State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

TRAIL'S END MINE (Chromite)

Sixes River District
Curry County

Owner: Roy B. Jenkins
Sixes, Oregon

Area: On patented land

Location: SW¼ sec. 26, T. 31 S., R. 14 W. Near the drainage divide between Elephant Rock Creek and Edson Creek, both tributaries of the Sixes River, and just south of the divide between these two creeks and the South Fork of Floras Creek.

A road leads right to the prospect. Twelve miles of this road is the county all-weather graveled road up the Sixes River. At the Plum Trees, elevation 200', a private mountain road branches from the county road and goes to the property, a distance of about 7 miles. The first several miles of this road has several short, steep grades.

History: In 1949 Mr. Jenkins purchased from Myrtle A. Garner the land that includes this prospect.

Topography: The area is dissected by numerous streams and they have developed a dendritic drainage pattern. Around 1500' the hills appear to be somewhat rounded and dissection does not seem to be as far advanced as lower down on the hillsides. This suggests the presence of an old terrace around 1500'.

The chromite prospect is at the northern end of one of the many "prairies" of this area. It is on the summit of a small ridge just south of the drainage divide between the Sixes River and the South Fork of Floras Creek at an elevation of 1840' aneroid.

Geology: Probably the chromite occurs as segregations in serpentine. Ore on the dump consists of massive chromite in chunks several pounds in size with minor veinlets of yellowish-green serpentine running through it, and as small elliptical raisin-like segregations up to 2" scattered through serpentine.

No chromite was seen in place but a pile 4 feet high and 10 feet in diameter was at the end of one of the cuts. A specimen (P-9705) from this pile which was sent in by Mr. Jenkins assayed 47.89% Cr_2O_3, 11.35% Fe, and trace of nickel. The chrome-iron ratio on this sample is 2.54:1. Morrison (Oregon Metal Mines Handbook, Bull. No. 14-C, Vol. I, Oregon Dept. of Geol. & Min. Ind.) reports "A representative sample from the 25 tons of ore on dump ran 38.6% Cr_2O_3. A pan concentration of this ore, after grinding to 20 mesh, assayed 53% Cr_2O_3. About 100 yards down the ridge from the workings there is another zone outcropping, and a grab sample from this point ran 14.5% Cr_2O_3."

It was reported that chromite in place was exposed in the bottom of the southernmost bulldozer cut but this could not be verified as the bottom was covered by several feet of sloughed-in serpentine.

The serpentine ridge in which the workings of this prospect are located has a trend of N. 15° E. It stands above the surrounding area and is about 150 yards long and 30 yards wide. Serpentine outcrops to the south for about one-fourth of a mile. A qualitative spectrographic analysis on a sample (P-9897) of the serpentine from the northernmost cut showed nickel in the amount of 0.1% and chromium 1%.

Development: Apparently no new development work has been done since Morrison visited this property in June, 1939. The following is taken from Oreg. Dept. of Geol. Bull. 14-C, Vol. I. "Two open cuts near the top of the ridge; one runs north 80° E. about 100 feet long cutting the chromite zone. No chromite was found. Thirty feet to the south of this cut is the second one which runs north 30° W. 30 feet. No chromite was showing here; however, there is a pile of about 25 tons of chromite ore on the dump. A short distance to the east a tunnel was run under this cut, and one boulder of chromite was said to have been found. (The reported weight of this boulder ranges from 50 to 500 lbs.)"

Report by: H. M. Dole
Date of visit: May 17, 1950
Date of report: June 1, 1950
Visited by: F. W. Libbey, H. D. Wolfe, H. M. Dole
Informants: R. B. Jenkins, J. Arlie McLeod
References: Oreg. Dept. of Geol. Bull. 14-C, Vol. I, pp 86-87.
U.S. Geol. Survey Geologic Atlas 89, Port Orford folio, by J. S. Diller

Sixes River District,
Curry County

Watrous Cinnabar

Mr. Frank L. Watrous, Box 227, Sixes, Oregon, brought in a small specimen of high-grade cinnabar from his claim in sec. 3, T. 31 S., R. 15 W. between Crystal Creek and the Sixes River in Curry County. Hoagland verified it.

