

CONNOR CREEK AREA

(Connor Creek and Snake River Districts)

The Connor Creek area includes all the Snake River drainage in Oregon between Huntington and Robinette. The length of the area along the river from north to south is 33 miles and the maximum width of the watershed is 10 miles. Naturally, with a difference in elevation between river (2,000 feet) and the divide (4,500 feet) of 2,500 feet there are many short swift flowing creeks and steep gulches leading to the Snake River between Burnt River and Powder River, the south and north limits of the area. Connor Creek is the largest of these small streams upon which the greater part of the mining in the area has been done. Its grade is steep and its canyon deep and narrow. It branches into two forks near the Connor Creek Mine, 2½ miles from the Snake river.

The canyon slopes are covered with sagebrush; timber is found along the west side of the area. The climate along the Snake River Canyon is mild in winter and hot in summer.

Geology:

The eastern border of the intrusive granitoid rock of Lookout Mountain is about 6 miles from Snake River. The intrusion failed to rise to as great elevations as in most of the regions elsewhere, consequently erosion has not yet removed all the older rocks. The sediments and flows which make up the crust of the earth here were

crumpled and folded at the same time as those in the adjoining regions. Accompanying and following closely upon this activity came the intrusion of molten rock into it. Granodiorite-porphry and aplite dikes, which are off-shoots of the intrusion, outcrop in many places. The country rocks are limestone and schist. No true bedding of the limestone was noted, but the schistosity strikes N. 70 degrees E. and dips from 80 degrees N. to vertical. The limestone is blue in color and has a finely crystalline texture. In some places it is brecciated and recemented with calcite. Where the pressure of the mountain building forces was strong enough the limestone has been rendered schistose. The quartz schist found in this locality is also bluish and quite dense. In thin section it appears very fine-grained and consists chiefly of elongated quartz grains with fine parallel bands of sericite. Most of the ore deposits in the district are simple quartz veins, but recent development upon gold disseminated in schist is described under Schist Mine. Livingston (25) has mapped the area along the Snake River, and Moore (37:136) has mapped an area of about 30 square miles around Connor Creek.

History:

There have been placer mines since early days upon the several small streams which flow into

the Snake River. Those on Connor Creek have been the most productive. It naturally has derived considerable coarse gold from the Connor Creek vein. The whole creek below the mine has been worked over twice and parts of it are being worked at the present time. The total production of the placer gold for this locality is about \$125,000.

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