

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1146

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Plataurica Mine

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Approximately 0.75 miles s.e. of the inter-section of Waldo Road and Waldo Lookout Road  N/A not for publication

city or town Cave Junction (USDI BLM Medford District)  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97523

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John F. Clarys 8/14/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Preservation Officer, Bureau of Land Management  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jana Hamrick 12/14/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy SHPO  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

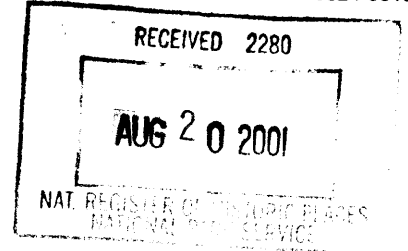
Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

10-4-01

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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 nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Plataurica Mine  
Name of Property

Josephine Oregon  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
2	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
3	_____	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
\_\_\_\_\_ Oregon

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other EARTH; STONE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please See Continuation Pages

Plataurica Mine  
Name of Property

Josephine Oregon  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

1929-1930

**Significant Dates**

1929-1930

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

USDI BLM Medford District



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Plataurica Mine

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### Summary Description

The Plataurica Mine, excavated by the Plataurica Mining Company in the winter of 1929-1930, contains several interrelated features associated with gold mining during the Depression era (Shenon 1933:185). The company used hydraulic giants and disposed of the tailings by natural runoff through the central channel in the bottom of Allen Gulch. The mine constitutes an excellent example of industrial mining technologies in use during the Depression decade. The Plataurica Mine displays distinct characteristics of its type in earthworks that include a large hydraulic cut, a tailrace and low, piled tailings. This system of hydraulic mining features enables us to understand the technologies involved in extracting gold and retains integrity of location, setting, plan, workmanship and feeling and conveys its historic associations.

### Setting

The Plataurica Mine, 13.752 acres in size, is located eight miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon on the northeast edge of Allen Gulch in the southwest quarter of Section 27 and the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M. (Josephine County Assessors Plats 40-8-27 Tax Lot 700 and 40-8-34, Tax Lot 700). The mine is situated at approximately 1,800 feet above sea level and is reached by unpaved roads in Allen Gulch that lead from the Waldo Lookout Road. The gold-bearing deposit of the site is from Tertiary Conglomerate (Shenon 1933:Plate 11). According to Shenon (1933:185),

The Plataurica Mining Co. has worked the lower beds of the Tertiary conglomerate, which where exposed in pits is composed largely of greatly altered, rounded boulders in a sandy matrix....According to J. L. Eggers, superintendent of operations, the gold appears throughout the Tertiary conglomerate but is more abundant near bedrock. Here, as elsewhere, a large percentage of the gold is covered with black material. Much of it is collected in a black-sand concentrate along with chromite, magnetite, hematite, platinum, and other heavy minerals....Mr. Eggers states that the conglomerate above bedrock averages 2 ½ cents in metallic content to the cubic yard.

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Plataurica Mine

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The Plataurica Mine lies in a mixed conifer/ oak woodland zone with an on-site plant community composed of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, cedar, manzanita, buckbrush, poison oak. Water for hydraulic mining at the Plataurica Mine was from a pipeline ditch that took off from the Logan/Esterly Upper Ditch at the tunnel and coursed along the slope above the workings. The pipeline ditch that took water from the Logan/Esterly Upper Ditch is located about forty feet above the mine's hydraulic cut; the water source was from the East Fork Illinois River at an intake located about fifteen miles to the south (Budy 1999: 35HS11-497). The Allen Gulch Mill and the Allen Gulch Cemetery lie a short distance south of the Plataurica Mine.

### Site Description

The Plataurica Mine site consists of a hydraulic headcut, tailrace, and tailings that are documented as being developed during the winter of 1929-1930. These features include a large **hydraulic cut face (A)** that measures approximately five hundred feet in length and from forty to seventy-five feet in height and a central **tailrace (B)**, from five to twelve feet deep, that drained runoff from the hydraulic operation into the center of Allen Gulch. Low piles of tailings (C) lie in an area that is thickly overgrown with manzanita and buckbrush (Budy 1999:35HS11-497).

### Integrity

The hydraulic earthworks appear as they were when the mine was abandoned. The hydraulic cut face retains its steep profile and remains largely without vegetation. Natural re-vegetation and minor erosion are the only post-mining impacts on other areas of the site. No mining equipment remains on the property. Below the cut face ponderosa pine with sparse cedar and Douglas fir have established a semi-open young forest stand. Tailings piles located to the northwest of the site contain thickets of manzanita and buckbrush. The large hydraulic cut reflects the extensive mining activity that occurred here. The site's historic associations forge a strong links between the Plataurica Mine and the observer's ability to understand the mining technology that significantly affected development in the Upper Illinois Valley

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Plataurica Mine

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### Significance

The Plataurica Mine, developed in 1929-1930, is locally significant for its association with mining in the Upper Illinois Valley, Waldo vicinity. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley, Oregon," the Plataurica Mine represents its associated historic context, "Gold Placer Mining and Development of the Waldo Vicinity, 1851-1942." The mine meets the registration requirements outlined for hydraulic mines of the Depression era. The Plataurica Mine was developed in the historic period and retains integrity of location, setting, design and feeling and evokes direct historic associations with the mining technology that played a critical role in the Upper Illinois Valley. The Plataurica Mine is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an important, tangible representative of historic mining activities in the Waldo vicinity.

### History

The area surrounding the cut excavated in 1929-1930 by the Plataurica Mining Company had seen mining in previous decades. Josephine County mining records indicate that F.H. Osgood, who had acquired the property in 1900, conveyed the entire property known as the "Allen Gulch Mines" to James Logan in April 1925, together with all tools and equipment (Josephine County Mining Records 10:213). In December 1929 Logan sold the property to J.E. O'Conner who immediately conveyed the property to the Plataurica Mining Company Incorporated of the state of Washington, including mining claim, ditches and water rights, sawmill, equipment and pipe. (Josephine County Deeds 71:204-206; 211-213).

Noting that shallow workings southeast of the main pit were excavated by "early day miners," P.J. Shenon stated that during the winter and spring of 1929-1930 the Plataurica Mining Company excavated this cut in the northwest quarter of Section 34 and the southwest quarter of section 27, Township 40 South, Range 8 West near the head of Allen Gulch. At that time, Shenon reported, hydraulic giants worked the gravel and the tailings disposed of by "natural run-off." (Shenon 1933:85).

In August 1932, with James Gordon as president, the Plataurica Mining Company of Seattle, Washington sold their mining property to T.W. Gibson (Josephine County Deeds



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Plataurica Mine

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74:168-172). The sale to Gibson included the mining claims, ditch, water rights, dam, flume, sawmill, electric plant and following equipment:

Two Hendy cutting hydraulic giants, 11 inch ball joints  
One stacking 11 inch giant  
One Hendy 9 inch throat elevator 56 feet long  
One 6 inch Hendy water siphon  
300 feet 10inch gauge flange joint 11 inch New Hydraulic pipe  
600 ft. 10 inch gauge slipjoint new Hendy pipe 11 inch  
600 feet 12 inch gauge used stacking Giant pipe, 11 inch  
2000 ft. 15 inch and 18 inch and 24 inch hydraulic pipe  
one Pelton water wheel for power plant  
two electric dynamos for lighting plant  
two Hendy reflectors for nozzles on giants  
390 feet of good top sluice box  
250 feet of good groundsluice box  
Blacksmith shop  
One 1931 Ford Truck  
Three 11 inch Hendy gate on valves (State of Oregon Circuit Court for Josephine County 1939; T.W. Gibson as Intervenor, 1933: 5)

Deed records indicate that T.W. Gibson conveyed the property and equipment to the Hydroplass Mining Company in 1933 and 1934 (Josephine County Deeds 75:538; 76:402). In the spring of 1935 the local newspaper reported:

[The Plataurica Mine] has been a profitable and steady producer for many years.. This mine was taken over the first of March by Albert Meneghini and associates of Seattle who planned to start immediate development, pushing repairs to the ditch and other equipment for continuing operation. (*Grants Pass Courier* April 3,1935: 2).

In 1936 the Hydroplass Mining Company, an Oregon corporation and Fred Galeno of the Waldo Placer Mining Company of Seattle, Washington extended a contract to

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purchase the mining property to A.D. Patterson and others. That year resident manager Galeno reported that about \$40,000 had been spent developing the mine. He stated that an average of fifteen men were employed operating two "giants" and installing equipment.

The gold is caught in a concentrating plant instead of using riffles, the most common method in use on placer properties. The concentrating plant system has been used by dredges for many years, but is something in the way of an experiment where placers are concerned. ...A hydraulic elevator is used to elevate the material to the plant after it is washed down from the bank by the large "giants" (*Grants Pass Daily Courier* January 27, 1937 5:4).

Historian Elizabeth Budy states that gold bearing materials from the Plataurica Mine as well as other mined areas may have been taken to the Allen Gulch Mill for processing (Budy 1999: 35HS11-497). Budy notes that geologist Shenon (1933:185 reported that at the Plataurica Mine "a large percentage of the gold is covered with black material." Further suggestion that the mill indeed was used to process these materials is found in a newspaper article:

Two giants are operated in the pits and work will be started with a crew of 12 or 14 men as soon as weather conditions permit. There has not been sufficient water so far this year. The new mill is now set up and ready to go. (*Grants Pass Daily Courier* January 27, 1937 5:4).

The Plataurica Mine property was purchased at a sheriff's sale in 1940 by A.D. Patterson, C.N. Oldfield, Walter Leek, R.M. Grauer and Charles Harrison (Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries 1942:211).

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Plataurica Mine

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**Bibliography**

Budy, Elizabeth E.

1999 *Plataurica Mine* Cultural Site Record 35HS11-497 (for USDI-  
BLM Medford District)

(DOGAMI) Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1942 *Oregon Metal Mines Handbook, Bulletin 14-C Southwestern  
Oregon*, Volume 2, Section 1 [Josephine County], Portland, Oregon.

Shenon, Philip J.

1933c *Geology and Ore Deposits of the Takilma-Waldo District, Oregon,  
Including the Blue Creek District*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 846-B  
Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Plataurica Mine

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A map showing locations of the twenty resources included in this Multiple Property Submission is contained with the cover document. A photocopied section of a USGS map that indicates the location of the Plataurica Mine accompanies the nomination document.

### Boundary Description

The Plataurica Mine is located in the in the southwest quarter of Section 27 and the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M. (Josephine County Assessors Plats 40-8-27 Tax Lot 700 and 40-8-34, Tax Lot 700), in Josephine County Oregon. The property is identified on USGS map O'Brien quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, included with this nomination. The site is further described as follows:

Beginning at the point where the Allen Gulch Road crosses the 1800' contour line in the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, T. 40 S. R. 8W W.M., continue South along the road to the Allen Gulch Cemetery in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34 T. 40 S. R. 8 W. W.M., then extend a line of convenience at 090 degrees along the northern boundary of the Allen Gulch Cemetery and beyond the Cemetery to the point in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34 T. 40 S., R. 8W.W.M., where the line of convenience crosses the 1800' contour line in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 34, T.40 S., R. 8W., W.M. Then proceed Northwest along the 1800' contour line to the point of beginning. The nominated area contains 13.752 acres.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated area encompasses the major earthwork features and immediate setting of the primary locus of historic mining activity at the Plataurica Mine, on lands administered by the USDI Bureau of Land Management.

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**Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Plataurica Mine**

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**UTM References**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
10	1	447235.57851	4655848.76530
	2	447648.75855	4655487.23277
	3	447416.34478	4655487.23277



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**Property Owner Notification**

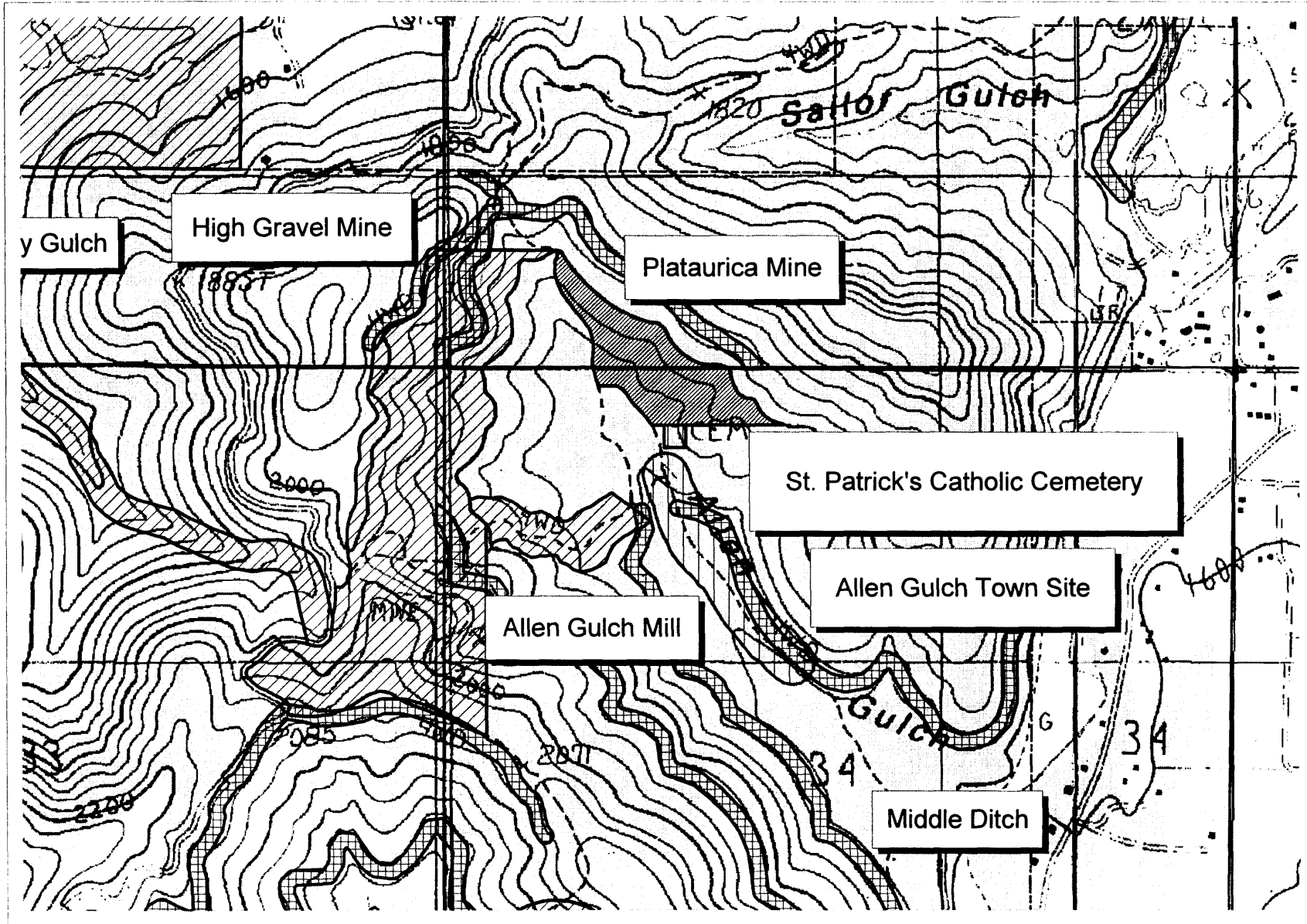
Bureau of Land Management  
Ron Wenker, District Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area Manager  
Ann Ramage, Archaeologist  
Medford Field Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford OR 97504

Oregon-Washington State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
Elaine Zielinski, Director  
Richard Hanes, Cultural Resource Lead  
PO Box 2965  
Portland OR 97208-2965

**Federal Preservation Officer Certification**

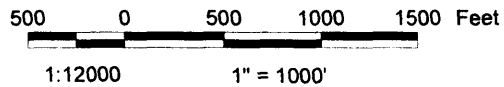
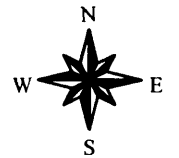
Mr. John G. Douglas, Preservation Officer  
Bureau of Land Management (240)  
204-LS  
18<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

# Plataurica Mine



Plataurica Mine  
 35HS11-497  
 A portion of the  
 O'Brien Quad  
 (Sec 34  
 T40S, R8W, wm)  
 showing  
 Historic Placer  
 Mining Resources  
 in the Waldo Vicinity.

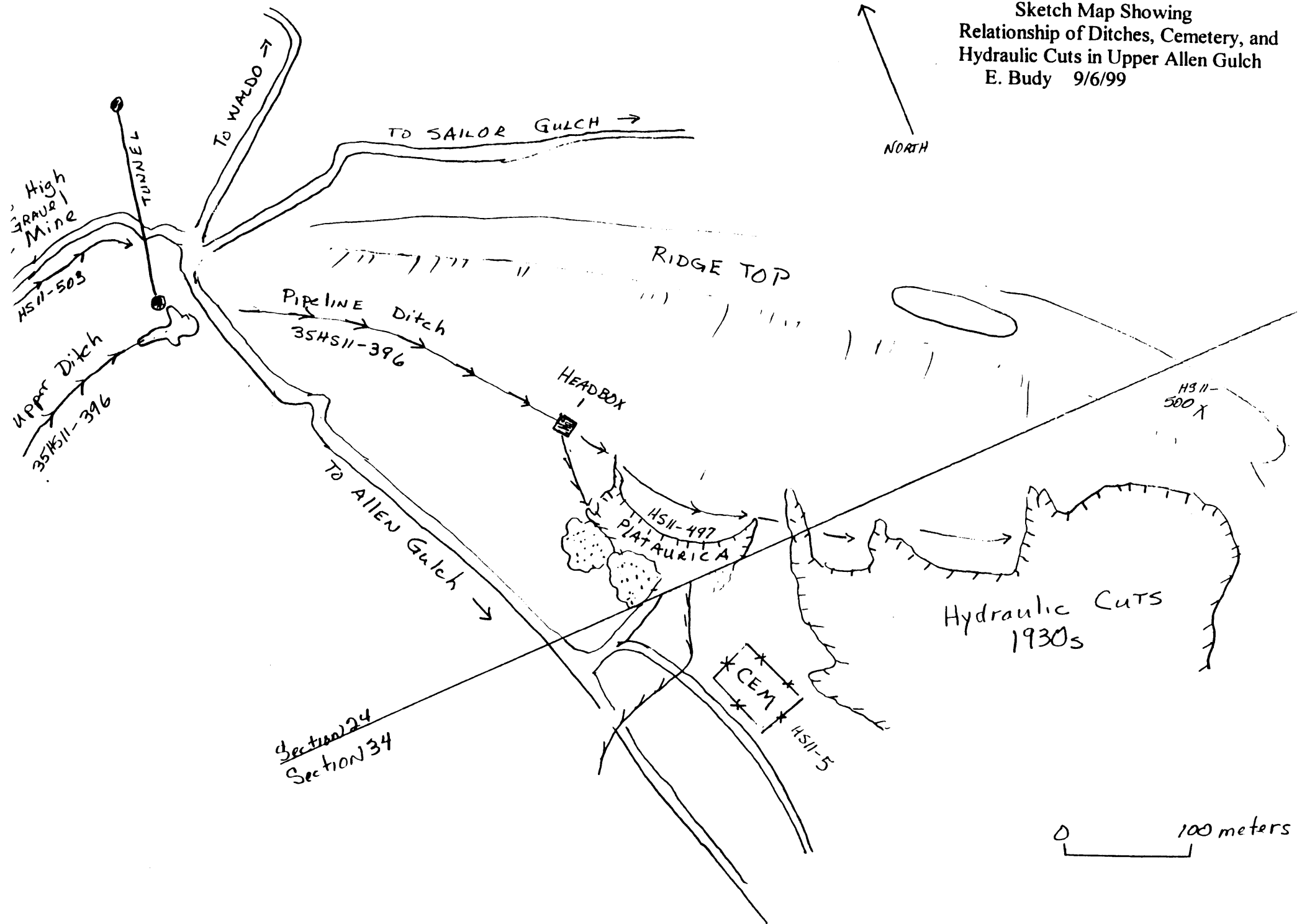
- Mines**
- Allen Gulch Mill
  - Cameron Mine
  - Deep Gravel Mine
  - Esterly PR #2
  - Fry Gulch
  - High Gravel Mine
  - Old Placer Mine
  - Plataurica Mine
  - Waldo Mine
- General Symbology**
- Ditches
  - Mines
  - Town, cemetery
  - BLM boundary
  - Section Lines



Map created August 2000 by Ralph Delamarter  
 Features based on site investigations by W Tonsfeldt, E Budy and others  
 Base images: digital raster graphs (DRG) and digital orthoquads (DOQ)(1995)  
 of O'Brien, Takilma and Broken Rib quads (scale 1:24000).

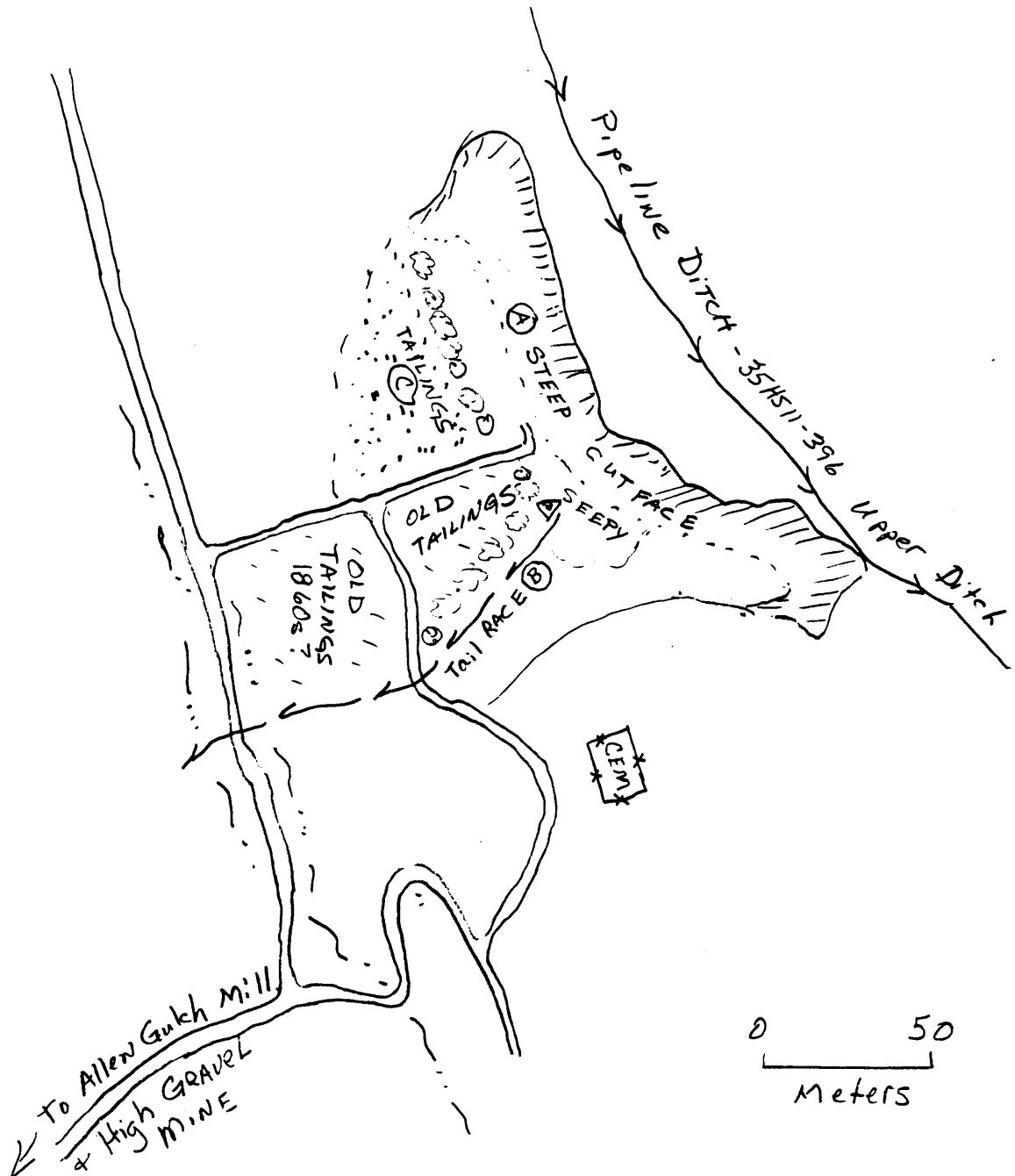


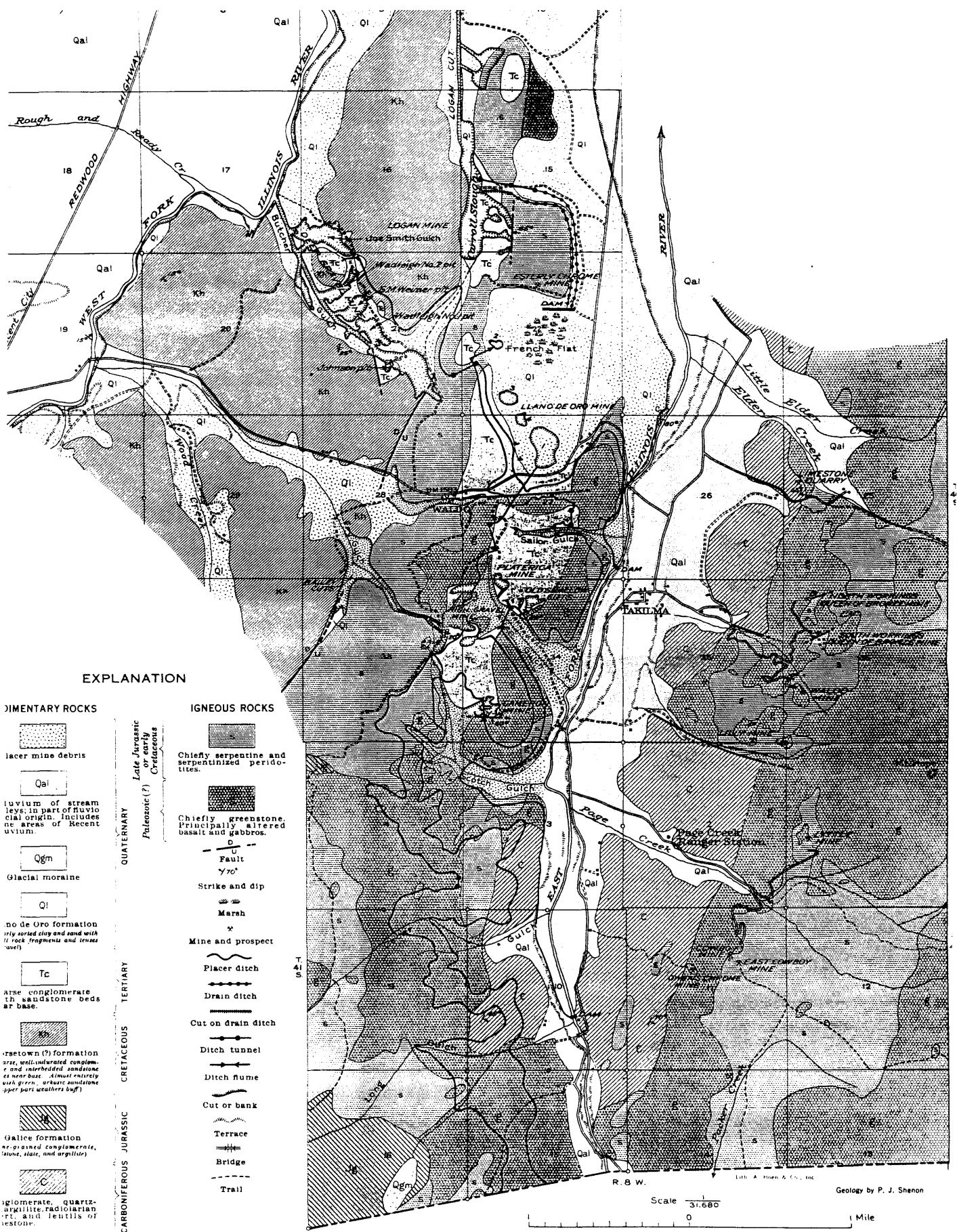
Sketch Map Showing  
Relationship of Ditches, Cemetery, and  
Hydraulic Cuts in Upper Allen Gulch  
E. Budy 9/6/99



Sketch Map  
 35HS11-497  
 Plataurica Cut (Mike)  
 9/6/99  
 E. Budy

- KEY
- == = Jeep TRAIL
  - ← = Tail RACE
  - ||||| = Hydraulic CUT FACE
  - ⊙ ⊙ = MANZANITA
  - ⊙ = 1929-1930 TAILINGS PILES
  - ⊖ = OLD TAILINGS 1860s?
  - ⊠\* = ALLENTOWN CEMETERY  
35HS11-5





GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE TAKILMA-WALDO DISTRICT, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON