

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

Report by N. S. Wagner

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

Date of exam. Mar. 7, 1946

Name of Property Elliot Placers of Pine Creek (Gold)

Upper Burnt River District

Baker County

Operating lessee Golden Dredging Company, Prairie City, Oregon. This company is set up as a partnership between George England, Harry Morse, Thomas Harris, Frank Kendall and Jenkins Pryse, all of Prairie City.

Owner Ralph Yeakley, Hereford, Oregon

Location T 12 S; R 39 E; sections 15 and 22. The lower claim lines begin at a point about a mile up Pine Creek from State Highway 7 and extend on up the creek approximately a mile where they are followed by the Meeker and Wyant holdings.

Area There are 8 unpatented claims comprising the Elliot Placers. These have been surveyed and the map may be available to the Department in the near future.

History No formal operation has ever been carried on, on this particular group of claims, although the ground has been tested by several companies included amongst which is the Humphries Gold Mining Company, the records of which companies findings may also be available to this Department in the near future. The area of Pine Creek directly below this group has been extensively worked in the past with water pumped from Burnt River (Elliot and Gold Nugget Placers, Bull 14A - page 99) and some work with a dry washer was done on the Meeker-Wyant holdings above (High Bar Placer, Bull 14A - page 100.) Small shafts and drifts constitute the

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Name of Property Elliot Placers of Pine Creek (Gold)

702 Woodlark Building  
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2-Continued

only work done on the Elliot group proper but from this good recoveries have been made with some nuggets in the \$20 to \$50 bracket having been found.

## Development

Between 6 to 8 feet of overburden has been stripped to a width of about 60 feet and for a length of a couple hundred. This provides a sufficient amount of mineable ground for the shovel to enable the bulldozer to keep stripping well ahead of the mining. Roads constitute the only other development work done.

## Geology

The gravel consists of the old channel of Pine Creek although much of the creek flows thru Tertiary sediments and much of the gravel and gold may well represent material reworked from an earlier Tertiary channel. Some few 2 to 3 foot Boulders have been encountered in the limited amount of work done so far, but the usual size of the coarser material is in the 6 to 8 inch range. In some places the width of the channel has been established as 200' but the usual width is very likely narrower. Thickness of the pay gravel is believed to be about 6 to 8' with about an equally thick blanket of overburden.

## Equipment

A trommel, riffles and stacker on pontoons fed by a Northwest shovel equipped with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yard dragline bucket; bulldozer; electric generating plant; assorted trucks, and small tools.

## General

### Information

Topography, climate, and conditions of general accessibility impose no handicap on mining operations here. Water supply, however, depends entirely upon the seasonal snowpack. In good years a sufficient supply to permit mining may exist from March to July, but in poor years the length of this season might be materially reduced.

ELLIOTT PLACER

UPPER BURNT CREEK DISTRICT:

On Pine Creek, 32 miles southwest, on the John Day Highway, from shipping point, Baker, on the Union Pacific and Old Oregon Trail. Located about 25 years ago and includes 2 placer claims recorded in Baker county. There has been a production of gold each year since 1914. Owner is George W. Elliott, Baker, Oregon (Prescott---6/1/37).

**Elliot Placers**

4/76

NAME OLD NAMES Gold PRINCIPAL ORE MINOR MINERALS

12 S      39 E      15 & 22  
 T                  R                  S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

..... Baker ..... COUNTY  
 ..... Upper Burnt River ..... AREA  
 ..... 3600 ..... ELEVATION  
 ..... Fine Creek Road ..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY  
 ..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... Ralph Yeakley .....

Address ..... Horeham, Oregon .....

OPERATOR ..... Golden Redging Co. ....

..... Prairie City, Oregon .....

Name of claims      Area      Pat.      Unpat.

..... 6 ..... X .....

Name of claims      Area      Pat.      Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY      Trammel & rittler on portcoars, fed by 1 1/2 y line,

Northwest shovel--bulldozer--generator

~~Golden~~ dredging Co.--refer Elliot Placers

NAME			OLD NAMES	PRINCIPAL ORE	MINOR MINERALS
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12 S	31 S	15 & 22
T	R	S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

..... Baker ..... COUNTY

..... Upper Burnt River ..... AREA

..... 3,800 ..... ELEVATION

..... Pine Creek Road ..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... Ralph Yeakley .....

.....

.....

.....

Address ..... Harford, Oregon .....

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.....

.....

OPERATOR ..... ~~Golden~~ dredging Co. ....

..... Prairie, City .....

