

The State of Wyoming.
Office of State Geologist,
Cheyenne.

1906
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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WYOMING

A BRIEF REPORT

ON

THE ALBANY PLACERS

AT

HOLMES, ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING.

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SITUATION.

The Albany Placers are situated on Douglas Creek, one of the main water courses of the Medicine Bow Range of Mountains, at a point 45 miles south west of Laramie, the present nearest railroad point, in the south western portion of Albany County, Wyoming.

At this *writing* the Albany Placers are reached by the Laramie-Centennial-Holmes stage and county road, which crosses the property on section 5, township 14 North, Range 79 West, as per map of property, but the completion of the Laramie-Hahn's Peak and Pacific Railroad to the town of Centennial will put the property within fifteen miles of a railroad and materially affect the placing of machinery and supplies.

The grade for this road is now completed to Centennial, 32 miles, and rails are laid 16 miles out of Laramie, rolling stock and equipment being purchased and the completion of the road not far distant.

EXTENT AND TITLE.

The Albany Placers consist of 1255 acres, lying as above, of which 775 are held by Patent from the United States and the remaining 480 held by location and discovery under the laws of the United States and the State of Wyoming.

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The property begins at a point on Section 16, Township 14 North Range 79 West, and extends up Douglas Creek in a northerly direction for about five miles, with lateral locations up Moore's Gulch, Elk Creek, Bear Creek and Dave's Creek, all small tributaries of main Douglas Creek and the whole making a tract of land lying as shown by the maps of the district and property.

OWNERSHIP.

The "Albany Placers" are owned by the Albany Development Company, principal offices at Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming, incorporated under the laws of Wyoming for \$10,000.00, divided into 1000 shares, par value \$10.00 each. The agent of this Company, as provided by law, is Louis Tyvold, 712- 6th St., Laramie, Wyo.

THE MEDICINE HOLE PLACER DISTRICTS.

Every Gulch and Creek on the eastern slope of the Medicine Hole Range and many on the western slopes have been panned and tested for placer gold, and a diligent inquiry among the old time prospectors and miners has failed to bring to light one gulch that did not show up some colors at some point in its length.

Chief among these placers are those along Douglas Creek which have shown up the largest nuggets and biggest clean ups of the district and it is certain that the real riches of this gravel have not been touched. Crude methods have been the real cause for failure to work these gravels successfully and it is only recently that experiments have shown what can be done by a proper application of mechanical means for handling the gravel and as the gold values in these gravels are an admitted fact, there is no reason why these placers should not be suc-⁶⁸⁸⁻fully operated.

THE ALBANY PLACERS.

These consist of a series of wide flats lying as above described and shown on the Company's maps and contain a great quantity of gold bearing gravel, that as yet has not been scratched by the workings hitherto made on it.

The following authenticated history of the Albany Placers will be interesting and the results show the actual results obtained by the crude methods then obtainable.

"Gold was first discovered in Moore's Gulch (now covered by the Albany Placers) in 1865 by Iram M. Moore and in the following year 4000 cubic yards from the mouth of this creek and extending 400 yards up Moore's Gulch returned \$9,000.00 or \$2.25 per yard, saved by sluice boxes, long tow and rocker."

"Pan tests on this ground showed from 50 cents to \$2.50 per pan and many nuggets taken out weighed from one to twenty pennyweights."

"Where Dave's Creek enters Douglas Creek, 2200 cubic yards were worked by similar crude methods and gave about \$3500.00 or about \$1.60 per yard."

"Another test on the rim rock or bench land of twenty-five cubic yards of gravel gave 31 dwts. of gold valued at \$28.45 or \$1.17 per yard. In this test about \$5.00 worth of metallic platinum was noted in addition to the gold."

Hon. W. H. Grant of Laramie, Wyo. is the best posted man living regarding the Douglas Creek Placer District, having been personally familiar with the work done for many years and having made careful and exhaustive tests of these gravels, and it is on his authority the above statements of value are made, the Geologist being entirely satisfied that the real facts are presented, having made personal tests and verified the findings.

GRAVEL.

Mr Grant estimates the gravel in the Albany Placers as follows:-

On Douglas Creek-----	3,920,160	Cu.Yds!
" Moore's Gulch-----	60,000	"
" Dave's Gulch-----	70,000	"
" Elk Creek and Bear Gulch---	250,000	"
Total gravel-----	3,400,160	"

This is given as exclusive of the rim rock or bench land gravel, which has never been measured but will likely amount to as much more.

On this gravel Mr Grant places the following values per yard, not from a few limited tests, but based on years of experience with these gravels and the result of such work!

Douglas Creek gravel----- 50¢ per C yard.

Moore's Gulch Gravel-----1.00 @.

The gravel^{is} composed of the decomposed, broken and washed debris from the surrounding ranges, varies from a fine sand up to boulders 1 foot in diameter, with occasional huge boulders, but the usual gravel is up to cobble stone size, the larger sizes being exceptional.

The depth of gravel has been found to be about six feet deep, on the average, and varies from three feet to fifteen feet in the various creeks and gulches of the property.

There is no pipe clay or cement noted on these properties and the gravel is classed as free working!

GOLD.

It is noted as a general fact throughout these districts, that about 25% of the gold in these placers is coarse and jagged in appearance,

and large nuggets up to many dwts have been taken out, but the major portion is composed of the fine gold or flour gold and up to nuggets an wighth of an inch long, the greater portion being found in the fine sands and decomposed, soft upper portion of bed rock. The gold is from .900 to .950 fine.

BED ROCK.

Bed rock is usually of a granitic nature, red and grey granite being noted and with occasional bands of schist and gneiss, also dyes of diorite and similar rocks cutting through the formation and crossing the placers at intervals.

The usual amount of quartz, both in the gravel and sand is noted as a considerable portion of black sand, composed principally of the black iron oxides, has been noted and in tests by the United States Geological Survey, has shown remarkable values.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is a most important part of any placer proposition and this property is especially favored as its water rights are the oldest on Douglas Creek.

The supply is given as follows, in miners inches;

	High	Low
Douglas Creek-----	4000	1500
Elk Creek-----	1500	500
Dave's & Moore's Gulch-----	500	50

The season begins about the middle of April and closes about the middle of November.

The fall varies along the creeks, but may be taken as about 62 feet per mile on Douglas Creek, 120 feet per mile in Moore's Gulch and at about 80 feet per mile in the smaller gulches.

TIMBER.

There is plenty of pine timber for all purposes in this locality but the flats proper are bare of trees, being covered for the most part with willow brush.

Lumber is worth from \$14.00 to \$18.00 per M. feet.

WORKING METHODS.

It is considered that the best method of handling these gravels is by mechanical means similar to the plant installed on the Douglas Consolidated Placers at a point below the mouth of Lake Creek, in this district, and that a full investigation of this plant and its results should be made before any method or any other plant is decided upon.

Hydraulic mining is held to be out of the question here and mechanical means to be the most economical of all methods for this gravel.

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The ALBANY PLACERS are a promising part of a district which has been an admitted producer of gold in a small way for many years but which has never been tested in a commercial way.

All that has been done is to demonstrate beyond a doubt that the gold values exist, that they are general throughout the gravel and that they are present in commercial quantity, if the gravel be handled in a commercial manner by a properly equipped Company.

It is considered that these placers are first class prospects and that the showings now made fully warrant the expenditure necessary to open them up and make them producers of gold on a commercial basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry C. Beeler

State Geologist.

Date of Examination,

Sept. 3rd and 4th, 1905.

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