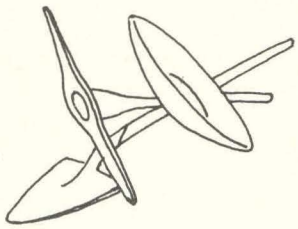
St. of Oregon

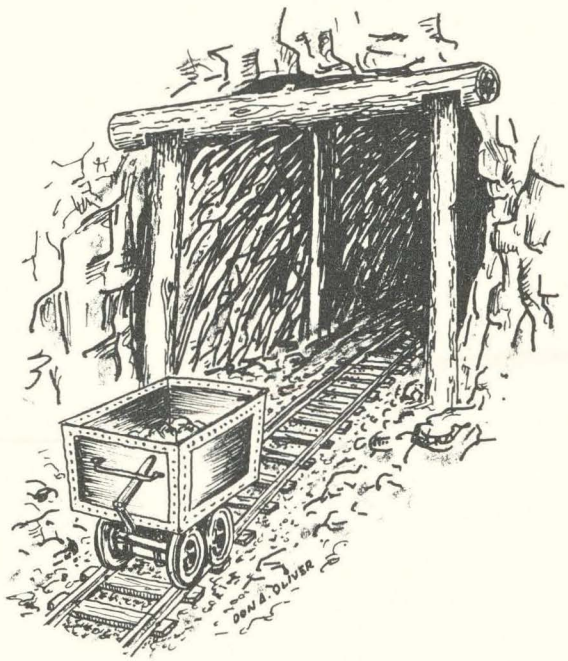
BONANZA QUEEN
COOS COUNTY



REPORT

OF

MINERAL EXAMINATION



FOREST SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

REPORT OF MINERAL EXAMINATION Job No. 524

Claimant:	Howard Winkleman Box 65E, Bridge Route Myrtle Point, Oregon 97458
Reason for Examination:	Administrative problem involving occupancy.
Subject:	Validity of Mining Claim.
Lands Involved:	Part of $SE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28 and $NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ Section 33, T. 32 S., R. 12 W., W.M., Siskiyou National Forest, Coos County, Oregon.
Land Status:	National Forest land open to mineral entry.
Location Data:	Bonanza Queen, 20-acre placer claim located February 1, 1934, by Amanda Waterman and recorded in Mines, Vol. 5, page 56. By Quit Claim Deed, Amanda Waterman sold to Howard Winkleman October 10, 1964, recorded in Deeds 313, page 544.
Mining District:	Johnson Creek, unorganized.
Mining Engineer and Dates of Examination:	Colver F. Anderson October 12, 1968, July 25, 1969, September 10, 1969, August 4, 1970, and September 11-12, 1970
Accompanied by:	H. Winkleman on July 25, 1969, and September 12, 1970.

ABSTRACT

The Bonanza Queen placer claim is approximately 18 miles from Powers on Johnson Creek just above Sucker Creek.

The terrain is very steep stream banks with numerous landslides.

Some large conifer trees are able to grow on the steep hills.

The bed of Johnson Creek is entrenched into sedimentary rocks, and gravels are derived in part from a mineralized area of gabbro intrusive which is near the headwaters of Johnson Creek. At one time the entire length of the creek was gold-bearing with moderate values.

Thirty-five to 40 years of mining along the creek before the big slides of 1890 should have worked out the best gravel.

An occasional hot spot remaining in the gravel is not sufficient to validate a claim, if other tests are under economic amounts or do not indicate an economic volume of gravel.

The occupancy should be authorized by a charge special use, amortized for a period based upon the cabin value at the time of the cancellation of the mining use permit.

Location and Topography

The Bonanza Queen claim is on Johnson Creek near the junction of Sucker Creek. The Agness road from Powers to China Flat is now a paved 15-mile stretch of road. The Sucker Creek road is westerly across China Flat for about 3 miles to the bridge across Johnson Creek.

The banks of the creek are very steep, timber-covered slopes within the limits of the claim. Several landslides reach the creek.

Surface Values

The stream has minor recreation value for trout fishing. A fair stand of conifer timber grows on the steep hillsides.

Areal Geology

The general country rock is shale with variable competence. An intrusive mass in Salmon Mountain may be the source of the mineral deposits which contribute placer gold to Johnson Creek.

Economic Geology

Johnson Creek is a steep-gradient stream originating in mineralized ground. Due to the gradient, most of the fine gold washed down to the Coquille River.

Gravel in much of the present channel remains because of the presence of large boulders. Bedrock is close in most areas. Only the coarser gold will normally collect under these circumstances.

Shallow gravel and many boulders greatly increase the cost of mining. An exact figure is difficult to find, but several dollars per yard may be needed in order to mine this ground. Pictures 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 illustrate the boulder problem. Picture 9 is a view of the creek after the surface boulders have been removed with a cat.

On a straighter portion of the stream above the picture area, the gravel has been mostly swept down and the water runs on bedrock.

Johnson Creek above Sucker Creek is a much narrower stream than it is below Sucker Creek. There is no significant bar formation within the limits of the subject claim. This reduces the chance of having an important place for gold to collect. Testing in the active channel of the creek has not shown significant gold content.

The second Government test in supposed original iron-stained gravel produced fragments of iron which could only have come from older human use of the gravel on bedrock.

History and Production

The early history of the area is unrecorded. A production estimate for what was known as the "Port Orford Gold Belt" is about $1,000,000. Johnson Creek was one of the main contributors of this production.

At the time of the large slides of 1890, the creek had been extensively mined for 35 years. This is ample time for the easiest gravel to have been mined and also some of the more difficult ground before the slide debris covered the gravel in 1890. This extra debris has gradually been washing downstream, with fine gravels washing faster than the boulders. Some of the original gravel is just becoming available for mining once more.

Pertinent Information

The Amanda Waterman location of this ground in 1934 states that the claim starts "about 250 feet above the mouth of Sucker Creek" and runs upstream 1500 feet, with 300 feet on each side of the stream. This distance from Sucker Creek matches quite well a line of 4 x 4 monuments found on the southeast end of the claim.

Occupancy

The claimant wanted to complete a cabin on the claim and use it under a mining use permit. A pole frame has existed on the claim for many years. Mr. Winkleman began to complete the structure, as shown in Picture 1 taken in October 1968. Something happened to this framework, and it was replaced by the structure shown in Picture 10, taken in August 1970.

Between these two dates, a joint test of the claim was made in which substantial amounts of gold were found. Based upon this test, a mining use permit was granted which provided that the claimant should diligently mine.

Since this test, two more have been made which do not show sufficient values. The latest tests indicate that a charge should be made for use of a cabin on the claim.

Discovery

The first time the creek was examined within the limits of the subject claim (sometime in 1967), there was no indication that the claimant had done any mining and his request for a cabin permit was denied.

The next examination in October 1968 showed that two access roads to the creek had been bulldozed, as shown on the sketch. Picture 2 shows the one south of the cabin, and Picture 4 shows part of the one which starts at the sharp bend in the Sucker Creek road.

The access from the bend of the road goes through some supposed terrace gravels. I believe the ground is mostly landslide talus. Picture 5 is a view in this road of a small hand-dug pit to bedrock. My panning from this pit was negative, and later the claimant admitted the same results.

A placer test of ground selected by the claimant was arranged for July 25, 1969. On that day I went to the claim with Dave Price and Bob Cunningham from the Powers Ranger Station. The claimant, a brother, Cap Waterman, and some children were there. Cap had stripped the boulders from an area of the creek, and approximately 5 cubic yards of underlying gravel had been sluiced (see Picture 14). The bottom of the hole is bedrock. They had a quantity of gold nuggets that were said to have been recovered from the 5 yards of gravel.

We set up the sluices and pumps shown in Pictures 11, 12, 13, and 14 and ran a yard of red gravel just above bedrock at the upstream end of the pit. A depression in the bedrock accounted for several buckets of gravel. Pieces of gold were big enough to pick out of the sluice before the riffles were reached. About two-thirds of the gold collected was picked out by hand.

Sample A69-11 from this cubic yard of gravel weighed 13.057 grams which is equivalent to $13 per yard and is an extremely good value. During the sampling several pieces of gold were seen embedded in the gravel. The claimants and their representatives were watched carefully during testing. The gold recovered is believed to be due to the depression in the bedrock.

A69-11 is the highest placer sample I have ever had and is not within a normal range of values. I returned to the claim in September 1969 with Forest Service personnel to check-test the ground. The pit looked like a couple more yards had been run. We found the same appearing gravel but at a higher elevation and not as thick. A 1-cubic-yard sample, A69-13, contained 800 milligrams or $0.80 per yard. Some very rusty man-made iron fragments were found in the black sand concentrate.

As a result of the second test, a third test was made September 12, 1970, in the presence of the claimant. Most of the day was spent trying to find more of the packed gravel. Finally a one-half cubic-yard sample, A70-5, was run of the deepest gravel available. The gold recovered weighed 173 milligrams or $0.35 per yard. Boulders were a constant problem in getting this much gravel. Several pictures illustrate the boulder problem.

Pictures 6, 7, and 8 were taken a year later than Pictures 11, 12, and 14. This illustrates the extreme activity of this stream during high water.

An examination of the creek bed above the discovery area showed even steeper stream banks and a nearly clean-swept channel, except at turns and log jams which tend to slow the movement of boulders. Many pans of gravel on bedrock had no colors and minor amounts of black sand.

Pictures 11 and 13 are two views of a very odd pump which was used to keep the water down in the test hole. A rubber diaphragm and box perform as an ordinary diaphragm pump. The square box has riffles on a removable bottom. The pump can be used to suck fairly coarse gravel along with water, and the heavy minerals collect on the riffles. The pump can operate empty without damage and thus keep water down to a very low point in a hole.

Conclusions

The gravel which seems to be virgin ground has been worked before, as evidenced by iron fragments deep in it. I find difficulty in believing that gold would collect to equal the first sample in the 80 years since the creek was being extensively mined. Several thousand years must have elapsed to collect the placer gold found by the first miners. The small depression must have been a portion overlooked by the original miners.

The two later tests indicate that the discovery has been mined out, and insufficient value remains to validate the claim.

Recommendations

Any special use now should be a charge, based upon the cabin value existing at the time of termination of the free use.

If the claimant does not agree, a hearing should be requested to determine the validity of the claim.

Date 1/20/71

Colver F. Anderson
COLVER F. ANDERSON, Mining Engineer

APPROVED:

Date 1/22/71

Wilson W. Swales
Acting Assistant Regional Forester

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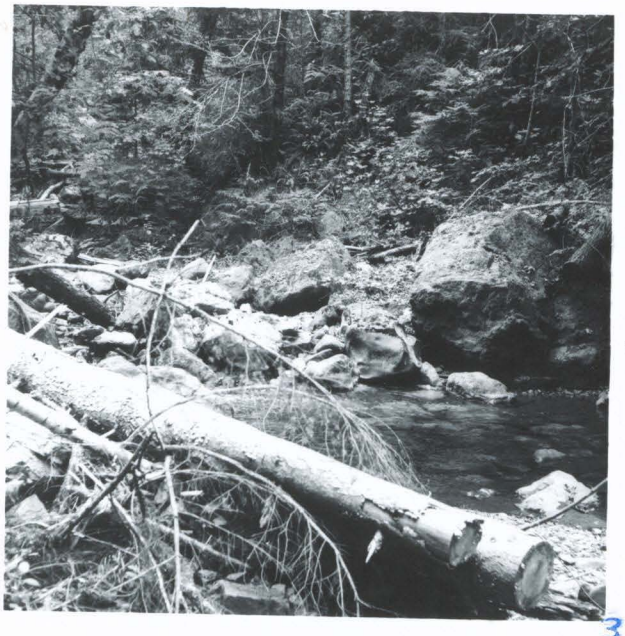

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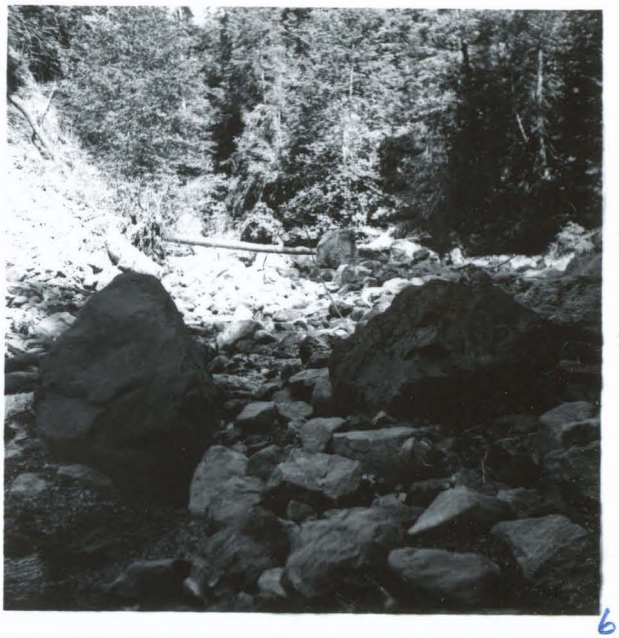

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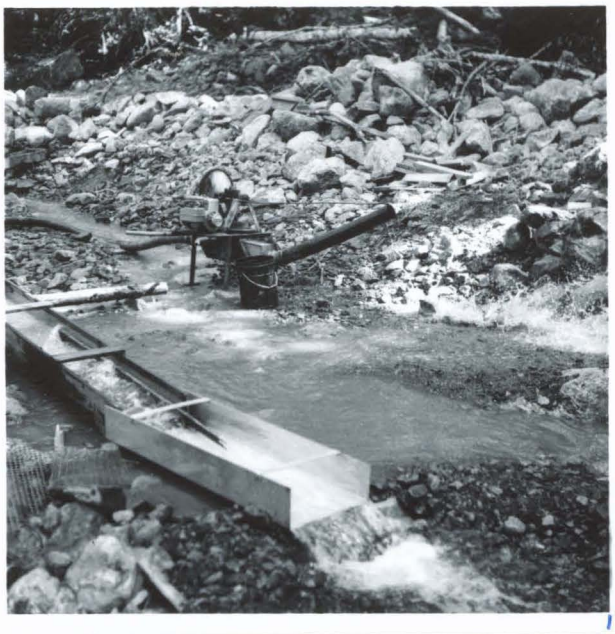

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