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

Elliott and Gold Nugget Placers (Placer)

Baker County

Owners: L. B. Jackson and W. B. Pattison, Hereford, Oregon

Location: Mouth of Pine Creek above present highway, *Sec 26, T12S, R39E*

Area: <sup>300</sup>~~125~~ acres *under lease*

History: Gouged and prospected for many years but past machine operations usually failed due to high overhead costs. Humphries Construction Company (Denver) tested the ground, but available yardage was too small for them to handle so sub-leased the property to the present operators. Sub-lesors began operations in spring of 1937, moving 28,000 yards of gravel and about 14,000 yards of stripping. About \$15,000 in bullion shipped in 1937. Previous production unavailable. *operated, April to December*

Equipment: 1 Insley  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard combination shovel and dragline. Gravel washing plant: Fines to sump; pumped to sluice boxes 50' long and 14" wide. 25' of Hungarian type ~~of~~ riffles of 3/16" x 2" angle iron. Water is pumped from Burnt River with 4" Centrifugal pump throwing 300-350 gallons per minute to washing plant. *sluic*

Geology: Elevation 3500'. Gulch operation mining alluvial fan from Pine Creek. Rolling country. False bedrock of sandy ~~hard-packed~~ <sup>hard</sup> dark-colored ~~clay~~ with "burnt" appearance. True bedrock (probably lava) has never been tested in this locality. Gravel size: 50% 6" to 3' in diameter. Gold: rather coarse, no nuggets, with fineness of 850. Probably source is reconcentration of higher terrace gravels of Pine Creek pocket gold. Bench gravels above creek near washing plant are being dry-placered by four men who are taking out about \$50 per day with hand-riffle-blower.

Development: Humphries Construction Company completely tested pitted entire area, averaging about 50¢ for 280,000 yards of gravel. Present operations <sup>has</sup> sank enough pits to check Humphries' results. Operation recovery bears out ~~the~~ accuracy of original sampling.

Approximate Costs: 20-25¢ per yard, work in two shifts. 500 yards capacity in 24 hours. Plenty of 15¢ to 20¢ ground--too low for present type of operation. Approximately <sup>250,000</sup>~~250,000~~ yards still to be mined. Probable life is one more season after the present one. Apparently a successful operation.

Informant: A. V. Quine  
4/7/38

additional Data 11/38

NAME: Elliott and Gold Nugget Placers, Pine Creek District, Baker County.  
Additional information to report of April 7, 1938.

LOCATION: The mouth of Pine Creek, sections 26, township 12, south  
range 39~~9~~.E

AREA: 300 acres under lease.

PLANS FOR FUTURE: Will work only until next summer--about 4 or 5 months.

jea

Pine Creek

BLANK B—ANNUAL REPORT

This report must be properly executed and filed with the Corporation Commissioner on or before July 1, 1933, in order to entitle a corporation mining for any of the precious metals, coal, or prospecting or operating for oil, or operating an oil well, to pay a license fee of only \$10. If not so filed, such corporation must pay the same license fees as are required to be paid by other corporations for gain.—Section 25-244, Oregon Code 1930.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CORPORATION DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1933 1937

Of Yellow Nugget Mining Co. (Give legal name in full)

a corporation organized and existing under and pursuant to the laws of the State of Oregon.

The location of its principal office is at No. 704 W. ash. Ave. Street, in the city of La Grande, in the state of Oregon

The names and addresses of principal officers, with the postoffice address of each are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: NAMES, OFFICE, BUSINESS ADDRESS. Rows include J. R. Oliver (President, La Grande, Ore.), H. H. Taylor (Secretary, do), and H. H. Taylor (Treasurer, do).

The date of the annual election of officers is Feb. 1st

The date of the annual election of directors is do

Table with 4 columns: Description, Common With Par Value, Common No Par Value, Preferred. Rows include authorized capital stock, subscribed, issued, and price at which no par value stock issued.

State amount of capital, represented by stock of no par value, with which the corporation began business \$

Total amount of its properties in Oregon (name of claims, lodes, or placers) 12 placer claims consisting namely Elliot & Gibson claims

The location of its properties on Pine Creek, trib. Burnt River

The amount of work done thereon and improvements made thereon since the time of filing last report none

The amount of output or products of the mines or wells of such corporation from January 1, 1932, to December 31, 1932, inclusive,

The value of output or products of the mines or wells of such corporation from January 1, 1932, to December 31, 1932, \$100.00

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, H. H. Taylor, Secretary of said corporation, have signed this report, this 18th day of June, A. D. 1937 (signed) H. H. Taylor

[CORPORATE SEAL]

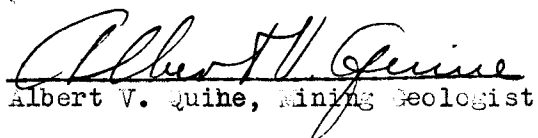
STATE OF OREGON, County of ss.



4/7/38

PLACER SUMMARY

1. **Present name of property** Elliott and Gold Nugget Placers  
**Operating company (or individual)** L. B. Jackson and W. B. Pattison  
**Address** Hereford **County** Baker  
**Location** South of Pine Creek above present highway  
**Area of holdings** Approximately 125 acres
  
2. **History of property - past and recent:** Gouged and prospected for many years but past machine operations usually failed due to high overhead costs. Humphries Construction Company (Denver) tested the ground, but available yardage was too small for them to handle so sub-leased the property to the present operators. Sub-lesors began operations in spring of 1937, moving 28,000 yards of gravel and about 14,000 yards
3. **History of production - yardage moved and bullion shipped:**  
of stripping. About \$15,000 in bullion shipped in 1937. Past production is unavailable.
  
4. **Development - acres mined, exploration of drilling, shafts, cuts:**  
Humphries Construction Company completely test pitted entire area, averaging about 50¢ for 280,000 yards of gravel. Present operations sank enough pits to check Humphries' results. Operation recovery bears out the accuracy of original sampling.
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.:**  
Pumping water from Burnt River with 4" Centrifugal pump throwing 300-360 gallons per minute to washing plant. Mining from April to December. Elevation 3500'.
  
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.:** Elevation 3500'. Gulch operation mining alluvial fan from Pine Creek. Rolling country. False bedrock of sandy clay hardpan, dark-colored "burnt" appearance. True bedrock (probably lava) has never been tested in this locality. Gravel size: 50% 6" to 3". Gold: rather coarse, no nuggets, with fineness of 850. Probably source is reconcentration of higher terrace gravels as well as regular concentration of Pine Creek pocket gold. Bench gravels above creek near washing plant are being dry-placered by four men who are taking out about \$50.00 per day with hand-riffle-blower.
  
7. **Equipment - pipe, giants, etc.** 1 Insley  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard combination shovel and dragline.  
Gravel washing plant: Fines to sump; pumped to sluice boxes 50' long and 14" wide. 25' of Hungarian type riffles of 3/16" x 2" angle iron.
8. **Remarks - economics: High or low cost, principal drawbacks, reasons for success or failure, apparent life of operation based on quantity of gravel, etc.**  
Approximate cost: 20¢ to 25¢/yard. Stripping alone: 0.05¢/yard.  
Working two shifts. 500 yards capacity/24hours. Plenty of 15¢ to 20¢ ground-- too low for present type of operation. Approximately 250,00 yards still to be mined. Probable life is one more season after the present one. Apparently a successful operation.

  
Albert V. Quihe, Mining Geologist

6/41

Elliott and Gold Nugget Placers

NAME	OLD NAMES	PRINCIPAL ORE	MINOR MINERALS
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12 S	39 E	26
T	R	S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Dogami 14-A, page 99

.... Baker..... COUNTY

.... Upper Burnt River..... AREA

.... 3500..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... L.B. Jackson and .....

..... W.B. Patterson .....

.....

.....

Address ..... Hereford, Oregon .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

OPERATOR .....

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

*FW*

Memorandum Report on

Elliot Placers of Pine Creek

Upper Burnt River Dist.

Baker County

The ownership of this and other Pine Creek claims is being contested by George Lane, and in line with this Lane filed a complaint at the County Clerks Office against George England et al of the Golden Dredging Company asking judgement of \$20,000. This complaint was filed April 26, 1946, shortly after Lane had had some surveying done.

The actual results of the surveying is not known to the writer, but the Golden Dredging Company removed all of their equipment from the property. They had worked approximately 2000 feet of the channel during the short time they were in operation.

Yield per yard was reported as "low" and this is believed to be a true statement of fact and not a misleading one put out because of Lane! One operator, not connected with this company, doubts that their shovel was effecting a real clean-up of the bedrock.

CONFIDENTIAL

Report by: NSW

Date: June 7, 1946

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JUN 10 1946  
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& MINERAL INDS.

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702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

Elliot Placers of Pine Creek

Upper Burnt River District  
Baker County

This report is supplement # 1 to a report under the above title by N.S.W.,  
March 7, 1946.

General: The Golden Dredging Company's doodle bug operation featured in the original report, was discontinued within a few weeks after it started. The reason for this was contingent upon a threatened lawsuit by a Mr. Lane who contended ownership by right of location to this placer and to many other properties in the Pine Creek drainage area. Although Lane's contentions were of doubtful validity, the company moved out on short notice rather than to risk having its equipment impounded. Lane was eventually discredited in the community after his contentions in the instance of several other claims were proved unfounded, and he, himself, has long since left the country. This property, the Elliot Placers, has since been worked, but by its present owner, Mr. Yeakley, on a one-man sluicing basis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Report by: N. S. Wagner  
Date of report: March 15, 1950