

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1140

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 N/A

other names/site number Old Placer Mine (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Approx. 0.65 miles west of intersection of  Not for publication  
Rockydale Road and BLM Road 40-8-15

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 S. Morgan 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 12/18/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
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  
Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

10-4-01

Old Placer 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
2		sites
2		structures
		objects
4		Total

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

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

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Oregon 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

Name of Property

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.)

- Criteria A-D with checkboxes: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes: owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes, removed from its original location, a birthplace or grave, a cemetery, a reconstructed building, object, or structure, a commemorative property, 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

1855-1875

Significant Dates

N/A

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):

- Checkboxes for documentation: 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:

- Checkboxes for data location: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

USDI BLM Medford District

Old Placer Mine  
Name of Property

Josephine Oregon  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 125.608

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Katherine C. Atwood (with Dr. Ward Tonsfeldt)

organization (for) USDI BLM Medford District date August 16, 2000

street & number 365 Holly Street telephone (541) 482-8714

city or town Ashland state OR zip code 97520

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Please See Continuation Sheet

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley

Old Placer Mine

Section Number: 7 Page: 1

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### Summary Description

The "Old Placer Mine," worked extensively during the early years of placer mining in the Waldo vicinity, is located approximately six miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon and approximately two miles north of the former town of Waldo. Situated on shallow, gold-bearing gravels, this mine preserves distinct features associated with ground sluicing technology in the Waldo vicinity between 1851 and 1875. Because the gravels at this location were apparently exhausted relatively early, later hydraulic mining operations bypassed the site, leaving it undisturbed. The "Old Placer Mine" is a rare surviving representative of early mining technologies practiced in the Upper Illinois Valley. Although the sluices and other equipment used to mine this ground have disappeared, the remaining earthworks of sluice channels and tailings clearly reveal the processes involved in gold extraction. The site retains integrity of location, design, or plan, setting, feeling and association.

### Location and Setting

The "Old Placer Mine" is an irregularly shaped property in the northwest and northeast quarters of Section 15, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M. in Josephine County (Josephine County Assessor's Plat 40-8-15 Tax Lot 100). Reached by Bureau of Land Management Road 40-8-15, the mine is located in a low swale at the southeast edge of a serpentine knoll. Situated at an elevation of about 1,500 feet above sea level, the site, 125.608 acres in size, consists of two segments, lying approximately 600 feet apart (Please see accompanying map). Gravels representing placer mining debris are characteristic across most of the site. Geologically, the area is characterized by gold bearing sediments associated with the Llano de Oro formation (Shenon 1933c).

Located in a mixed conifer/oak woodland vegetation zone, the site contains plant community dominated by Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, cedar, manzanita, buckbrush, poison oak. The mined area is sparsely vegetated with a mixed conifer community that includes ponderosa pine, cedar, and Douglas fir. Manzanita and buckbrush are typical on tailings and on serpentine slope above the mine. The southwest edge of the site has a typical Douglas fir/oak/poison oak community (Budy 1999: 35HS11-487).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

Section Number: 7 Page: 2

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Site Description

The “Old Placer Mine” is located in the northern environs of the Waldo vicinity and is associated with the earliest placer mining technology used in intensive working of the Llano do Oro gravels. There are two components of the property, with site (2) located approximately 600 feet southeast of component (1). The property preserves features resulting from the earliest ground sluicing technology that occurred between the 1850s and the mid-1870s. Significant historic features at the site consist of low, linear rows of tailings with intervening channels that held sluice boxes placed to catch and wash the gold. No evidence of a water ditch system is apparent and it is likely that the miners likely channeled natural runoff to wash the gravels (Budy 1999:35HS11-487).

Component (a), the largest of the areas comprising the “Old Placer Mine” diggings, contains several **sluicing channels** that vary in width between six to eight feet and extend north/south several thousand feet up a moderate slope. These channels contained the sluices through which miners washed material to extract the gold. Low **tailings piles** that flank the sides of these channels are the places where unproductive gravels fell aside. Three larger, low piles of tailings are located on the site, to the south, east and north of the sluice channels. Component (b) the smaller of the two segments, contains additional sluice channels, as well as extensive piles of low tailings.

