

CABIN PLACER
YOUNG "

2810
Mining Claims
Foster, Ernest A.

MINING CLAIM OCCUPANCY REPORT

A. Summary of Case:

On April 14, 1953, Ernest Foster purchased the Young Mining Claim. On July 6, 1964, Mr. Foster ammended the location of the Young Claim and also located the Cabin Placer Claim.

There are three small cabins and a chrome mill on the claims. One of the cabins appears to be used as a full time residence.

The value of the improvements is estimated to be less than \$2,000.00.

B. Claimant Identity:

Ernest A. Foster
144 S. W. K St.
Grants Pass, Oregon

C. Reason for Examination:

Determination of occupancy and use of a mining claim.

D. Claim Examiner:

David C. Chamberlin, Forester
U. S. Forest Service
Cave Junction, Oregon

E. Date of Examination:

March 11, 1965
April 10, 1969

JOSEPHINE CO
ILL. RIV. DIST
YOUNG MINING
CABIN PLACER

F. Lands Involved:

The two claims are approximately 40 acres in size. The Young Claim was first located on January 12, 1945. In the Quitclaim Deed from Chester Zachary to Ernest Foster (Bk. 14, P. 467), the claim is described as being in the southwest quarter of section 29, T.37S., R.9W., W.M.. On July 6, 1964, Ernest Foster filed an ammended location notice for the Young Claim. The ammended notice places the claim in the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 29, T.37S., R.9W., W.M.. This is a major change in description and could be construed as a new filing of location notice.

The location notice of the Cabin Claim was filed on July 6, 1964. The description of the claim is the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 29, T.37S., R.9W., W.M.. This adjoins the Young Claim on the east.

The cabins are on both claims. The claims are in the Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon.

G. General Information:

Mr. Foster's cabins are reached by driving west from Selma, Oregon on the Illinois River Road #3504.2 for 12.2 miles and then turning to the left on a side road for 0.5 miles. The roads are all-weather roads.

The claims are in the general power withdrawal area #123 of January 7, 1926.

The Young Claim was first located during the time of the power withdrawal. The ammended location of the Young Claim and the original location of the Cabin Claim were both filed after the Restoration Act of August 11, 1955.

The claims are in the Illinois "B" area for surface rights determination. No verified statements were filed for these claims.

The cabins lie within the area that would be under the control of the Wild Rivers Bill.

Mr. Foster owned the Grants Pass Iron Works and was a chrome miner. He is now retired and plans to live on his claims full time and mine for gold.

H. Description of Mine and Mining Activity:

The buildings were constructed as part of a chrome concentrating plant. Much of the machinery is still in the mill although Mr. Foster is trying to remove it.

There are three small cabins on the claims. Each is about 12 ft. by 24 ft. Mr. Foster lives in one cabin, one cabin is used as a storage shed, and the tird cabin is empty.

There is a cable across the river near the cabins. Mr. Foster has built a good cable car and has boats and pumps for dredging. All equipment is well built.

At the present time Mr. Foster is digging in a gravel bar on the east side of the river. When the river goes down he wants to go to the west side of the river to mine.

No claim corners were found.

I. Land and Its Potential:

The claims lie in an area with public recreation as the key value according to the Illinois Valley Ranger District Multiple Use Plan. There is a grassy flat by the cabins that is suitable for a small picnic area or campground, but access is poor. There are no plans for any development in the foreseeable future.

J. Timber and Value:

There is approximately 200 M. bd. ft. of Douglas-fir timber on the claims, but because of inaccessibility it would have a negative value.

K. Conclusions:

The Cabin Claim was located after the Restoration Act of 8-11-55.

The Young Claim may have an effective location date subsequent to the Restoration Act of 8-11-55.

Mr. Foster will live on the claims full time while mining on a small scale.

Prepared by David C. Chamberlin
Date 5-16-69

APPENDIX

1. Map of area 2" = 1 mi.
2. Record of claims & transfer of claims.
3. Copies of legal documents.
4. Photographs of improvements.

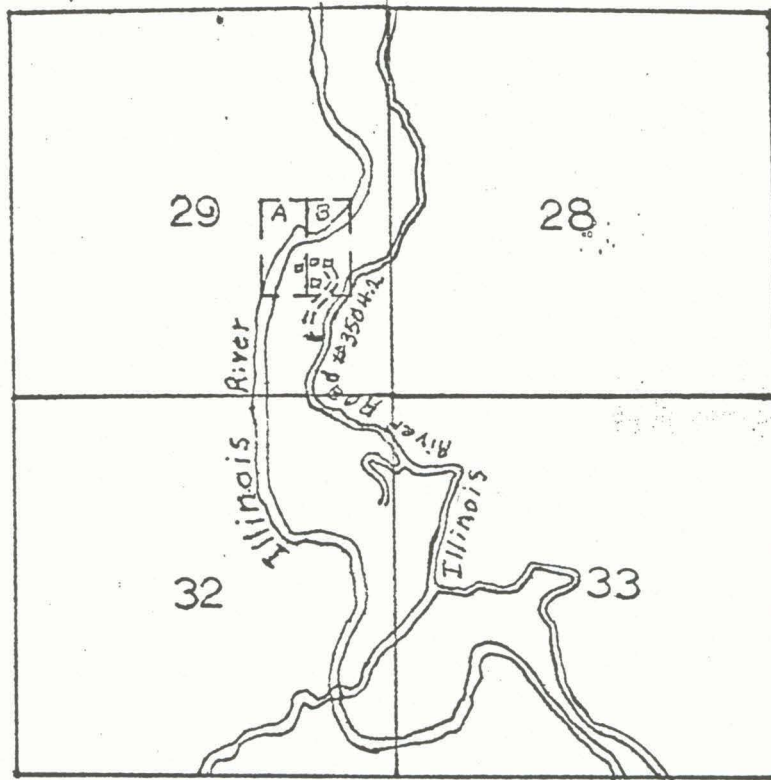
E. Foster's Claims

Siskiyou National Forest

Illinois Valley Ranger District

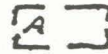
Scale: 2" = 1 mi. D.C. 5/1/69

T.37S. R.9 W.

