

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland 5, Oregon

THOMPSON FLAT CLAIM  
(Gold placer)

Sixes River District  
Curry County

Old name: This is an old placer but the early history is not known.

Owner: Frank Lawrence  
Sixes, Oregon

Area: 1 placer claim and 1 lode claim

Location: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 22, T. 32 S., R. 13 W. Approximately 100 yards north of the South Fork of the Sixes River on a small unnamed gulch. Downstream from the mouth of Rusty Creek about one-half of a mile.

Access to the area is by a graveled road up the Sixes River to just below the Avery Ranch and then by steep mountain trail for approximately 5 miles. The trail leads over the divide (approximately 1850' in elevation) between the Sixes River and the South Fork.

Topography: The placer area is at the southeast edge of Thompson Flat, a remnant of a terrace at an elevation of around 1000' (650' aneroid). The terrace is approximately 200' above the South Fork of the Sixes River and is perched on a steep slope. The surrounding area is typical of a maturely dissected region, i.e., steep slopes, narrow ridges, and a well integrated drainage pattern. The higher peaks and their elevations, according to the topographic map of the Fort Orford quadrangle, are: Mount Avery, 2613'; Mount Butler, 2924'; Rusty Butte, 2400'.

Geology: This is a gulch type placer. Bedrock is argillite and has a strike of N. 80° W. and a steep dip to the north.

The material of the terrace ranges from clay sized particles to boulders 4' in diameter. Average size of the gravel is about 4-5 inches. Boulders are common. Most of the gravel and boulders are angular and are dominantly argillite; diorite is the next most common rock. Thickness of the gravel varies; it was approximately 20' in a pit being opened. Most of the values are reportedly obtained from bedrock.

Extent of the terrace is about two acres but it is not known how much is auriferous.

Value per yard, production, and fineness of gold is not known.

Mining: Mining is by ground sluicing methods. No development work or test pits were noted. Water is available for a small operation but it is not known if this water lasts through the year.

Report by: H.M. Dole

Date of visit: May 19, 1950

Date of report: June 1, 1950

Visited by: F.W. Libbey, H.D. Wolfe, H.M. Dole

Informants: Frank Lawrence, J. Arlie McLeod

Reference: U.S. Geol. Survey Geologic Atlas 89, Fort Orford folio, by J.S. Diller