

COON CREEK PROSPECT (manganese)

LAKE CREEK DISTRICT

Owners: Timber Products Co. (TeePee Brand), Medford, Oregon.

Location: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 20, T. 37 S., R. 2 E., at the head of Coon Creek, a tributary of Lost Cr., which is a tributary of South Fork Little Butte Creek; and about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles S. W. of the Tyrell Manganese Deposit. Marked as # 9 on the Medford Geologic Map.

Area: The land is owned by Timber Products Co., who have considerable holdings in this general vicinity.

History: Prospecting in the Coon Cr. area has progressed in recent years, stimulated by the strategic minerals investigation. The Timber Products Co. has financed most of the work.

Development: Development consists of one test pit, about 5 feet square and 10 feet deep. A few scattered "shots" have been fired in tuff masses nearby.

Equipment: none

Geology: The general geology of the area is discussed by Francis G. Wells in the Preliminary Geologic Map of the Medford Quadrangle, Oregon. The principal country rock is a lava series composed of "dominatly dark-gray andesite flows with local layers of tuff and breccia". Interbedded in these flows is a buff tuff, described as "buff fine-grained tuff with fragments of flow rock". The conditions of manganese deposition are discussed by Wells in the text on the back of the geologic map.

Briefly, it is proposed that manganese-bearing waters percolated through the tuff, and when and where conditions were favorable, manganese oxides were deposited.

The tuff at Coon Cr. has a distinct reddish color. In part it

Geology (continued)

is quite porous, and in part it is quite dense. Some fragmental material that looks like volcanic bomb fragments were found.

Manganese in the test pit was carefully sampled by Mr. Herman of Timber Products Co., assayed by A. A. Lewis of the State Assay Laboratory and averaged 4.9 percent Mn. The tuff is dark red, and there are small to large masses of black oxide that are distinguishable to the naked eye. The top of the ridge is well sprinkled with tuff outcrops, some of which occur as distinct cliffs up to 30 feet high. These were studied, and in very occasional spots were any oxide showings found. *It*

Some oxide stain was found in joint cracks and lining cavities in the tuff. If the material in the pit averages 4.9 percent Mn, it is doubtful if the entire deposit will assay any particularly interesting values in manganese.

Reference: Libbey & Others 42:19-20

Informant: Ray C. Treasher, 9/4/40

Report by: RCT 9/5/40

Reference: Wells, F. G., Preliminary Geologic Map of the Medford Quadrangle, Oregon; Oreg. State Dept. Geol. & Mineral Industries, 1939.

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CONFIDENTIAL

This prospect was examined in company with S. Ricker, Mineral Economist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, on Sept. 3rd, 1940, with the idea of proposing a drilling project for the Lake Creek manganese area.

Following the advice of F. G. Wells, who states that the mineralization at the Tyrell Mine is associated with a fault zone, and that the assay values decrease rapidly away from the fault zone; and that the tuff varies in composition and texture from a porous mass to hard, flinty, zones; it may be said that the studies at Coon Cr. confirm the latter. No evidence of faulting was found at Coon Creek.

In an area several hundred feet square, manganese oxides were found in quantity (4.9 percent) in one spot - at the development pit. One cliff exposure of 30 feet vertical height, showed one or two spots not over 2 ft. in diameter in which Mn oxides occurred as stain or paint in cavities. A few pieces of float showed some Mn oxides. Otherwise, the numerous ~~spots~~ outcrops showed little or no manganese minerals that were visible to the naked eye.

By eye-ball assay, assuming the 4.9 percent material in the pit as a standard, it is doubtful if the Coon Creek tuff mass would average in excess of one-quarter percent MnO_2 , which is an optimistic estimate.

In my opinion, manganese bearing waters percolated through the tuff member, and where it encountered porous spots, and conditions were favorable, manganese oxides were deposited. By no means were all the porous spots mineralized. The "mixed-up" nature of the harder zones with the porous zones, indicates that the porous zones have no continuity; - That if manganese were deposited in many of the porous zones, it would be necessary to "gopher hole" thither and yon in the tuff mass to recover manganese-bearing tuffs that would justify concentration.

Further, - it is my opinion that the Coon Creek manganese-bearing tuffs do not justify any drilling project to attempt to show a manganese ore body.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
September 5th, 1940.

COON-CREEK MANGANESE

Original prospect hole down to 18 ft. Five channel samples over depth of 18 ft. went around 6 percent. No other prospect holes dug.

Informant: Mr. Herman, Timber Products Co., 5/12/41