

(12.7, 8.2)

58°28'N
124°27'WPRELIMINARY REPORT OF MCGINNIS CREEK MINING GROUP
OF CLAIMS, MCGINNIS CREEK, JUNEAU PRECINCT, ALASKA

KX 112-99

January 5, 1940

Location and Accessibility:

The McGinnis Creek Mining Group of claims adjoins the Mansfield group of patented claims on the north at a point on McGinnis Creek two miles above its junction with Montana Creek. The property lies 14 miles in an airline northwest of Juneau and is accessible via Glacier Highway, the loop road and Montana Creek road to its termination at Watson's cabin. Thence a trail leads to the junction of Montana and McGinnis creeks and along the left limit of McGinnis Creek to the Sunrise claim at an elevation of 480 feet, and a distance of two miles.

Owners:

The group of nine lode claims comprise the Sunrise, Wyoming, Hooter Nos. 1 and 2, Texas, Ace, Sibley, Jack and Lode No. 1. These lode claims were staked during the spring and summer months of 1939. The present owners and original stakers are S. S. Whitfield, L. Sibley and G. Graff of Juneau, Alaska.

Geology:

McGinnis Creek cuts greenstone, greenstone schists with intercalated slates along its low course. The bands of greenstone and slates vary in width from a few feet to several hundred feet. The general strike is N. 30° W. and the dip is steep to the northeast. The dip gradually becomes steeper as one proceeds up the creek. The formations, as an approach is made to the main contact of the batholith to the east, become more intensely sheared and schistose and contain greater amounts of sulphides. Since McGinnis Creek cuts the formations at nearly right angles in its direction of flow, northeast-southwest, a good cross-section of the formations can be seen along the walls in proceeding upstream.

On the Sunrise claim, and adjoining the Mansfield property, the creek valley of McGinnis Creek narrows to a canyon 100 feet in width with walls 40 to 50 feet in height. The canyon walls consist of hard greenstone somewhat schisted. Numerous boulders and coarse gravels are found in the creek bed. The canyon continues for the length of the Sunrise claim and the formations are mainly greenstone with a few bands of slate.

At the northeast end of the Sunrise claim, elevation 535 feet, the canyon ends and the upper basin valley begins. At this point a band of graphitic slate 150 feet in width shows on the banks. This band is highly folded and schisted. The footwall contains numerous veinlets and stringers of quartz formed by the folding. These are mineralized with pyrite and the owners reported assays from a few cents to \$1.35 per ton in gold from samples taken. The hanging wall of this band is a schist of a greenstone variety somewhat mineralized, but softer than the greenstone below.

At a point 200 feet above the line of the Sunrise claim, on the Wyoming claim on the left limit of the creek at the junction of a small tributary, ground sluice mining was attempted. A cut into a talus slide up the tributary extended from the level of McGinnis Creek, elevation 580 feet, for a distance of 130 feet. The cut at the face was 30 feet deep. The material of the cut consisted almost entirely of angular slide rock varying from small pieces up to 2 feet in diameter. The rocks are mainly float and are derived from the schists with a few diorite rocks. A small amount of fine material was distributed in the lower portion of the slide material. Bedrock had not been reached in the cut.

A section of the cut which measured 50'x20'x6' was reported to have produced 3 ounces of gold.

Another cut 100 feet below this larger cut was started, but only some fine gold was recovered, and work in this cut was suspended.

The bed of McGinnis Creek is steep and contains numerous boulders from this point up for a considerable distance and would be unsuitable for placer mining.

Concentrates:

The gold noted in the concentrates was rough and fine to flaky. The concentrates were mainly black sands, with pyrite, galena, limonite, mica, etc. The pyrite was mostly in cubes, which ranged from small particles up to 1/4-inch in diameter.

On the date of visit the frozen condition of the gravels and slide material did not allow proper testing of the material for gold content. Three samples were taken of the gravels in the large cut that consisted mainly of fine material. Fire assays gave only a trace of silver in one sample. One sample from a piece of mineralized float found in the creek bed below the cut gave results of 70 cents in gold and 42 cents per ton in silver. This piece was a mineralized and metamorphosed limestone. Its bedrock position has not been located in the valley.