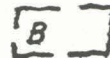


LEGEND

Young Claim



Cabin Claim



Cabins



NOTICE OF LOCATION OF PLACER CLAIM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, having complied with the requirements of Chapter VI of Title 32 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and the local customs, laws and regulations, did on the 12th day of January 1945 locate 20 acres of placer mining ground, situate in the Illinois Mining District, Josephine County, Oregon, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

The original Young Claim located by John Brazil across the Illinois River East of Laurel Springs and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of the Sherman Claim and being 1500 feet South from McGuire Gulch; Beginning with stake #1 and from there going in a Northerly direction 1500 feet to Stake #2, thence 600 feet in an Easterly direction to Stake #3, thence 1500 feet Southerly to Stake #4, thence 600 feet Westerly to stake #1 or point of beginning.

I intend to hold and work said above described claim as provided by the local laws and regulations, and the customs and rules of miners and mining statutes, and laws of the United States.

Discovered Jan. 12, 1945

Located Jan. 12, 1945

Witnesses

Chester M Zachary

Locator.

#39538

Filed and Recorded January 12, 1945, at 9:58 A.M.

DIRECT
INDEXED

COUNTY CLERK

6257

VOL 70 PAGE 446

AMENDED LOCATION.

Notice of Location of Placer Claim

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, _____ is the owner, and has owned a placer claim on the _____ Illinois River, twelve and one half miles from Selma, Ore. known as _____ The Young Placer Claim. The purpose of filing this location notice is to amend the location to conform to surveys of legal subdivisions, did, on the _____ day of _____ 19____, locate a Placer Claim of _____ after, INDEED IN THE COUNTY _____ of _____ and more particularly described as follows: _____

A record of The Young Claim can be found in Book 467, Page 14. It has been described by metes and bounds located in the south west quarter of Sec. 29, township 37 S. range 9 W., Josephine County, Oregon. This filing is an AMENDED LOCATION, a description follows; E. 1/2 of the N. W. 1/4 of the S. E. 1/4, Sec. 29, Township 37 S., Range 9 W.

This twenty acres of placer ground is in the Illinois River Mining District.

AMENDED LOCATION NOTICE.

and that I intend to hold and work said above described claim as provided by the local laws and regulations, and the customs and rules of miners and mining statutes and laws of the United States.

Dated at Grants Pass, Ore. this 6th day of July, A. D. 1964
Ernest A. Seiler (SEAL) _____ (SEAL)
 _____ (SEAL) _____ (SEAL)
 _____ (SEAL) _____ (SEAL)
 _____ (SEAL) _____ (SEAL)

*If located on surveyed lands description must conform to legal subdivisions - otherwise described fully so that claim can be identified

STATE OF _____)
County of _____)

I, _____ do solemnly swear that I am a citizen of the United States of America (or have declared my intention to become such), and that I am acquainted with the mining ground described in this notice of location, and herewith called the _____ ledge, lode or claim; that the ground and claim therein described, or any part thereof, has not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, been located according to the laws of the United States, and of this State, or if so located, that the same has been abandoned and forfeited by reason of the failure of such former locators to comply in respect thereto with the requirements of said laws and (in the case of quartz claims) that I have sunk a discovery shaft upon said claim to a depth of ten feet from the lowest part of the rim of said shaft at the surface—made a cut or cross cut or tunnel which cuts the lode at a depth of ten feet—made a cut six feet deep, four feet wide and ten feet in length along the lode, from the point of open discovery, showing a lode or vein of mineral deposit in place.

Emmanuel A. Foster

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19____

Notice of Location of Placer Claim

STATE _____
County _____

I certify _____
day of _____

Recorded & Indexed _____
COUNTY CLERK _____
RESERVING QUALITY THEREON



By _____
A. DOWLEY BARRETT, Co. Clerk
of _____
No. 12, 1250

*Trans. to Foster A. Foster
144 W. 1st St.
D. Green*

Notice of Location of Placer Claim

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years,

Emmett A. Foster

did, on the 6th, day of July, 1964, locate a Placer Claim of 20 acres, situate in the County Josephine, of the state of Oregon, and more particularly described as follows: This Placer Claim joins the claim

formerly known as the Young Placer Claim; an AMENDED location has been filed on the above mentioned Young Placer Claim so the lines will conform to the lines of legal sub-divisions. In making this new filing, the owner has lost some of the placer ground taken in, in the old lines of the Young Claim. It is the purpose in filing on this new claim, to regain ground lost by changing lines of the Young Claim to conform to legal sub-divisions instead of metes and bounds description.

THIS CLAIM IS TO BE KNOWN AS THE CABIN CLAIM. IT CONTAINS Twenty Acres. It is located in the Illinois River Mining District, S. W. Quarter, Sec. 29, Township 37 S. Range 9 W. W. 1/2 of the N.E. 1/4 of the S. E. 1/4.

and that I intend to hold and work said above described claim as provided by the local laws and regulations, and the customs and rules of miners and mining statutes and laws of the United States.

