

This district is located in the southeastern corner of Wheeler county in T. 13 S., R. 25 E. Placer deposits have been worked since the first discovery of gold in Eastern Oregon, but the quartz ledges, some of which are quite wide, have not been developed or equipped for production. The district is located on Rock and Birch creeks, which flow north into the John Day river. The nearest store and postoffice is Antone, about 5 miles from the central part of the district. The active area is small and close to the main highway, or is reached by short branches therefrom, the greatest not over 4 miles long. Antone is about 60 miles west of Prairie City, the western terminus of the Sumpter Valley railroad, a narrow gauge line 80 miles from Baker. Antone is about 75 miles south from Condon, a branch line of the O.W.R. & N. It is also about 60 miles southeast from Shaniko, on another branch of the O.W.R. & N. With each of these railroad stations the district is connected by good wagon roads; that to Prairie City is entirely a water grade. The higher elevations in the district are well timbered. The lower half is covered with sagebrush.

Most of Wheeler county is covered by recent lavas. Spanish Gulch is a comparatively small area of the older rocks, which is probably entirely surrounded by these lavas. These older rocks are greenstones, argillites and serpentine which have been intruded by granodiorite porphyry and a complexity of dikes. Many of the veins are almost altogether massive quartz, while in others the vein material is highly altered and silicified country rock. The other minerals are pyrite, chalcopyrite and galena, containing gold and silver. In the vicinity of the serpentine areas chromite outcrops are found. The distance of this district from the railroad and from other mining camps has much to do with retarding what is apparently a promising field.

From:

HANDBOOK OF THE MINING INDUSTRY OF OREGON
by H. M. Parks and A. M. Swartley, published in
Vol. 2, No. 4, Mineral Resources of Oregon - 1916