

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

LATERITE INVESTIGATION

Waldo District

Josephine County

As a continuation of the Department's nickeliferous laterite investigation, a total of six localities were visited in the Rough and Ready Creek area of southern Josephine County and sampled during the latter part of June, 1949. The work was aimed at clearing up any likely looking areas not previously inspected. Results of the work were not very encouraging, since at every locality visited the preponderance of surface and subsurface boulders coupled with the paucity of lateritic soil was judged to be unfavorable for the existence of a deposit of either economic size or tenor. The presence of numerous boulders made it extremely difficult to drill the various localities and every hole attempted had to be abandoned far short of a suitable depth when rocks were encountered. In many cases, even if there had been a considerable thickness of laterite undiluted by the presence of boulders, the areal extent was so small that it would have been difficult to obtain a tonnage sufficiently large to justify its exploitation. Topography in the area is extremely rugged, and access to the flats developed on ridge tops is difficult. All of the areas visited lie within the boundaries of the U.S. National Forest (see map).

Results of analyzing all of the samples recovered are shown on the accompanying table. In several holes it will be noted that the highest nickel assays were obtained in the bottom of the hole, and the question is immediately raised as to whether the amount of nickel increases with greater depth. Drilling was done with an "Iwan" soil auger supplemented by a

chopping bit and coal twist auger. This equipment was used since it was readily portable and had proved satisfactory in the past where only a few subsurface boulders were found.

Ralph S. Mason

March 15, 1949

<u>Lab. No.</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>Assays</u>	
	<u>Rough and Ready Creek</u>		<u>Ni</u>	<u>Cr₂O₃</u>
P-8805	Hole 1	0' - 1'	1.06	3.29
P-8806	"	1' - 2'	1.18	2.59
P-8807	"	2' - 3'	1.18	2.20
P-8808	"	3' - 4'	1.29	2.62
P-8809	Hole 2	0' - 1'	0.92	3.56
P-8810	"	1' - 2'	1.20	2.94
P-8811	"	2' - 3'	0.96	1.71
P-8812	"	3' - 4'	0.61	1.27
P-8813	"	4' - 5'	0.52	0.84
P-8814	Hole 4	0' - 1'	0.95	2.64
P-8815	"	1' - 2'	1.07	2.58
P-8816	"	2' - 3'6"	1.11	2.35
P-8817	Chetco Trail - Baldface Trail Junction Shovel pit depth 1'		0.59	2.68
P-8818	"	" " 1' - 2'	0.47	1.84
P-8819	"	" " 2' - 3'	0.44	1.53
P-8820	"	" " 3' - 4'	0.40	1.51
P-8821	Mud Springs Trail	1' - 2'	0.31	2.50
P-8822	"	" " 2' - 2'6"	0.40	2.33
P-8827-B	Alberg Mine Flat	0' - 1'	0.68	3.14
P-8828	"	" " 1' - 2'	0.74	3.22