

# GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES MAP OF THE GRAVEYARD POINT QUADRANGLE. MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, AND OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

**GMS-54** Geology and Mineral Resources Map of the Graveyard Point Quadrangle,

Malheur County, Oregon, and Owyhee County, Idaho

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## MINERAL RESOURCES

### Introduction A variety of valuable and potentially valuable mineral resources are found or indicated in the quadrangle, including bentonite clay, clinoptilolite zeolite, gold, mercury, semiprecious gemstones, building stone, and geothermal resources. Zeolite, bentonite, and semiprecious gemstones in the form of plume agate are currently being mined in the quadrangle, and mercury and possibly gold have been produced in the past.

Nonmetallic resources one of the main nonmetallic resources now being mined in the quadrangle is zeolite from the Teague Mineral Products pit west of Succor Creek. The zeolite is found in a nearly monominerallic white airfall tuff that overlies the top of a rhyolite flow near the base of the Succor Creek Formation. The zeolite is overlain by olivine-basalt flows and together with the underlying rhyolite flow comprises unit That. At the quarry, the mined zeolite bed is about 30 ft thick and contains dark-green silicified lenses that have been previou-ity mined as picture jasper. The zeolite consists mainly of clinoptilolite and is used in detoxification of hazardous wastes and as pet litter. Another major nonmerallic mineral product from the quadrangle is bentonite clay, also mined by Teague Mineral Products. The main clay beds lie immediately to the west of the Succor Creek road, near the base of unit  $F_{usc}$ . The nature of the bentonite deposits is well illustrated in the mine bits in sec. 29, T. 23 S., **P** 46 E., where a clay zone over 24 fb thick is exposed. The gray, grayish-white, and green bentonitie (lay beds range from 2 to 8 in. in individual thickness and form a composite bentonitic zone whose base is not exposed. Tegoile Mineral Products indicates that the economic bentonite zone is as much as 40 ft thick. The clay is  $r_{e_1}^{\text{opt}}$  redly a sodium  $r_{e_1}^{\text{opt}}$  tonite used  $m_a^{\text{opt}}$  inly as a sealant. Other non-netallic minerals that were produced in the past in the quadrangle include flow-foliated rhyolite from the allerry east of Succor Creek, which was used as decorative stone, and weathered arkosic sands and gravels, which have been used as road metal. Potential resources include the diabase sill (unit 'Thi) in sec. 35, T. 23 S., R. 46 E., which could be used as decorative stone.

Seniprection geneticities Several varieties of chalcedonic quartz are important mineral products from the quadrangle and are eagerly sought  $b_{j}$  the rock-hounding fraternity — professional and hobbyist alike. Major collecting areas include Graveya. Point and sec. 25, T. 23 S., R. 46 E., where a mottled, multicolored blue chalcedony known as plume agate is mined on located claims from fissure veins and cavity rillings in basalt and andesite. Similar-looking material can be found as float where hydrothermal zones cut the mafic rocks at the Boggs gold prospect and along the ridges in the central part of the quagrangle.  $M_{\rm u}$  ltihued silicified tun's known as picture rock occur in a few localities, including the Teague Mineral Products zeolite pit and the tuffs overlying the mafic rocks in sec. 10, T. 23 S., R. 46 E.

