

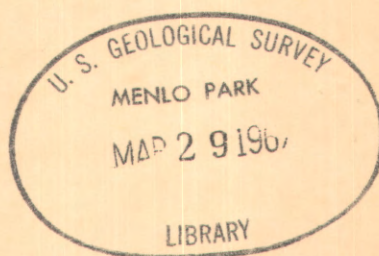
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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mineral Appraisal of the Poker Jim Ridge  
and Fort Warner Areas of the Hart Mountain  
National Antelope Refuge, Lake County, Oregon

by

George W. Walker and Donald A. Swanson



Open-file report  
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1                               Studies related to Wilderness

2               The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577, Sept. 3, 1964) directs the  
3 Secretary of the Interior to review roadless areas of five thousand  
4 contiguous acres or more, and every roadless island, within the  
5 national wildlife refuges and game ranges under his jurisdiction, and  
6 to report on the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or  
7 island for preservation as wilderness. As one aspect of the suitabil-  
8 ity studies, the Secretary has directed the U. S. Geological Survey  
9 and the U. S. Bureau of Mines to make mineral surveys of the wilderness  
10 candidate areas. The surveys are concerned principally with the  
11 minerals subject to leasing under the mineral leasing laws and are  
12 based largely on analysis of existing published or unpublished data.

13               This bulletin is one of a series of similar reports on lands  
14 under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

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1 Mineral resources of the Poker Jim Ridge and Fort Warner areas of  
2 the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Lake County, Oregon.

3  
4 Summary

5- The Poker Jim Ridge and Fort Warner areas, which are candidate  
6 areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System,  
7 are in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in east-central  
8 Lake County, south-central Oregon. The two areas form part of an  
9 upraised and tilted fault block--a structural element that is typical  
10- of the northern part of the Great Basin province. Rocks in the two  
11 areas are principally volcanic in origin. They have been faulted,  
12 uplifted, and tilted eastward, the older rocks having been more  
13 strongly deformed than the younger ones.



1 No mineral raw materials that are in the category of leaseable  
2 minerals<sup>1/</sup> have been produced from either of the two candidate areas,

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4 <sup>1/</sup>Mineral commodities that are now (1966) being exploited under  
5 mining lease laws include gas, oil and oil shale, sulfur, coal and  
6 peat, uranium, and sodium and potassium saline minerals. Zeolites  
7 and other diagenetic mineral substances are being considered for  
8 inclusion in this group of leasable minerals.

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10 and no mineral commodities known to occur within the two areas can  
11 be mined economically at present (1966). Many of the older tuffs  
12 and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks of the Fort Warner candidate area  
13 are altered to zeolites (principally clinoptilolite) which make up  
14 90-95 percent of some beds. The mineral economics of natural zeo-  
15 lites is not yet clearly established, and large, more accessible  
16 deposits of clinoptilolite occur elsewhere in Oregon; hence the  
17 future value of the Fort Warner deposits cannot at present be  
18 determined.

19 Small deposits of precious opal (of interest mainly to mineral  
20 collectors) and low-grade bentonite occur locally, but are not  
21 of commercial importance. The complexly faulted, volcanic area is  
22 not favorably ~~§~~ for the accumulation of petroleum or for commercial  
23 deposits of coal, sulfur, saline minerals, or oil shales.



1 Mineral resources of the Poker Jim Ridge and Fort Warner areas of  
2 the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Lake County, Oregon

3 by George W. Walker and Donald A. Swanson

4 Introduction


5- Purpose and scope

6 The Poker Jim Ridge and Fort Warner areas of the Hart Mountain  
7 Antelope Refuge, Lake County, Oregon (fig. 1), have been proposed

8  
9 Figure 1 near here  
10-

11 for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The  
12 mineral resources of the two candidate areas have been studied by the  
13 Geological Survey, paying special attention to the potential of the  
14 areas for gas, oil and oil shale, coal and peat, potassium and sodium  
15- saline deposits, sulfur, zeolites, deposits of metallic minerals,  
16 bentonite, diatomite, and geothermal power.  
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Figure 1.--Location of the Poker Jim Ridge and the Fort Warner  
candidate areas of the Hart Mountain National Antelope  
Refuge, Oregon.

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1           In order to evaluate the mineral resources, reconnaissance  
2 geologic maps were prepared of the two candidate areas (figs. 2A  
3 and B<sup>3</sup>). These maps are based on reconnaissance and photogeologic  
4 mapping done during July 1961 by G. W. Walker, C. A. Repenning, and  
5- D. H. Lindsley (Walker and Repenning, 1965) as part of project to  
6 prepare a geologic map of Oregon. Some of the earlier reconnaissance  
7 geologic work in the region, by Russell (1884) and subsequent  
8 workers, is summarized in a report by Fuller and Waters (1929) on  
9 the structure of southeast Oregon. The most recent and detailed  
10- study of the area that contains both Hart Mountain and Poker Jim  
11 Ridge is an unpublished Ph.D. thesis by E. E. Larson, submitted in  
12 1965 to the Department of Geology, University of Colorado.