Integrity

Through earthworks of tailings piles and sluice channels, the “Old Placer Mine” effectively illustrates the technology employed during the early period of mining in the Waldo vicinity. The terrain surrounding the property remains undeveloped and the surrounding vegetation, consistent with that of historic period, enhances the site’s integrity. Open and generally undisturbed the setting provides a coherent context for the “Old Placer Mine” and allows it to convey its historic associations.

There have been some disturbances through recent mineral exploration on portions of the site. The ground shows evidence of an off-road vehicle track. A small dam impoundment, possibly for use by grazing stock, is also a more recent addition. Despite these intrusions, the site’s overall site integrity is intact (Budy 1999: 35HS11-487). In

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

**Section Number:** 7      **Page:** 3

---

feeling and association, the “Old Placer Mine” in the Waldo vicinity effectively represents early placer mining sites in the Upper Illinois Valley. The site remains closely linked with mining technology employ during the earliest period of mining activity in the area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

Section Number: 8 Page: 1

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### Significance

The "Old Placer Mine," so named for its designation on 1916 U.S. Government revestment maps, and developed between 1852 and 1875, is locally significant for its associations with mining technology during the early period of mining development in the Upper Illinois Valley, Waldo vicinity. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley, Oregon," the Old Placer Mine represents its associated historic context, "Gold Placer Mining and Development of the Waldo Vicinity, 1851-1942." The "Old Placer Mine" meets the registration requirements outlined in the registration document. The mine retains integrity of location, setting, design and feeling and evokes direct historic associations with mining technology in the Upper Illinois Valley. "The Old Placer 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

Situated on public land and open to mining from the earliest days of gold discovery in the Waldo vicinity, the "Old Placer Mine" was worked by miners whose names are unknown. The 1856 General Land Office Survey map traces a north/south trail that led north from the town of Waldo and skirted the knoll near the "Old Placer Mine." This trail and others would have easily brought miners to the site. Josephine County mining records indicate that several placer miners operated in the vicinity during the historic period and any of hundreds of mining "companies" could have worked the "Old Placer Mine." French-Canadian miners are known to have worked the area before 1860. J. Carron, (various spelled Caro, Carro, Carroll) and J. Baptiste Deselles are among many placer miners who worked French Flat (Street 1973: 22). Carroll Gulch (the current spelling), a short distance west of the "Old Placer Mine" was the site of extensive placer mining and Carron, who eventually received a mineral certificate for forty acres in the same section in 1873, may have explored the mine site (Josephine County Deeds 4:311).

Although the names of people who worked this ground are lost, the image of the miners loading soil into the heads of the long sluices is a vivid one. As one historian described the process:



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

**Section Number:** 8      **Page:** 2

---

The [sluice box] line usually led directly across the claim; and the 'bronzed and hardy gold-seekers' partners in the profits, stood upon either side of the boxes and shoveled the earth into them. This improvement led to the formation of companies of miners, whereby advantages accrued in securing 'water rights' and 'dumping grounds' and sufficient quantities of "pay dirt" which would have been impossible to solitary workers (Walling 1884: 323).

Because the ore-bearing gravels characterizing the "Old Placer Mine" site were shallow, the potential for gold extraction ended early in the mining period. The mine was thus left unaffected by the hydraulic mining operations of the 1880s and by the industrial hydraulic mining that occurred after 1900. The sluice channels and low tailings piles of the "Old Placer Mine" constitute rare examples of the earliest period of placer mining in the Waldo vicinity. The "Old Placer Mine" is significant as a rare mining site associated with early placer mining technology that played a significant role in the development of the Upper Illinois Valley in southwest Oregon.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

Section Number: 9 Page: 1

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### Bibliography

Budy, Elizabeth E.

1999 *Old Pick and Shovel Placer* Cultural Site Record 35HS11-487 (for USDI-  
BLM Medford District).

Street, Willard and Elsie Street

1973 *Sailors' Diggings*. Josephine County Historical Society Reprints, Grants  
Pass, Oregon.

Walling, A.G.

1884 *History of Southern Oregon*. A.G. Walling, Portland, Oregon.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

**Section Number:** 10      **Page:** 1

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A map showing locations of the twenty resources included in this Multiple Property Submission is contained with this document. A photocopied section of the USGS map that depicts the location of the "Old Placer Mine," accompanies the nomination document.

**Boundary Description**

The Old Placer Mine is located in the northwest and northeast quarters of Section 15, Township 40 South, Range 8 West W.M., in Josephine County Oregon and identified on USGS map O'Brien quadrangle 7.5 minute series, included with this nomination. The property is further described as follows:

Beginning at the intersecting point of Tax Lots 100, 400 and 500 at the center of Section 15, T. 40 S. R. 8 W. W.M., (as shown on Josephine County Assessor's Plat 40-8-15), construct a line of convenience 500 feet due east (180 degrees). From this point, extend a line of convenience north (360 degrees) to the line between Sections 10 and 15, T. 40S. R. 8W., W.M. Continue west along this section line 2000 feet. Extend a line of convenience south from this point at 180 degrees to join the property boundary between Tax Lots 100 and 400. Continue east along the property line to the point of origin. The nominated area contains 125.608 acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated area of the Old Placer Mine encompasses the earthwork features comprising the primary loci of ground sluicing activity on the site contained on lands managed by the USDI Bureau of Land Management.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

**Section Number:** 10      **Page:** 2

---

**UTM References**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
10	1	447469.63226	4660473.25226
	2	448099.40008	4660469.08161
	3	448099.40008	4659664.14659
	4	447465.46162	4659655.80529

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

**Section Number:**              **Page:**  
  Photographs              1

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**Photographs**

Photograph No. 1

- 1) Old Placer Mine (locus 1)
- 2) NW and NE quarters of S.15, T 40S., R 8W, W.M. in Josephine County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Katherine Atwood
- 4) Date of Photograph: June 2000
- 5) Negative holder: Katherine Atwood  
  365 Holly Street Ashland, Oregon 97520
- 6) View: Overview of sluice channels, looking northeast
- 7) Photograph number 1 of 3

Photograph No. 2

- 1) Old Placer Mine (locus 1)
- 2) NW and NE quarters of S.15, T 40S., R 8W, W.M. in Josephine County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Katherine Atwood
- 4) Date of Photograph: June 2000
- 5) Negative holder: Katherine Atwood  
  365 Holly Street Ashland, Oregon 97520
- 6) View: Sluice channels, looking north
- 7) Photograph number 2 of 3

Photograph No. 3

- 1) Old Placer Mine (locus 2)
- 2) NW and NE quarters of S.15, T 40S., R 8W, W.M. in Josephine County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Elizabeth Budy
- 4) Date of Photograph: August 1999
- 5) Negative holder: Bureau of Land Management Medford District  
  3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon 97520
- 6) View: Channels and tailings, looking southeast
- 7) Photograph number 3 of 3

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Old Placer Mine

**Section Number:** 11 **Page:** 1

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**Property Owner Notification**

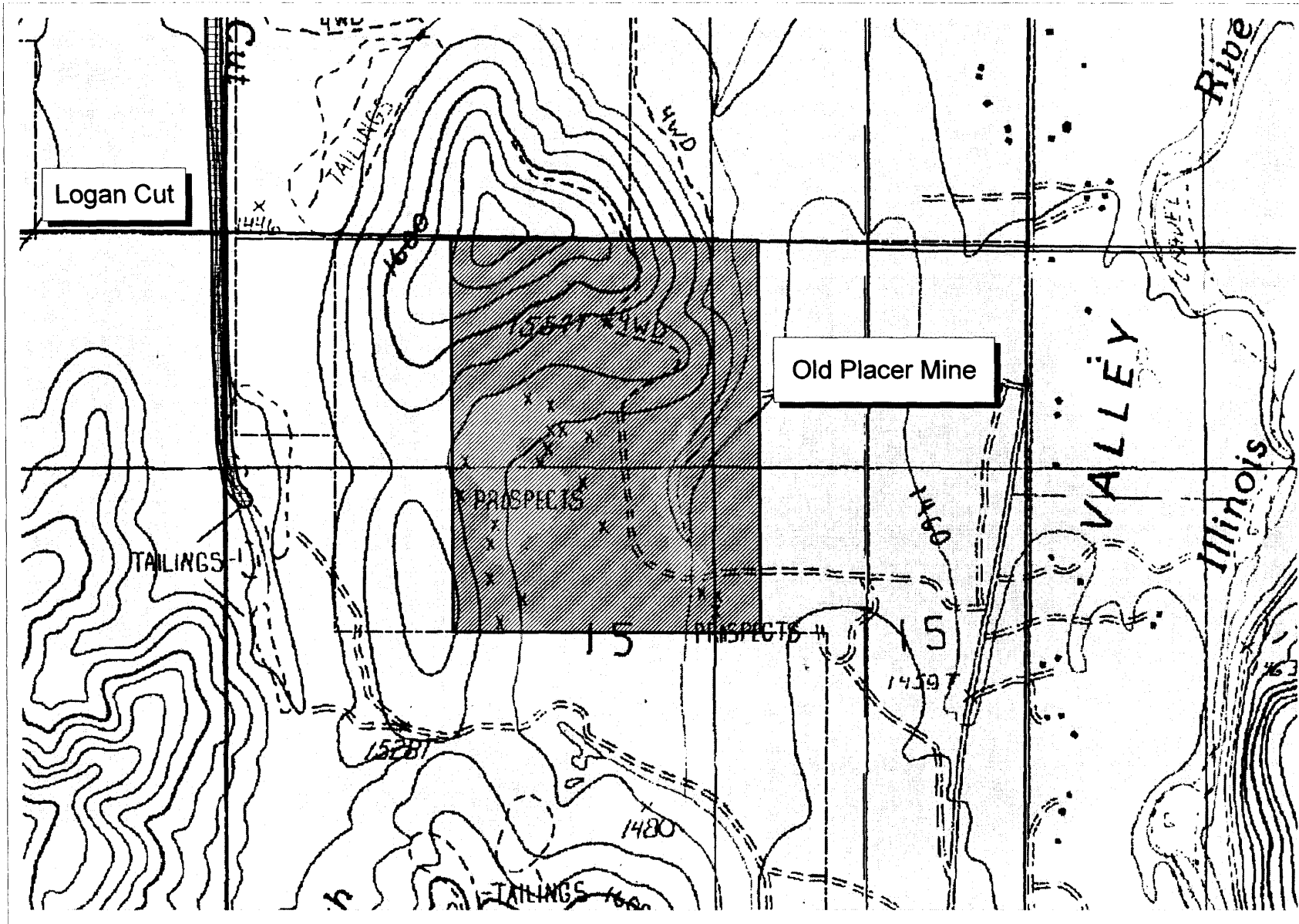
Bureau of Land Management  
Ron Wenker, District Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area Manager  
Ann Ramage, Archaeologist  
Medford Field Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford OR 97504

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**

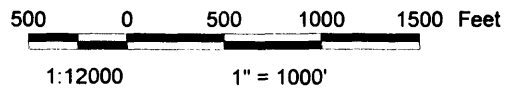
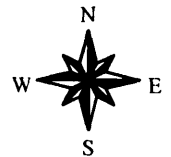
Mr. John G. Douglas, Preservation Officer  
Bureau of Land Management (240)  
204-LS  
18<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

# Old Placer Mine



Old Placer Mine  
 35HS11-487  
 A portion of the  
 O'Brien Quad  
 (Sec 15  
 T40S, R8W, wm)  
 showing  
 Historic Placer  
 Mining Resources  
 in the Waldo Vicinity.

- Mines**
- Allen Gulch Mill
  - Cameron Mine
  - Deep Gravel Mine
  - Esterly Pit #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).

35H511-487  
Old Pick-and-Shovel  
Placer Mine  
8/27/99  
E. Budy



KNOLL  
TOP

WATER  
CHANNEL

locus I

DRAINAGE

--- = ground sluicing features

⊙ = low tailings piles

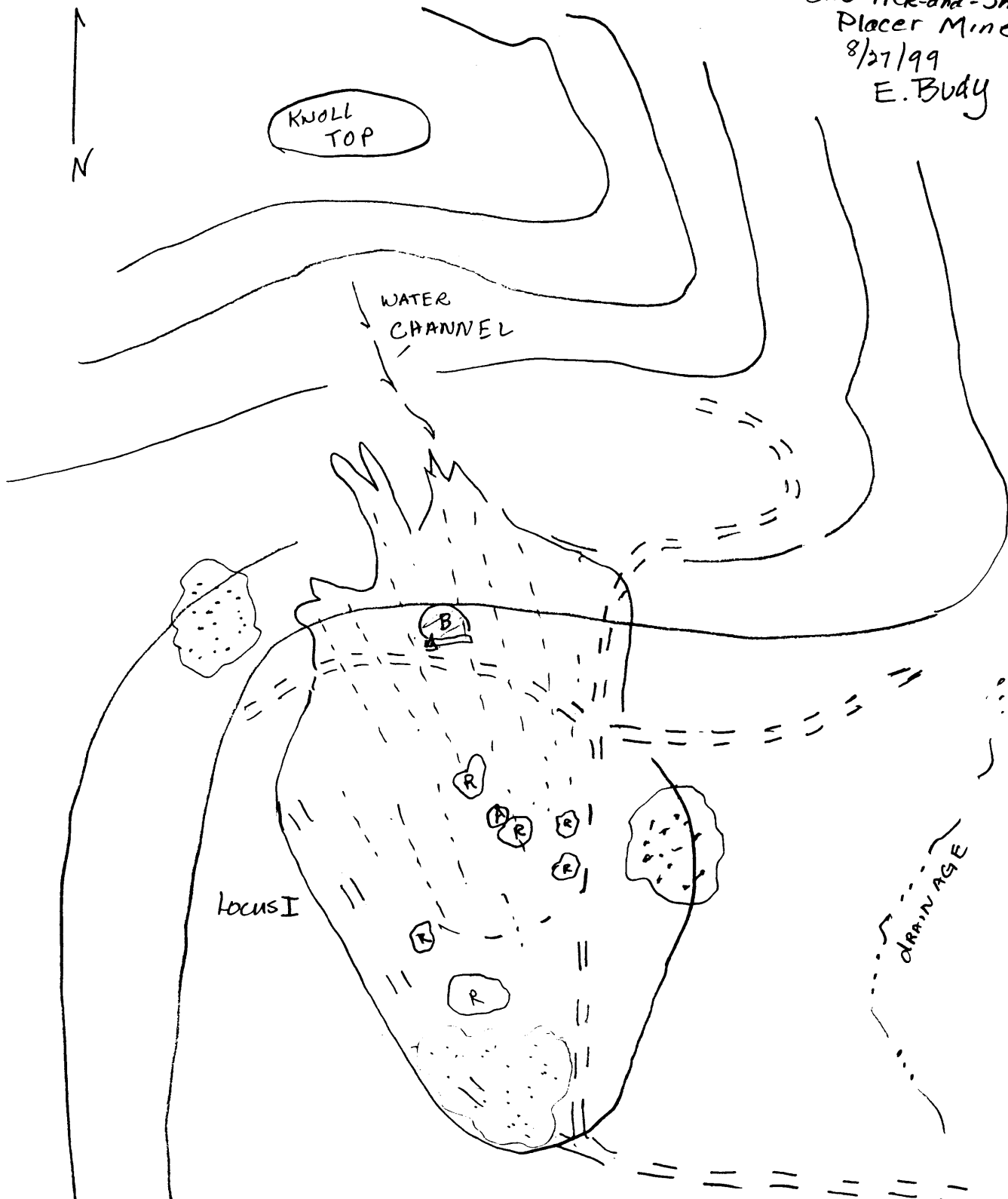
== = jeep trail

B = recent dam + impoundment

A = drain pipe

0 600  
meters

locus II





35HS11-487

8/27/99

Corri Jimenez

Pick-and-Stove 1  
Placer

Locus I  
Enlargement  
CENTRAL  
AREA

Key

A. 3" dia drainpipe, 99" long  
that goes into ground.

B. Earthen Berm Dam  
4 1/2' x 27' x 4 1/2', recently  
added for water control.

▲ Datum tree  
Ponderosa Pine, CA. 25yrs  
growing on Earthen dam.  
DBH = 55"

