

OTHER AREAS IN GRANT COUNTY

Middle Fork Area

Geography:

The Middle Fork Area includes the northwest quarter of Grant County and occupies all the basin draining into the main fork of the John Day below Dayville as far east as Dale (Desolation Creek) on the North Fork and Big Creek on the Middle Fork.

More or less parallel northwest-flowing streams empty into the North Fork of the John Day River. The concordant northwest-sloping ridge-tops between the streams are separated by youthful canyons incised in the more mountainous regions into a maturely developed topography, leaving high "prairies" on the valley walls.

Geology:

The area of the Middle Fork mapped many years ago in reconnaissance by Collier (14) is predominantly covered with Columbia River lavas. In the canyons of the John Day River north of Dayville and of the North Fork west of Monument, the John Day formation of volcanic varicolored tuffs is exposed. In the extreme northwestern corner of Grant County, Clarno volcanic sediments appear.

Mines:

Due to the predominantly volcanic nature of the rocks in this area, mineralization is practically absent, and few mining properties have been reported.
