T & M Antimony Prospect

Re: DMA Docket No. 319
Antimony

The T & M antimony prospect was examined for DMA on April 24, 1951, in the company of W. E. Mills, one of the owners. Based on present showings the prospect has little or no possibility for producing any commercial antimony ore, and it is recommended that the applicant be denied any Government assistance under the Defense Minerals Administration.

The prospect is in sec. 11, T. 32 S., R. 1 W. on a ridge crest forming the boundary between Jackson and Douglas counties, Oregon, and is reached from Eagle Point, the nearest railpoint, by approximately 25 miles of surfaced road, 7.5 miles of one-way dirt road, and 1.5 miles of abandoned road and trail.

The owners, H. C. Tison and W. E. Mills, discovered the deposit some 20 years ago, but did not file upon it until about 1940. Since then they have worked on it at sporadic intervals. No ore has been shipped.

The country rock consists of Tertiary rhyolite tuff, flows and breccia, which in the immediate vicinity of the deposit, is a coarse tuff. In this tuff, a trench 45 feet long and from 5 to 10 feet in depth has been dug in a north-south direction. In it is exposed a gossany silicified zone having the same trend as the trench and dipping 80° east. This zone varies from 6 to 24 inches in width. Here and there along it were found splotches of yellow antimony oxide and occasional green copper stain. Stibnite is exposed only at the southern face of the trench, where the vein is about 10 inches wide and has been dug on to a depth of 5 feet. The stibnite occurs in splotches and irregular stringers within the vein, making up about 15 percent of the exposed zone; the remainder is iron-stained quartz and country rock. A pit, 75 feet to the south, dug on the same gossany silicified zone to a depth of 8 feet, but now partially sloughed in, uncovered no antimony ore. No ore has been stockpiled at the prospect.

The prospect has little merit for the following reasons: although the amount of exploration to date is small, it has exposed only meager mineralization, and at the place of greatest concentration of stibnite, which along the strike is exposed for only a few feet, it appears to be a physical impossibility to sort out a shipping grade ore.

Allan B. Griggs
U. S. Geological Survey

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : E. T. McKnight DATE: January 19, 1951

FROM : Francis G. Wells

SUBJECT: T and M Antimony Mine, Jackson County, Oregon; application for loan.

The T and M Antimony prospect is located in Sec. 11, T. 32 S., R 1 W., Tiller quadrangle, apparently near the crest of the Cascade Range in this area. The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has published a preliminary geologic map of the Butte Falls quadrangle - a 1:125,000 quadrangle covering this area.

This prospect can not have been developed to any great extent prior to this year nor can it have existed for long for I have heard nothing of it and it is not listed in any of the hand books or reports. The deposit is probably high in the volcanics of the Western Cascade series (U.S.G.S. Bull. 893). Mineral deposits are found near or in small, younger, intrusive stocks. This mineralization is exemplified nearby at the Buzzard mine recently known as the Alsarena Mine, Sec. 23, T. 39 S., R 2 E which contains a little stibnite, some realgar, more abundant arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, pyrite and galena, Bull. 893, pp. 131-132. The Barron Mine, 48 miles to the south, contains a similar mineral assemblage. When I examined the Barron mine it appeared to have all the characteristics of a hot springs deposit.

This prospect probably has limited promise as an antimony prospect. Certainly the amount of probable stibinite ore, indications of which are now visible, would not pay the expense of sending a P-2 from Spokane to look at it. This area is not accessible during the winter months. Mr. Harold Wolfe, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, State Association Laboratory, Grant's Pass Oregon, probably can answer the usual questions.

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