13           Many rock and mineral samples collected in 1961 were examined  
14 in the laboratories of the Geological Survey. In October 1966,  
15- G. W. Walker and D. A. Swanson revisited the area briefly  
16 to collect samples of       altered tuff and tuffaceous sedimentary  
17 rock exposed on the west side of Hart Mountain. Earlier laboratory  
18 work indicated that these rocks probably contain zeolites and  
19 possibly also bentonite and diatomite. Samples of tuff and tuffaceous  
20- sedimentary rocks were analyzed by means of X-ray diffraction  
21 techniques to determine their mineral content.

22           Because of the absence of mineral production, the U. S. Bureau  
23 of Mines has not had occasion to examine the candidate areas, but  
24 the Bureau has been informed of the findings and recommendations of  
25- the Geological Survey and concurs in them.



## Location and geography

Both the Poker Jim Ridge and Fort Warner candidate areas are in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in east-central Lake County, Oregon, about 40 miles by air and 65 miles by road northeast of Lakeview. Access to the refuge is by graded gravel roads either from the hamlet of Plush, about 10-15 miles southwest of the candidate areas, or from the road intersection on U.S. Highway 395 several miles northeast of Lake Abert and about 30 miles northwest of the areas. The refuge can also be reached over a poorly maintained desert road from Frenchglen, a small community about 60 miles south of Burns, Oregon, via State Highway 205.

The outlines and relative positions of the Poker Jim Ridge and Fort Warner candidate areas are shown on figure 1 and the outlines of the individual areas also are shown on the geologic maps (fig. 2, A and B<sup>3</sup>). Several small pieces of privately owned land within the candidate areas are not shown on the figures.



1           The Poker Jim Ridge candidate area (fig. 2) is about 8 miles

2  
3           Figure 2 near here  
4

5-       long and from 3 to 6 miles wide; it covers 18,500 acres. Included  
6       within the area is a major part of the prominent physiographic feature  
7       known as Poker Jim Ridge or, to some local inhabitants, as Blue-  
8       joint Rim. The ridge is asymmetric, with an 1,800-foot precipitous  
9       scarp on the west and northwest and a gentler east-facing back slope;  
10-      the western boundary of the candidate area closely follows the base  
11      of the precipitous scarp.



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Figure 2.--Reconnaissance geologic map of the Poker Jim Ridge area.

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1       The Fort Warner candidate area, a short distance southwest of  
2       Poker Jim Ridge, covers about 22,500 acres; it is about 15 miles  
3       long, and ranges in width from less than a mile at its northern end  
4       to a maximum of about 4 miles to the south (fig. 3). The Fort


5—  
6       Figure 3 near here  
7—

8       Warner area includes most of Hart Mountain--one of the best defined  
9       fault-block mountains in the world and a prominent physiographic  
10—     feature of the region rising to a maximum elevation of 8,065 feet  
11     at Mount Warner. Warner Valley, west of Poker Jim Ridge and Hart  
12     Mountain, is a flat desert valley dotted with a number of ephemeral  
13     lakes and having an average elevation of about 4,400 feet. Parts of  
14     the steep west-facing fault scarp of Hart Mountain are over 3,000 feet  
15—     above Warner Valley locally consisting of unassailable crags and sheer  
16     cliffs. The eastern scarp is neither as precipitous nor as high.  
17     In several places jeep roads lead to the elevated tableland on the  
18     south and north ends of the mountain.

19       Upper parts of De Garmo Canyon and adjacent Mount Warner show  
20—     erosional features indicative of minor valley glaciation during the  
21     Pleistocene Era.

22       The vegetation of both candidate areas is typical of the high  
23     desert regions of southeast Oregon and includes a few groves of  
24     aspen and yellow pine, widely distributed western juniper, sage and  
25—     rabbitbrush, and several varieties of grasses and flowering plants.





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Figure 3.--Reconnaissance geologic map of the Fort Warner area.

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## Geology

Hart Mountain and Poker Jim Ridge form part of a large complex uplifted fault block--a structure typical of the northern Great Basin. All of the rocks in the refuge are of Cenozoic age, and include many flows of basalt and andesite, some rhyolite flows, flow breccias, and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks, a few partly welded ash-flow tuffs, and some comparatively young surficial deposits. In addition, several areas of silicic vent rocks are present, chiefly in or near the major faults that bound the large fault block or horst.



1 Consolidated rocks

2 Stratigraphic rocks

3 The oldest rocks in the Fort Warner and Poker Jim Ridge areas  
4 include gently dipping, moderately to well-lithified, commonly  
5- altered tuffs, tuffaceous sedimentary rocks, and andesite flows and  
6 flow breccias. These are exposed along the west side of Hart Moun-  
7 tain, particularly south of De Garmo Canyon. The precise age of  
8 the rocks is not known, but their stratigraphic position beneath  
9 rocks dated as middle and late Miocene, and the degree and type of  
10- their alteration suggest that they may in part be correlative in  
11 age with the John Day Formation of central Oregon (late Oligocene  
12 and early Miocene). However, the upper part of the sequence is  
13 thought to be somewhat younger than the typical John Day Formation  
14 and perhaps as young as middle Miocene.

15- Southwest of Mount Warner, the oldest rocks consist of a thick  
16 continuous unit of altered tuffs and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks  
17 (fig. ~~2E~~<sup>3</sup>). The rocks are composed chiefly of pumice lapilli and  
18 glass shards or their alteration products. They are localized on  
19 the flanks of a large silicic volcanic pile, most of which was  
20- erupted from vents a few miles northeast of Mount Warner. These  
21 clastic rocks contain zeolites of possible commercial importance,  
22 and are of three types: well-sorted tuffs, many of which formed  
23 directly from falls of ash on land; poorly sorted volcanic sandstones  
24 and siltstones of probable slurry-flood origin; and pumice lapilli  
25- tuffs and tuff breccias, which were deposited by nuées ardentes or  
by mudflows.



1       The well-sorted tuffs occur in beds less than a foot thick.  
2       They are laminated in places, fine to medium grained, and consist  
3       mainly of ash and small pumice lapilli. The well-sorted tuffs  
4       comprise only a small part of the section in the area west-southwest  
5-      of Mount Warner. In these tuffs the glass is completely altered to  
6       clinoptilolite and mixed-layer montmorillonitic (bentonitic) clays,  
7       with some mordenite, phillipsite, calcite, and celadonite. A few  
8       pure vitric tuffs are now 90-95 percent clinoptilolite. Rocks with  
9       small amounts of clay but abundant zeolites are yellow brown, whereas  
10-     those rich in clay but poorer in zeolites are shades of green.

11       Farther south the well-sorted tuffs are more abundant and tend  
12      to be finer grained and less altered than those to the north. All  
13      of the glass shards are finely devitrified to alkali feldspar and  
14      silica minerals, and contain minor amounts of clay minerals, sodic  
15-     plagioclase, clinoptilolite, and mordenite.



1 Poorly sorted volcanoclastic sedimentary rocks are interbedded  
2 with the well-sorted tuffs, commonly along erosional contacts. These  
3 rocks form a large part of the section west-southwest of Mount Warner,  
4 but a very much smaller part farther south. They consist largely of  
5- coarse-ash- to fine-lapilli-size volcanic rock fragments in a matrix  
6 of fine- to medium-size vitric ash and detrital clay--the matrix  
7 making up more than half of some rocks. The volcanoclastic sedi-  
8 mentary deposits occur in beds several inches to a few feet thick  
9 that are lenticular and commonly channeled.

10- The greater proportion of well-sorted tuffs to the south, and  
11 their generally finer grain size, suggest a greater distance from  
12 the source vents than the tuffs farther north. The poor sorting,  
13 channeling, and erosional lenticularity suggest that the rocks are  
14 products of slurry floods or overloaded streams that periodically  
15- scoured loose debris from hill slopes and carried it in a muddy  
16 suspension far out into adjacent lowlands.

17 Alteration of the poorly sorted volcanic sandstones and silt-  
18 stones is similar to that affecting the well-sorted tuffs. Zeolites  
19 are less abundant, however, inasmuch as vitric ash, the material  
20- most susceptible to zeolitization, is less plentiful than in the  
21 air-fall tuffs.



1        Nuées ardentes and mudflow deposits about 10-50 feet thick make  
2 up most of the upper half of the stratigraphic section west-southwest  
3 of Mount Warner, but they form less than a quarter of the unit  
4 farther south. These chaotic lapilli tuffs and tuff breccias are  
5- interlayered with slurry flood deposits and air-fall tuffs. Commonly,  
6 the underlying rocks show evidence of having been gouged and scoured  
7 along the contact, and ripped-up fragments of tuff and volcaniclastic  
8 sediments are dispersed throughout the lower parts of some of the  
9 lapilli tuffs and tuff breccias. The lithology and relationships  
10- to interbedded rocks suggest that the unsorted lapilli tuffs and  
11 tuff breccias are products of near-vent nuées ardentes or, possibly,  
12 thick mudflows carrying newly erupted ash, pumice, and lithic  
13 fragments away from the vent areas.



1       The lapilli tuffs and tuff breccias are altered to zeolites  
2 and clays similar to those in the interlayered rocks.

3       Silicic flow and intrusive rocks, principally rhyolite or dacite  
4 but including some soda rhyolite (Walker, 1961), occur near the top  
5- of the sequence of tuffs and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks. Some of  
6 these silicic rocks are delineated on figure <sup>3</sup>~~PB~~ as intrusive rocks  
7 (map unit Trd); most of them, however, are included either in the  
8 rhyolitic vent rocks (unit Tvr) near Mount Warner, or in the upper  
9 part of the older flows, breccias, and tuffs (unit Tar) that are  
10- essentially conformable with other layered rocks outside the vent  
11 area.

12       A regional unconformity, with hundreds and perhaps several  
13 thousand feet of relief, separates this older sequence of clastic  
14 and silicic rocks from the overlying basaltic flow rocks that are  
15- partly correlative with the Steens Basalt (Steens Mountain Basalt  
16 of Fuller, 1931, p. 101-113) of middle(?) and late Miocene age  
17 (Walker and Repenning, 1965; Evernden and others, 1964). These flows  
18 and associated scoria and breccia more than 1,800 feet in thickness  
19 form most of the scarp on Poker Jim Ridge, but they thin southward  
20- and lap out on Hart Mountain several miles north of De Garmo Canyon.  
21 The basalts reappear a few miles south of Mount Warner and thicken  
22 to several hundred feet at the south end of Hart Mountain.



1       The basaltic flow rocks are overlain by a discontinuous but  
2 widespread unit of poorly bedded, moderately well-sorted, tuffaceous  
3 sedimentary rocks composed largely of vitric ash and detrital clay.  
4 Sparse vertebrate fossils, found in several places in the northern  
5- part of the Fort Warner candidate area (Walker, 1960), indicate  
6 approximate age equivalence with the Beatty Butte (Wallace, 1946),  
7 Mascall (Downs, 1956), and Virgin Valley (Merriam, 1910) faunas of  
8 late middle or late Miocene age. In contrast to the older tuffaceous  
9 sedimentary rocks of Oligocene or early Miocene age, most of the  
10- vitric ash is fresh or only slightly altered, and no zeolites were  
11 recognized in any samples tested.

12       A thin unit of basalt overlies the tuffaceous sedimentary rocks.  
13 It is not precisely dated, but is either of late Miocene or early  
14 Pliocene age. In places the flows rest directly on the Miocene  
15- basaltic flow rocks and elsewhere on the intervening fossiliferous  
16 Miocene tuffaceous sedimentary rocks. In adjoining parts of the  
17 region it is possible that the tuffaceous sedimentary rocks inter-  
18 finger with both the overlying and underlying basalt flows.  
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1 A thin discontinuous sheet of pumice lapilli welded tuff crops  
2 out in some of the flatter parts of the refuge--mostly north and  
3 east of the two candidate areas. Several small patches of the tuff  
4 occur along the eastern boundary of the Poker Jim Ridge candidate  
5- area, and more extensive outcrops are present near the headquarters  
6 of the refuge between the two candidate areas. The tuff is about  
7 15 feet thick in the northern part of the refuge but thins south-  
8 westward. The ashflow tuff in areas several miles to the east and  
9 north has been determined to be of early or middle Pliocene age,  
10- both by potassium-argon isotopic methods and by vertebrate fossils  
11 collected from adjacent sedimentary beds. The tuff, moderately  
12 to poorly welded, is light gray and pale yellowish to pinkish brown.  
13 It is composed dominantly of pumice fragments and glass shards that  
14 locally are converted to secondary alkali feldspar and cristobalite  
15- or quartz through vapor-phase alteration.



## Vent rocks

Intrusive vent rocks and extrusive near-vent rocks of several different kinds have been recognized near Mount Warner and in several places along the major faults at the west base of Hart Mountain.

Only the larger masses of these rocks are shown on figure <sup>3</sup>~~2B~~.

Minor amounts of red, cindery, near-vent scoriaceous andesite and several small dikes and sills are associated with the older andesite flows and flow breccias of map unit Tar. The scoria and intrusive rocks probably represent in part the source of the flows and breccias. Most of the vent rocks in the refuge, however, are flow-banded, locally brecciated, porphyritic rhyolite or dacite, in the form of intrusive or exogenous domes and closely associated flows. Several of the intrusive masses and related near-vent flows are soda rhyolite characterized by phenocrysts of anorthoclase and microlites of anorthoclase, riebeckite(?), acmite, and aenigmatite-rhonite(?) (Walker, 1961). The largest accumulation of silicic vent rocks lies east of Hart Mountain, with parts extending into the Fort Warner candidate area near Mount Warner.

All of the vent rocks are Oligocene or Miocene in age and none exhibits evidence of associated metallic mineralization or strong alteration.



## Surficial deposits

Unconsolidated surficial deposits within the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge include landslide debris, pluvial lake sediments, alluvium, and playa deposits, most of which are of late Pleistocene or Recent age, although some may be latest Pliocene.

Several of the large landslides that originated on the precipitous west side of Hart Mountain slid laterally into the large pluvial lake that occupied Warner Valley during the Pleistocene. Apparently, the mobility of these landslides was greatly increased as they mixed with the lake waters, permitting completely unsorted material, including blocks of basalt up to 4-5 feet in diameter, to advance far across the nearly flat lake floor. In places these landslide lobes extend for more than a mile from the base of Hart Mountain.

The alluvium consists mostly of sedimentary deposits that are fine grained and well sorted along gentler stream channels but are very coarse and poorly sorted in the large alluvial fans at the west base of Hart Mountain and Poker Jim Ridge. Some talus and fluvio-glacial deposits are also included in the alluvium, and in Warner Valley the near-surface alluvium locally contains minor amounts of peat mixed with clastic debris.

During periods of drought, small amounts of saline minerals form surface crusts in playas and in the shallow basins of the transient lakes of Warner Valley.



## Structure

The two candidate areas are parts of a major structural feature consisting of a great complex horst on the south, forming Hart Mountain, and a large faulted monoclinical warp on the north, at Poker Jim Ridge. Structural elements transitional from the monoclinical warp to the horst are present in and between the candidate areas.

Both of the candidate areas are separated from Warner Valley-- a very large and complex graben on the west and southwest--by an arcuate zone of north-trending normal faults whose aggregate displacement is more than 2,000 feet. The east side of Poker Jim Ridge is essentially a dip slope of basalt and is only locally broken and faulted. The east side and north end of Hart Mountain, however, are bounded by low and less precipitous scarps in a zone of normal faults having an aggregate displacement of about 1,000 feet. Tilted fault blocks on the east face of Hart Mountain in places represent the broken parts of the original monoclinical structure that now characterizes Poker Jim Ridge and once extended to Hart Mountain. The Hart Mountain fault block, which is nearly flat topped and about 14 miles long and 2 miles wide, is cut by several normal faults with displacements of several tens of feet and, in places, is intruded by masses of rhyolite, dacite, and andesite or basalt. The largest pile of rhyolite and dacite, in the east central part of Hart Mountain, must have been a volcanic mountain in middle to late Miocene time, because the middle(?) and late Miocene basalt flows lap out against these rocks.



1        Some aspects of the origin of the huge fault-block structures  
2        in southeast Oregon, including Hart Mountain and Poker Jim Ridge,  
3        have been described by Fuller and Waters (1929).  
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## Mineral resources

### Regional features

Some metallic and nonmetallic mineral deposits have been exploited on a small scale in the region that includes the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. Within the refuge, however, there is no past record of mining or quarrying and only a few minor occurrences of potentially valuable minerals have been reported.

Brooks (1963, p. 171-179) notes the presence of several commercial mercury deposits, including one with small production in the Coyote Hills about 10 miles west of Hart Mountain, and lists one minor occurrence on Hart Mountain with no recorded production. Deposits of uranium, locally associated with some molybdenum and minor antimony, mercury, and lead, have been discovered several tens of miles east and west of the refuge (Matthews, 1955; Peterson, 1959a), although recorded production of uranium ores from south-central Oregon has come only from the deposits northwest of Lakeview. Nearly all of these metallic mineral deposits are either in silicic intrusive rocks or in the adjacent wall rocks and are probably of hydrothermal origin closely related genetically to the intrusive rocks.

Deposits of low-grade diatomite and bentonite and several perlite deposits have been located in parts of the region (Moore, 1937; Peterson, 1961). Although some of these deposits have been explored in a limited way, mostly by bulldozer trenching, none have been of sufficiently high grade or close enough to potential markets to warrant commercial exploitation.



1        Several of the large desert basins of the general region have  
2        been explored for saline minerals, notably potash salts and borates  
3        (Phalen, 1917; Libbey, 1960; Ore Bin, 1960). Some borax was produced  
4        from Alvord Valley, in southern Harney County, about 1900 (Struthers,  
5-       1904, p. 894). A minor and noncommercial occurrence of ulexite  
6       was discovered on the shore of Flagstaff Lake (R. S. Mason, written  
7       communication, 1952), a few miles northwest of Hart Mountain. Also,  
8       precious fire opal has been collected in the Virgin Valley area of  
9       northern Nevada and in minor amounts from several areas on the west  
10-      face of Hart Mountain, where it occurs as detrital fragments and as  
11      vesicle and fracture fillings in basalt flows (Dake, 1954).

12       Sporadic interest in the petroleum and gas potential of the  
13      region has centered either in the Lakeview area, 40 to 50 miles to  
14      the west, or in areas at even greater distances from Hart Mountain  
15-     to the northeast. The most recent petroleum activity in the region,  
16      during the late 1950's and early 1960's, culminated in the drilling  
17      of two deep test wells, one 20 to 25 miles northwest of Lakeview  
18      and other several miles south of Lakeview, in a volcanic terrane  
19      geologically similar to that on the refuge. The tests were negative,  
20-     and interest in the area subsequently waned.



## Mineral potential of candidate areas

The Fort Warner and Poker Jim Ridge candidate areas contain few, if any, resources of metallic minerals and no apparent potential for the commercial production of saline minerals, petroleum, sulfur, coal, oil shale, or peat. Small amounts of precious opal occur on Hart Mountain and are of interest to mineral collectors. Both areas contain noncommercial bentonitic (montmorillonitic) tuffaceous sedimentary rocks. The Fort Warner area contains the potentially valuable mineral commodity clinoptilolite, a potassium-sodium-calcium zeolite.

Thin-section and X-ray analyses of many samples collected throughout both candidate areas indicate that several different zeolites are present--principally clinoptilolite, mordenite, and phillipsite, with minor heulandite(?). These zeolites are concentrated in the older, late Oligocene or early Miocene tuffs and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks on the west face of Hart Mountain in the Fort Warner candidate area. Most of these rocks contain only minor amounts of zeolites, but some of the thin-bedded fine-grained tuffs in the sequence, originally nearly pure vitric ash, are now composed of 90-95 percent clinoptilolite. Mordenite, phillipsite, and heulandite(?) are much less abundant, constituting less than 10 percent of any of the rocks tested. Neither the samples collected during the reconnaissance mapping in 1961 nor those collected since are adequate to establish the precise distribution, volume, or grade of zeolitized tuffs.



1       The value and mineral economics of naturally occurring zeolites,  
2 including clinoptilolite, are not yet clearly established, although  
3 some aspects of their use as absorbants of radioactive or other waste  
4 products are briefly described by Brown (1962). The interest in  
5- natural zeolites is increasing, however, and certain deposits in the  
6 western United States, including some in central and southern Malheur  
7 County in southeast Oregon, are being explored at present (1966) by  
8 private industry.

9       Natural zeolites have been found in large amounts in areas  
10- more accessible than the Fort Warner candidate area, including some  
11 extensive deposits of clinoptilolite in the John Day Formation of  
12 central Oregon (Hay, 1962; Fisher, 1962). Under conditions existing  
13 in 1966, the potential value of the deposits of clinoptilolite within  
14 the Fort Warner candidate area is difficult, if not impossible, to  
15- estimate.



## Potential for geothermal power

Several thermal springs in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (Stearns, Stearns, and Waring, 1937, p. 175) and along the eastern edge of Warner Valley, about 10 miles southwest of Hart Mountain (Peterson, 1959b), suggest that an as yet undetermined potential for thermal power may exist in the area (Groh, 1966).

All of the thermal springs are small, however, and the few recorded surface temperatures of the hot water are about 94°C or less--

temperatures well below those currently used for the generation of power (White, 1965, table 1; Bodvarsson, 1966). Nevertheless, the presence of these springs in an area characterized by relatively young (middle to late Cenozoic) volcanism and intense faulting suggests that higher temperatures probably occur at depth, particularly adjacent to major faults and in large intrusive bodies.

However, there is no way to determine, without physical exploration, whether temperatures adequate for thermal power exist at depth in the candidate areas.



## Conclusions and recommendations

Neither the Fort Warner nor the Poker Jim Ridge candidate areas in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge contain deposits of mineral fuels, metallic minerals, or, with one exception, nonmetallic minerals that may be considered as potential mineral resources. The Fort Warner candidate area contains some high-grade deposits of the zeolite clinoptilolite. A growing demand for zeolites is evident but readily accessible deposits are widely available in central Oregon, as well as in many other states.

Insofar as mineral content is a determining factor, the Poker Jim Ridge area is well suited for inclusion in the wilderness system. <sup>However,</sup> In weighing the values of wilderness as against other values of the Fort Warner area, it is recommended that consideration be given to the zeolite potential of this area.



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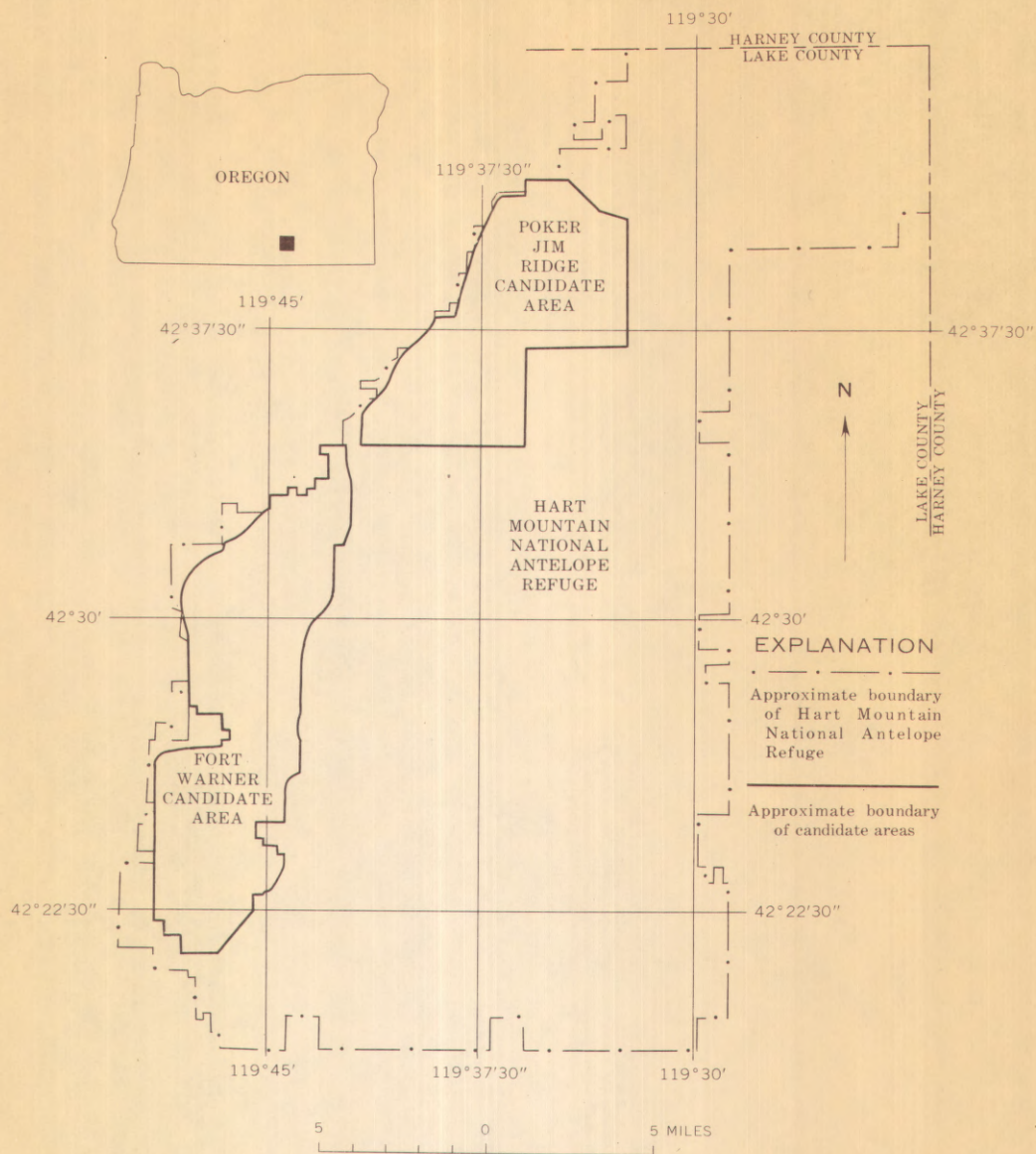


Figure 1.--Location of the Poker Jim Ridge and the Fort Warner candidate areas of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Oregon.



