

St. of Oregon

Report of Mineral Examination

Job 881

Claimants: Mitchell Salva and Paula Salva
18,248 Caves Highway
Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

Reason for Examination: Administrative problem involving occupancy
of a cabin on a mining claim.

Subject: Validity of a mining claim.

Lands Involved: Crescent Moon, 40-acre placer claim, 3,000
feet by 600 feet along Sucker Creek in
Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, T. 40 S., R. 6 W.,
Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine County,
Oregon.

Land Status: National Forest land open to mineral entry.

Location Data: Crescent Moon placer was located by the above
claimants May 11, 1974 and recordation is in
Book 79, page 911 at the Josephine County Court-
house.

Mining District: Sucker Creek, unorganized.

Mining Engineer: Colver F. Anderson.

Date of Examination: August 25, 1975.

Accompanied by: Mitchell Salva, claimant and Rick Flesher.

Abstract

The Crescent Moon placer claim is about 25 miles from Cave Junction via the Caves Highway and the Sucker Creek road to the upper part of the main drainage at Layman Gulch.

The surrounding hills have good stands of timber.

This area is in the Applegate Formation which is a combination of old volcanic and sedimentary rocks that have been deformed and metamorphosed. Some parts of the formation have been invaded by mineralizing solutions which seldom form valuable deposits. Weathering and erosion have collected some of the minerals - principally gold - in placer deposits which at one time had substantial value.

New claims and old claims in Sucker Creek have to be in gravel which has been thoroughly worked once and probably more times. There is no chance that a valuable discovery can be made.

The clear evidence on the ground is that this claimant does not want to mine but does want a place to live.

A cabin was built too far from the claimed area and is in trespass according to the recorded location document. Action to stop the trespass is not dependent upon the validity of a claim.

The claim itself has no discovery and would be declared null and void after a land hearing.

Location and Topography

This claim is approximately 25 miles from Cave Junction via the Oregon Caves highway and the Sucker Creek road to a point about 1 1/2 miles past Limestone Creek. From this point take the old guard station trail to the mouth of Layman Gulch.

The side hills are steep and Sucker Creek has a moderate gradient.

Surface Values

The principal surface value is for timber. Conifer and hardwood timber are available.

Recreation mining of available gravel interests a few people.

Areal Geology

The subject claim is in a large body of Applegate Formation which is composed of slightly altered volcanic and sedimentary rocks. This formation is noted for areas of small discontinuous quartz veins which sometimes carry gold.

Economic Geology

The Sucker Creek-Althouse drainages accumulated much gold from the weathering of the overlying rocks. Both creeks were heavily mined beginning about 100 years ago. The evidence is plain within the limits of the subject claim that this part of Sucker Creek has been thoroughly mined many years ago (see Picture 3). The pile of rocks is typical of old placer ground and this looks very much like Chinese construction.

This is a very poor part of the creek in which to find a commercial placer deposit.

History and Production

Evidence of mining is very noticeable for the whole length of Sucker Creek. I would suspect that the upper reaches were not as rich as lower parts.

There is no recorded production of the first years of mining on the Althouse-Sucker Creek area. Consensus is that production for these streams may amount to several million dollars.

The gold production drainages were gleaned by Chinese after the main mining era. The ground was again worked in the depression years after the price of gold was raised to \$35 per ounce.

Pertinent Information

The location notice for Crescent Moon claim describes a piece of land 1,500 feet upstream on Sucker Creek beginning at the mouth of Layman Gulch and 1,500 feet downstream from the same point.

The cabin is 450 feet S. 45° W. from the mouth of Layman Gulch. The cabin is not on the claim. No claim monuments were identified by the claimant. Mitchell Salva said the claim went about 300 feet up and 1,200 feet downstream from the mouth of the Layman Gulch. Apparently he couldn't remember how he located the area.

Occupancy

There is an occupancy associated with the Crescent Moon placer claim. The cabin shown in Pictures 7 and 8 is not on the claim according to measurements on the ground and the recorded description. The cabin is an octagonal pole and frame construction with a light weight tarpaper roof.

Discovery

Mr. Salva could not indicate where he had a good placer test last year but did point out a place where he had found some gold. This place is shown in Pictures 1 and 5 and indicated on the sketch by an "x". He also said he had not panned any this year. He was working on a brush cutting crew when we went to the claim. Picture 4 is a view just to the right of the panning place and shows the place where Layman Gulch enters Sucker Creek.

