

Oct. 8, 1942.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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COQUILLE COAL

Powers area

A 4 ft. 9 in. bed of coal outcrops along the Coquille River. Narrow seams of good coal are interbedded with bone and shale. Washing would be necessary to produce merchantable coal.

Locators: Mr. & Mrs. James Rookard, Myrtle Point; Mr. and Mrs. James Kellong, Marshfield; Oregon.

Location: Near the common section corner of secs. 8, 9, 16, 17, T. 33 S., R. 11 W., on the east bank of the South Fork of the Coquille River.

Area: Several claims are indicated on the location notice.

History: None

Development: The width of the coal vein is exposed over a horizontal distance of 10 feet.

Topography: Steep walled to precipitous canyons characterize the area. Slopes are heavily wooded with Douglas fir and Port Orford cedar. Underbrush is dense. East and south of the River, the upland rises in an easy grade to the Panther Ridge divide. This upland is deeply incised by streams that are tributary to the South Fork, such as Squaw Creek, Fall Creek, and others.

A road is being constructed eastward from the Powers-Illahee county road along the south side of the South Fork. Its length, at present is 1½ miles. The Coquille River trail enters the area from the end of the road, and 1.7 miles of trail, or about ¼ mile beyond the 5-mile marker, reaches a point 250 feet vertically above the coal exposure. The hillside down to the coal has a slope of 35-40°.

Geology: Country rock is Eocene Arago sandstone, as shown on the Port Orford folio. The sandstone is massively bedded and breaks into "room-size" blocks that choke the river, in places. Nearer the coal outcrop, the sandstone is finer grained

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and more finely bedded, so that it resembles shale. The sandstone probably should be classed as graywacke. About 2 miles south, at the end of the road, good leaf impressions were found.

Lesher's map (14:404) shows ^{ch} ~~this~~ locality to have what he called the Anderson coal bed. He describes this bed as being 400 ft. above the "blue conglomerate and is characterized by a white clay parting in the middle. The beds range from 3 feet to 6 feet in thickness. He also shows a fault, with the downthrow on the southeast, as cutting through the area described herein. *His locality #13 on the Meyers bed corresponds with this report.*

A measured section of the coal as sampled is:

Coal seam (Anderson bed?) in sec. 9, T. 33 S., R. 11 W.,
 as measured and sampled by EKN and NCT, Sept. 5, 1942.

	Feet	Inches
Carbonaceous shale capping.....		
Coal and dirt.....		3
Fair coal.....		7
Dirt.....		2
Fair coal.....		3½
Sandstone and shale (omitted from samples).....		3
Fair coal.....		4
Dirt seams.....		4½
Fair coal.....		2½
Bone.....		4
Fair coal.....		4
Dirt.....		1½
Coal and bone.....		7
Good coal.....		6
Dirty coal.....		1
Good coal.....		2
Bony coal.....		7
TOTAL	4	9½

Coal in the lower portion (indicated as "good coal") is hard and bright. In the upper portion (indicated as "fair coal"), it is not so bright and "appears" to be of poorer quality. The footwall is a sticky blue clay of unknown thickness.

The area containing the coal bed seems to have slid from the hillside above. There is a suggestion of a fault along the south end of the exposure. If, as suggested, this is the Anderson bed,

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and the fault is as shown by Lesher, the field data check very closely with Lesher's observations. The white clay parting was not found. It is possible however, that the blue clay footwall may be the white clay parting as mentioned by Lesher. It was impractical to try to get through the blue clay footwall at the time of our visit.

The outcrop of "blue conglomerate" shown by Lesher was not seen along the trail in to the coal outcrop, but as this information was not at hand, no particular time was spent to identify the conglomerate bed. Heavy soil and brush cover made such identification almost impossible.

Reference: Lesher, 14
Lesher, C. E., The Eden Ridge coal field, Coos County,
Oregon: U.S.G.S. Bull. 541, pp. 399-418, (1912) 1914.

Informants: Earl K. Nixon and Ray C. Treasher, 10/5/42
Report by: Rct, 10/8/42

A leaf locality has reportedly been discovered on Matson Creek in a road cut currently (8-1949) being built for Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. Location of the discovery is in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Ivers Peak Quadrangle about one-half mile west of the first left hand fork on Matson Creek. Discovery reported to this office by Mr. Rudolph Erickson. Discovery made by Bob McGorry, Glennmorrey Park (?), Oswego, Oregon. Leaves apparently are found in a shale formation.

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The coal seam is so badly cut up by seams of bone and dirt, etc., that it would be impractical to put it on the market unless it were washed. The landslide nature of the locality suggests that additional prospecting should be done to determine where the coal bed is, and its extent. Little data of value could be obtained from the exposure as of 10/5/42

The Coquille River road, if its construction from sec. 17 to join the logging road in sec. 27, T. 32 S., R. 11 W., is completed, would pass within a few hundred feet of this outcrop. However, it still will be necessary to connect this road out to the north, to the Dillard-Coquille highway, before economical transportation would be effected.

Considering Lesher's information of a fault in this locality, it would be wiser to prospect for this bed at a point removed from the fault rather than right on the fault.

Roekard and Kellond have placed a placer location on this coal exposure. As a matter of fact, this land is not open to location for coal, as per the Coal Act of about 1920.

At present, the coal would have to go out over 1.7 miles of trail, and then 18 miles of forest service road to Powers, where it would contact the S. P. R.R. for the Coos Bay area.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
Oct. 8, 1942.

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