

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1152

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 Wimer Ditch  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Historic Channel of Wimer Ditch; South of Cave  Not for publication  
city or town Junction, Oregon (USDI BLM Medford District)  vicinity  
Cave Junction  
state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97523

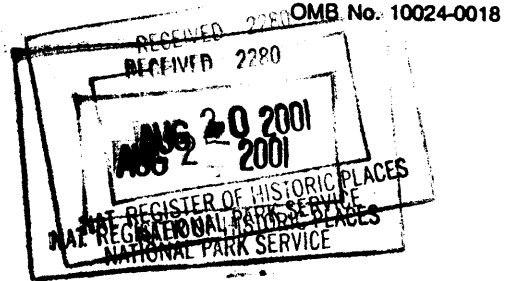
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.)  
Alan J. 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 Hamish 12/10/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy SHPO  
Oregon State Historical 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



United States Department of the Interior  
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# 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.

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other names/site number N/A

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street & number Historic Channel of Wimer Ditch; South of Cave  not for publication  
city or town Junction, Oregon (USDI BLM Medford District) Cave Junction ] vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97523

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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:)	_____	_____

Wimer Ditch

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.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation, walls, roof, other EARTH

Narrative Description

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

Please See Continuation Pages

Wimer Ditch  
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

1878-1942

#### Significant Dates

1878

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### 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

Wimer Ditch

Josephine

Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 57.813

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid boxes 1 and 2 for Zone, Easting, Northing

UTM grid boxes 3 and 4 for Zone, Easting, Northing

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 Bureau of Land Management date August 21, 2000
street & number 365 Holly St./Medford District 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.

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Wimer Ditch

Section Number: 7 Page: 1

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Summary Description

The two and nine-tenths miles of the Wimer Ditch that are included in this nomination constitute the major portion of the main ditch channel. Constructed between 1878 and 1880 to provide water to the Deep Gravel Mine, the ditch is associated with placer mining in the Waldo vicinity until 1942 and the end of the historic period. In its configuration and relationship to adjacent mining resources, the Wimer Ditch enables us to clearly understand the technology employed in varying periods to extract gold from the hillsides. The Wimer Ditch retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship and feeling, and accurately conveys the historic associations for which it is significant.

Location and Setting

The Wimer Ditch is located in the southeast quarter of Section 21, the west half of Section 22, the east half of Section 28, and the southeast and northeast and northwest quarters of Section 27, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M. Situated at an elevation ranging between 1,530 and 1,600 feet, the ditch is accessible from Bureau of Land Management road 40-8-28 approximately 1.2 miles from that road's intersection with the Waldo Road. The Wimer Ditch is in a mixed conifer/oak woodland vegetation zone, with an on-site plant community that is highly variable but characterized by mixed conifers and oaks. The East Fork Illinois River provided water for the ditch (Budy 1999: 35HS11-526).

Site Description

Although a portion of the Wimer Ditch appears to date from as early as 1858, the ditch preserved today, dates from about 1878 when hydraulic operations were initiated by William Bybee at the Deep Gravel Mine. The ditch shows clear relationships to that mining operation. The tunnel feature that crosses the saddle in Section 22, (Township 40 South, Range, 8 West (W.M.)), illustrates the special kind of engineering required to bring water to the mines (Budy 1999:HS3511-526). The head of the ditch is located on private lands in Section 27, Township 40 South, Range 8 West (W.M.). As the Wimer Ditch crosses into the southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 40 South, Range 8 West,

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Wimer Ditch

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W.M.), it passes over Bureau of Land Management-administered property. The ditch passes through a tunnel and at the southwest end of the tunnel, branches into two sections. One section flows west along the north edge of the Deep Gravel Mine; this section is shown on all the historic maps after 1900 (Waldo CGMC Map 1911; Watermaster's Map n.d.; and Shenon 1933c:Plate 11. The other section contours south along the ridge slopes, and after branching again, feeds the south side of Deep Gravel as well as the Waldo Mine.

The ditch measures two to three feet in depth, with a five-foot wide channel and from eight to twelve feet across its full extent. The tunnel, apparently modified in the recent past to an open cut, measures about 950 feet long by fifteen feet wide and up to twelve feet deep (Budy 1999:35HS11-526).

Integrity

The Wimer Ditch on Bureau of Land Management lands is well preserved despite occasional locations of natural erosion.

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Wimer Ditch

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### Significance

The Wimer Ditch, constructed in 1878 and used until 1942, 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 Wimer Ditch represents its associated historic context, "Gold Placer Mining and Development of the Waldo Vicinity, 1851-1942." The Wimer Ditch was developed during the historic period and was used for many decades. It meets the registration requirements outlined in the registration document. Constructed in the historic period, the ditch 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 Wimer Ditch is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an important, tangible representative of historic mining activities throughout several periods in the Upper Illinois Valley.

### History

Apparently incorporating parts of an earlier ditch constructed by Quinn and Darkis in 1858, the Wimer Ditch was expanded to provide water to the Deep Gravel Mine in Butcher Gulch. George and William Simmons acquired rights to the Quinn and Darkis Ditch and the Hunt Ditch when they purchased the Deep Gravel in 1877 (Josephine County Mining Records 3:125 October 26, 1876; 3:231 February 3, 1878). In 1878, Walter Simmons sold a half-interest in the mine to Jacob Wimer and his sons, George W. Wimer and William J. Wimer. George Simmons sold his interest to them in 1883 (Josephine County Mining Records 3:270 July 8, 1878; 3:271, July 13, 1878). Following their purchase of the Deep Gravel Mine, the Wimers enlarged what would be known as the Wimer Ditch. These years constituted the first era of substantial hydraulic developments in the Wimer Mine with the expansion of water systems, the introduction of hydraulic giants, and the construction of the long tail race through Butcher Gulch was begun (Budy 2000, 35HS 11-479:3).

By 1897, an extensive water system was in place at the Deep Gravel Mine, with two ditches and a long outlet race through Butcher Gulch, and the mine was operating from two to four giants. The two ditches serving the mine at this time were described as "...each having head boxes 4 by 6 feet, one being two miles long, the other to be about 3



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Wimer Ditch

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¾ miles long ..." (*Oregon Mining Journal*, 1897:55). The ditches, one of which was the Wimer Ditch, provided water to the mines by:

... 8,000 feet of pipe, ranging in size from 11 to 60 inches in diameter... There are also over 3,000 feet of 4x5 outlet flume. This mine is worked at least 11 months in each year, employing about a dozen men and using from two to four giants...(*Oregon Mining Journal*, 1897:55).

In 1901, W.J. Wimer, Medford attorney A.E. Reames and others formed the Deep Gravel Mining Company and the mine became known as the Deep Gravel Mine. Substantial improvements were introduced in the years immediately following the formation of this company. Hydraulic elevators were introduced after 1901 and operated at the Deep Gravel in 1904. In the same year, construction of the long tailrace through Butcher Gulch allowed access to the deeper gravels (Budy 1999 35HS11-479). The mine's improvements that year included the claims in Township 40 South, Range 8 West, the Hunt Ditch, the Quinn and Darkis Ditch, four hydraulic giants, 4000 feet of pipe, one Pelton hoisting machine, four ore cars, a blacksmith shop, three locomotive headlights, one office, two dwellings and five cabins (Josephine County Mining Records 4:232). W.J. Wimer was president and mine manager (Chapman Publishing Co., 1904: 305).

In late 1910, the Waldo Consolidated Gold Mining Company obtained an option on the Deep Gravel Mine and the Wimer Ditch for \$150,000, acquiring also its equipment (Josephine County Mining Records 37:282). The company defaulted on their payments and by 1914 the mine had returned to ownership of the Deep Gravel Mining Company.

For several decades the Deep Gravel Mine and the Wimer Ditch were leased by its owners to various individuals and companies (Josephine County Mining Records 7:241). In 1942 A.E. Reames retained his position as secretary of the Deep Gravel Mining Company. At that time the property had approximately forty to fifty acres excavated to bedrock. The ground was "cut its entire length by an artificially constructed race with an average depth of fifty feet."(*Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries* 1942:192). Work at the mine ceased in 1942 when war-related federal legislation brought an end to gold production.

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Wimer Ditch

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**Bibliography**

Budy, Elizabeth E.

1999 *Wimer Ditch* Cultural Site Record 35HS11-526 (for USDI-  
BLM Medford District)

Chapman Publishing Company

1904 *Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon*, Chapman  
Publishing Company Portland, Oregon.

(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.

Hill, Edna May

1976 *Josephine County Historical Highlights I*. Josephine County Library  
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*Mineral Wealth*

1904 Southern Oregon Edition of Mineral Wealth. Volume VI, Number 10  
[Published in Redding, California].

*Oregon Mining Journal*

1897 Offprint "Waldo District Mines." On File Josephine County Historical  
Society, Grants Pass, 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  
Wimer Ditch

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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 the USGS map indicating the location of the Wimer Ditch is contained within the nomination document.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Wimer Ditch is located in the southeast quarter of Section 21, the west half of Section 22, the east half of Section 28, and the southeast, northeast and northwest quarters of Section 27, Township 40 South Range 8 West, (W.M.) Josephine County Oregon. This property is identified on USGS map O'Brien quadrangle (7.5 minute series) included with this nomination.

The nominated portion of the Wimer Ditch is a single segment of 2.9 miles beginning at the point where the ditch enters BLM lands in the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 21, T. 40 S., R. 8W., (W.M.). The ditch continues north and west through Sections 21 and 28, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (W.M.). The two northern branches of the Wimer Ditch terminate at the boundary line between Tax Lots 500 and 100, in the southeast quarter of Section 21, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (W.M.) as shown on Josephine County Assessor's Plat 40-8-21. The southern branch of the ditch ends at the Waldo Road in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (W.M.).

The branches of the Wimer Ditch as thus described constitute the centerline of a linear site. The side boundaries of this linear site are lines of convenience parallel to the ditch extending 50 feet on each side of the channel. The resulting site is 100 feet wide, following the contours of the ditch. The nominated area of the Wimer Ditch contains 35.6 acres.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Wimer Ditch encompass the historic ditch channel associated with mining activity on lands now administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

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UTM References

Zone	Location	Easting	Northing
10	1 (n. spur)	446807.85472	4658004.80222
	2 (n. end at Deep Gravel)	446333.33927	4657630.59085
	3 (w. end near Waldo Mine)	446422.06980	4656581.25586
	4 (s. end)	448385.14327	4655956.88870

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Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley  
Wimer Ditch

