#### KALMIOPSIS WILD AREA

Ву

# Ralph S. Mason\*

The Wilderness Bill has generated much public discussion, and many statements have been presented by individuals and organizations. Unfortunately there have been too many generalities and too few facts. Here is an inventory of the natural resources of an area which is to be included in the Wilderness system. The area is felt to be typical of many that are being considered for withdrawal. - Ed.

In 1930, Mr. and Mrs. John Leach of Portland, Oregon, discovered a low, flowering shrub with evergreen leaves and rosy purple blossoms along the Gold Basin trail in eastern Curry County. The unusual plant was eventually determined by botanists to be a rare monotypic genus relic of the Heath family and was given the name Kalmiopsis leachiani in honor of the discoverers and because of a close resemblance to the shrub Kalmia.

Widespread interest in the discovery was followed by large-scale collecting and removal of the plant by professional gardeners. At the urging of nature lovers, the U.S. Forest Service set aside the Big Craggies Botanical Area, covering approximately 10 square miles, in order to preserve the shrub. Since that time, Kalmiopsis leachiani has been found at many other localities in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. Plants are now taken from the Steamboat district in Douglas County in preference to the original discovery site because of a higher incidence of success in transplanting.

In 1942, the Forest Service established the Kalmiopsis Wild Area southeast of the Big Craggies area. This new region is entirely separate from the Big Craggies Botanical Area and is much larger. It covers 78,850 acres or approximately 123 square miles and embraces the headwaters of the Chetco River west of the Josephine County line in Curry County (see map, pages 56 and 57). Pearsoll Peak, Canyon Peak, Vulcan Peak, Chetco Peak, Quail Prairie Mountain, Hayward Peak, and the Big

<sup>\*</sup>Mining Engineer, State of Oregon Dept. Geology & Mineral Industries

Craggies surround and practically isolate the area. Elevations range from 300 feet on the Chetco River where it leaves the area to 5,098 feet above sea level at Pearsoll Peak. The country is very rugged and is characterized by deep canyons and narrow ridges. U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps covering the region include the Pearsoll Peak, Collier Butte, Mt. Emily, and Chetco Peak quadrangles. Access to the area is over rough Forest Service roads. None of these roads is suitable for modern passenger cars. The Forest Service has recently erected gates and signs which prohibit access to those not having official or authorized business.

In addition to being the "home" of Kalmiopsis, the Wild Area lies at the junction of the Oregon coastal and northern Californian floras. The Forest Service states that it is the merging of these two floras that makes the Kalmiopsis Area of such botanical interest. Listed as also growing there are Brewer's spruce, Sadler oak, and Port Orford white cedar, all of which have a limited geographical extent. Other forest tree types include Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Shasta fir, and various hardwoods. Shrubs include rhododendron, azalea, and poison oak. Wildlife is represented by blacktail deer, black bear, elk, mountain quail, blue grouse, raccoon, mink, otter, skunk, civet cat, weasel, ring-tailed cat, coyote, bobcat, cougar, and rattlesnake. In the streams there are steelhead and sea-run cutthroat, silver and Chinook salmon, native rain-bow, and cutthroat trout.

Geologically, the Kalmiopsis Wild Area indicates a region of considerable economic importance. This is signified by the fact that both the U.S. Geological Survey and the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries have made many investigations in the region.

J. S. Diller of the Federal survey, in reporting on the mines and mineral potential of southwestern Oregon, included this region in his description of mines in U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 546, published in 1914. The geology and mineral resources of Curry County were reported on by the Oregon Bureau of Mines and Geology (Butler and Mitchell, 1916). The geology of the area has also been described by Wells (1948 and 1955). Descriptions of the more important mines and prospects in Curry County were published by the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in 1940. A study of several chromite properties lying within and adjacent to the area is included in a department report (Ramp, in press 1962).

