

REPORT OF MINERAL EXAMINATION

Job No. 253

Verified Statement No.
011506-F

Claimants:

Mr. S. J. Cooper
383 W. Madone
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Mr. B. A. Young
1117 S. E. Kane
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Mr. Hurley Wilson
Box 168
Azalea, Oregon 97410

Reason for Examination:

Verified Statement No. 011506-F filed with the Bureau of Land Management March 26, 1962 and Forest Service June 29, 1962. Corrected copy received by BLM August 3, 1962 and Forest Service August 22, 1962.

Subject:

Validity of Mining Claims.

Lands Involved:

5 Lightning Gulch lode claims and Happy Home placer, 120 acres in Secs. 7 and 8, T. 39 S., R. 9 W., Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon.

Land Status:

National Forest land open to mineral entry.

Location Data:

See page 2

Mining District:

Josephine Creek, unorganized

Mining Engineer and
Dates of Examination:

Colver F. Anderson
July 6, Sept. 29, Oct. 11, 12, 13, 1966

Accompanied by:

S. J. Cooper and B. A. Young on July 6, 1966.

Location and Topography

The "Lightning Gulch" claims are 12 miles west of Kerby and a mile east of Canyon Peak. Access is via the Tennessee Pass road, across Josephine Creek and then up Canyon Creek. The road is only for four wheel drive vehicles.

The streams are all deeply incised and have very high gradients.

*Josephine Co
Ill. River Dist*

*Lightning Gulch
Happy Home*

Location Data:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Location Date</u>	<u>Claimant</u>	<u>Recordation Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Lightening Gulch #1	4/20/27	J.A. Winter & B.R. Adams	38	160
Lightening Gulch #2	4/20/27	J.A. Winter & B.R. Adams	28	161
Lightening Gulch #3	5/10/29	B. R. Adams	30	374
Lightening Gulch #4	4/4/32	William Stapp	32	586
Lightening Gulch #5	4/4/32	Wm. Stapp & B.R. Adams	32	587
Happy Home Placer	5/15/30	B. R. Adams	31	381

Quit Claim Deeds

<u>Property</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Happy Home placer	9/18/47	Bert R.Adams Lydia Adams	Geo. B. Peterson	100%	C.13	587
Lightening Gulch #1-5	9/18/47	"	"	100%	C.13	588
Lightening Gulch group	9/19/47	Peterson	Nat. L. Wooley	50%	C.13	585
Happy Home placer	9/19/47	"	"	50%	C.13	589
Lightening Gulch group	5/21/51	Agnes E. Wissing) Helen A. Fowler) Christine Faler) Charles S. Peterson) Mary A. Sloss) Emma W. Hall)	Helen Cole	50%	C.14	261
Lightening Gulch #1-5) Happy Home)	12/9/53	Mrs.Helen C. Cole	Wm.A. & All Maud E.Akers		C.14	519
"	8/9/61	W.A. & Maud Akers	Cochise Mining Company All		C.16	229
"	8/-/61	Nal L. Wooley	Cochise Mining Co. 50% less 10% of the int. until death of Wooley		C.16	230

ABSTRACT

The Lightning Gulch claims are 12 miles west of Kerby at the end of the road up Canyon Creek. From Tennessee Pass the road is for four wheel drive vehicles only.

There is no recreation potential on any of the claim areas. Excellent timber grows on some of the claims. The timber has very low commercial value at present because of the lack of roads.

The geologic setting is good, but mineralizing action has not been strong enough to produce gold deposits with average values high enough for continuous mining. In other words this is pocket country. Weathering of pocket gold has developed rich placers on which mining was started over 100 years ago. The best placer ground has been mined several times.

The present claimants have been unable to show a discovery in place on any of the lode claims. The best parts of gravel deposits on the placer claim have been worked many years ago. The small amount of gold remaining is not sufficient to demonstrate a discovery on the placer claim.

The occupancy is apparently not on any of the claims listed on the verified statement.

Surface Values

There are occasional pockets of fine timber on the east side of Canyon Peak. Some of this timber is on claims Lightning Gulch #1, #3, and #4. The other claims have lower timber values.

None of the claim areas are suitable for recreation.

Areal Geology

The Kerby Quadrangle geologic report shows the general area of the Lightning Gulch group to be Galice formation which is in contact with a major peridotite mass just east of the placer claim of the subject group. A felsitic phase of the Galice formation is the general rock type. Within the claims much of the prospecting area is in dark shales which are sheared in places. Reddish chert beds occur on the east side of the main prospecting area.

Economic Geology

Mineralized shear lines in the sedimentary rocks have developed narrow quartz veins with occasional sulphide and high gold values. These have undoubtedly contributed the gold to associated stream systems. The only veinlets which pay to mine are those in which the high grade gold can be traced on the surface.