W. D. Lowry
June 26, 1947

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Trails End Mine (Chromite??) Sixes River District
(Supplement to report by H. M. Hole, 5-17-51) Curry County

The mine was leased early in 1951 by Carl Stevens, Grants Pass logging operator. During the summer the main cut was re-opened with a bulldozer and cut down to a depth slightly below that of the underlying tunnel (about 30 feet). Chromite was not encountered even in minor amounts. Likewise the second cut to the north was re-opened and showed absolutely no trace of chromite. Ten long tons of chromite present on the dump of the southermost cut was shipped to the Grants Pass stockpile yielding $111 per ton.

Since termination of the operation Stevens has learned that the ore present on the dump was brought in from a chromite deposit several miles away during the First World War by a promoter. It thus seems extremely questionable that chromite, even in minor amounts, was ever found in either the cuts or the tunnel.

Report by: H. D. Wolfe
Date of Report: November 2, 1951
Informant: Carl Stevens

CRIB MINERAL RESOURCES FILE 12

RECORD IDENTIFICATION
RECORD NO..... M061373
RECORD TYPE..... XIM
COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS
DEPOSIT NO..... DDGMI 93-106
MAP CODE NO. OF REC..

REPORTER
UPDATED..... 81 04
BY..... FERNS, MARK L. (BROOKS, HOWARD C.)

NAME AND LOCATION
DEPOSIT NAME..... TRAILS END

COUNTRY CODE..... US
COUNTRY NAME: UNITED STATES

STATE CODE..... OR
STATE NAME: OREGON

Sixes River

COUNTY..... CURRY
DRAINAGE AREA..... 17100305 PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROV..... 13 KLAMATH MOUNTAINS
LAND CLASSIFICATION..... 01

QUAD SCALE	QUAD NO OR NAME
1: 62500	LANGLOIS

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
42-50-51N	124-19-09W

UTM NORTHING	UTM EASTING	UTM ZONE NO
4744500.0	392210.0	+10

TWP..... 31S
RANGE.... 14W
SECTION.. 26

ALTITUDE.. 1920

COMMODITY INFORMATION
COMMODITIES PRESENT..... CR

ORE MATERIALS (MINERALS,ROCKS,ETC.):
CHROMITE

COMMODITY COMMENTS:
LOW GRADE

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
STATUS OF EXPLOR. OR DEV. 4

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

DEPOSIT TYPES:
DISSEMINATED; MASSIVE CHROMITE
FORM/SHAPE OF DEPOSIT:

SIZE/DIRECTIONAL DATA
SIZE OF DEPOSIT..... SMALL

DESCRIPTION OF WORKINGS
SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND

PRODUCTION
YES
UNDETERMINED

CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION (ORE,COMMOD.,CONC.,OVERBUR.)

ITEM	ACC	AMOUNT	THOUS.UNITS	YEAR	GRADE,REMARKS
15 ORE	EST	0000.010	TONS	1951	

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

AGE OF HOST ROCKS..... JUR
HOST ROCK TYPES..... SERPENTINE

GEOLOGY (SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION)
REGIONAL GEOLOGY
MAJOR REGIONAL STRUCTURES.. THRUST FAULT

LOCAL GEOLOGY
NAMES/AGE OF FORMATIONS,UNITS,OR ROCK TYPES
1) NAME: COLEBROOKE SCHIST
AGE: JUR
2) NAME: OTTER POINT
AGE: LJUR

GENERAL COMMENTS
MASSIVE CHROMITE NOT SEEN IN PLACE

GENERAL REFERENCES
1) RAMP, L. AND OTHERS, 1977, GEOLOGY, MINERAL RESOURCES AND ROCK MATERIAL OF CURRY COUNTY, OREGON; ODGMI BULL. 9
P.32