Metallic mineral resources  $_{M}$  uch of the eastern half of the quadrangle shows evidence of hydrothermal alteration in the form of chalcedonic quartz and calcite veins and areas of argillic alteration. Limited numbers of rock-chip samples contain anomalous values of metals such as arsenic, mercury, and antimony that may be pathfinders for enithermal precious-metal deposits. Gypsiferous clays occur along the canal west of Graveyard Point. Mercury in the form of cinnaba, has been mined from the small prospect south of Graveyard Point in NE<sup>1/4</sup> sec. 35, T. 3 N., 13, 6 W. The cinnabar occurs as a fine paint on argillically altered andesites and in northeast-striking, weakly silicified breccia zones. The andesite breccias to the south are heavily iron stained and contain vesicle fillings of chalcedonic quartz with disseminated marcasite. According to local lore (Glenn Teague, personal communication, 1987), a small amount of gold was produces nom the Boggs prospect near the common corner of secs. 2, 3, 10, and 11, T. 23 S., R. 46 E. The miner<sub>alizat</sub>ion is app<sub>1,5,1</sub>tly confined to the mafic rocks of units That and Tish, and includes no<sub>t1</sub>, east- and east-west-striking shear zones that contain gouge, stringers and strands of iron-stained, locally pyritic

chalcedonic quartz, tz, and isolated discrete lenses of chalcedonic quartz  $t_{hal}$  fill joint sets and voids within the matter from this area (nos. 2, 3, and 18, Table 2) indicates a high arsenic-mol below hydrothermal system (75-793 ppm As and 6-212 pp m Mo) that shows signs of being slightly anomalous for gold (8-15 inf: Au). Other areas prospected in the past for gold include a north-trending fault zone on the flanks of what is locally referred to as Million Dollar will in secs. 4, 9, and 10, T. 23 S., R. 46 E. Several caved adits and prospect pits are located along the fault, which is marked by a zone of argillic alteration. One of the prospect cuts is on a N. 55° W.-striking shear zone about 6 ft wide that contains strands of calcite-cemented breccia. A sample of this material (no. 17, Table 2) contains anomalous amour s of arsenic (74 j.)m). Two quartz veins in LE14NW14 sec. 14, T. 23 S., R. 46 E., are the pagest and best exposed mineralized

shears in the quadrangle. A 3-ft-thick rib of iron-stained, densely silicified quartz breccia forms a resistant shears in the quadrangle. A 3-ft-thick rib of iron-stained, densely silicified quartz breccia forms a resistant rib on the north side of an 8-ft-wide zone of brecciated red an, 'site that is cut by numerous iron-oxide-stained, hlue chalcedony stringers. The vein attitute is  $x^{J}$ . 50°  $y^{J}$ . 90° E. A second vertical N. 70°  $y^{J}$ . Such that is cut by numerous iron-oxide stained, blue chalcedony stringers. The vein attitute is  $x^{J}$ . 50°  $y^{J}$ . 90° E. A second vertical N. 70°  $y^{J}$ . Such that is cut by numerous iron-oxide stained, blue chalcedony are scattered about the top of the hill, filling joints and fractures in the massive nodules of limonitic chalcedony are scattered about the top of the hill, filling joints and fractures in the massive red pyrite casts together nated dark sulfides occur in the massive chalcedony no<sub>312</sub> les, while scattered wes,  $y^{J}$  ared pyrite casts together with fightons iron-oxides (jarosite?) occur in the veins. There element analyses in a sample of vein material (no. 4, Table 2) show high abundances of arsenic and molybdenum (476 ppm As and 16.7 ppm Mo).

	MAP'SYMBOLS
	Contact — Approximately located
144	Fault — Dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where doubtful; ball and bar on down- thrown side
16	Strike and dip Sf by 3ds

