

NICHOLS PROSPECT (manganese)

Lake Creek area

"Wad bodies ranging in size from grains to pockets a foot in diameter are found in cracks and vesicles of basalt and tuff. The zone is 2 - 10 feet thick, and it is exposed by test pits for a distance of 1,000 feet. Insufficient manganese is shown to justify development.

"Location: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 4, T. 36 S., R. 2 E., in a fork of Salt Creek.

"Authority: Pardee (21:221) reported as follows:

"The manganese prospect of Gus Nichols is about 5 miles north of Lake Creek post office, at an altitude of 2500 feet on the slope north of Salt Creek. Beginning at the foot of the slope, basalt, red and gray tuff, andesitic lava that shows hornblende crystals, gray tuff, and dark-gray basalt crop out one above another. These rocks are nearly horizontal and at least 500 feet thick in the aggregate. The topmost basalt layer evidently flowed as a molten lava over the tuff next below, for it is glassy, vesicular, and shattered at the bottom.

"The manganese is found in a layer from 2 to 10 feet thick made up chiefly of the lower part of the basalt described, with a little of the underlying tuff. As shown by a few shallow pits made at intervals for a distance of 1000 feet, some of the cracks and vesicles are filled with a soft black noncrystalline manganese oxide regarded as wad. These bodies of wad range in size from specks and grains to pockets a foot in diameter, but so far as the development work shows no considerable part of the layer contains enough of them to make it workable."

"Hodge (37:15) reports as follows:

".....Nichols prospect in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 4, T. 36 S., R. 2 E. in a fork of Salt Creek. This is said to be owned by F. S. Miller, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Only two shallow pits were found on the property at an elevation of about 2400 feet

at the upper edge of a grassy exposure of agglomerate. The rock is a somewhat altered and decomposed tuff breccia containing manganese coatings on joint cracks. The pits lie about 25 feet below the base of a flow of platy pyroxene andesite. Manganese is no more abundant in the prospects than is to be expected in any such exposure."

Reference: Libbey & Others, 42:13-14 (quoted)