

C O P Y

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

BERYLLIUM CLAIMS

Cascade Unclassified area
Jackson County

Beryllium has been reported from this area, but to date no samples from any authenticated locality in Oregon have been submitted to this Department for assay that showed beryllium.

Owners: Report in 1943 indicates Charles Lull and James Ryho of Grants Pass as owners. In 1941 it was reported owned by a syndicate, Wendell P. Hubbard, 1015 Security Bldg., Los Angeles, trustee: Donald J. Heintzelman, Medford Hotel, Medford, Oregon, local representative.

Location: Property is located in sec. 27, T. 33S, R 1 E, and secs 3, 10, 15, 17, and part of 18, T. 34 S, R. 1 E, Butte Falls quadrangle, Big Butte Creek.

Area: It is reported that 81 claims have been staked.

History: Beryllium was reported from this area several years ago. Many claims were staked and sold. In 1941, the syndicate mentioned above was working at the claims but their activity ceased early in the year. At various times, reports of activity at the properties has been reported. On April 23rd, 1943, P. M. Millspaugh, director of the strategic minerals survey of the County Supervisors Assoc. of California, released information received from R. O. Hamilton, a mining engineer from Sacramento, about the deposit. A great deal of interest was shown in the press report.

Development: The locality in sec. 3 only was visited. Development work consisted of a series of shallow trenches and assessment work adits. It is understood that a quarry face was opened in sec. 17 or 18.

Geology: The country rocks of this area are andesitic tuffs and other pyroclastics that are interbedded with lava flows. They have been called the Western Cascades Volcanics by Callaghan (38) and range in age from middle Miocene to late Pliocene. Some of the tuffs are very fine grained and resemble pumicites. Others are coarse grained and contain pumice fragments up to 1/2-inch in size. No granitic or pegmatitic rocks have been found in the area. Color ranges from white, to buff, to light green.

Percolating ground water has altered many of the tuffs to

bentonitoid clay material. The water also has taken silica into solution and redeposited the silica in cavities as chalcedony and crystalline quartz. Large masses of chalcedony with greenish streaks are common and vugs and geodes may be lined with beautifully terminated quartz crystals one-half-inch in diameter.

Microscopic examination of the greenish tuff indicates that the greenish material is one of the bentonitic clay minerals (montmorillinite?) or perhaps some of the zeolites which contain small amounts of green chlorite. The green streaks, and color, of some of the chalcedony, probably results from chloritic inclusions.

In general, there are three types of "ore". The greenish tuff is variously reported to contain from 5 to 12 percent beryllium oxide. The green streaked chalcedony is reported as phenacite, the beryllium silicate. The quartz crystals are presumed to be beryl crystals.

Spectrographic examination of these materials shows blank, to traces of beryllium. Even the traces are of no concern as many rocks contain traces of beryllium, as well as other valuable minerals, but the insignificant amount cannot be considered as anything but of academic interest. Use of index oils quickly disproves that the chalcedony or quartz is phenacite.

General: Five samples were taken from an area in section 3, the only deposit that was accessible in February, 1941. The "ore" is a greenish tuff that has been weathered to a sticky clay in spots. The samples came from localities represented as assaying high grade beryllium.

The deposit was sampled by E. K. Nixon and Ray C. Treasher. #1 was from the company's #16 pit and consists of material dug from a 10 foot pit. It was weathered to sticky clay. No. 2 from the same locality but dug from the bank (in place) No. 3 and No. 4 were taken from material piled alongside the road into the property. No. 5 was taken from a shallow trench near the entrance to the property. Spectrographic examination of the samples indicated that no beryllium was present.

Claim notices were made out to James E. Ryno, and Ruth F. Inks, dated July 1, 1936, and located as "glucium deposits."

References: Callaghan 38
Wells

Informants: E. K. Nixon and Ray C. Treasher, Feb 14, 1941

Report by: RCT.