The Kalmiopsis Wild Area is underlain by some of the oldest rocks in Oregon. Although mineral concentration is not limited to the older rocks, it is much more common in them. Nearly 50 mines and prospects are known in the immediate district (see map, pages 56 and 57). Most of the rocks

in the area are of Jurassic age. They include the Dothan, Rogue, and Galice Formations and ultrabasic rocks such as peridotite and serpentine. The Dothan sediments have not been mineralized to any extent, but 7 gold placers are situated on streams flowing over Dothan rocks. The gold for these placers has presumably been derived from the intrusives of the Rogue Formation lying immediately to the east. The belt of Rogue volcanics, which has its southern termination in the Kalmiopsis Wild Area, has been long recognized by the miner as a better-than-average place to prospect, and numerous lode gold deposits have been discovered within the boundaries of the wild area. The mineralized band of the Rogue Formation extends northwards from the Kalmiopsis Wild Area for many miles. Included in this zone are some of Oregon's largest gold and copper mines, such as the Almeda, Benton, Robertson, and Pyx, plus dozens of smaller mines and prospects. The Galice Formation is a complex of many rock types, and, generally speaking, is much less mineralized than the Rogue series in this area. The ultrabasic rocks, including peridotite, dunite, and serpentine, have been prospected for chromite, and 18 mines are located in the area or immediately adjacent to it. In addition to gold and chromite occurrences, there are three copper deposits and one iron.

All of the mineral occurrences known in the area were discovered through surface outcrops. There has been no subsurface exploration.

Mineral production within the Kalmiopsis Area began early in the century, but no record was kept of much of the first gold and silver that was mined and placered. Available records (Shenon, 1933) indicate, however, that \$117,000 in gold was mined at the Robert E. mine (or Peck) in two periods of operation totaling 9 years. First production at the mine was in 1919. Records indicate that the Frazier mine has produced at least \$15,000 in free gold or gold combined with arsenopyrite. Chrome mines in the area have produced during World Wars I and II and during the Korean Crisis.

Recreational features in the area include hunting and fishing. Neither is practiced to any great extent by sportsmen because the area is relatively difficult of access and travel within the boundaries of the area is made arduous by the exceedingly rough terrain and lack of adequate trails. Scenically the area has little to offer which cannot be seen along other miles of Forest Service roads and trails in southwestern Oregon. The climate in the region is generally mild, with the heaviest rainfall during the winter and spring months. Snow can be expected to remain on the ground for several months in those areas having an elevation greater than about 4,000 feet. The summer and autumn months are commonly hot and dry, with temperatures in the 80's and 90's.

Timber resources listed by the Forest Service in the 1942 application for creating the Kalmiopsis Wild Area include 263 million board feet of Douglas fir, 7 million board feet of Ponderosa pine, 15 million board feet of sugar pine, 13 million board feet of various hardwoods, and lesser amounts of Port Orford white cedar, Brewer's spruce, and Shasta fir.

The economic impact of the Kalmiopsis Wild Area withdrawal upon Curry County can be gauged best when it is realized that this area amounts to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  percent of the total area of the county. By comparison, the region is 50 square miles bigger than the entire City of Portland. Based on Forest Service estimates made 20 years ago of the merchantable timber, and using 1960 prices, the total value of Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, and sugar pine growing in the area amounts to \$23,000,000. This figure does not include the value of 13 million board feet of various hardwoods plus Port Orford white cedar, Brewer's spruce, and Shasta fir.

The total value of gold, silver, copper, and chromite which has been mined in the area is unknown. Existing records show that \$132,000 in lode gold and about \$62,000 worth of chromite have been produced. Both figures are incomplete. A conservative estimate would place the value somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200,000, with a figure several times this amount possible.

It would appear that the economic potential of the Kalmiopsis Wild Area is too great to permit it to be included in the Wilderness system without some reservations. Prospecting and mining should be permitted to continue in the same manner as they have been while classified as a Wild Area. If included in the Wilderness withdrawal, mining would be effectively curtailed; for, although token provision is made for prospecting, there are also regulations which would so hamper any such activities that it would be impossible to do anything more than collect random surface samples.

Mining is a basic industry vital to our local and national economics. It has been shown that in times of emergency, the Kalmiopsis Wild Area has produced chromite urgently needed for defense. In times of peace, the same area has produced gold, the mining of which has given much needed employment.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Butler, G. M., and Mitchell, G. J., 1916: Preliminary survey of the geology and mineral resources of Curry County, Oregon, Oregon Bur. Mines and Geology, Mineral Resources of Oregon, vol. 2, no. 2.