Dated at Grants Pass, Ore this 6th day of July, A. D. 1964
Emmett A. Foster (SEAL) _____ (SEAL)

*If located on surveyed lands description must conform to land subdivisions—otherwise described fully so that there can be no doubt.

MAR 1965

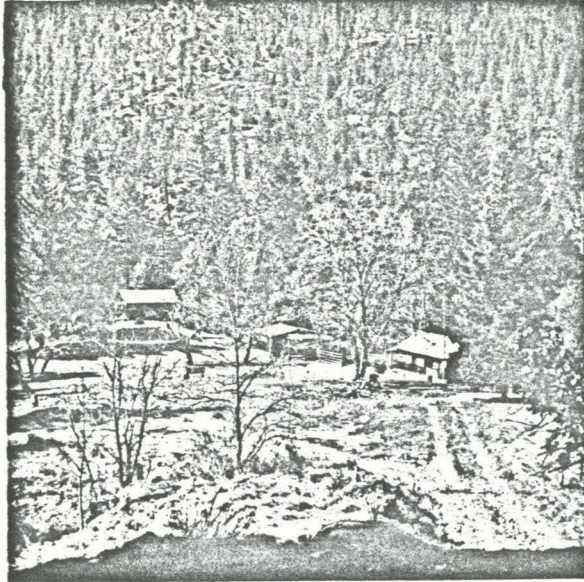


Photo #1. General view of area looking west from near chrome mill.

MAR 1965

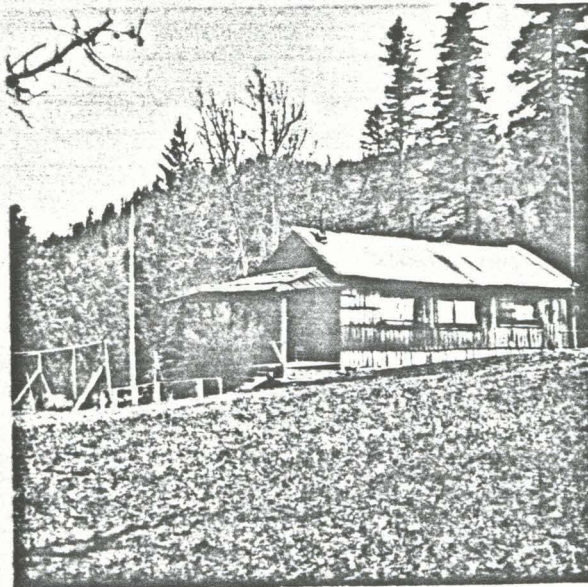


Photo #2. Main cabin looking northwest.

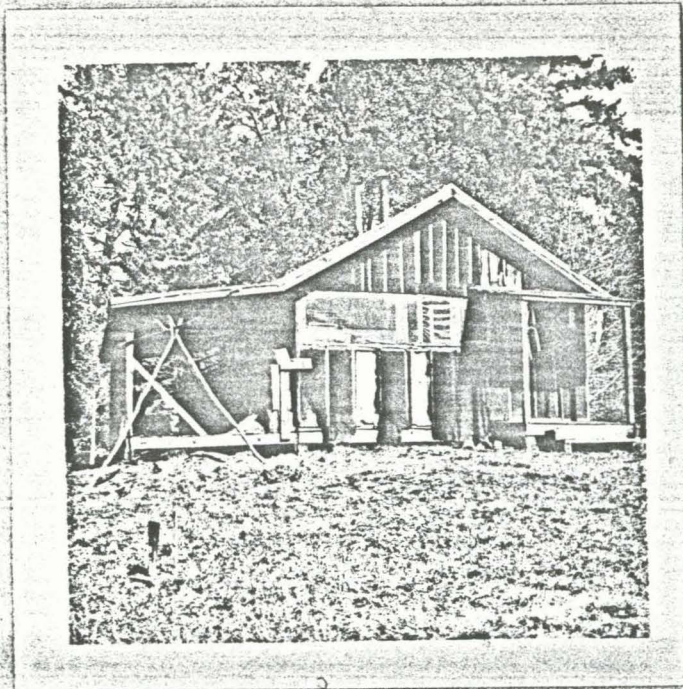


Photo #3. Vacant cabin looking west.

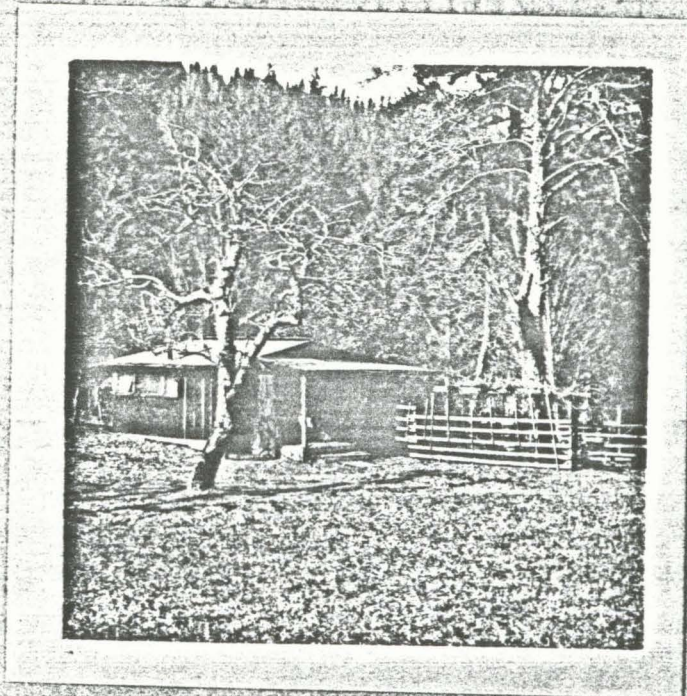


Photo #4. Storage cabin looking southwest.

MAR 1965

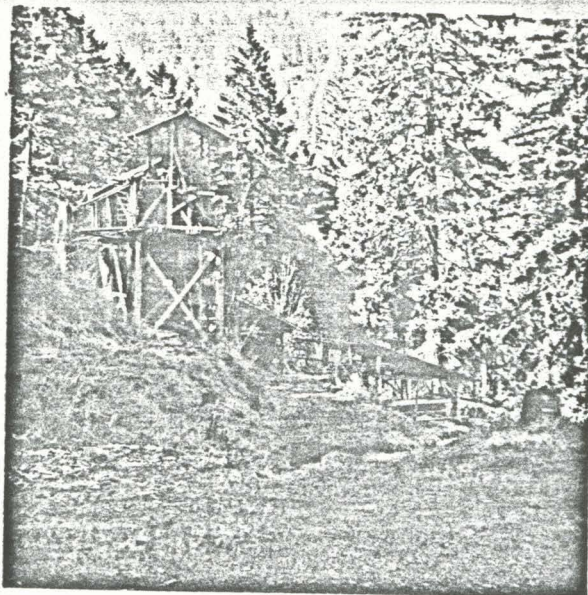


Photo #5. Chrome mill looking south.

MAR 1965

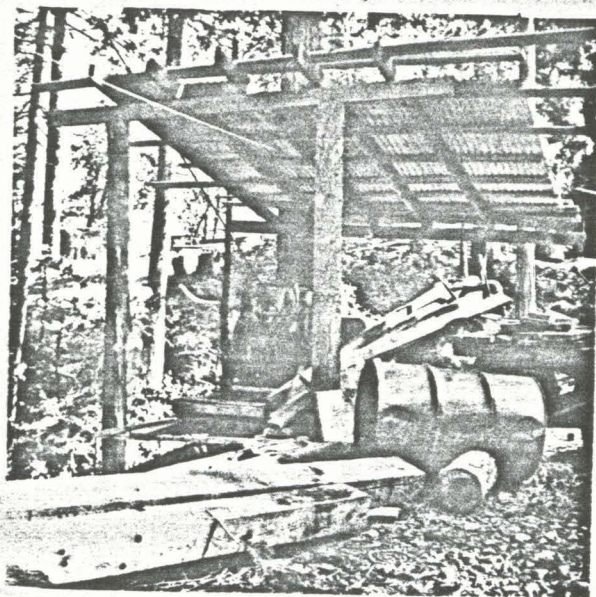


Photo #6. Winch for use with cable car.

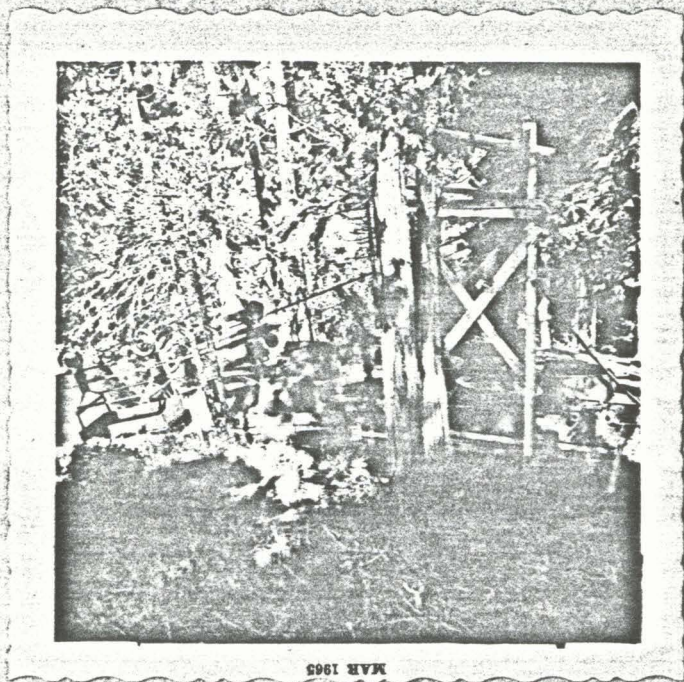


Photo #7. Cable car & float for use with suction dredge.

REPORT OF MINERAL EXAMINATION

Job No. 360-F

Claimant: Ernest A. Foster
144 S.W. "K" Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Grantees: Roy Keene
P. O. Box 342
Selma, Oregon 97538

Robert Litle
P. O. Box 342
Selma, Oregon 97538

Reason for Examination: Administrative problem involving three
cabins on two mining claims.

Subject: Validity of mining claims.

Lands Involved: The Young placer claim aka the Young claim
amended is in the E 1/2 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 and
the Cabin claim is in the W 1/2 NE 1/4 SE 1/4
Section 29, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., W.M., Siskiyou
National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon.

Land Status: Powersite land restored to entry in 1955 by
P.L. 84-359.

Location Data: See page 2.

Mining District: Illinois River, unorganized.

**Mining Engineer and
Dates of Examination:** Colver F. Anderson
August 25, 1970, May 20 and September 23, 1971.

Accompanied by: Ted Lewis, Resource Assistant, Illinois Valley
R.D., May 20, 1971.

Roy Keene, August 25, 1970, and September 23,
1971.

LOCATION DATA

<u>Claim Name</u>	<u>Claimant</u>	<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Book/Page</u>	<u>Description</u>
Young	Chester M. Zachary	Location	1/12/45	43/56	1500 ft. S. of McGuire Gulch
Young to Ernest A. Foster		QCD	4/14/53	14/467	In SW 1/4 Section 29, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., W.M.
Young	Ernest A. Foster	Amend. Loc.	7/06/64	70/446	E 1/2 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 29, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., W.M.
Cabin	Ernest A. Foster	Location	7/06/64	70/448	W 1/2 NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 29, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., W.M.

ABSTRACT

The Foster placer claims are reached from a side road off the Illinois River Road about half a mile downriver from the 12-mile post. This is the distance from Selma on the Redwood Highway.

Three cabins are located on two claims which are on a small piece of level ground well supplied with water.

The canyon walls are very steep from the main road to the river. Landslides are a common occurrence in and near the claims. Some larger slides are apparently nearly stable; smaller slides are quite active.

Major mining effort along this portion of the river took place 100 years ago. All gravel bars worth working were mined. The best of these were at the mouths of main tributaries.

Mr. Keene and Mr. Litle, who are purchasing the claims, are not serious miners. No evidence of mining work could be found until after Government employees had made several visits to the claims.

Mining is impractical on the Young claim because of the many large boulders, and practically no mining has been tried on the big bar on the Cabin claim.

These claims should be taken to a hearing based upon the charges that the claimants are in trespass because they are not bona fide miners and that a discovery cannot be demonstrated within the limits of the claims.

Location and Topography

The Ernest Foster placer claims are almost 13 miles down the Illinois River Road from Selma. A steep side road about half a mile past the 12-mile post leads toward the river and the cabins on the claims.

A grassy bench exists between the road and the river. The remaining hillside is very steep to precipitous.

Surface Values

The terrain is too steep for profitable logging. The entire area of the claims is within the withdrawal for the scenic river study. The claims are so located that the scenic values will be spoiled if any of the vegetative resources are cut or disturbed on the claims.

Areal Geology

The general country rock along both sides of the Illinois River in this area is serpentine. Over-steepened hillsides in this rock will not stand indefinitely. The result is landslides which are shown in Picture 5 and in Picture 4. There is an active slide in the timber shown in Picture 5. The large slide does not appear to be active. The cabin area shown in Pictures 1, 2, and 3 is the flat-top part of a slide.

Economic Geology

Placer gravels along the Illinois River were mined extensively many years ago. The most active period was before 1900. The main river is not known to have had commercial gravel except downstream from rich tributary streams. The richest tributary was Josephine Creek several miles upstream from the subject claims.

The part of the claims on the river is not a good site for heavy mineral concentration. The Young claim is on a straight stretch of the river, which is not usually the place to look for placer gold. The river bottom in this claim is not bare bedrock as in other stretches but is covered partly by large boulders, such as can be seen in the upstream view in Picture 4. During periods of flood this river has high water volume and velocity. At such times the increased carrying power is sufficient to move even these boulders. Finer gravel can collect around the boulders and hold some heavy minerals for a time.

Picture 5 is a view downstream across the one bar area now on the Cabin claim. When first mined, this bar may have contained valuable amounts of gold. The curve of the river is favorable.

Landslides are a major source of dilution of placer gravel in this stretch of the river. The large slide shown in Picture 5 is below the claims. Slides on and upriver from the Foster claims supply detritus faster than the river can move it. High-water periods on the Illinois River are frequent enough to carry the clay and fine sand away, but the

boulders accumulate until times of major flooding. A period of flooding usually is accompanied by heavy rains, and the slides move again bringing more soil and rock to the river. Some of the slides were probably caused by early mining along streams.

History and Production

Early centers of placer activity on the Illinois River were the mouths of Six Mile, Hoover Gulch, Rancherie, and Briggs Creek - Oak Flat. Stretches of river between these tributaries do not rate special mention.

Production from particular areas is unknown. Placer production from Josephine County from 1852 - 1902 is recorded as over \$6,000,000. The early records are incomplete. The record since 1902 to 1966 is over \$4,000,000. The most active period was several years during the depressions from 1934 to 1941. Production of placer gold since 1944 for the entire county is not enough to justify the time and effort even if all of the gold had come from one mine.

A significant amount of gold has not been shown to have been produced from the subject claims since Mr. Foster bought the Young claim.

Pertinent Information

Mr. Foster bought the Young claim in 1953 when the Government chrome program was very active. He proceeded to plan to mill chromite from across the river. An aerial tram across the river brought the ore across for transport to a mill built on another part of the claim. This should have been accomplished with a millsite instead of a claim.

Roy Keene and Robert Litle stated that they are buying the claims from Ernest Foster, but no recordation of such a deed can be found in the Josephine County records.

Several additional claims have been located adjoining the original two, but these are subject to the Scenic Rivers Act, approved October 2, 1968.

Occupancy

Pictures 1, 2, and 3 show each of the cabins on the flat which now involves the Young and Cabin placer claims. Within the past 2 years No. 2 cabin has been occupied some of the time and Nos. 1 and 3 have been occupied all of the time.

The cabins are headquarters for exploring a wide-ranging area rather than serious mining on the claims.

Discovery

The grantees have done some token recreation mining with scuba equipment. There was no direct evidence of this type of mining until after I had

visited the claims a couple of times. The equipment used is a floating dredge consisting of an engine, pump, and short sluicebox. The suction end is worked by a man in scuba equipment under the water.

