

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

REPORTED URANIUM WEST OF DUFUR

Wasco
Hood River

Owner: The property is U. S. Government national forest lands and claims have been located by many individuals. The writer contacted only one prospector, a Mr. Romberg, who appeared to be one of the best-equipped operators in the area.

Location: The location is generally centered around High Prairie in Wasco and Hood River Counties. Claims have been located in the following sections:

Sec. 25, 26, 27, 34, and 36, T. 2 S., R. 10 E.

Sec. 1, 2, and 3, T. 3 S., R. 10 E.

Sec. 30, 31, 32, and 33, T. 2 S., R. 11 E.

Sec. 5, 6, 7, and 8, T. 3 S., R. 11 E.

General geology: The area is predominantly andesite as mapped by Hodge (1941) which he named the Cascan formation. The Cascan formation in this area is made up of a series of eastward dipping lava flows with tuffaceous and some sandy interbeds. The rock is an andesite porphyry, composed of abundant large euhedral acid plagioclase crystals, having dimensions of up to 2 x 4 mm, which make up 50% of the total and pyroxene phenocryst making approximately 5% of the total in a gray-colored groundmass. The rock is generally quite dense; however, in some rocks, the groundmass was finely vesicular.

The area is bounded on the west by the East Fork of Hood River, which flows at the base of a steep scarp. The average gradient to the west along this scarp is about 1800 ft. per mile. Hodge (1941) postulated the continuation of a fault to within several miles north of this area. It was not determined whether this scarp is a continuation of Hodges fault or an erosional feature.

The visible rocks in the area crop out along the sides of the steep canyons and the prominent peaks in the area. The generally gently dipping highland area

is mostly float rock mixed with soil to a depth of 6 to 10 feet and covered by a ~~nest~~^{mat} of fir or pine needles.

Mineralization: Mineralization in the area is limited to a reported old cinnabar mine located on the northwest flank of Lookout Mountain which I did not verify.

Observations: The uranium occurrences are limited to "hot spots," generally located on ridges radiating from Lookout Mountain and Flag Point. These "hot spots," 3 or 4 feet across, appear to occur only on thick soil covered with fir and pine needles. Background count for the area is approximately .02 mR/hr and the highest reading on the "hot spots" was only .04 mR/hr. Prospectors report that ridges other than those mentioned do not contain these "hot spots." In an area where several "hot spots" occur within a 100 feet \pm radius, prospecting ~~have~~ been carried on with dozer, jackhammer, and diamond drill. No count above background was noticed in these test pit areas, which have been dug to a depth of 10 feet or more. A hole cored to a depth of 90 feet brought up slightly radioactive cuttings according to the operator, but the core could not be obtained due to faulty equipment. No radioactivity could be detected in the cuttings that remained or by probe in the drill hole.

Conclusions: The indications of commercial quality uranium is limited to these slightly radioactive "hot spots" in the Lookout Mountain-Flag Point area only. If the reported cinnabar mine actually exists, it is possible that it could be associated with a small amount of uranium. The action of ground water could conceivably carry a small concentration of uranium to the roots of trees which selectively attract uranium from the ground water and store it in the needles, at least it has been determined so for certain other ~~minerals~~^{elements}. An accumulation of several feet of needles could cause a concentration great enough to actuate a geiger counter. I do not believe there is any possibility for any commercial uranium in this area.

Report by: H. G. Schlicker

Visited: September 21, 1955

References: Geologic map of north central Oregon: Oregon State College Monographs, Studies in Geology, no. 3, 1941