

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

MOCKING BIRD MINE (chromite)

Josephine County
Illinois River Dist.

Lessees: Erwin Cox
G. E. Smith

Owner: Arthur R. Strickland Grants Pass

Location: The mine is located on the E. bank of the Illinois River in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 29, T. 37 S., R. 9 W. A road to the left near the 13 Mi. post on the Illinois River road, and to the left again at Foster's Chromite Mill leads to the mine, which is 0.6 mile from the main road.

Area: Two claims - the Mocking Bird, lower, and the Spare Time, upper.

History: Since its discovery in June 1951 the Mocking Bird Mine has produced about 100 tons of ore averaging about 46% Cr₂O₃ with 2.6 to 1 Cr-Fe ratio.

Development Work: The workings consist of a cut bench approximately 80 feet above the river, which is about 20 to 60 feet wide and 200 feet long, and two tunnels about 80 feet apart near the south end of the cut. The northern tunnel goes straight in for about 30 feet and the other goes down approximately 50 feet on an incline and has nearly 50 feet of drift to the south.

Geology: The country rock is a blocky serpentine, originally a medium-grained peridotite, which has a brown weathered surface and is dark gray to black on a freshly broken surface. The ore is a massive, lustrous, highly-fractured coarse-grained chromite occurring in narrow, somewhat tabular, offset, stringers that trend about N. 15° E. with 45° dip E. There are apparently two parallel stringers or zones of chromite; the main being the lower which was exposed in several places over a total distance of about 500 feet. The upper ore stringer, apparently smaller, contains some disseminated ore also. It was traced around the hillside

for 70 feet. The maximum mined width of the main chromite stringer was 3 feet. It characteristically pinches and swells and has been offset by small transverse faults. Secondary minerals associated with the chromite include talc, chlorite (?), and minor kammererite and calcite along with the usual serpentine minerals. Some disseminated chromite in a light green dunite is found in places along the lower side of the chromite stringer, where it more-or-less blends into the rock. The upper edge had a sheared contact in most places. The main, i.e., lower or western-most stringer of chromite, if continuous would probably cut across the river both above and below the mine. Considering this, it lines up pretty well with the Good Friday prospect near the mouth of Dailey Creek and the Lucky Pat prospect on the point across the river to the north. The upper occurrence lines up very nicely with the main stringer at the Deep Gorge Mine which is about 750 feet south of the Mocking Bird. These statements are not to infer that the ore occurs in continuous tabular or stratiform bodies as it does in the Stillwater complex of Montana, but merely that it tends to re-occur as stringers and lenses along the strike as either massive or disseminated and schlieren banded varieties.

Report by: L. R. 1-18-55

Informant: Art Strickland.

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RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NO..... M061602
RECORD TYPE..... X1M
COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS
DEPOSIT NO..... DDGMI 100-272
MAP CODE NO. OF REC..

REPORTER

UPDATED..... 81 03
BY..... FERNS, MARK L. (BROOKS, HOWARD C.)

NAME AND LOCATION

DEPOSIT NAME..... MOCKINGBIRD

MINING DISTRICT/AREA/SUBDIST. CENTRAL ILLINDIS RIVER

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

STATE CODE..... OR
STATE NAME: DREGON

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

QUAD SCALE QUAD NO OR NAME
1: 62500 PEARSOLL PEAK

LATITUDE LONGITUDE
42-19-02N 123-46-56W

UTM NORTHING UTM EASTING UTM ZONE NO
4685075. 435550. +10

TWP..... 037S
RANGE..... 009W
SECTION.. 29
MERIDIAN. W.M.

ALTITUDE.. 1200

COMMODITY INFORMATION

COMMODITIES PRESENT..... CR

PRODUCER(PAST OR PRESENT):

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
STATUS OF EXPLOR. OR DEV. 4
YEAR OF DISCOVERY..... 1951

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

DEPOSIT TYPES:

MASSIVE CHROMITE; DISSEMINATED
FORM/SHAPE OF DEPOSIT: NARROW, TABULAR BANDS

SIZE/DIRECTIONAL DATA

SIZE OF DEPOSIT..... SMALL
MAX LENGTH..... 70 FT
MAX WIDTH..... 3 FT
STRIKE OF OREBODY..... N 15 E
DIP OF OREBODY..... 45 E

COMMENTS(DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT):

2 PARALLEL LAYERS OF CHROMITE ABOUT 200 FT. APART.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKINGS

SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND

PRODUCTION

YES
SMALL PRODUCTION

ANNUAL PRODUCTION (ORE, COMMOD., CONC., OVERBURD.)

ITEM	ACC	AMOUNT	THOUS. UNITS	YEAR	GRADE, REMARKS
1 ORE EST		0000.008	TONS	1951	48. % CR2O3
2 ORE EST		0000.060	TONS	1952	42. % CR2O3
3 ORE EST		0000.032	TONS	1953	46. % CR2O3
4 ORE EST		0000.012	TONS	1954	43. % CR2O3
5 ORE EST		0000.011	TONS	1955	44. % CR2O3
6 ORE EST		0000.010	TONS	1957	49. % CR2O3
21 TOTAL		.133	TONS		46.32 % CR2O3 (WEIGHTED AVERAGE GRADE)

PRODUCTION COMMENTS..... 2.6 TO 1 CHROME: IRON RATIO