

LAKE COUNTY

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~
(UNTIL CASE CLOSED)

Shoy one

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

2810 - MINING CLAIMS
FREMONT N.F.
COUCH, Roy F.
DUKES, Mr. & Mrs. C. O.
TOWN, Mrs. Laura
TOWN, Arnold E. and
TOWN, Linda M. (wife)
JOHNSTON, W.S.
Administrative Problem
Job No. 453

APR 14 1969

REPORT OF MINERAL EXAMINATION



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(UNTIL CASE CLOSED)

REPORT OF MINERAL EXAMINATION

Job No. 453

Claimants: Roy F. Couch
133 South Grape
Medford, Oregon 97501

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Dukes
106 Suncrest Road
Talent, Oregon 97540

Mrs. Laura Town
133 South Grape
Medford, Oregon 97501

Arnold E. Town and
Linda M. Town (wife)
801 1/2 Marshall Avenue
Medford, Oregon 97501

W. S. Johnston
Route 1, Box 292A
Talent, Oregon 97540

Reason for Examination: Possible destruction of pine timber by open pit clay mining.

Subject: Validity of Mining Claims

Lands Involved: Parts of Sections 30 and 31, T. 40 S., R. 18 E., W.M.
Parts of Sections 25 and 36, T. 40 S., R. 17 E., W.M.
Fremont National Forest, Lake County, Oregon

Land Status: National Forest land open to mineral entry

Location Data: See Page 2

Mining District: None

Mining Engineer: Colver F. Anderson

Dates of Examination: November 7-9 and 14-17, 1967

Location Data

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Claimants</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Red Hole #1	Woody Johnston Roy L. Couch	5/24/67	16	323
Red Hole #2	Woody Johnston Roy L. Couch	5/24/67	16	324
Red Hole #3	Woody Johnston Roy L. Couch	5/24/67	16	325
Red Hole #4	Woody Johnston Roy L. Couch	5/24/67	16	326
Red Hole #5	Woody Johnston Roy L. Couch	5/24/67	16	327
Red Hole #6	Linda M. Town Laura G. Town Arnold Town Mrs. C. O. Dukes W. S. Johnston Roy L. Couch	6/28/67	16	333 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30
Red Hole #7	Same as #6	6/29/67	16	335
Red Hole #8	"	6/29/67	16	337
Red Hole #9	"	6/28/67	16	339
Red Hole #10	"	6/28/67	16	341
Red Hole #11	"	6/28/67	16	343
Red Hole #12	"	6/29/67	16	345
Red Hole #13	"	6/29/67	16	347
Red Hole #14	"	6/29/67	16	349
Red Hole #15	"	6/23/67	16	351
Red Hole #16	"	6/23/67	16	353
Red Hole #17	"	6/23/67	16	355
Red Hole #18	"	6/23/67	16	357
Red Hole #19	"	6/23/67	16	359

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Claimants</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Red Hole #20	Same as #6	6/24/67	16	361
Red Hole #21	Not recorded			
Red Hole #22	Same as #6	6/24/67	16	363
Red Hole #23	"	6/24/67	16	365
Red Hole #24	"	6/24/67	16	367
Red Hole #25	"	6/25/67	16	369
Red Hole #26	"	6/25/67	16	371
Red Hole #27	"	6/25/67	16	373
Red Hole #28	Not recorded			
Red Hole #29	Same as #6	6/28/67	16	375
Red Hole #30	"	6/28/67	16	377
Red Hole #31	"	6/28/67	16	378
Red Hole #32	"	6/28/67	16	379

Amended Notices of Location

Amended August 31, 1967, Claimants the same less Woody Johnston

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Red Hole #1	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, T. 40 S., R. 18 E., W.M.	16	465
Red Hole #2	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	466
Red Hole #3	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	467
Red Hole #4	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	468
Red Hole #5	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	469
Red Hole #6	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	470
Red Hole #7	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	471
Red Hole #8	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	472
Red Hole #9	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	473
Red Hole #10	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	474
Red Hole #11	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	475
Red Hole #12	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	476
Red Hole #13	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	477
Red Hole #14	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	478
Red Hole #15	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	479
Red Hole #16	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	480
Red Hole #17	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	481
Red Hole #18	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	482
Red Hole #19	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	483
Red Hole #20	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	484
Red Hole #21	No record		
Red Hole #22	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	485
Red Hole #23	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	486

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Red Hole #24	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	487
Red Hole #25	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	488
Red Hole #26	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	489
Red Hole #27	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	490
Red Hole #28	No record		
Red Hole #29	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	491
Red Hole #30	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	492
Red Hole #31	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30	16	493
Red Hole #32	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25	16	494

ABSTRACT

The Red Hole placer claims are 31 miles southwest of Lakeview in the Horseshoe Mountains. This is volcanic country which raises good pine timber on benches between basalt lava flows.

