining ends in Spring, etc.:~~  
Digging 16'--13' below water to false clay bedrock. Water used: 6000 gallons/day.
6. ~~Geology and General Description: - Elevation above sea, gulch or flat operation, topography, character of bedrock, kinds of country rock, nature of gravel, nature of gold, amount of clay, and boulders, nature of gold, source of gold, winter snow conditions, etc.:~~  
Very few boulders--mainly gravel size of fist and smaller. Gold--fine to medium, 800 fineness. Testing tails with a Bendelari Jig (rougher) and 2 Pan-American cleaner jigs. Results still indefinite.
7. ~~Equipment - pipe, giants, etc. 9' dredge. Bucket lips built specially and speed increased to 24 per minute. Buckets hold 10 cu. ft. All other necessary equipment.~~
8. ~~Remarks - economics: High or low cost, principal drawbacks, reasons for success or failure, apparent life of operation based on quantity of gravel, etc.~~  
Cost: (Confidential)  
About 4¢ to 5¢.  
Ground:  
25¢ to 50¢  
7 or 8 years of operation left.

*Albert V. Quine*  
Albert V. Quine, Mining Geologist

4/25/38

PLACER SUMMARY

1. Present name of property Sumpter Valley Dredging Co.  
Operating company (or individual) Same as above  
Address Box 100, Portland, Ore. (Public Service Bldg)  
Location Powder River - below Sumpter  
Area of holdings  
1100 acres.  
County Baker  
Pres: W. H. Cullens - Portland  
Sec. Treas: J. R. Bowles - Portland  
Supt: O. E. Coombs  
Dredge Master: B. A. Coombs  
Asst. Super: R. D. Shelley
2. History of property - past and recent:  
Began operations - June 26, 1935
3. History of production - yardage moved and bullion shipped:  
Monthly average - 300,000 yds.
4. Development - acres mined, exploration of drilling, shafts, cuts:  
Ground has been entirely drilled. Values to 60 feet. No deeper tests made although gravel goes further, possibly to 100 feet.
5. Water rights - number of ditches, length, priorities, water allowed by law, amount actually used (average), length of mining season, av. date begin mining in Fall, av. date mining ends in Spring, etc.:  
Digging 16' - 13' below water to false clay bedrock.  
Water used 6000 gallons/day.
6. Geology and General Description: - Elevation above sea, gulch or flat operation, topography, character of bedrock, kinds of country rock, nature of gravel, nature of gold, amount of clay, and boulders, nature of gold, source of gold, winter snow conditions, etc.:  
Very few boulders. Mainly gravel size of fist & smaller.  
Gold - fine to medium - 800 fineness. Testing tails with a Bendelari jig (rougher) & R Pan American cleaner jigs. Results still indefinite.
7. Equipment - pipe, giants, etc.  
9 ft. dredge - Bucket lips built special & speed increased to 24 per minute. Buckets hold 10 cu. feet. All other necessary equipment.
8. Remarks - economics: High or low cost, principal drawbacks, reasons for success or failure, apparent life of operation based on quantity of gravel, etc.  
Costs: about .04 to .05¢  
Ground: 25¢ to .50¢  
7-8 years of operation left.

Confidential

Albert V. Guine

# Sumpter Valley Dredging Company

917 PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING

P. O. BOX 108

PORTLAND, OREGON

Sumpter Valley Dredging Co. Operation  
Sumpter Valley  
Oregon

Started operation July 1, 1935 and has run continuously with a probable life of 8 additional years

Oregon corporation W.H. Cullers Pres Clayton Jones Vice Pres  
D.E. Harris Treas H.F. Dick Sec.

Hull 52 feet by 120 feet by 11 feet

Stacker 96 feet with 36" belt

Bucket line 72 nine foot buckets dumping 25 per minute

Screen 6 feet by 36 feet

4200 sq feet tables with saveall full length of boat

710 connected H.P. with 250 H.P. on digging line

Two 10" pumps with one 6" pump supplying 8000 galls per minute

Power supplied by a 12 mile 23000 volt line from Bourne Oregon  
Portable sub station supplies 2300 to boat.

For the year 1938 the average yards dug per month was 280,000 or about 10 acres.

Other equipment include office Sand house machine shops two 40 Diesel Tractors and two trucks.

Amalgam is retorted and sponge gold is poured into brick at the plant and shipped to U.S. Assay Office at Seattle Wash



*Amelia Kelly Carter*

*See*

NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

T

R

S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

*Program 147 - Page 97*

..... COUNTY

..... AREA

..... ELEVATION

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S)

*Amelia Kelly Carter*  
*Clayton K. Jones*

Address

*Head of Trade Bldg. Portland, Oregon*  
*President*

OPERATOR

*as above*

Name of claims                      Area    Pat.    Unpat.

Name of claims                      Area    Pat.    Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY