

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by N.S.W.
Date of visit; 10-24-45

Name Burnt River Placers; ^{Upper} Lower Burnt River District, Baker County.

Operator Associated Dredging Company -- Durkee, Oregon. This is a partnership W.A. Hilliard and Ira Proud are direction operators. Other partners are J. D., Oscar, Elwood and Harry Welch.

Owners Burke, Wren and Connors Ranches.

Location On Burnt River below Dark Canyon is Sections 1-2-3 and part of 4; T 12 S; R 41 E.

Area Placer claims covering approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of river bottom.

History Large operations in this region in the past have been chiefly on higher terrace deposits, and work on the river channel proper has been limited mostly to small scale sniping.

Development No test pitting or other prospecting has been done by the present operators. They are proceeding primarily on the record of the higher channels and the equipment now being installed is primarily for test purposes and will be enlarged later if the ground proves satisfactory. The width of the channel averages perhaps 100'. The depth is unknown and estimates vary between 15 and 30'.

Geology A very narrow and steep canyon has been cut by the river thru the Burnt River Schists which constitutes the exclusive bedrock in the area to be worked. Small limestones lenses occur in this schist formation and these form reefs. In the cases of the higher terrace gravels formerly worked, especially good values were encountered above these reefs. That such conditions will be found to prevail in the river channel proper is altogether likely although knowledge concerning the average values occurring in it is at present lacking.

Equipment A trommel, riffles and mats housed on a floating unit fed by a $\frac{3}{4}$

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#2

yard capacity, No. 30 Bay State Dragline.

General Information

The property is connected by a good gravelled road to Durkee about 15 miles distant. The elevation is approximately 3300 feet and climatic conditions should not prove any serious obstacle to year round operations.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Dunst River Placers

^{Upper}
Lower Dunst River District
Baker County

by H.S. Wagner, 7/22/46

Foreword

This is a progress report to supplement Degani report of same name by H.S.W., 10/24/45.

The Associated Dredging Company has ceased operations here and have transferred their equipment to Vincent Creek, Grant County, where they are now operating (Vincent Creek Placer, H.S.W., 7/17/46).

According to Mr. Hilliard it was found that the ground could not be worked effectively with the equipment originally installed/ Both boulders and the nature of the bed rock proved obstacles proved obstacles to efficient operation. The company still retains the ground, is currently drilling it, and plans on the ultimate installation of equipment adequate to handle the situation.

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BURNT RIVER PLACERS

^{Upper}
~~LOWER~~ BURNT RIVER DISTRICT BAKER COUNTY

Owners:

Three separate owners, one of which owns several different placer groups, are involved here as follows:

Jack Connors, Box 93, Burke, Oregon

Charles S. Wren, Rogue River, Oregon

Burke Estate---Haddock, Donald and Banta, Attys, representatives and also holders of some interest in property.

Location:

On Burnt River below Dark Canyon in sections 1,2,3,10,11 and 12, T 12 S; R 41 E. This includes about 4 miles of river bottom and also what is known as the Dry Horse Shoe which is a large and now abandoned meander of the river.

Area:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Nabob Claim (lode)	1 claim	section 3	Connors
Don Jay Group (placer) (includes Dry Horse Shoe)	110 acres	section 3 and 10	"
Helie V. Group (placer)	80 acres	section 2 & 11	Wren
Lotus Group (placer)	60 acres	section 2	Connors
Gloria Group (placer)	60 acres	section 1	"
Burke Estate (patented ranch land)	320 acres of which was 40 is on channel	section 1 & 12	Burke Estate
Alice Group (placer)	30 acres	section 1	Connors

The above claims join. Since no one claim owner with the possible exception of Connors and his Don Jay Group, owns enough of the river channel to permit them to deal with an operator for independent operation, the owners co-operate to act as a team in offering their property for sale.

History:

Small scale work from bars and pits and drifts has been done on all of these claims with most of this work being on the Dry Horse Shoe portion of Connors Don Jay Group. No large scale mechanized operation has ever been carried on here, or for that matter elsewhere on the river proper in this general area.

In 1944 a Mr. Zichosch conducted a fairly extensive prospect test program on these claims. Satisfactory results were reportedly obtained and Zichosch went ahead with his plans to purchase the property, but was taken ill on the grounds and died. Later, ^{Mr. Hilliard of} the Associated Dredging Company set up a small doodle bug (Dogami Reports entitled Burnt River Placers by N.S.W., 10/24/45 and 7/22/46) but discontinued operations after a very short time when it was found that their shovel was ($\frac{3}{4}$ yard capacity) inadequate to handle the ground. Mr. Hilliard told the writer personally that the ground appeared satisfactory as far as values went and that he hoped to be able to obtain a larger shovel and resume operations there in conjunction with his present set-up on Vincent Creek. The only other attempted mechanized placer operation on the river occurred three or four miles above these claims in along about 1937 or 1938. No record of this operation is at hand, but reportedly a corporation with a Mr. Angel of Seattle (deceased) in charge, operated off and on with small equipment and finally installed a floating washing plant which cap-sized and sank before much ground had been moved. The property has been inactive since.

Geology:

The Burnt River Schist formation constitutes the exclusive bedrock formation of the river in the area covered by these claims. Limestone lenses occur in this formation. The workings on the Dry Horse Shoe portion of the Conner claims were not inspected as Mr. Conner was just leaving for an appointment at the time of this visit was made, but these consist chiefly of pits, inclines and tunnels, driven into the gravel of the old river channel which is but a few feet higher than the present river level.

No other workings are open for inspection. The bedrock in the river channel proper is said to be 15 to 18 feet deep, with local potholes (or a possible deep channel) of about 30 feet existing. The river channel is narrow and with steep sides. The width of channel gravel that might be covered with talus and slide material is unknown. Gold is coarse and about 870 fine.

General Information:

The property is connected by a good gravelled road to Durkee about 15 miles distant. The elevation is about 3,300 feet and climatic conditions should not prove any serious obstacle to year round operations.

Economics:

Bars and high level terraces were worked along the river here during the early days of Oregon mining. What this production amounted to is not fully known but at least bars of considerable merit reportedly existed. Of note is the German Bar which was situated in the area embraced by these claims. Of note also is the continued small-scale mining up to the present day. Although only incomplete records of this production are available, several of the workings on the Dry Horse Shoe are open for inspection and can be sampled with a minimum of effort.

As mentioned previously the amount of work on the river channel proper has never been great enough to establish the merits of the river to a significant degree, but there would appear to be little or no reason to conclude that the river channel would not be gold-bearing at least to an extent comparable to the bars and terraces. Thus though the lack of operational records and accessible prospect shafts on the channel proper dictate an extensive and thorough program of prospect testing, the general indications of possible values would seem to warrant expenditures in this connection.

The lack of a very complete picture of the mining conditions, that is, the percentage and size of boulders and depth of the channel, would also dictate at least a limited amount of prospect testing to provide some basis for an intelligent selection of the most practical type of mining equipment to be installed.

Informant:

Mr. Jack Connors-----for all claim data.

Report by:

N. S. Wagner

Date Exam:

April 4, 1947

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