History and Production

There are records of claim locations on Lightning Creek and water rights from Canyon Creek above Lightning Creek in 1865 and 1866. The Mineral Resources of Oregon published in 1916 mentions several properties in the vicinity one of which is J. S. Winters' near the mouth of Lightning Gulch. Mr. Winters was one of the two locators of the Lightning Gulch #1 and #2 claims in 1927. The field examination of these properties was made in 1911 by J. S. Diller, USGS Geologist.

None of the claims had an ore body big enough to justify a mill larger than a prospecting size. The value of production was unknown but not large.

The present claimants say that Mr. Adams, Winters' partner, made a few thousand dollars from high grade quartz in one of the small veins. This information is derived from a report on Adams' claims by George C. Hogg, Mining Engineer of Portland (not registered). The amount was reported to Hogg as \$35,000 from less than 100 tons of ore.

Pertinent Information

Cooper and Young have no good knowledge of the location of the individual claims except the beginning corner of Lightning Gulch #1 claim. No corners of the placer claim were identified by the claimants. The suggested south line of the claim does not fit the recorded description

and a well blazed tree does. This tree is used as the northeast corner of the claim as it is shown on the sketches. No other possible monument and no blazed claim lines were found which would suggest that the claim location should be in a different position.

The original location notice by Mr. B. R. Adams in 1930 stated that the claim was in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, but this is completely unreasonable since that area is steep mountainside. No amended notices were filed to correct this statement. The old $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Forest maps may have shown the present claim area as the position of Section 9.

Three groups of claimants have peaceful and friendly possession of supposedly adjoining claims. Ann Benjamine's Cedar Cabin claim was in conflict with the Happy Home placer and the claim was changed and relocated as the Ann and Peggy placer claim on September 29, 1965. The southeast end line of this claim is meant to coincide with the north side of the Happy Home placer. The location notice reads:

. . . stake #1 thence northwest 1,320 ft. to stake #2, thence west 660 ft., thence southeast 1,320 ft., thence north 660 ft. to the point of beginning bounded all on the southeast by the Happy Home placer all located in Section 8, T. 39 S., R. 9 W.

The last call, north 660 feet, is obviously a mistake and should be east in order to close the traverse. An accompanying sketch shows the claim lying along Canyon Creek across its junction with Lightning Gulch.

The claim east of Happy Home is now owned by Roland Tresham and was located by B. R. and Lydia A. Adams. This claim point of beginning is the northwest corner and the west end line is about 50 feet west of the falls on Canyon Creek and 1,000 feet below the mouth of Lightning Gulch.

Since B. R. Adams located the Happy Home placer and then the Nugget Bar placer to the east, the two claims are undoubtedly contiguous. This becomes more evident when the point of beginning of each claim may be the same monument on the ground and an actual monument fits the conditions. Mr. Adams would not have located these claims with open ground between them.

A location of the Happy Home placer in a position which includes the Cooper cabins would not allow Ann Benjamine to claim the junction of Lightning Gulch and Canyon Creek as her diagram on the location notice shows.

The claimants said that they did not know of any significant discovery on the Lightning Gulch #4 and #5 claims.

The claims on the Verified Statement as "Lightning Gulch" are the same as the claims originally located by Mr. Adams as "Lightening." What claim names were in this general area before Mr. Adams' locations was not determined.

Occupancy

There is one very small frame shed on the Lightning Gulch #1 claim near the adits. The new road leaves the structure isolated on a steep bank. The shed probably will not be used again and is not an occupancy.

A small cabin, separate storage room and woodshed are currently used when people are prospecting the area. See picture 4. These buildings are supposedly on the Happy Home placer claim. My location of the claim lines based upon the 1930 location notice shows the cabins to be north of the claim approximately 200 feet. There is also an open shed to keep a cat and jeep in. This is on the claim.

Discovery

The claimants were very enthusiastic about the property the first time I visited the ground in July 1966. They had found a small quartz vein on Lightning Gulch #3 claim which carried free gold. Some specimens of gold quartz in their car were spectacular. Several assay certificates submitted by the claimants show very high values in gold from this vein. The quartz appeared to be identical to that in the vein. Several hours digging on the vein could not produce another piece of "picture rock" or even any quartz specimens which had the ordinary sulphide association of gold bearing ore. An independent mining engineer with the party was very disappointed by the evidence presented.

I returned to the claims in September 1966 for an examination. The attitude of the "high grade" vein is strike S. 72° W. and dip south 65°. The thickness averages 2 inches. Sample A66-26 was obtained by taking the full width of the vein for a length of 8 feet. See picture 1. The quartz characteristics were the same as those of the prize specimens shown by the claimants. The sample was assayed by Black and Deason. The results are no gold or silver. This place is on Lightning Gulch #3 claim as shown on the sketch. This place was visited again October 11, 1966. At that time a 5x6x4 ft. deep hole had been dug on the vein at the site of sample A66-26. The vein was much narrower than it had been above. A thin black seam and minor quartz is all that shows.

The Adams' workings on claim #1 were caved and sloughed so badly that a representative sample could not be obtained. The amount of iron staining and the number of small veins in the vicinity indicate that there may have been some pocket gold found in the past.

The only other area of improvements is on Lightning Gulch #2 as shown on the sketch and pictures 2 and 3. These workings are 3 shafts on a N. 70° W. striking vein which dips 25 N. Two of the shafts are about 40 ft. deep and one 10 ft. The structure is a quartz filling on a fault. Sample A66-27 is quartz and adjoining shear material for a total width of 2 inches. The assay shows an indicated value of 52 cents per ton in gold, no silver.

The claimants stated that they did not know of any significant workings on the other two claims. The mountainside was traversed from the workings of the #2 claim without finding workings on the #5 or north end of the #4 claim. The south end of #4 claim was traversed from the beginning corner of #1 claim. The only significant item is the ruins of what is said to be Mr. Adams' mill. This is beside the creek just east of the west sideline of #4 claim.

Happy Home Placer

This claim is described by legal dimensions but is not actually a legal subdivision. In the absence of a known corner, the description given in the recorded notice of location is the best evidence for locating the claim on the ground. By this means a prominent tree, well blazed, east of the cabin clearing was found. A line west from the tree crossed near the top part of an obviously mined area (foreground of picture 5) and below the cabin clearing shown in picture 4. An old original cabin site west (left of picture 4) of the present cabin was on the claim according to this line.

Mining area within the claim is limited to Canyon Creek channel and gravel beds north of the main creek. This includes much land not within the claim limits as defined in the sketch. Gravel within the claim has been essentially all mined. Picture 5 shows the rock piles which are the customary result of a comprehensive mining operation. The trees shown have grown since the area was mined.

I picked a place on the creek where the claimants said there is gold and where bedrock could be reached. A half yard of rock and gravel were put through a sluice. Over half of the material was boulders. The concentrate contained hematite iron, black sand, pieces of spark plug, nails, rake tooth, mercury and gold. The gold was fairly fine lode gold which rapidly became amalgamated by the mercury. The concentrate was sent to Black and Deason for determination of the gold content. Sample A66-28 has 18.5 milligrams of gold which is equivalent to 4 cents per cubic yard.

Conclusions

The Lightning Gulch lode claims are in a favorable geologic environment, but no substantial gold deposits can be recognized. The veins worked by Mr. Adams may show more perseverance if the caved material was removed. Gold content seems to be very spotty from the work done thus far. None of the improvements available had significant amount of gold or was not open for sampling.

The Happy Home placer claim is on creeks which have been worked since the 1860's and probably have been worked more than once. Other placer areas with original high values have been worked several times in the same period of time. The sample from this claim was very low in gold and the concentrate had heavy items of metal which must have been contributed by man.

None of these six claims has been shown to have had a discovery on July 23, 1955 or at the time of the examination.

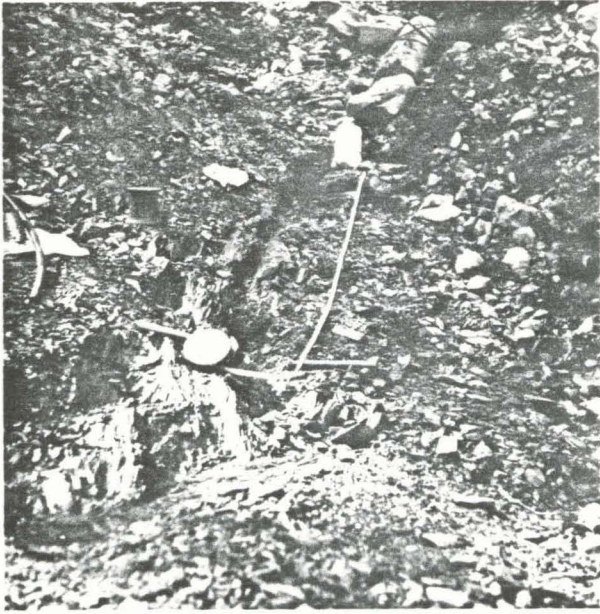
Recommendations:

In the absence of any occupancy problems or a high public use for the claim area it is recommended that proceeding in accordance with PL 84-167 be initiated to resolve the surface rights on the subject claims.