- Diller, J. S., 1914: Mineral resources of southwestern Oregon: U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 546.
- Oregon Dept. Geology and Mineral Industries, 1940: Oregon Metal Mines Handbook, Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties, Bull. 14C, vol. 1.
- Ramp, Len, in press, 1962: Chromite in southwestern Oregon: Oregon Dept. Geology and Mineral Industries Bull. 52.
- Shenon, P. J., 1933: Geology of the Robertson, Humdinger, and Robert E. gold mines, southwestern Oregon: U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 830-B.
- Wells, F. G., 1955: Preliminary geologic map of southwestern Oregon west of meridian 122° west and south of parallel 43° north: U.S. Geol. Survey Mineral Inv. Field Studies Map MF38.
- et al., 1948, Preliminary geologic map of the Kerby quadrangle: Oregon Dept. Geology and Mineral Industries.

# NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

For the past few years the ORE BIN has been suffering from growing pains. With the gradual shift in emphasis from mining to geology there has been a trend toward more geologic reports and maps and the addition of photographs. So with the beginning of its 24th year, the ORE BIN discarded its old rompers and moved into a dignified suit. Instead of a bunch of  $8\frac{1}{2}$ -by 11-inch sheets gathered together and stapled, it became a booklet with a colored cover especially designed for it. The new seal, drawn by Hal Smith, artist for the State Game Commission, acquired an oil derrick in hopeful optimism for Oregon's future.

The new format with its smaller page, narrower column, and 10 percent reduction in type size is intended to make the ORE BIN more readable and more adaptable to the book shelf, as well as better to look at. If you have been wondering why the January number was taller than subsequent issues, the reason is that this original 9-inch height had to yield to the mechanics of the collating machine and be sheared off a half inch. Its recent tardiness is due to production problems which, we hope, will soon be overcome.

We have received a number of comments about the new look of the ORE BIN, and although some subscribers prefer the old format, most regard the change as a great improvement. What do you think? We would be glad to hear from you.

\* \* \* \* :

### PETRIFIED WOOD CONSIDERED

Companion bills in the House and Senate, introduced by Interior Department request, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, would amend Public Law 84–167 to exclude deposits of petrified wood from appropriation under the mining laws. It would define "petrified wood" as "agatized, opalized, petrified, or silicified wood, or any material formed by the replacement of wood by silica or other matter." These bills are listed as S. 2974, Anderson (N.M.) and H.R. 10540, Edmondson (Okla.). (From American Mining Congress Bulletin Service, March 19, 1962.)

# DEPARTMENT ISSUES NEW DRILLING PERMIT

The Department issued Permit No. 45 to the Two-State Oil & Gas Co., Inc., of Boise, Idaho, on April 17, 1962. The company plans to drill a 3,000-foot test well near Vale in eastern Oregon. The well will be named "Two-State Vale City No. 1" and will be located 3,310 feet south and 660 feet east from the northwest corner of sec. 21, T. 18 S., R. 45 E., Malheur County. Ground elevation is 2,250 feet on the Mitchell Butte topographic map. Maynard J. Davies, 6319 Randolph Drive, Boise, is president of the firm. Artesian Well & Pump Co. of Boise will do the drilling for Two-State, using a heavy cable tool rig.

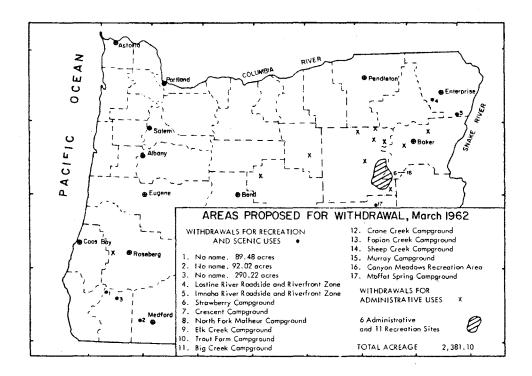
THE DALLES TO RECEIVE ALUMINA

Harvey Aluminum Co. has signed a contract with the Government of the Virgin Islands to build a \$25 million alumina plant, with a capacity of 100,000 tons of alumina per year, in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. The plant will be built by a Harvey subsidiary, Harvey Alumina Virgin Islands, Inc. A Harvey spokesman said his company does not, at the present time, own bauxite deposits, but is exploring for bauxite ore in Jamaica and British Guiana. The alumina to be produced at the new plant will be shipped to Harvey's aluminum plant at The Dalles, Oregon, for processing into refined aluminum. (Nevada Mining Assn. News Letter, March 15, 1962.)

