

CLIMAX GOLD AREA

## Ashland area

Location: "Large areas of altered tuff and a vein of aragonite occur in the vicinity of Climax, on the headwaters of Antelope Creek, nearly 8 miles in a direct line northeast of Ashland, in Jackson County. Climax is reached by an unimproved road that follows Antelope Creek.

"The aragonite vein is on a steep slope on the east side of the valley at Climax, in a coarse volcanic breccia. The vein is vertical and strikes N. 60°-70° W. It has been traced for several hundred feet and consists of irregular lenses of aragonite, some containing fragments of country rock and irregular masses of chalcedony surrounding vugs or geodes lined with quartz crystals. Fragments of country rock are surrounded by calcite, rarely over 2 millimeters thick, from which the coarse acicular crystals of aragonite radiate. No sulphides were found, and no precious metals are known to occur.

"Volcanic tuff and breccia over 1 mile west of Climax are changed to a soft brown and white aggregate of clay minerals and an isotropic substance, possibly a form of opal. Oxidation of disseminated pyrite has led to the formation of numerous crystals and crusts of gypsum. The altered tuff is leached by a secret process devised by one of the local residents to make a medicine.

"Rhyolite underlying the oil shale in secs. 9 and 16, T. 38 S., R. 2 E., is bleached and contains chalcedony in openings."

Reference: Callaghan & Buddington, 38:133-134 (quoted).