

## STEVE FORK TALC

Location: Along Upper Steve Fork Road, in Secs. 5 and 8, T. 41 S., R. 5 W., between 3,880 and 4,200 ft elevation.

History: In 1963 Mr. Wm. LaFaunce of Medford was reportedly mining small amounts of block soapstone on the Head of Steve Fork which he sold for carving purposes at his art store in Medford.

Description: The site of 1963 mining activity was not identified during a recent visit to the area but numerous float boulders of talc-bearing altered ultramafic rock was seen in several places along Upper Steve Fork road from a point about 1 mile above the Forks to about 1 mile north of the California border. Some of the talc-bearing rock appears to be from boulders occurring in glacial moraine as well as from altered ultramafic rocks exposed in the south half Sec. 5. The talc samples are light tan color with black specks and streaks of magnetite. Much of the material contains tremolite and can be classed as a talc tremolite schist. Some with rusty spots looks like weathered olivine and appears to be weathered talc olivinite with some tremolite. No outcrops of talc-bearing rock were found but widespread float indicates possibly several small occurrences in the area.