cation of whole rock sample analyzed in Table

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Sample or paration Samples for w <sub>n</sub> /le-rock analysis ( $v_{1}$ /A) (Table 1) were crushed to minus <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -in. in a steel-jawed Brich chipmunk crush ar and split in a Jones-type splitter in the Oregon Department of Geology and Mi eral dustries (DOG $v_{1}$ ) laboratory. A split of about 100 g of each sample was ground to minus 200 mesh agate grinding media by X-ray Assay Laboratories (XRAL) of Don Mills, Ontario. Samples for trace-element analysis (rable 2) were crushed to minus <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -in. and split as indicated about 100 g of each samples for trace-element analysis (rable 2) were crushed to minus <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> -in.
Each sample split was ground to about r inus 200 mesh in chrome-steel grinding media in an Angstrom c mill in the $\Pi_{ACL}$ MI laboratory. Each minus-200-mesh split was split again to produce two subsamples:
for gold and one for the other trace elements to be determined.
Chemical analysis wwole-rock analysis: X-ray fluorescence (xRI <sup>3</sup> ) analyses were performed by XRAL. XRAL used a fu
wielde-rock analysis: X-ray fluorescence $(\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{Pl}})^{-1}$ analyses were performed by XRAL. XRAL used a fu by ton for its analyses (1.3 g of sample roasted at 950 °C for one hour, fused with 5 g of lithium tetrabora and nelt contract into a button). Loss on ignition (LOI) was determined by the roasting. $T_{t,uce-elen, ent}$ analysis:
1. Gold—Bondar-Clegg, Ltd., of $N_{orth}$ Vancouver, British Columbia, performed the analyses for g. The met, d em joyed was fire assay preconce, ration of the gold in a 20-g sar ple (gold was col) cted adq. 4 silve, ), ac <sub>id</sub> dissolution or the resulting be <sub>a</sub> , and a direct y coupled plasma $N_DC_{\rm c}$ emission is
adq.24 silve, ), ac dissolut on or the resulting beam, $a_n d = d$ irectly coupled plasma $v_0 C_{L}$ ) emission in trometer finish. The detection limit was 1 ppb.
2. Other trace elements—Geochemical Services, Inc., (GSI) of Torrance, California, performed analyses for 15 other trace elements. The method employed a proprietary acid dissoluti
organic extraction of a 5-g sample. The finish was by induction coupled plasma (ICP) emission retrometry. GSI considers the digestion to provide total metal contents except for gallium and thallium. I detection limit for a given element varies slightly as a result of GSI's monitoring process.

**GEOCHEMISTRY** 

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Map	lab fat ory	1/4	1/4	Sec.	т.	<b>.B</b> .	UTM	_lev	Lithology	Map	Si0 <sub>2</sub>	203	Ti0 <sub>2</sub>	5407	Mn0	Oxides (wt	percen	.t) Κ <sub>2</sub> 0	Na <sub>2</sub> 0	P205	LOI	Total	Cr	Rb	Trace el	e ments	ppm)	Nb	Ba
A	87-B0-24A	NW	sw	10	23 S.	46 E.	482527N 49254E	2,820	Sanidine rhyolite	Tri	77.1	11.4	0.26	1.19	0.02	0.15	0.01	4.49	3.90	0.04	0.70	99.26	16	138	<10	116	644	47	1,310
8	87-B0-20	NW	SE	10	23 S.	46 E.	482518N 49343E	2,460	Basaltic andesite	Tad	55.9	16.1	1.15	8.36	0.17	5.16	2.08	2.69	4.14	0.62	1.85	98.22	<10	49	489	34	144	28	1,080
С	87-B0-26	SE	SW	35	3 N.	6W.(	ID) 482332N 49 38E	2,780	Basaltic andesite	Тbа	55.1	15.1	1.87	10.6	0.24	6.24	2.31	1.63	3.89	1.03	2.01	100.02	٢10	63	447	34	201	20	978
D	87-B0-52	SE	SE	21	23 S.	46 E.	482176N 49184E	2,600	Sanidine rhyolite	Tisf	76.0	11.3	0.26	1.36	0.02	0.07	<0.01	3.52	4.68	0.03	0.77	98.01	14	154	٢10	84	644	59	1,070
Ē	87-B0-35	NW	SE	22	23 S.	46 E.	482220N 49332E	2,500	Aphyric basalt	Тbа	53.3	15.6	1.42	11.7	0.20	6.92	3.47	1.73	3.63	0.57	0.93	99.47	11	41	515	12	93	24	77
F	87-B0-29	SE	SW	35	3 N.	6W. (		3,020	Hornblende dacite	Тbа	65.0	13.2	1.19	9.31	0.09	4.19	0.43	1.73	2.98	0.50	1.85	100.47	18	41	452	22	90	14	788
G	87-B0-54	NW	SE	28	23 S.	46 E.	482045N 49178E	2,600	Alkalic basalt	Tisb	49.1	14.6	1.87	14.2	0.23	7.10	3.74	1.63	3.42	0.66	1.62	98.17	<10	28	397	46	149	23	696
н	87-B0-56	SE	SE	2	2N.	6W. (	ID) 481972N 49915E	2,900	Altered andesite	Tad	65.4	14.5	1.00	5.27	0.07	3.80	0.50	2.58	4.03	0.60	1.08	98.83	<10	39	451	52	124	14	1,180
I	87-B0-38	sw	NW	36	23 S.	46 E.	481908N 49359E	3,100	Olivine gabbro	Tbi	48.1	14.5	2.24	13.1	0.20	11.4	5.15	0.60	2.27	0.35	0.54	98.45	260	13	200	29	123	13	303

ap o.	Laboratory no.	1/4	1/4	Sec.	ी.	<b>.</b>	UTM	Elev. († <sup>t</sup> )	Litheology	Map	Ag (ppm)	As ppm)	Au (ppb)	Cu (ppm)	Hg (ppm)	Mo ))	(ppm)	(Sb (Jpm)	(Jpn.)	(ppm <sup>1</sup> )	(ppm)	(ppm)	(ppn )	pr.d	(pp
1	AVB-201	N	SE	33	22.5.	41 <sup>5-E.</sup>	482854N 49178E	2,740	Jasper	Тър	<0.014	1,580	5	40.2	3.42	54.1	1.62	4.04	<0.456	30.5	0.783	<0.091	4.00	<0.456	6
2	AVB-202	NW	NW	11	23 S.	46 E.	482614N 49428E	2,420	Jasper	Tisb	0.058	793	15	7.37	3.45	212	3.00	13.4	1.39	26.7	3.27	<0.0 <del>9</del> 5	4.06	<b>*</b> 0.475	۰۷
3	AVB-203	NW	NW	11	23 S.	46 E.	482632N 49400E	2,600	Jasper	TISD	<0.014	253	8	6.32	0.305	23.5	1.09	6.14	<b>*0.476</b>	2.38	0.309	<0.095	1.96	<0.476	'(
4	AVB-204	NE	NW	14	23 S.	46 E.	482458N 49462E	2,700	Quartz and chalcedony	Тbа	0.015	476	6	7.64	0.975	16.5	2.10	16.7	1.01	19.0	0.244	<0.093	1.54	<0.463	(
5	AVB-205	NW	NW	23	23 S.	46 E.	482286N 494	2,720	Chalcedony	Тbа	<b>*0.015</b>	227	۴1	7.34	0.502	105	1.11	7.39	0.956	3.89	1.61	<0.097	<0.484	<0.484	(
6	AVB-206	SE	SW	26	3 N.	6W. (I	49844E	2,640	Clay and chalcedony	Тbа	<0.0 <b>14</b>	17.9	<1	5.57	0.614	0.553	7.19	0.766	<0.478	24.4	<0.239	<0.096	2.83	<0.478	Ś
7	AVB-207	NW	SE	10	23 S.	46 E.	482538N 49336E	2,660	Picture rock	Tiss	0.015	68.5	1	8.60	0.163	5.81	3.08	6.55	<0.479	7.25	<0.239	<0.096	0.787	<0.479	•
8	AVB-208	SE	SE	10	23 S.	46 E.	482496N 49372E	2,760	Chalcedony	Tba	0.017	20.3	<1	6.90	<0.095	3.73	2.69	0.614	<0.474	33.0	<0.237	<0.095	1.97 2.97	<0.474 <0.485	
9	AVB-209	NW	SE	22	23 S.	46 E.	482226N 49342E	2.60	Chalcedony	Tba	0.03	907	1	7.90	4.03	306	2.69	60.9 0.798	2.20 <0.486	9.71 98.2	4.63 <0.243	<0.097 0.110	2.97	<0.486	
0	AV8-210	SE	SE	22	23 S.	46 E.	482176N 49184E	2,700	Chalcedony	Tri	<0.015	94.6	<1	9.65 54.1	0.143 <0.097	2.74	2.20 2.36	<0.241	<0.483	<del>9</del> 6.2 74.7	<0.243	<0.097	4.81	<0.483	