I searched down the creek several hundred feet trying to find a suitable place to sample. The claimant could offer no help so I came back to where he had once panned and took a 1/2 cubic foot sample of finer gravel under a boulder (Picture 1). This gravel was panned to a concentrate containing black sand and two tiny gold colors. The concentrate was sent to Union Assay Office, Salt Lake City for determination of the total gold. The report showed 0.435 milligrams which is equivalent to 23.49 mg. per cubic yard. This amount of gold is valued at 11 cents when the price is \$140 per ounce.

A man in good condition and ideal working conditions can shovel a maximum of 10 cubic yards per day. At this volume and the above value per cubic yard a man would earn \$1.10 per day. This is half the amount of the Federal minimum wage per hour. A further negative factor is that a placer miner normally loses 15 to 35% of the gold in placer ground.

Pictures 1 through 6 show that mining this area of Sucker Creek is anything but ideal. The number and size of boulders are enough to make production of 1 or 2 cubic yards per day per man a full day's work. Picture 6 shows a shallow bar area which has been in place for many years but is just as full of boulders as the main channel.

Conclusions

The cabin, which is the only administrative problem, is not on the placer claim according to the recorded description of the claim. The cabin is in trespass as conditions are now.

3Sucker Creek was first mined as much as 100 years ago. The easiest and best gold was removed first. A period of mining activity occurred after the price of gold was raised in 1933. During the 1930's prices were very low so gravel with low values could be worked. People in those days took pride in staying off welfare rolls and mined places which would sometimes return 35 to 50 cents per day. This would keep a person from starving.

There is no possibility that any significant amount of good gravel remains in the main stream channel. Recreation miners can recover a few colors, yet with much work.

The claim is null and void for lack of a discovery.

Recommendations

The cabin is not on the claim. Trespass action is the proper approach.

Proceedings against the claim are unnecessary.

A validity hearing would be based upon the charges that:

1. The land comprising the claim is no longer mineral in character, and
2. A discovery sufficient to validate the claim has not been demonstrated within the limits as described.

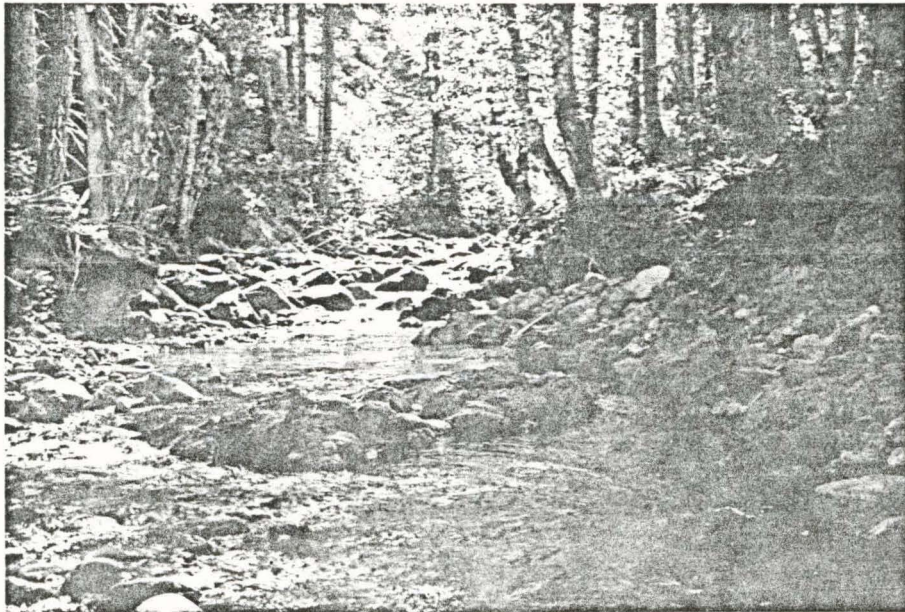
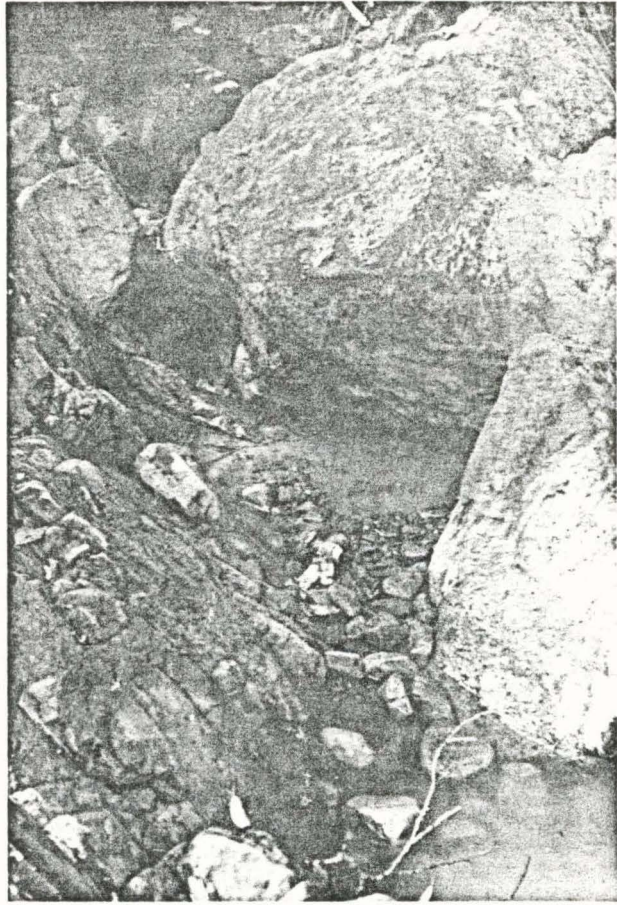
Date Feb. 19, 1976

