

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

## Bear Placers, Inc.

Illinois River area  
Waldo area

Owner: G. C. Foster, & others, Independence Placer, Sehma, Oregon  
(reported sold to "the archbishop")

Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, T. 38S., R. 9W., in Illinois River mining  
a area, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 1, T. 39S. R. 9W., in Waldo Mining  
area, between Fidler's and Days Gulches, on the west  
side of Josephine Creek and 200 feet above the Creek.

Area: Fourteen claims.

History: This is one of the larger "high channel" placers  
along Josephine Creek. The area was hydraulicked ex-  
tensively and merges with the Norton placer to the north. Foster  
reports that there is 1100 feet of bedrock drift.

Geology: The country rock is serpentine and serpentinized peri-  
dotite. It weathers to a buff color and the surface  
has "knots" which are the unaltered pyroxenes. Fresh  
exposures in road cuts show rock that is slick and greenish, locally  
called "serpentite". Bedrock is very uneven and usually is quite  
hard.

Josephine Creek has been placered at the present  
stream level. About 50 feet above the creek level is the remnant  
of an old terrace. Where this terrace has been placered, bed-  
rock shows as a decided bench on both sides of the stream. Jose-  
phine Creek has cut a box-like canyon in this bench. Two hund-  
red feet above the creek is another terrace that is covered with  
an "old gravel deposit". The gravel is well indurated, almost  
to cement gravel. In places it is thoroughly weathered so that the

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

-2-

boulders and cobbles are "rotted". Principal rock is serpentine.

The floor of this upper terrace may descend toward the north, as similar gravel is found overlying the more recent lower terrace at the Independence Placer, at the mouth of Josephine Creek.

The upper terrace certainly appears to be a portion of the old Eocene high channel deposits, similar to those south of Waldo, and described by Shenon (33: Bull. 846-B). It may be the northward extension of the Waldo high channel. No evidence has been found, to date, of a northward extension immediately beyond the mouth of Deer Creek. Similar old, decomposed, indurated, high channel gravel is found at the Big Four placer on Pickett Creek, and at the Old Channel placer near Galice.

The channel at the Bear placer is reported by Foster to be 200 feet wide, 6000 feet long, and averages 100 feet deep. Gold is scattered through the deposit, as well as concentrated on bedrock. Bedrock nuggets may be watermelon seed size and shape. ~~No~~ Josephinite nuggets are not found here, although they are found in the lower terrace and in the present stream gravels.

The lower (50') channel appears to be more recent than the upper (200') channel. The gravel is not as well indurated and gold is more uniformly distributed through it. Bedrock concentration is not as heavy as in the upper channel.

Development: Both terraces have been hydraulicked and bedrock underlying the gravel and on the flanks of the terraces has been deeply cut for tailing races. Boulders up to 15 inches in diameter are common. Some red soil

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

-3-

(characteristic of the high channel deposits) is found. Remnants of extensive ditch and flume lines are present; the water probably came from Fidler's Gulch and from Days Gulch on the west side of Josephine Creek. No estimate was made of the yardage removed but it must have been in the order of millions of yards.

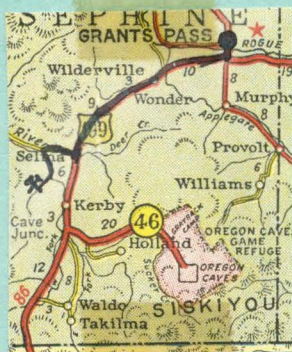
There is no activity at present, except for small scale work and occasional sniping.

References: Shenon U. S. G. S. Bull. 846-B, 1933

O. S. D. G. & M. I., Mines Catalog,

Informants: George C. Foster, 4/3/40

Ray C. Treasher, 10/19/42



RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NO..... M060570  
 RECORD TYPE..... XIM  
 COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS  
 DEPOSIT NO..... DDGMI 100-333  
 MAP CODE NO. OF REC..

REPORTER

NAME..... JOHNSON, MAUREEN G.  
 UPDATED..... 81 05  
 BY..... FERNS, MARK L. (BROOKS, HOWARD C.)

NAME AND LOCATION

DEPOSIT NAME..... BEAR PLACER  
 MINING DISTRICT/AREA/SUBDIST. ILLINDIS RIVER

COUNTRY CODE..... US  
 COUNTRY NAME: UNITED STATES

STATE CODE..... OR  
 STATE NAME: OREGON

COUNTY..... JOSEPHINE  
 DRAINAGE AREA..... 17100311 PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
 PHYSIOGRAPHIC PRDV..... 13 KLAMATH MOUNTAINS  
 LAND CLASSIFICATION..... 41

QUAD SCALE QUAD NO OR NAME  
 1: 62500 CAVE JUNCTION

LATITUDE LONGITUDE  
 42-13-08N 123-42-34W

UTM NDRTHING UTM EASTING UTM ZONE NO  
 4674097.1 441450.2 +10

TWP..... 38S 39S  
 RANGE..... 09W 09W  
 SECTION.. 35 01  
 MERIDIAN. W.M.

POSITION FROM NEAREST PROMINENT LOCALITY: ON JOSEPHINE CREEK BETWEEN DAY'S & FIDLER GULCH

ORE MATERIALS (MINERALS, ROCKS, ETC.):

GOLD, PLATINUM, JOSEPHINITE (NICKEL-IRON), OREGONITE (NICKEL-IRON ARSENIDE)

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

STATUS OF EXPLOR. OR DEV. 8

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

DEPOSIT TYPES:

PLACER

FORM/SHAPE OF DEPOSIT:

SIZE/DIRECTIONAL DATA

SIZE OF DEPOSIT..... SMALL  
MAX LENGTH..... 5000 FT  
MAX WIDTH..... 200 FT  
MAX THICKNESS..... 100 FT

COMMENTS (DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT):

BEDROCK DRIFTING

DESCRIPTION OF WORKINGS

SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND

COMMENTS (DESCRIP. OF WORKINGS):

OVER 1100 FEET OF DRIFTS ON BEDROCK

PRODUCTION

YES

SMALL PRODUCTION

CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION (ORE, COMMO., CONC., OREBUR.)

ITEM	ACC	AMOUNT	THOUS. UNITS	YEAR	GRADE, REMARKS
15 AU	EST	0020.000	OZ	PRE-1940	
23 AU, EST	SOME			PRE 1940	AU

PRODUCTION COMMENTS..... JOSEPHINITE AND OREGONITE RECOVERED FOR MINERAL COLLECTORS

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

AGE OF HOST ROCKS..... QUAT  
HOST ROCK TYPES..... BENCH GRAVEL AND CONGLOMERATE

LOCAL GEOLOGY

COMMENTS (GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY):