

POWELL CREEK TALC

- Location: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 17, T. 38 S., R. 5 W., elevation between 2,430 and 2,700. Reached via Powell Creek road off Water Gap Road for 3-1/3 mi; then 8/10 mi up BLM timber access road to SE.
- History: Talc (soapstone) was mined from this occurrence from 1967 to 1976 (?) by Steatite of Southern Oregon, Inc. They produced about tons of soapstone boulders for carving purposes.
- Geology: The soapstone occurs in a landslide area about 150 to 250 feet wide and 600 feet long. The slide trends about N. 58° E. and lies between the road and a small north-trending spur ridge. The slide contains mixed serpentinite soapstone argillite and metavolcanic rocks of the Permo-Triassic Applegate Group. Much of the soapstone is iron-stained and mixed with serpentine minerals; some is highly sheared. Impure boulders as large as 10 ft in diameter have been extracted; but thickness of the talc-bearing zone is not apparent from exposures. Reconnaissance of roads in the area resulted in finding a few other narrow seams of talc in serpentinite; for example in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 25, T. 38 S., R. 6 W., about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of the mined site.