Some clay has developed on the benches as the result of weathering of more siliceous rocks. The principal clay type is montmorillonite which does not have features which make it a bentonite. A good bentonite deposit is locatable as a clay with special properties.

The clay on these claims does not have the qualifications associated with a ceramic product and is not suitably located with reference to a market.

The examination indicated that a locatable mineral is not present and a clay disposable as a mineral material has no commercial value.

The claimants should be notified that the clay can only be disposed of as a common variety material according to Forest Service regulations.

Economics will solve this case better than legal action.

Location and Topography

This group of claims is 31 miles southwest of Lakeview via the road which passes south through the little community of Westside.

The average slope of the mountain is medium, but the actual slope is gentle benches often terminated by rock cliffs. Stream channels have high gradients.

Surface Values

Excellent pine timber grows on all of the slopes.

Areal Geology

The Horseshoe Mountain area is volcanic in origin. An alternating series of basalt and rhyolite flows or rhyolite tuffs have built up the mass. The light colored siliceous rock has eroded much more readily and formed the sloping benches while the basalt breaks in blocky masses and forms cliffs.

Economic Geology

The entire area has had no indication that valuable mineral deposits may exist. Claim locations in the "uranium era" were strictly speculation.

History and Production

The evidence on the ground indicates that claims were located originally for the chance of uranium being found. Later some thunder egg agate claims were posted. These thunder eggs are very low grade. The present Red Hole claims were located over the old uranium claims almost exactly in many cases.

There has been no mineral production from these claims.

Pertinent Information

Thirty-two Red Hole claims were located on the ground as 1,500-x 600-foot placer claims. A few months later amended locations were filed for the 32 claims which were recorded the first time.

There are many errors in describing the relationships of the original claims. The sketch shows the claims as they exist on the ground. The amended locations substantiate the ground locations with the exception of Red Hole #26 which is an obvious mistake of description.

A further complication is that the amended locations describe 10-acre claims in each location. Most of the descriptions fit a half of the appropriate original claim. The plan of the amended locations matches the plan of the claims found on the ground.

The claims on the ground are not exactly on section lines and interior lines of sections. The amended location places all of the claims in

agreement with the land net and only in Section 25, R. 17 E., and Section 30, R. 18 E. In reality the equivalent of eight claims are in Section 31, R. 18 E., and part of five claims are in Section 36, R. 17 E.

Occupancy

There is no occupancy.

Discovery

Most discovery points for these claims are found in connection with monuments along the end lines. Most of the pits were dug with a backhoe. None of the pits meet State standards in all respects. Most holes are much too small in volume and all are too shallow.

The claim lines were run and all location notices and discovery pits were examined. The desirable mineral is a pink clay in most cases. Claims Red Hole #10 and #11 have a white impure kaolinite. None of the clay reacted like bentonite in the field or at home with a simple test.

Many of the claim discovery points are without merit for any type of discovery as shown in pictures 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 which show a rocky detrital type of soil. Many other claims had no more valuable material than those illustrated.

After all of the discovery points were examined three samples were taken with a soil auger as shown in picture 8. Sample A67-20 from Red Hole #11 was chosen as the better exposure of the white clay. Sample A67-21 is shown in picture 8 and is one of the better exposures of the more general pink clay. Sample A67-22 is from Claim #17 at the best exposure of clay found on the claims. A 4-foot auger hole from the bottom of the pit is still in pink clay.

Field checks did not show any clay in the Horseshoe Mountain area to be of ceramic grade. The pink clay could not be molded at home for a firing test even after washing and pulverizing.

The three samples were tested by two recognized laboratories in Wyoming where most bentonite is mined. The Chemical and Geological Laboratories in Casper tested for drilling mud and Natural Resources Institute, University of Wyoming, Laramie tested for the type of material and its use as molding clay. In each case none of the samples is suitable for the desired use. Sample A67-20, white clay, is a zeolite, clinoptilolite, and A67-21 and 22 contain montmorillonite. Bentonite for drilling mud has to pass the test of barrels per ton of mud with a certain viscosity and weight. The accepted figure is 80 to 100 barrels. The three samples yielded less than 30 bbls. per ton. A special note says that the clays are of nonhydrating types and not suitable for use as drilling mud. The molding clay tests showed that the clay is not desirable for that use.

The white "clay" is the less desirable of the two types tested but the strength of the pink clay is about half that necessary to make a good mold.

An analysis of the areas where the clay has been found related to the extrusive basalts indicates that extensive bodies of clay are not available. Basalt outcrops terminate any clay beds through the middle of each tier of claims and along the west side of the group.

Conclusion

The tests made so far do not show any commercial uses for the clay material which has been found. Specifically while montmorillonite clay is present it is unsatisfactory for bentonite uses. Any use of the clay will be under the common variety designation and subject to a mineral material permit for removal.

The location of the claims is 95 miles from Klamath Falls the nearest sizable market. This market place would offer immediate competition from Klamath Brick and Tile. The volume of clay at one place is not sufficient for a large volume business if the material were suited for ceramic use.

The probabilities are that this clay will not be mined profitably.

Recommendations

I recommend that the claimants should be notified that they do not have a locatable material and that they need to have a mineral materials permit before removing more than sample amounts.

Date: APR 14 1969

COLVER F. ANDERSON
COLVER F. ANDERSON, Mining Engineer

APPROVED:

Date: APR 29 1969

MELVOY M. SUCHY
Acting Assistant Regional Forester



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2



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3



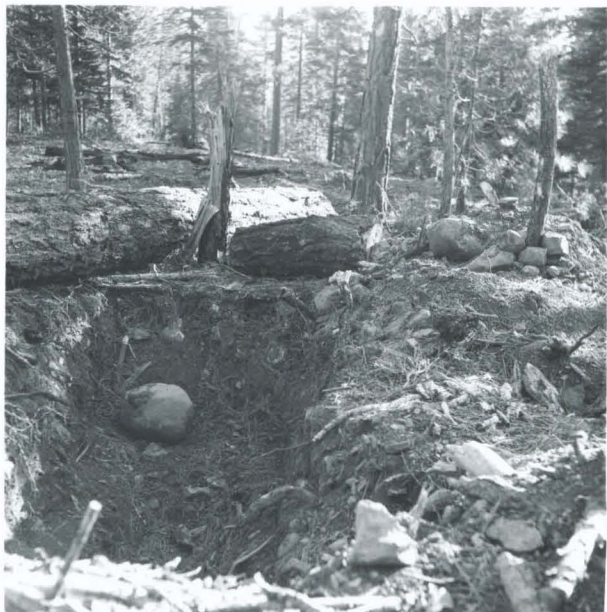
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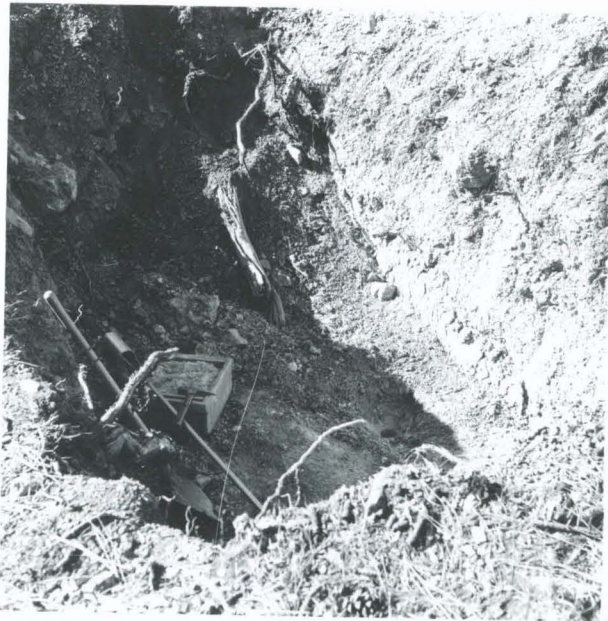
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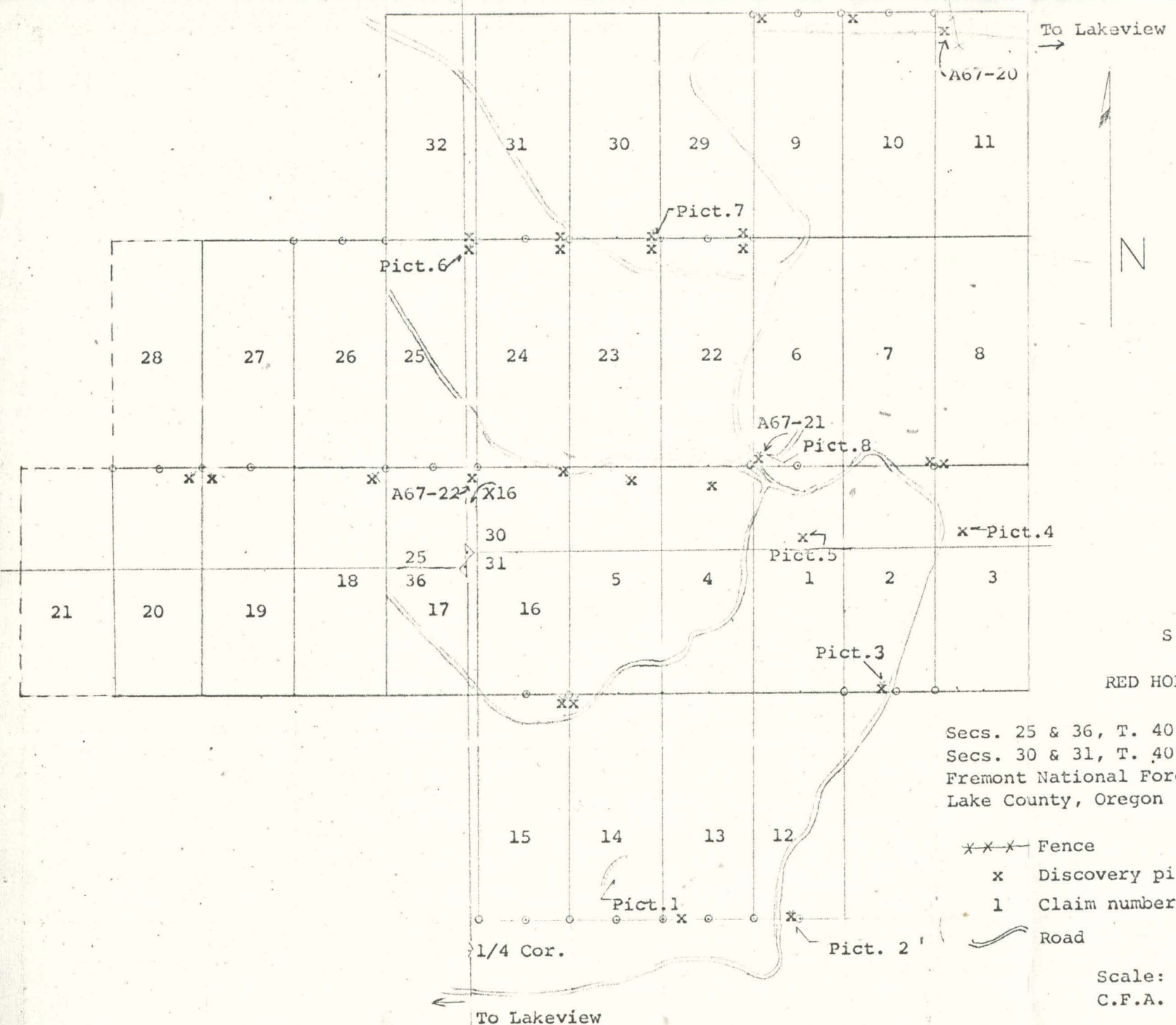
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To Lakeview
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S K E T C H

RED HOLE PLACER CLAIMS

Secs. 25 & 36, T. 40 S., R. 17 E., W.M.
 Secs. 30 & 31, T. 40 S., R. 18 E., W.M.
 Fremont National Forest
 Lake County, Oregon

- xxx Fence
- x Discovery pit
- 1 Claim number where appropriate
- ⤿ Road

Scale: lin. = 900 ft.
 C.F.A. 3/17/69

1/4 Cor.

← To Lakeview