

HIGH GRAVEL MINE (placer)

Waldo Area

also known as Osgood placer

"The High Gravel (Osgood) mine is at the head of Allen Gulch, in secs. 33 and 34, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., near the drainage divide between the East and West Forks of the Illinois River and is owned by F. H. Osgood, of Seattle, Washington. The mine includes several pits covering an area of approximately 150,000 square yards. Water for mining is taken from the East Fork some distance south of the Oregon boundary and is brought to the cuts through the Osgood ditch. The tailings are removed by natural run-off. The mine has been worked at different times by W. J. Logan, C. D. Cameron, an English syndicate, and others. Logan and Cameron leased the property during the period 1912-1917 and in the first 3 years took out \$13,700 and in the last 2 years \$2,000. Mr. Cameron estimated the total production of all the cuts of the High Gravel mine, excluding the old workings along the bottoms of Allen and Scotch Gulches, at about \$90,000.

"The gold at the High Gravel mine is found in the Tertiary conglomerate, which is well exposed in several different bands and is composed mostly of poorly sorted boulders in a sandy matrix. Bedding is not plainly visible except in the lower part of the formation. The lower beds are sandy and have a purplish tint; the upper part of the formation exposed in the cuts is tan-colored and composed principally of large, poorly sorted boulders and sandy material. Distinct joints and veinlets occur throughout the formation. The conglomerate rests upon greenstone bedrock in several places. (see pl. 13, A.) In the most westerly cut the contact strikes about N. 10° E. and dips about 20° E. At the High Gravel mine, as elsewhere, the conglomerate is composed of highly altered yet firmly cemented boulders of various types. Because of the induration attempts have been made to loosen the banks with explosives before hydraulicking, but according to reports this proved too costly for economical mining. The bedrock has a purplish tint and is highly decomposed wherever it is exposed beneath the conglomerate. It is cut by numerous fractures and small veins.

"According to Mr. Cameron, the gold is distributed throughout the Tertiary conglomerate but is more abundant near the surface, where the formation is exposed to weathering. Much of it is coated with black material which makes amalgamation difficult. Mr. Cameron estimates the average gold content in the Osgood pits at about 3 cents a cubic yard."

Reference: U.S.G.S. Bull. 846-B, 33:183 (quoted).
Parks & Swartley, 16:120.