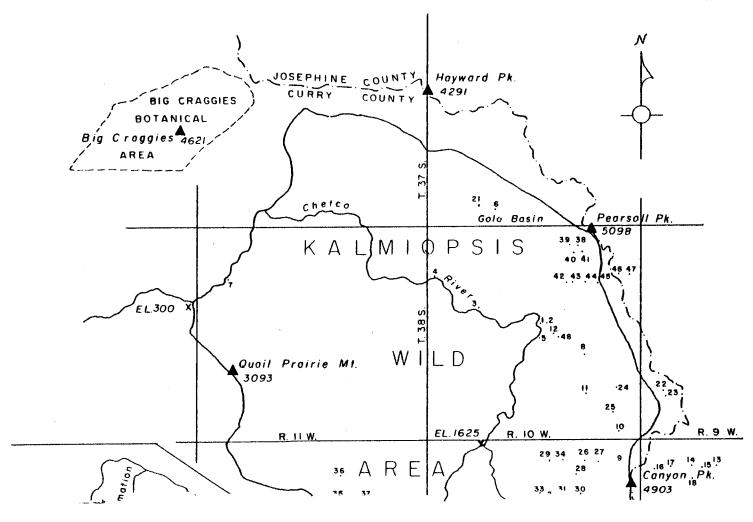
# MORE WITHDRAWALS ANNOUNCED

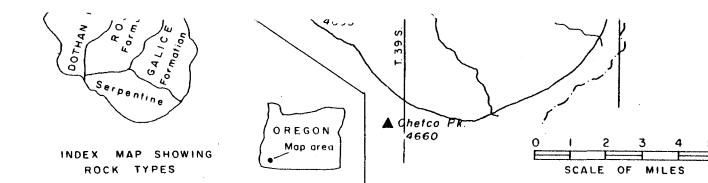
During the month of March the Department received 7 notices from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on more land to be withdrawn from mineral entry (see map). Most of these withdrawals are for recreational purposes, but others include land needed for site of a seismological station, for reclamation purposes, and other necessary government uses. In all cases these withdrawals were small and appear to be restricted to the area required.

Although the total amount of land withdrawn, according to the March announcements, is only 2,381.10 acres, or approximately 4 square miles, it should be noted that these withdrawals are a small amount of the aggregate that continually becomes greater and greater and therefore leaves that much less land open for prospecting and mining. During the past  $5\frac{1}{4}$  years since the Department has been notified of withdrawals in the State, 118,000 acres or 185 square miles have been taken from mineral location. By and large, the bulk of these withdrawals was for recreation.



# MAP OF THE KALMIOPSIS WILD AREA





# LIST OF MINES IN KALMIOPSIS WILD AREA

	Gold Placer			-	Chromite Prospects		Chromite, cont.
١.	M & B Placer	13.	Canyon Creek	22.	Babyfoot	36.	Gardner
2.	Slide Creek	14.	Telluride	23.	Lucky Day	37.	Rosie
3.	Granite Creek	15.	Winters		Súgarloaf	38.	Pearsoll
4.	Sluice Creek	16.	McPherson	25.	Unnamed	39.	Pearsoll Group
5.	Babyfoot Creek		C D	26.	Carter Creek	40.	Eagle's Nest
6.	Gold Basin	Copper Prospects	27.	Burned Cabin	41.	Little Siberia	
7.	Boulder Creek	17.	Mides	28.	Little Boy	42.	Prospector's Dream
	<b>.</b>	• • •	Bailey	29.	Bailey	43.	Wonder Group
	Gold Lode		Chetco Copper	30.	Buck	44.	Lost If Found
0	D. I. AAT		Unnamed prospect	31.	Emily Cabin	45.	Uncle Sam
	Peck Mine			32.	Morning Sun	46.	McCaleb No. 1
	M C Claims		Iron Prospect	33.	Hawks Rest View	47.	McCaleb No. 2
	Hilltop Mine			34.	Unnamed	48.	Bowser
	Frazier Prospect China Diggings	21.	Tincup Iron	35.	Nancy Hank		

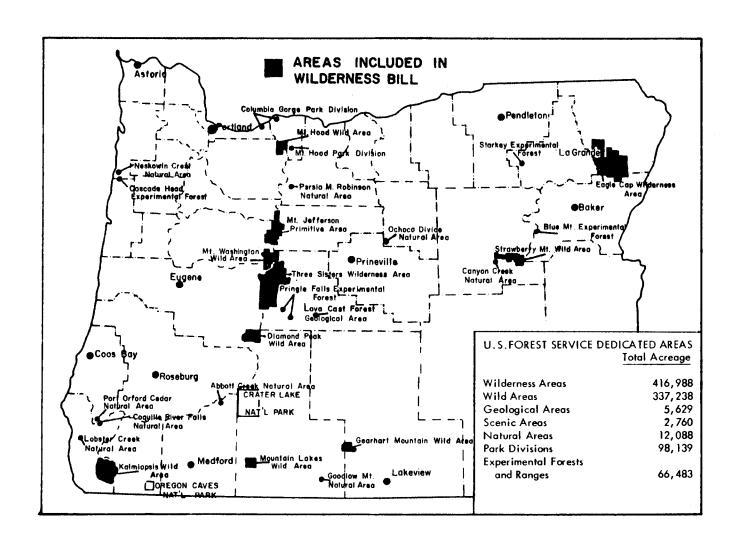
### HOUSE COMMITTEE TO ACT ON WILDERNESS BILL

Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall of Colorado, chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives, has announced that the Public Land Subcommittee, Representative Gracie Pfost of Idaho, chairman, will consider legislation designed to establish a Wilderness Preservation System during the entire week of May 7, 1962. Proposals for the establishment of a Wilderness Preservation System are contained in S. 174, commonly referred to as the Wilderness Act, which was passed by the United States Senate on September 6, 1961.

Chairman Pfost said that officials of the Executive Departments will be the first witnesses at the beginning of the hearings, to be followed by public witnesses. Because time for consideration of this legislation and the time available to the subcommittee is limited, the time allotted to witnesses appearing before the subcommittee will be restricted. Individuals and groups that appeared or were represented at meetings held by the subcommittee in the fall of 1961 will not be heard again. However, if such groups have new and additional information to be submitted, the committee will be glad to receive it in written form and give it consideration without hearing witnesses. All persons who desire to do so may file written statements for the consideration of the committee and for inclusion in the printed record of the committee, in lieu of presenting oral testimony in a personal appearance. Statements should be sent to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Room 1324 New House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.

As this legislation, if passed, would have a very significant effect on large areas in the West now open to mining, the main features of S. 174 are reviewed below:

- 1. National Forest areas now classified as "wilderness," "wild," "canoe," and "primitive" automatically would become part of the wilderness system on the effective date of the Act, subject to possible deletion of primitive areas as a result of reviews by the Secretary of Agriculture over a 10-year period. Recommendations concerning primitive areas would be submitted by the President to Congress and could be rejected by resolution of either House of Congress.
- 2. National Park and National Monument areas embracing a minimum of 5,000 acres each without roads, and wildlife refuges and game ranges, would be reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior for possible inclusion in the wilderness system. Recommendations would be submitted by the President to Congress and could be rejected by resolution of either the Senate or the House.



- 3. Subject to existing rights, there would be no commercial enterprise within the system and no roads or buildings. Motor vehicles, motor boats, and aircraft would be prohibited except where such practices have become well established, in which case they would continue subject to restrictions.
- 4. The grazing of livestock, where well established, would be permitted subject to restrictions deemed necessary by the Secretary involved.
- 5. The President may authorize prospecting, mining, and other limited use if he determines that such use or uses will better serve the interest of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial.

If any areas containing roads are incorporated into the wilderness system, the roads will have to be cut off. However, it would be possible to leave the roads outside a primitive area incorporated into the system to provide direct access to the perimeter of the area.

The Forest Service has established 83 areas totaling 14,661,416 acres of land for preservation as "wilderness," "wild," "primitive," and "canoe." Of this total, 40 are presently classified as primitive areas comprised of 7,907,416 acres subject to the review indicated above.