Colver F. Anderson
COLVER F. ANDERSON, Mining Engineer

Approved.

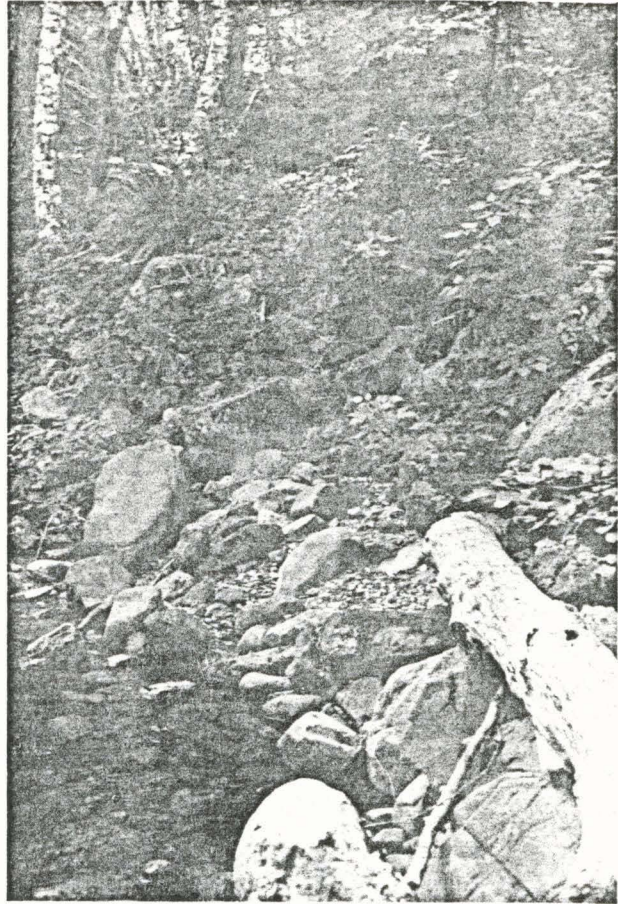
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1. Area where gold has been found.