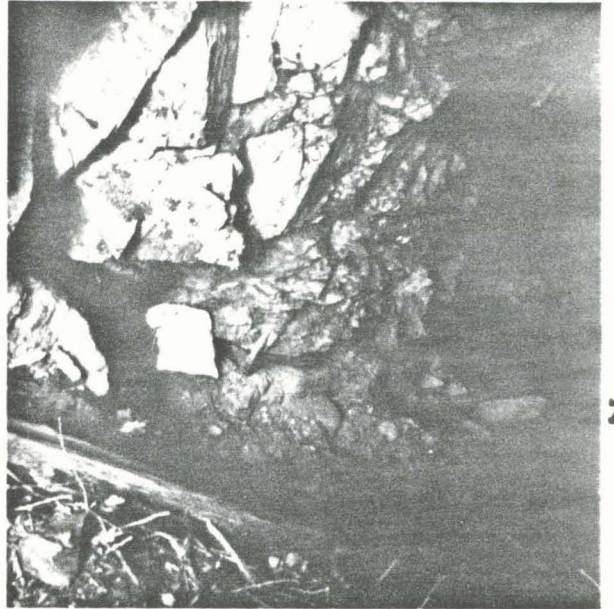
Date 1/6/69 Colver F. Anderson
COLVER F. ANDERSON, Mining Engineer

APPROVED:

Date 11/5/69 William M. Smith
Acting Assistant Regional Forester

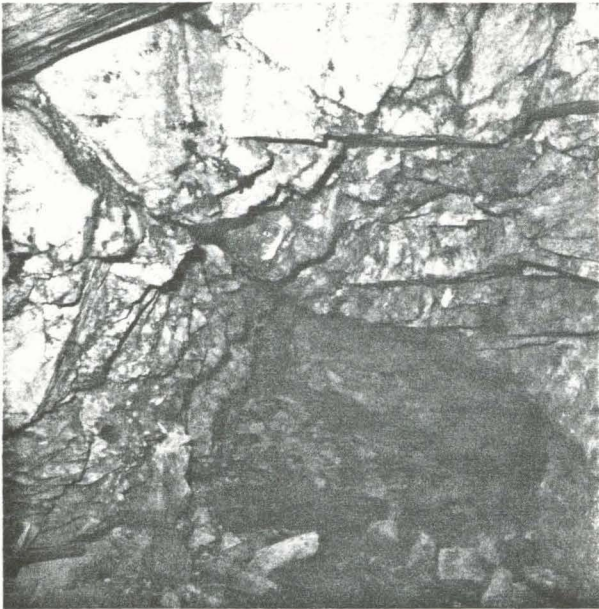


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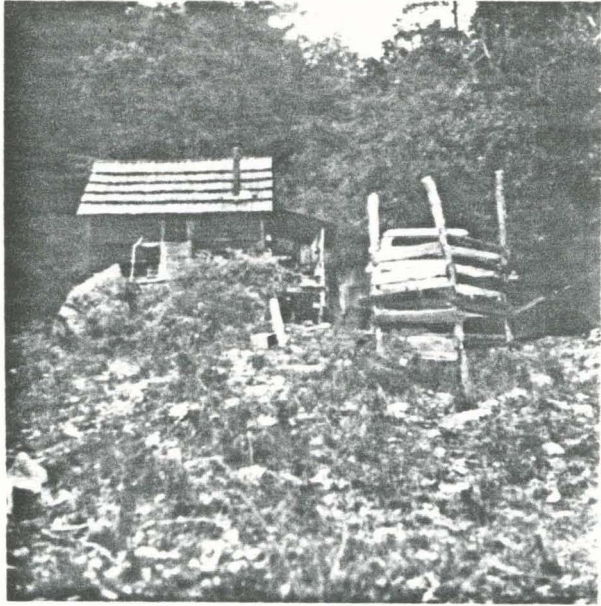
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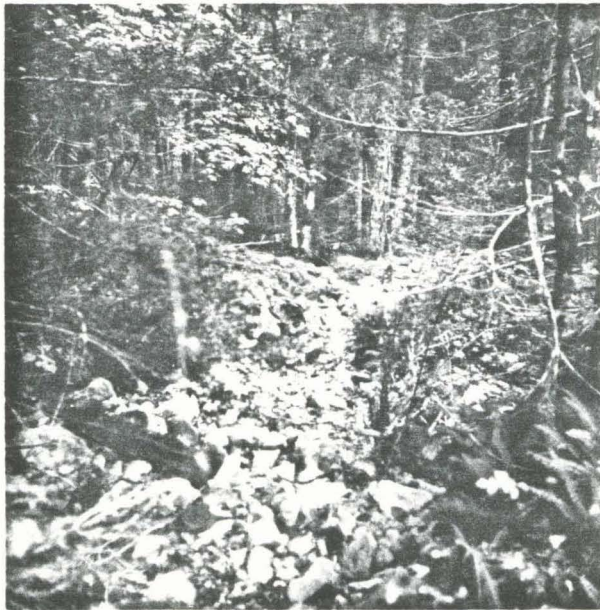
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