

SUCKER CREEK
JOSEPHINE



Sunshine Mining Company

P. O. BOX 1080 PHONE: Area Code 208 784-1257

Kellogg, Idaho
83837

January 19, 1982

Mr. Walter M. Farmer
280 Piller Lane
Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

Dear Walt:

I have reviewed the material you sent me on the placer mine we discussed over the telephone. It has some interest but appears small. When I have a couple more properties in the area to look at, I will include this one with it and arrange a trip down, hopefully this spring.

I want to thank you again for taking care of my equipment the other day. Good luck to you in your timber project; maybe it will bring you up in this area.

Sincerely Yours,

SUNSHINE MINING COMPANY

George W. Sintay
Senior Exploration
Geologist

GWS ms



From the desk of...



Walter M. Farmer
PHONE: 592-2777, 280 PILLER LANE
CAVE JUNCTION, OREGON 97523

George:

Here are the maps on the sucker creek mine we discussed. The information you requested is on the back of this letter.

This information is from Bob Winter the supt. of the next mine downstream. Tomorrow I am going to book it all over with him. If there is any additional information that may be helpful, I will send it.

Hope this finds all well

Walt



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: FILE

DATE: March 4, 1991

FROM: FRANK R. HLADKY

SUBJECT: SUCKER CREEK PLACERS, DOUG MARTIN PROPERTY

Introduction

DOGAMI Frank Hladky and Kathleen Murphy accompanied by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) biologist Tom Satterthwaite visited the Doug Martin placer property on Sucker Creek on February 15, 1991. We were hosted by Roy Gardner, the site caretaker.

Location

Section 31, T. 39 S., R. 6 W.; Waldo Mining District, Josephine County. Kerby Peak 1:24,000 Quadrangle. *Immediately upstream of Kolt property*

Property Position

Roy Gardner reported that the property consists of 40 acres of patented land owned by Doug Martin of Myrtle Creek, an equipment salvage operator, and that less than half of the 40 acres is stream bed, the remaining being hillside. Mr. Gardner reported that Mr. Martin also owns 80 acres of non-contiguous land upstream.

Current Status

Operated intermittantly about three to four months in the year, usually beginning in the spring. Idle at time of inspection. At the site is a combined house-trailer and built-on addition for the caretaker, mining equipment, and freshly painted mill. The mill had been used as reported by Mr. Gardner, and we observed residue in the mill cones and concentrates at the collectors. Mr. Gardner reports that Mr. Martin had as recently as the week before sold seven truckloads of washed tailings gravel. Mr. Gardner stated that Mr. Martin had been the owner for about two years.

History

Diller (1914, p. 118) reported 1907 placer production of \$6000 from this area. Nearby Boswell Mine was worked beginning in 1914. See also file.

Regional Geology

The mine is located near the boundary of the Rattlesnake Creek(?), Applegate, and Marble Mountains terranes (Silberling et al., 1987)

Local Geology

We did not examine bedrock geology at the site. Ramp (1979) shows bedrock as Applegate Group metasedimentary rocks surrounded by metavolcanic rocks. The CRIB file reports a sheared contact between serpentinite and andesitic greenstone at the Boswell Mine (Au) $\frac{1}{2}$ mile upstream of the Doug Martin property; both a 'silicified shear zone' and 'gossan apparently separate from shear zone' contain gold at that mine.

Ore Bodies

Gold is concentrated along bedrock at depths of about 50 feet. Gold recovered from the gravel excavated for the settling pond is generally less than 4 mm in diameter and consists mainly of flakes 1 to 2.5 mm long and 0.5 mm thick; some fine gold was also recovered. Several flakes and small nuggets contained quartz inclusions.

Reserves

Actual reserves are unknown. Our visual estimate coupled with Mr. Gardner's report indicate about 10 acres or so of placer ground. Estimated gravel depths are 50 feet. The size of the workings indicates about 1 acre of material to depths of about 40 feet is processed a year.

Equipment

A detailed inventory was not made. Equipment on site included caterpillars (D-6 to D-8 size), front-end loaders, dump trucks, track-hoe, water truck, and dragline (abandoned).

The mill consists of a hopper with a grizzly that feeds to a shaking screen mill which classifies three size fractions, the least of which is $\frac{1}{4}$ -minus. The $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ fraction (with attached fines) feeds to a sluice, lined with prospectors carpet. The $\frac{1}{4}$ -minus feeds to five spiral concentrators. The spiral concentrators feed to a rocker for final separation of the low-density fines from the high-density concentrate.

Plan

Operations will continue on Mr. Martin's patented land a few months of each year. He is also hoping to jointly develop the adjoining 40 acres upstream with its (unnamed) owner and eventually develop his 80 acre parcel.

References

Diller, J.S., 1914, Mineral resources of southwestern Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 546, 147 p.

Ramp, Len, 1979, Geologic map of Josephine County, Oregon, in Ramp, Len, and Peterson, N.V., Geology and Mineral Resources of Josephine County, Oregon: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Bulletin 100, 1:124,000.

Silberling, N.J., D.L. Jones, M.C. Blake, Jr., and D.G. Howell, 1987, Lithotectonic terrane map of the western conterminous United States: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1874C, 1:2,500,000.

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