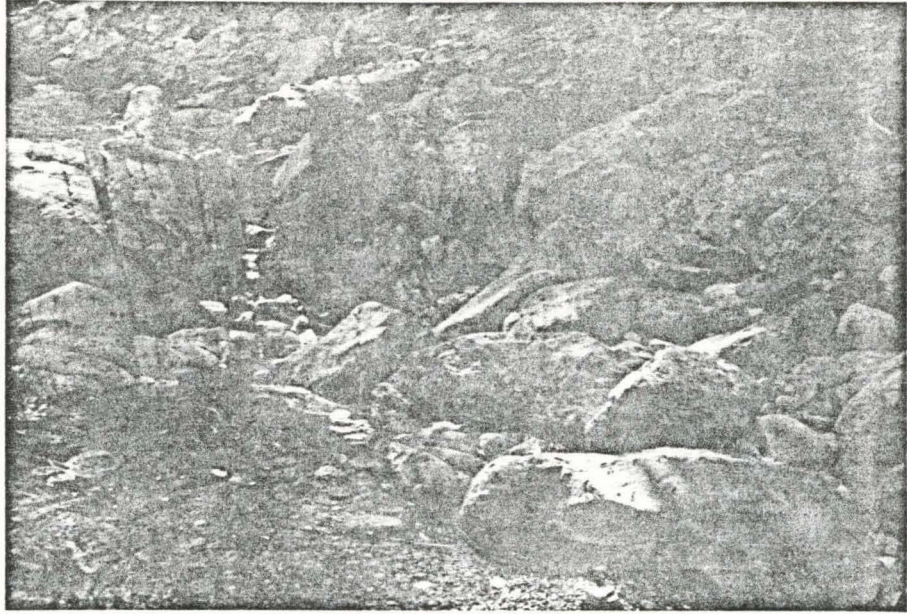


2. Another view of Sucker Creek showing how unsuited it is for mining.

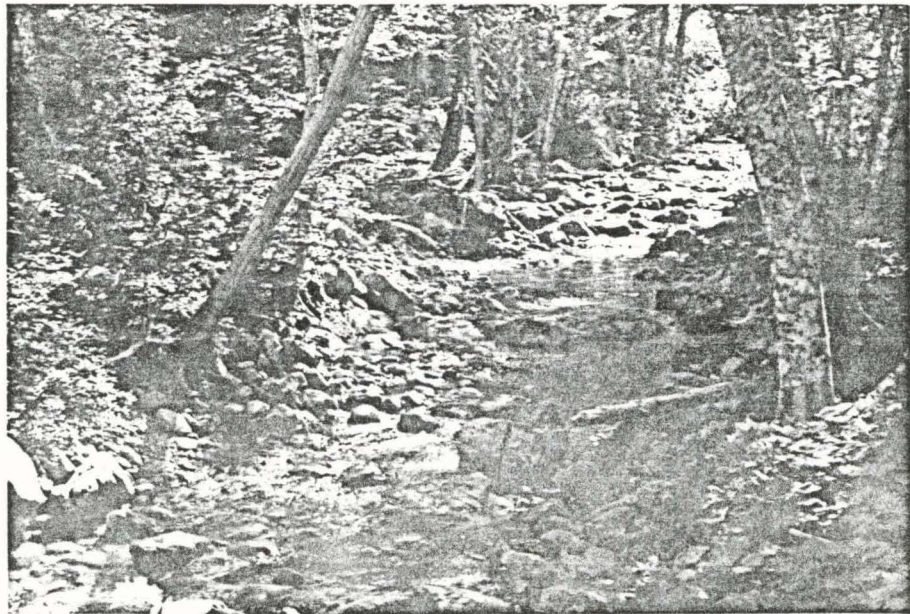
3. Shows part of Sucker Creek
mined out many years ago.



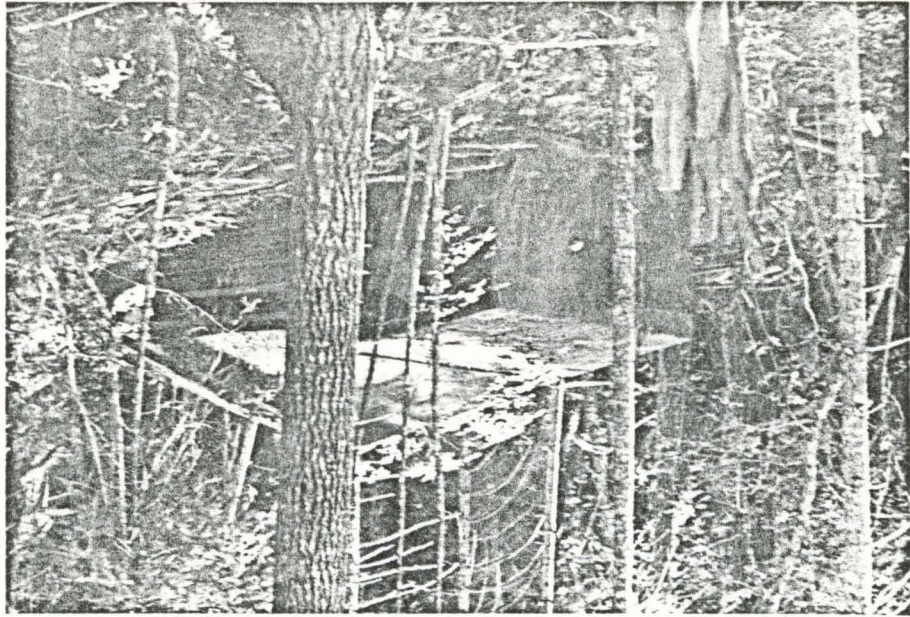
4. This is where Layman Gulch enters Sucker Creek.



5. Another view of place where gold has been found.



6. A shallow bar area full of boulders.



7. Cabin, which according to ground measurements and recorded description, is not on the claim.



8. A closer view of the cabin.