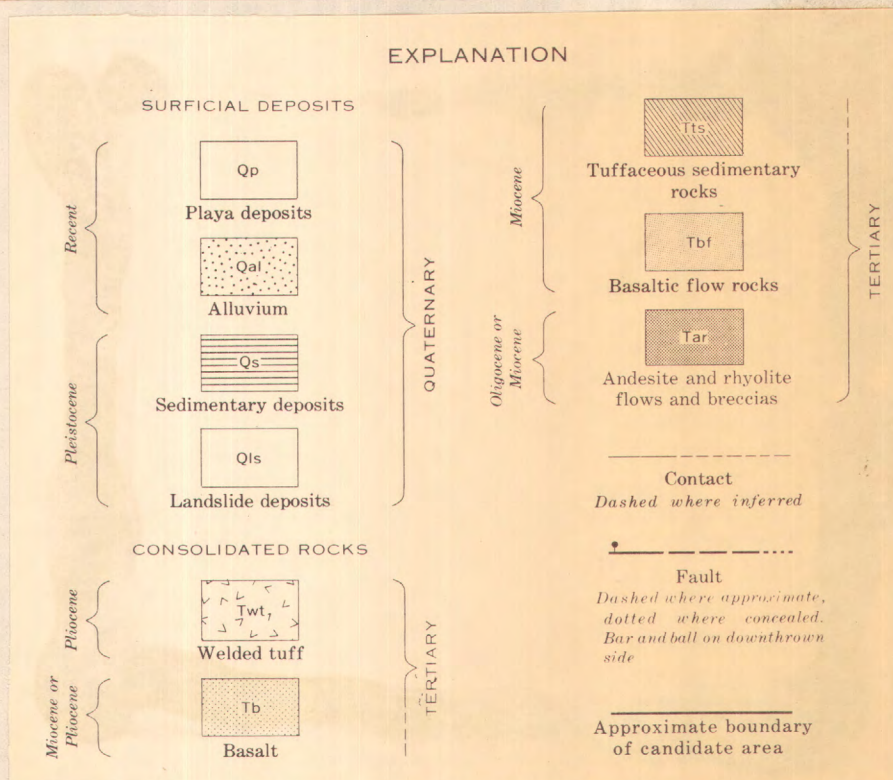
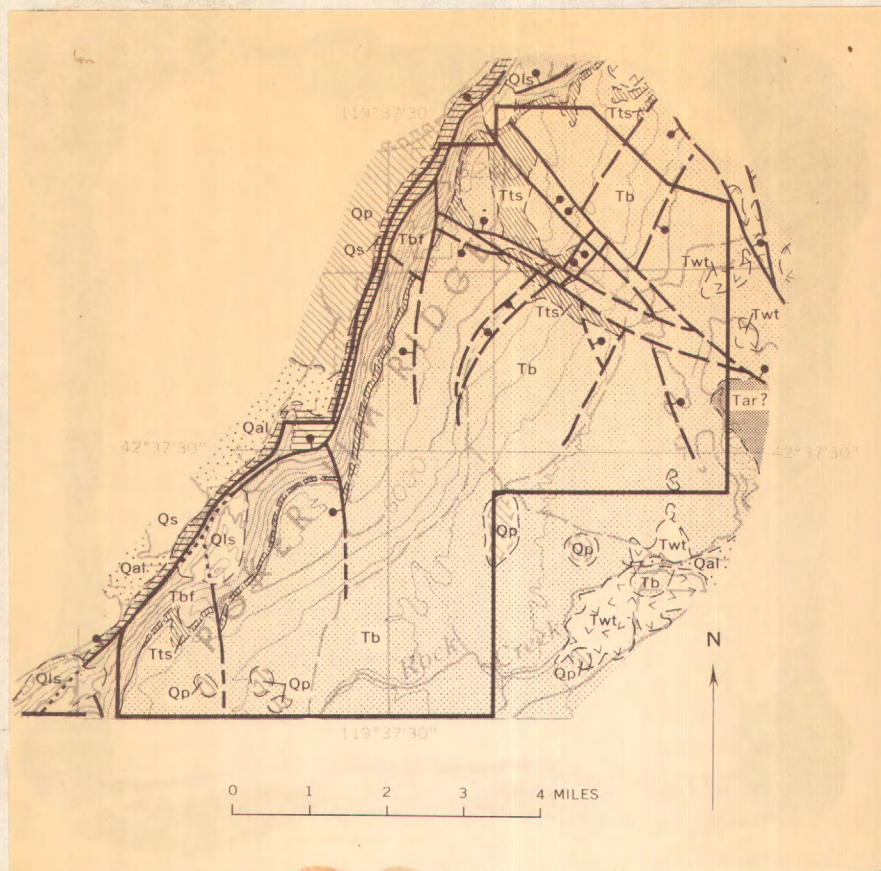


Figure 2.--Reconnaissance geologic map of the Poker Jim Ridge area.



This is a detailed geological map of a region in the Adirondacks, New York. The map shows various geological units labeled with codes such as Qls, Qs, Qal, Tbf, Tbs, Tts, Ttr, Tvr, Twd, Tar, Trd, Trf, and Ttr. The map includes a north arrow and a scale bar from 0 to 4 miles. The map is oriented with North at the top. The scale bar is located at the bottom right of the map.

[illegible]

Figure 3.--Reconnaissance geologic map  
of the Fort Warner area.