Derivation of these terms came about as follows. In 1929, the Secretary of Agriculture by regulation authorized the Chief of the Forest Service to establish primitive areas in National Forests. That regulation was rescinded in 1939 and superseded by new regulations authorizing the establishment of "wilderness" areas exceeding 100,000 acres and "wild" areas ranging from 5,000 to 100,000 acres each. No new primitive areas have been established since 1939 and the Department has been restudying primitive areas in an effort to reclassify them as either wilderness or wild.

"Wilderness" areas can be designated by the Secretary only but the Chief of the Forest Service may designate "wild" areas. The two types of areas are administered similarly with permanent improvements, occupancy, and road and commercial timber cutting prohibited. Grazing and the development of water storage projects not involving road construction may be permitted. All "wilderness," "wild," "primitive," and "canoe" areas are presently open under the mining laws unless there has been a specific withdrawal order for some particular purpose or reason.

There are 10 wilderness and wild areas in Oregon, embracing 754, 226 acres (see map on page 59). By contrast, there are 1,082 camp and picnic grounds, wildlife management areas, and other established recreational sites embracing approximately 1 million acres (data from Recreation Survey of the Pacific Northwest Region, March 1961, prepared by the recreation subcommittee of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee). On a nation-wide basis, attendance in wilderness and wild areas in 1958,

according to the U.S. Forest Service, amounted to 8/10ths of 1 percent of the overall recreation visits.

The mining people in Oregon are urged to write their Congressmen and the Committee, expressing their views on this legislation. Remember the hearing date - May 7. Not much time remains, so do not delay.

STRATIGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE CAPITALIZATION REVISED

The American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature has been formed in an effort to develop uniform usage in stratigraphic classification and terminology. A Code of Stratigraphic Nomenclature prepared by the commission was published in the May, 1961, Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. As this department is a cooperator with the commission, the recommendations set forth in the code have been adopted. Particular attention is drawn to the change in capitalization of formal rock stratigraphic names as given in Article 10 of the report: "Capitalization of the initial letters of all words used in forming the names of formal rock-stratigraphic units is recommended." Examples of Oregon units are: Columbia River Basalt, Clarno Formation, and Siletz River Volcanic Series.

IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

Lack of prompt notification of changes of address has resulted in late delivery of many copies of the ORE BIN to subscribers, because the Post Office returns the copies to our office, the addresses must be verified, possibly by letter, and we then re-mail them at a total cost to us of 17 cents in charges, a formidable sum on a 50-cent subscription. Incomplete addresses, such as lack of box numbers on rural routes, and even changes in box numbers within the same post office, can cause the same treatment. May we ask that you please check your address as shown on this issue and notify us of any errors?

# CHANGES IN MINING LAWS?

In a speech to the Colorado Mining Assn. on March 17 in Denver, Karl S. Landstrom, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, advacated changes in the present Federal Mining Laws. Among such recommended changes were:

- 1. Mining locations would be recorded in the land office of the BLM.
- 2. Increase present requirement of \$100 of annual assessment work per claim to \$10 per acre.
- 3. The price of land for patent would be \$5 per acre for the mineral rights, plus the value of the surface over \$25 per acre.
- Exploration claims of 160 acres could be held for 5 years, during which time the holder could prospect for locatable minerals. Any person could hold exploration claims of up to 5, 120 acres.

The U. S. Department of the Interior favors the following changes:

- 1. No claim shall exceed 40 acres, and each 10-acre tract shall be mineral in character.
- 2. Each claim shall be tied in with any existing surveys.
- 3. Each claim shall be recorded in the district land office, within 90 days.
- 4. There shall be no distinction between "lode" and "placer" claims.
- 5. There shall be no extralateral rights.
- 6. When not patented, prior to termination of a claim, the surface of the claim shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.
- 7. Within 2 years of the effective date of this "Act" the holder of an unpatented mining claim located prior to the effective date of this "Act" shall file in the U.S. District Land Office certain information relative to his claim.
- 8. Assessment work may include geological, geochemical, or geophysical surveys.
- Assessment work on exploration claims shall be not less than \$10
  per acre for the first, second, and third years; and not less
  than \$20 for the fourth and fifth years.
- 10. The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to issue such rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the "Act." (Nevada Mining Assn. News Letter, April 15, 1962)