This type of mining is a form of recreation. At best, the system might be used for testing preparatory to a volume mining system. This ground is dangerous and difficult to work because of the many and large boulders. The recoverable values in this gravel will need to be several dollars per yard to justify the expense of mining.

In 1970 a pipe had been installed from a higher elevation to the big bar on the Cabin claim. The pipe began as a 2-inch size and dropped to three-fourths of an inch before reaching the bar. A gauge at the bottom showed over 100 pounds of pressure. Mr. Keene believed that this pressure would solve any problem of mining the gravel. The amount of water available from a 3/4-inch pipe would not move many of the boulders present, and it would not provide the volume of water necessary to operate a practical sluicebox. The next time I visited the claim, winter high water had wrecked the river-level pipe system.

When I visited the claims in September 1971, Mr. Keene was finally able to show me an area where mining work had been done. This is the set-up on the Young claim where the huge boulders cover a thin gravel layer. The equipment is that used for recreation mining and is the only way the gravel can be worked. The amount of big boulders would limit production to about 1 cubic yard per day. With scuba equipment an extra man should be present for safety reasons. One man needs to be watching the pump and sluice operation. Wages for two men show that gold-bearing gravel would have to contain many dollars per cubic yard to cover the costs of operation. The very minimum expenses would be about \$20 per day.

The amount of gold shown me by the claimants is a few dollars worth in a small bottle. I believe most of what I saw was the personal collection belonging to a Mr. Freeman who occupied one of the cabins.

Conclusions

The owner, Ernest Foster, apparently acquired the original Young claim for the purpose of concentrating chromite, which was mined across the river. There is no evidence of placer mining, although placer equipment was found near the head of the tramway over the river. The chromite operation should have been on a millsite instead of a claim location.

The people who are supposedly buying the claims had not been mining the first two times I visited. Mr. Keene spends much time in areas away from the claims in preparation for writing about his findings. I have no idea how much time Mr. Little and his family spend at the claims. He was there only once when I was. He supposedly is acquiring a two-thirds interest and Keene a one-third interest.

These people only want a place to live while carrying on other activity. They do not have a primary interest in mining within the subject claims.

The major amount of better gravel in the Illinois River channel was mined long ago. Many thousands of years passed before placer gravels become enriched to the point that they were when man mined them. A comparable period of time must pass before placer ground can be renewed.

No discovery has been demonstrated within the limits of the Young or Cabin claims. Any discovery which may have existed was mined out about 100 years ago.

The claimants are not bona fide miners. A discovery does not exist within the claims.

Recommendation

If the complicated occupancies cannot be resolved otherwise, I suggest that these claims be taken to a hearing to determine their validity, and (or) that the claims are not being occupied for mining purposes.