1	AVB-211	NW	NW	4	24 S.	46 E.	481792N 49140E	2,620	Opaline quartz Opaline	Tai TIss	0.026 0.019	4.21 103	<1	5.23	(0.097	5.72	13.7	2.18	<0.461	30.5	<0.241	0.201	5.22	(0.461	
2	AVB-212 AVB-213	SE NW	NE NW	32 5	23 S. 24 S.	46 E.	4819 80 49074E 481790N	2.E :0 2,900	quartz Opaline	Tist	0.024	9.05	3	6.37	<0.099	3.46	8.91	<0.248	0.544	76.3	(0.248	<0.099	5.10	(0.496	
	AVB-213	NW	NW	9	24 S.	46 E.	49002E 482604N	2,760	quartz	Tri	0.022	27.3	۲۱	8.76	(0.095	3.78	49.8	0.626	(0.473	48.2	2.55	0.253	1.16	<0.473	
4 5	AVB-214	SE	SE	21	23 S.	46 E.	49104E 482178N	2,520	quartz Weakiy	Tisb	0.038	39.5	1	9.60	0.404	4.79	11.9	0.522	1.30	79.3	<0.237	0.108	4.33	(0.473	
5	AVD-215	36	36	21	200.	40 L.	49202E	2,320	silicified breccia	1130	0.000	00.0	,	0.00	0.404	4.75	11.0	U.ULL	1.00		01201	000			
6	AVB-218	NE	SE	24	23 S.	46 E.	482216N 49714E	2,780	Chalcedony	Tba	0.016	75.1	٢1	37.7	1.09	6.19	1.62	2.51	<b>(</b> 0.478	40.4	<0.239	<0.096	3.40	<b>*</b> 0.478	
7	AVB-219	SE	NE	9	23 S.	46 E.	482562N 49228E	2,860	Quartz calcite	Tiss, Tri	0.037	73.9	1	5.24	1.35	2.78	6.49	1.16	<b>*</b> 0.49	71.4	<b>&lt;</b> 0.245	0.105	9.71	<b>(</b> 0.49	
8	AVB-225	SE	SE	3	23 S.	46 E.	482640N 49398E	2,460	Quartz	Tisb	0.08	961	11	6.46	3.53	325	5.48	17.8	1.15	18.6	4.90	<0.094	4.18	<b>*0.47</b>	
9	AVB-235	SE	SW	10	23 S.	46 E.	481900N 49252E	2,460	Rhyolite	Тbа	<0.014	2.61	4	45.9	<0.092	3.40	2.04	<0.23	<0.46	48.6	<b>*</b> 0.23	<0.092	3.18	<b>*</b> 0.46	
0	AVB-236	NW	SW	34	23 S.	46 E.	481776N 49254E	3,000	Chalcedony	Тbа	0.015	13.4	4	10.3	<0.095	4.65	2.37	0.382	<b>(</b> 0.474	8.11	(0.237	<0.095	0.838	<0.474	
1	AVB-237	NE	NE	4	24 S.	46 E.	482498N 49298E	2,780	Chalcedony	Tisf	0.044	13.4	17	6.17	0.354	3.04	8.94	0.886	<0.484	60.4	(0.242	<b>(</b> 0.097	5.62	<b>&lt;</b> 0.484	

### GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTION

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