

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

RATTLESNAKE GROUP

Upper Applegate area

This group was visited on May 14, 1942 and reported as two separate properties; - the Rainbow Claim, owned by Murphy; and the Laurel Claim owned by Noe. Carl Anderson inspected the properties at the same time, for H. & H. Co. I understood that both H. & H. and Horse Heaven were bidding for the properties and that H. & H. won. Horse Heaven presumably had an agreement to take the claims if H. & H. defaulted for any reason. I surmise that when H. & H. closed, Horse Heaven found they had bought something and now are going ahead as per their agreement. It looks like a very "penny ante" deal for Horse Heaven. I've known of better looking properties they have turned down, so there must be a reason. Staples says that they want to prove up on a cinnabar in the older rocks,-- something that has not yet been done, in Oregon.

The cinnabar is very spotty as shown by the map. Horse Heaven have a contract with Murphy to drive 50' of adit. He has about 20' to go, yet. Ore is showing better in the face, and the development appears more hopeful.

In May, Noe had no cinnabar in rock. All his ore was in the mantle rock. Since then, Staples tells me, Noe has found ore in the rock. He also has scheelite traces in places. Staples seems to think more of Noe's prospects than he does of Murphy's.

Hert Harper is at the property, and a survey will be made of the claims and the various workings. Lloyd has promised us a copy (Williston agreeable.) Coughlin has been to the property, examining it for an access road, length 8000 feet. I've not heard what his recommendations are.

I want to point out that the assay data on the sketch map were given us by Staples, in confidence. Therefore, I'm attaching the map to this confidential report. Lloyd was very generous in discussing their plans and their findings with us.

Ray C. Treasher
Field Geologist
11/13/42

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Snyder
RATTLESNAKE GROUP

Upper Applegate Area

or
Rainbow claim; ^{Noe} Laurel claims

Owners: Milton Murphy, Applegate, Oregon, and E. S. Noe, Jacksonville, Oregon. The property is under lease to Horse Heaven Mines, Inc.

Location: The claims extend in a northwesterly direction across the west boundary of sec. 9. Murphy's claims are in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 9 and Noe's claims are in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec 8, both in T. 40 S., R. 4 W. The SW $\frac{1}{4}$ corner of sec. 9 is 3000 feet north of Thousand Dollar Cræek. Distance to Grants Pass by the way of Thompson Creek is 34 miles, of which 18.7 miles is pavement and 15.3 miles is Forest Service road passable the year around. Distance to Medford is 35 miles. An access road, 5000 feet long, built by the Forest Service in 1942 connects the workings with the Star Gulch road.

Area: Eleven unpatented lode claims, five of which belong to Murphy, six to Noe.

History: The area has been prospected for gold. The location records show that claims were located and cinnabar was discovered in 1935.

Development: On the Gold Seal claim, one adit trending N. 10° E. has been driven. The portal is 460 feet in elevation above the creek. The main cinnebar development is in a tunnel 600 feet higher than the creek and trends S. 70° E. for a distance of 52 feet. Below the main cinnabar tunnel on the hainbow claim there is a tunnel 200 feet long which trends S. 70° W. and contains a rasise and a northeast crosscut. Here the main drift has been driven on a quartz vein 4 inches wide which dips about 45° southeast. Southeast of this tunnel, a short tunnel has been driven southeasterly which is 500 feet in elevation above the creek. In addition there are several cuts and trenches which expose cinnabar.

Geology: The country rock is metavolcanic with a band of meta-sediments exposed a short distance southeast of the workings. The rock near the surface is weathered and softened but in many places fresh metavolcanic rocks are found immediately below the surface.

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RATTLESNAKE GROUP: Continued

Upper Applegate Area

Geology: In the main cinnabar tunnel, fractures strike S 70° W. and dip 70° SE. Many of these fractures are heavily "painted" with cinnabar. Occasional cinnabar specks may be seen in the rock. Scheelite present was determined by panning and by means of an ultra-violet light. The mineral occurs in a narrow stringer about 1/8 of an inch wide, extending for 15 feet along the northeast ^{SIDE} of the floor of the tunnel.

One specimen showing cinnabar on one set of fractures and scheelite along another intersecting set, indicated the possibility of two periods of metallization.

The amount of scheelite now exposed appears to be too small to be commercial. However, the presence of scheelite at the Mitchell property on the opposite side of Brush Creek about 500 feet east of the Rainbow claim, and also the occurrence of scheelite farther north on Foots Creek, suggests that further prospecting for this mineral is warranted.

The quality of cinnabar ore varies from 2 pounds to 47 pounds of mercury to the ton. The face of the tunnel at 52 feet from the portal shows higher-grade ore than at a point just in front of the face. Considerable native quicksilver occurs in the face also. There is no definite evidence present which might indicate a structural trend for the ore.

Noe's claims show cinnabar in the mantle rock in many of the cuts. Where bedrock is exposed, average samples may run 3 pounds to the ton. Some scheelite occurs in certain cuts. Parts of both Noe's and Murphy's claims have been prospected with a post-hole auger.

Cinnabar occurs on the Mitchell property across Brush Creek (Mock Gulch claim) and this fact, in addition to the occurrences on the Rainbow claim and on Noe's claims, suggest the possibility of a considerable area which contains low-grade cinnabar ore together with some higher-grade ore.

General: The Brush creek area is deeply incised and hillslopes are from 25° to 35°. Manzanita brush is thick; timber is scarce. Water is available during part of the year. Snowfall is light and seldom remains on the ground for more than a few days at a time.

Reference: Wells, 40

Informant: L. W. Staples, November 12, 1942

Report by: R. C. T., May 14, 1942 and November 12, 1942

RATTLESNAKE PROSPECT (8)

UPPER APPLGATE AREA
Jackson County

General

The Rattlesnake prospect is in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 9 and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 8, T. 40 S., R. 4 W., east of Brush Creek, a tributary of Carberry Creek, in the Upper Applegate area of Jackson County. It has been considered principally as a mercury prospect. Cinnabar was discovered here in 1935. In 1942 the property, consisting of 11 unpatented lode claims, was owned by Milton Murphy, Applegate, Oregon, and E. S. Noe, Jacksonville, Oregon, and was under lease to the Horse Heaven Mines, Inc. Present ownership is not known.

Geology

The prospect is in metavolcanic rocks of the Applegate group and the geological relationships are similar to those at the Mocks Gulch prospect to the west across Brush Creek. Probably the nearest granitic intrusive - a small diorite mass - is about 2 miles to the southeast near Steamboat. The large Grayback Mountain granitic stock is about 4 miles west of the prospect.

The main cinnabar tunnel is about 600 feet above Brush Creek and extends into the hill S. 70° E. for a distance of 52 feet. Scheelite occurs here as a narrow stringer about an eighth of an inch wide extending along the northeast side of the tunnel for 15 feet.

From: G.M.I. Short Paper No. 22