. \_

### STIMULATION OF GOLD AND SILVER PRODUCTION EXPLORED

"To explore and consider ways and means of stimulating domestic production of gold and silver" and to consider S.J.Res. 44 regarding incentive payments to domestic gold producers – Engle (Calif.) and four others – were the purposes of a hearing March 15 by the Senate Interior Subcommittee on Minerals, Materials, and Fuels. The Resolution would provide subsidy payments of as much as \$35 an ounce for newly mined domestic gold.

Senator Engle told the subcommittee that while our Nation's outflow of gold seems to have been halted, "we still have to get at the other end of the problem — our decline in the production of gold. The supply of gold which our country needs for its reserves — a supply being steadily drained away by unfavorable trade balances — certainly is not going to increase significantly until something is done to make it economically feasible for our gold mining industry to stay in business." His measure, he continued, provides that incentive payments would vary in accordance with the amount necessary to enable each mine to get back into production, and would cease during the five-year period authorized by the bill when gold reserves reach the \$23 billion level.

Merrill E.Shoup, president, Golden Cycle Corp., Colorado Springs, Colo., appeared on behalf of the American Mining Congress, the Colorado Mining Association, and his company, and called the subcommittee's attention to the American Mining Congress' 1961 "Declaration of Policy" on gold, recommending the following essential steps toward reestablishment of a workable gold standard: (1) Removal of restrictions on ownership, purchase, or sale of gold by American citizens; (2) cessation of Treasury sales of gold for industrial purposes, requirements to be met by the market at freely negotiated prices; and (3) redefinition of the depreciated dollar in terms of gold, and convertibility to and from that metal.

In describing the dire plight of the industry, Shoup detailed the principal contributing factors which led to the closing of Golden Cycle's operations at Cripple Creek, Colo. He said that during the last 25 years labor costs have increased 157 percent while mill supply costs have increased 205 percent. During this same period, he stated, the population of the district has decreased 80 percent and mine and mill employment 85 percent. In 1935, he said, his operations included 40 operating mines, but by 1961 that number had dwindled to 4.

Focusing attention on the domestic silver situation, Robert M. Hardy, Jr., president of Sunshine Mining Co., testifying on behalf of the American Mining Congress and the Idaho Mining Association, told the

subcommittee that the current policy of replacing silver certificates with Federal Reserve notes so that more silver may become available for coinage would have a three-fold adverse effect. "First of all," he said, "the burden upon the gold monetary reserve is increased when it is already in peril. Secondly, the silver thus minted is costing \$1.29 per ounce when it could be obtained in the open market for around \$1.02 an ounce. And lastly, production of silver is discouraged at a time when not only are domestic miners in dire economic trouble, but the country also needs the production of new wealth."

Subcommittee Chairman Carroll (Colo.) pointed out that S.J.Res.44 has received adverse reports from the Treasury, State, and Interior Departments and from the Bureau of the Budget. (American Mining Congress Bulletin Service, March 19, 1962)

### BILL WOULD CREATE PUBLIC LANDS APPEALS BOARD

Sen. Ernest Gruening of Alaska and 11 other Senators have introduced a bill (S.3107) which would establish in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior a three-member Board of Public Lands Appeals. The bill would provide that any final decision of the Bureau of Land Management or the Geological Survey concerning the uses of or claims to public lands under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department may be appealed to the Secretary, with the Board hearing and determining such appeals on behalf of the Secretary, and would also provide that decisions of the Board may be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the land involved is situated.

Speaking on the floor of the Senate, Gruening said that over the years he had received many letters of complaint concerning arbitrary and capricious decisions on the part of the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey. Laws and regulations governing the use and disposition of the public lands should be interpreted and applied uniformly and equitably, he said.

"Those who seek, under applicable provisions of the law, to use or obtain public lands should not be treated as though they were trying to deprive the Federal Government of something," Gruening declared.

S. 3107, cosponsored by Senators Chavez, N.M., Morse and Neuberger, Ore., and others was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. (A.M.C. Bulletin Service, April 13, 1962).

\* \* \* \* \*