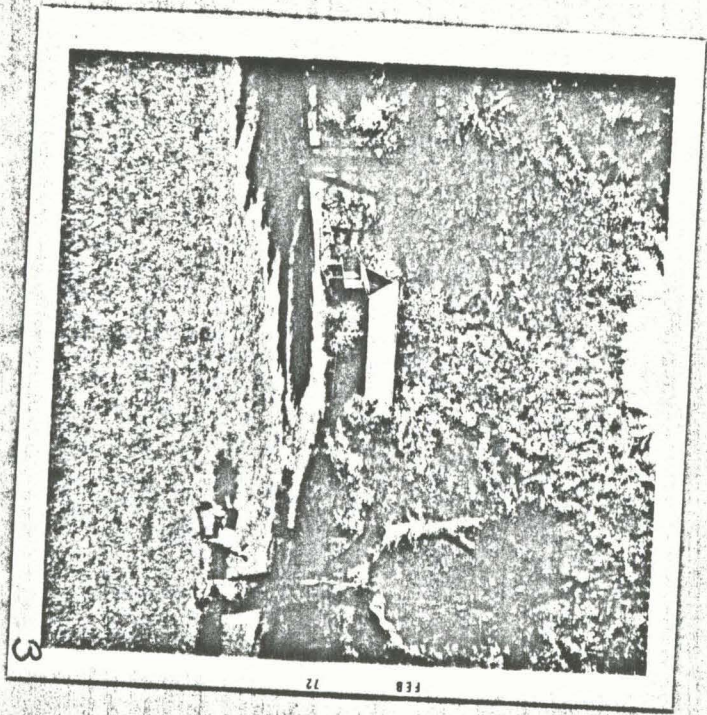
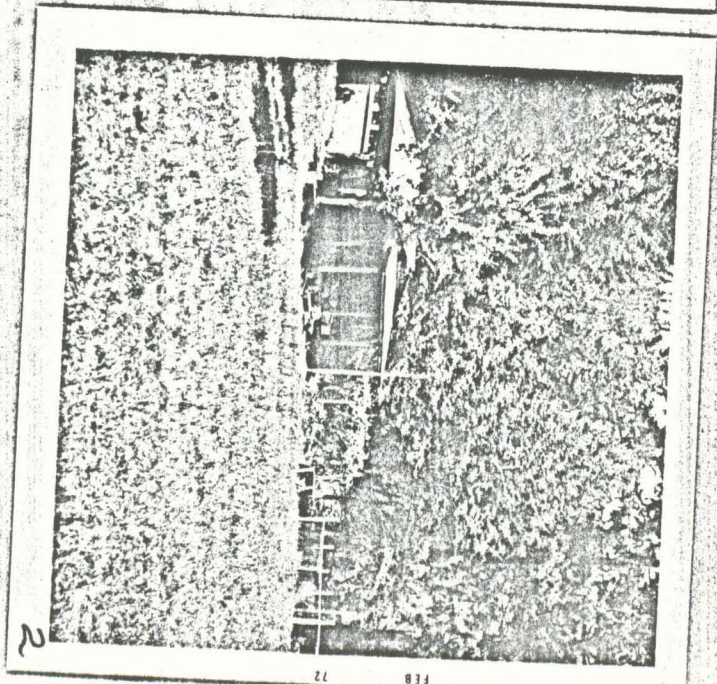
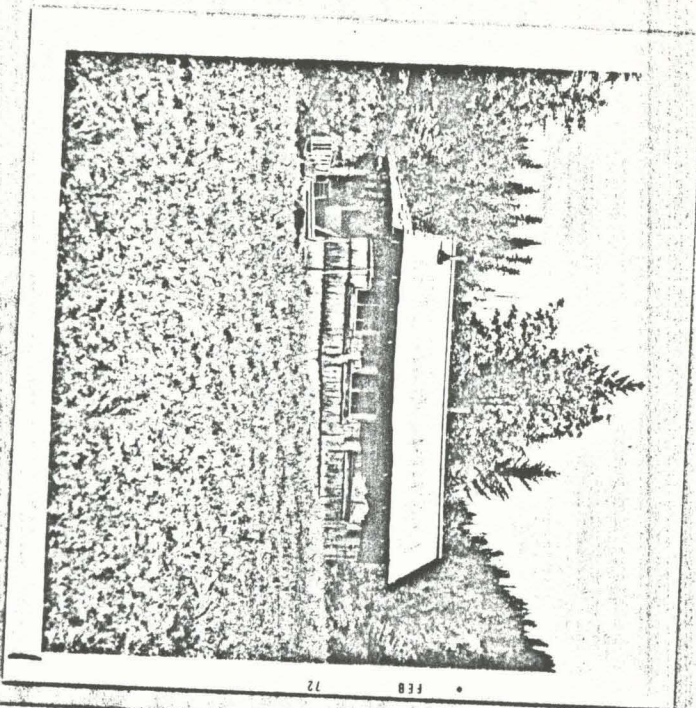
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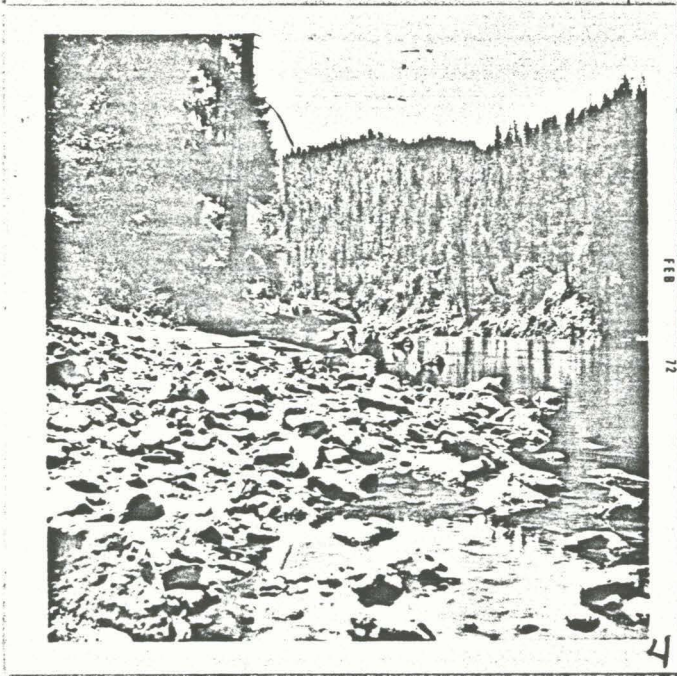
Colver F. Anderson
COLVER F. ANDERSON, Mining Engineer

APPROVED:

Date 7/26/72

William H. Saults
Acting Assistant Regional Forester





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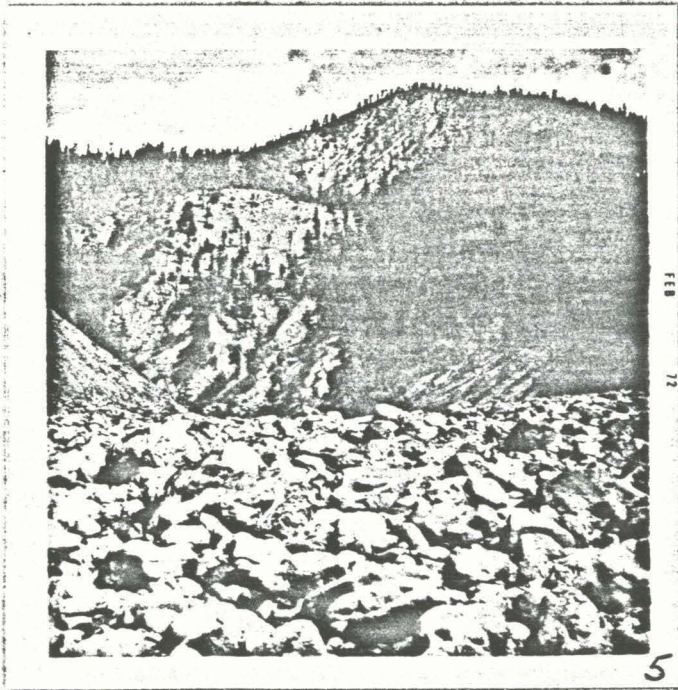
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Malheur National Forest
Josephine County, Oregon

Photograph a 2 in. film metric F.S.
and marked claim location.

Yield Claim
Cabin Claim
Road
Pine River
New Cliff

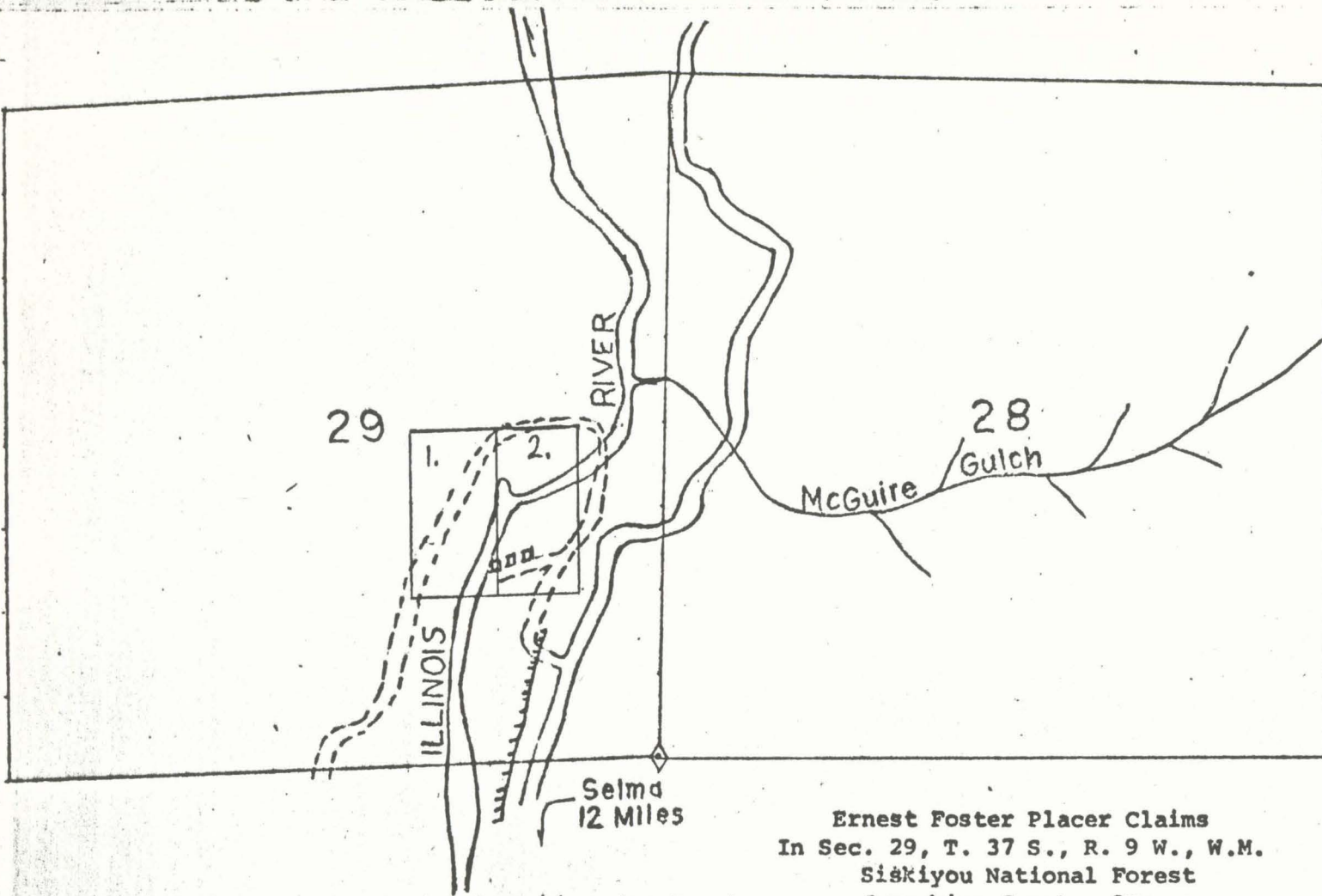
1/1/50
S.P.A.



831

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5



Ernest Foster Placer Claims
 In Sec. 29, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., W.M.
 Siskiyou National Forest
 Josephine County, Oregon

Based upon a 2 in. planimetric F.S.
 map and amended claim location.

- 1 Young Claim
- 2 Cabin Claim
- == Road
- ~ River
- /// Cliff

1/20/72
 C.F.A.

Y O	
1 W	
200A	
Distrip: D	
Action X	
Info	

SHORT FORM REPORT OF MINERAL EXAMINATION

Claimant/owner: Ernest Foster
144 S.W. "K" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

National Forest: Siskiyou

Ranger District: Illinois Valley

Date and hour: March 8, 1973

Occupant: None

Accompanied by: no one

Claim(s): Unknown

Location: Lot , 1/4 1/4 1/4,
Sec. 16, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., W.M.,
Josephine County, Oregon,

Location notice and markings: none

Occupancy: None, see picture

Mineral improvements: Open pit, sloughed

Geologic observations: Looks like a former chromite mining operation

Mineral valuation: No value

Remarks: The condition of the road, pit and cabin indicate that no work has been done at this location for many years.

Conclusions: The claim, for all practical purposes, has been abandoned. The area is nonmineral in character. Occupancy is not possible. The claimant in this case does not need to be notified of possible trespass.

Date of Report: June 4, 1973

Signed: Robert F. Anderson
Mineral Examiner