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

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**Photographs**

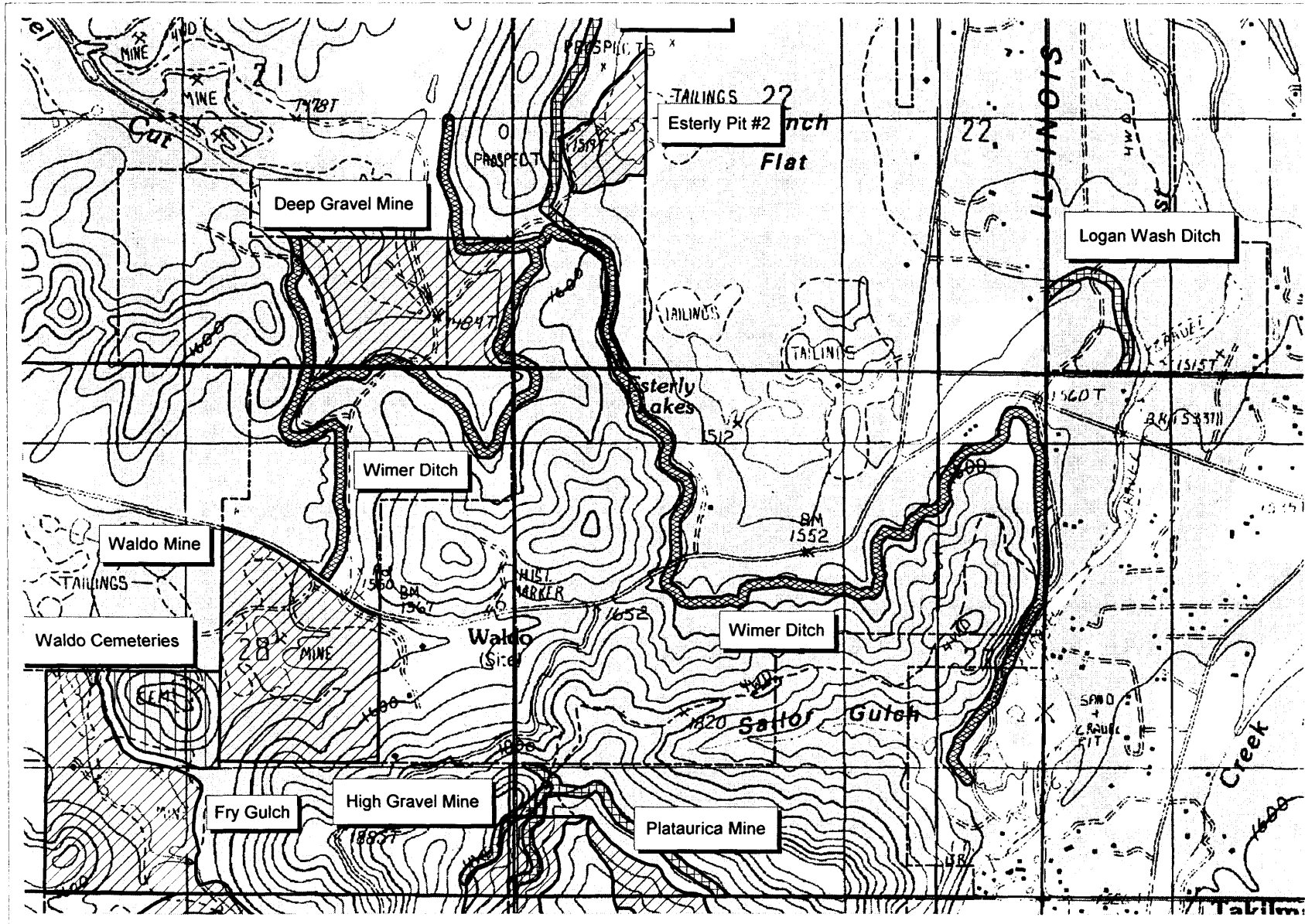
Photograph No. 1

- 1) Wimer Ditch
- 2) Section 21, 22, 27, 28, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (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 97504
- 6) View: Wimer Ditch at tunnel
- 7) Photograph number 1 of 2

Photograph No. 2

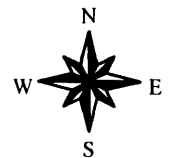
- 1) Wimer Ditch
- 2) Section 21, 22, 27, 28, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., (W.M) in Josephine County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Ward Tonsfeldt
- 4) Date of Photograph: June 2000
- 5) Negative holder: Ward Tonsfeldt  
                                  463 NW Congress  
                                  Bend, Oregon 97701
- 6) View: Wimer Ditch from Deep Gravel Mine, looking east
- 7) Photograph number 2 of 2

# Wimer Ditch



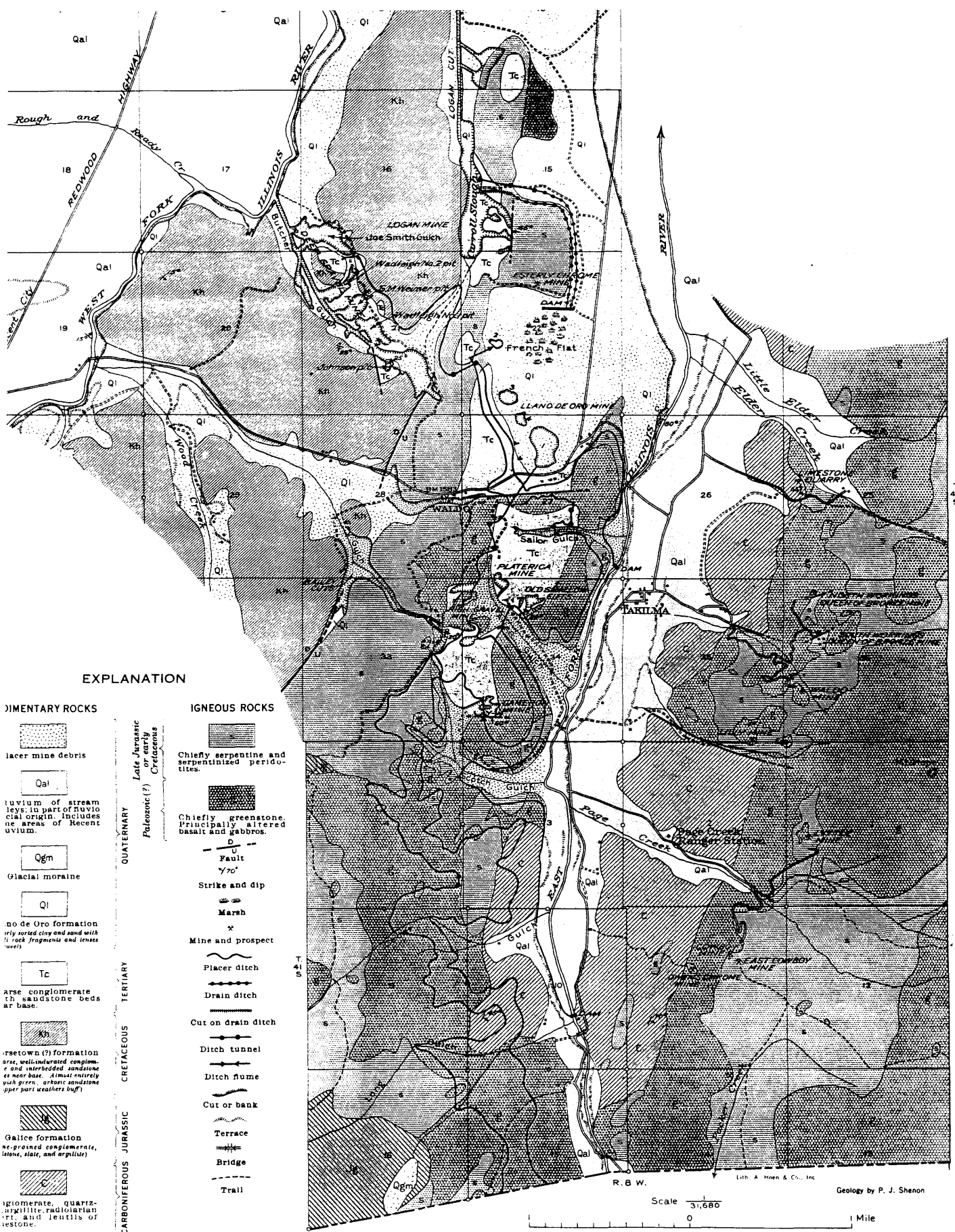
Wimer Ditch  
 35HS11-526  
 A portion of the  
 O'Brien Quad  
 (Sec 21, 22, 27, 28  
 T40S, R8W, Wm)  
 showing  
 Historic Placer  
 Mining Resources  
 in the Waldo Vicinity.

- Ditches**
- Logan Cut
  - Logan Wash Ditch
  - Logan/Esterly Drain
  - Middle Ditch
  - Osgood Ditch
  - Upper Ditch
  - Wimer Ditch
- General Symbology**
- Ditches
  - Mines
  - Town, cemetery
  - BLM boundary
  - Section Lines




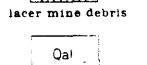
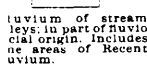
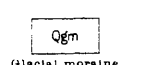
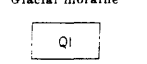
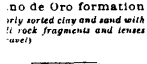
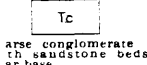
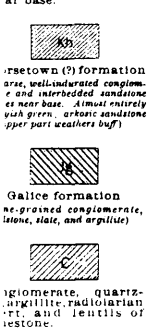
500 0 500 1000 1500 Feet  
 1:18000 1" = 1500'

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, Taklima and Broken Rib quads (scale 1:24000).



**EXPLANATION**

**SEDIMENTARY ROCKS**

-  Placer mine debris
-  Alluvium of stream leys; in part of fluvio glacial origin. Includes some areas of Recent alluvium.
-  Glacial moraine
-  Llano de Oro formation (very sorted clay and sand with rock fragments and lenses of pebbles)
-  Arkose conglomerate with sandstone beds at base.
-  Forestown (?) formation (arkose, well-sorted conglomerate and interbedded sandstone at near base, almost entirely yellow green, arkose sandstone upper part weathers buff)
-  Galice formation (fine-grained conglomerate, limestone, slate, and argillite)
-  Conglomerate, quartzite, argillite, radiolarian chert, and tuffaceous limestone.

**IGNEOUS ROCKS**

-  Chiefly serpentine and serpentinized peridotites.
  -  Chiefly greenstone. Principally altered basalt and gabbros.
- STRUCTURAL AND OTHER FEATURES:**
-  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

QUATERNARY  
 TERTIARY  
 CRETACEOUS  
 JURASSIC  
 CARBONIFEROUS

R. B. W.

Lith. A. Hoehn & Co., Inc.

Geology by P. J. Shenon

Scale 1/31,680

0

1 Mile

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