R. Recent prospering  
done within last 10-15yrs

R1 Recent Prospering  
done within 1 year

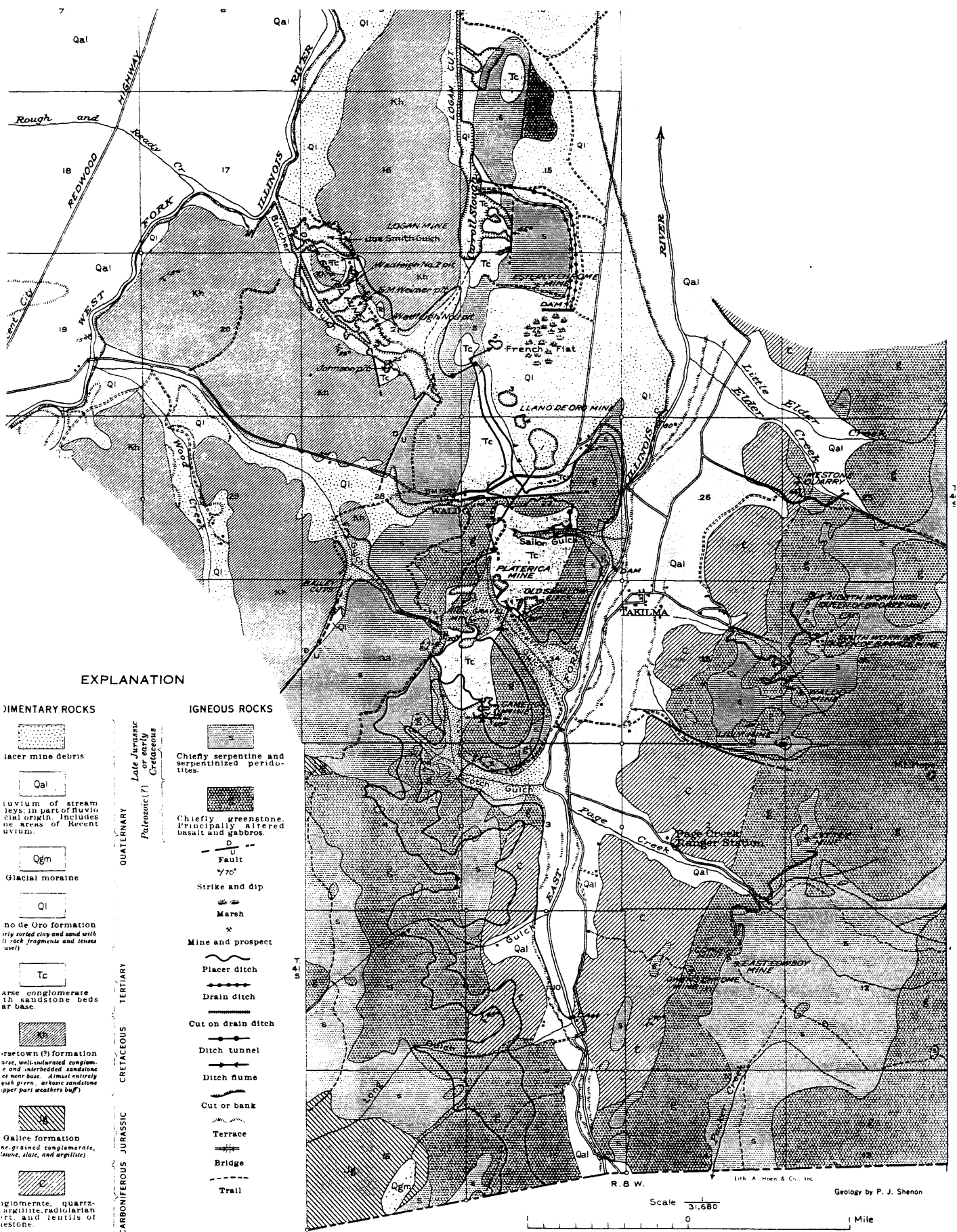
— Roads.

1 Tree line

~~~~ Tailings



NOT TO SCALE



**EXPLANATION**

**SEDIMENTARY ROCKS**

- Placer mine debris
- Alluvium of stream beds, in part of fluvio glacial origin. Includes the areas of Recent alluvium.
- Glacial moraine
- Llanos de Oro formation (very sorted clay and sand with rock fragments and lenses well)
- Coarse conglomerate (in sandstone beds at base)
- Forestown (?) formation (ore, well-sorted conglomerate and interbedded sandstone at base. Almost entirely with green, or brown sandstone upper part weathering buff)
- Galice formation (fine-grained conglomerate, stone, slate, and argillites)
- Conglomerate, quartzite, argillite, radiolarian (?) and lenses of limestone

**IGNEOUS ROCKS**

- Chiefly serpentine and serpentinized peridotites.
- Chiefly greenstone. Principally altered basalt and gabbros.

QUATERNARY  
 TERTIARY  
 CRETACEOUS  
 JURASSIC  
 CARBONIFEROUS

- Fault
- Strike and dip
- Marsh
- Mine and prospect
- Placer ditch
- Drain ditch
- Cut on drain ditch
- Ditch tunnel
- Ditch flume
- Cut or bank
- Terrace
- Bridge
- Trail

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

1988

Scale 1/31,680  
 0 1 Mile

Geology by P. J. Shenon