

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

WHIPPLE GULCH PLACER

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon
Baker County
Upper Burnt River District

Other Name: Highland Placer

Location: In section 23, T. 11 S., R. 38 E. on the north bank of Whipple Gulch about 0.3 mile east of its junction with Big Creek.

Owner: W. D. Crump, Stanfield, Oregon

Area: One placer claim, Highland No. 1, located by Crump in August, 1958.

History, Development & Mining: The property was worked for a short time during the early 1930's by Jack Lytle and the present owner who was then known as Clay Keyler.

Development consists principally of an opencut about 50-feet long, 20-feet in maximum width and about 5 feet in maximum depth. A small cabin occupied by Crump and his wife during the summer months has been built in Whipple Gulch. It stands on private land owned by Hudspeth.

Mining is done by hydraulic and sluice during the spring run-offs, generally March, April, and May. Sufficient water is rarely available after June 1. About two miles of ditch extends up Whipple Gulch. A small wooden penstock is used for storage and to regulate water flow.

Geology: Gravels consist mainly of massive to weakly shistose greenstones and argillites with a little quartz and rarely granite. Boulders are of moderate size. Those as large as 2 feet in diameter are uncommon. Evidence indicates that bedrock is probably not more than 10 feet below the surface of the gravels.

All of the rock outcrops examined in the vicinity of the open-cuts here and in the diggings in French Gulch to the west are greenstones or argillites containing occasional quartz veinlets. The planes of schistosity generally dip from 20° to 40° westerly. A short distance west of the property the older rocks are covered by basaltic tuff agglomerate. Several silicified tree stumps (one very well preserved) have been found in this material.

Values: At the time of my visits Mr. Crump had not yet got his operation sufficiently well established to permit any estimate of the amount of gold the gravel contains.

Report by: Howard C. Brooks
Date of Exams: Sept. 19, 1960 and
March 30, 1961