

Oregon Gulch Project – Mineral County, Montana

Oregon Gulch Exploration, over a 25-year period of research, sampling and testing, has identified and acquired a premium group of non-patented placer gold claims located in [Cedar Creek Mining District](#), Mineral County, Montana. The contiguous 1250-acre block is located in the historically proven gold bearing area of Oregon Gulch: the location of the richest gold strike in Mineral County, Montana. The gold from this district was notably fine; some gold that was 982 fine was recovered and it was not unusual for it to be as high as 960 to 970 fine (22 Karat). (Lyden, 1948, p. 102).

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality advises, "The initial rush on [Cedar Creek](#), especially on Oregon Gulch was so great that a hundred miners staked out 200 claims within six months of the initial discoveries in 1869. Mining camps arose and were abandoned as quickly as the focus of placering shifted around the district. The population of the district rose upwards of 10,000 by some estimates. In 1870, Forest City, on Cedar Creek itself, reached a population of 7,000 and was a wholesale commercial center for many towns in the area including Missoula. The success of the district prompted publication for three years of "The Missoula and Cedar Creek Pioneer" newspaper. The paper was then moved to Missoula and its name changed to the Missoulian (Smith 1899; Rowe 1911b; Lyden 1948; Wolle 1963).

Gold is recovered from stream and bench gravels located along the three creeks and their tributaries. The gold originates from veins associated with igneous dykes crosscutting the northward extension of the Bitterroots. Chalcopyrite is the principal ore material, and also carries copper and silver in small amounts.

"Description – Oregon Gulch Project - 1250 Acres - Non-Patented Gold Placer Claims

Available For Sale, Lease or Joint Venture



Oregon Creek, which cascades through the gulch, is a primary tributary of Cedar Creek. Oregon Creek has been a significant proven producer. On one section of the creek, history records that on several claims, men equipped each with only a gold pan and shovel, were pulling out an ounce or more to the pan. Gold is recovered from stream and bench gravels located along the creeks and their tributaries.

Located in the Lolo National Forest on United States Forest Service land, the claims are easily accessible with well maintained roads. The Oregon Gulch Project, consisting of 10 non-patented placer gold claims, spans more than a dozen linear miles of prime gold-bearing streambed on Oregon Creek and its tributaries.

Oregon Creek ranges from 6-to-10 feet wide, but in some areas can reach up to 20 feet. The depth of the creek ranges from 8-to-10 inches in the shallow areas, and up to 3-to-12 feet or more in depth. There are lots of benches, gravel bars, river rocks, waterfalls, and exposed bedrock: all of which trap gold.

The gold previously produced from Oregon Creek was mined with very little mechanized equipment: the gold seekers of yesterday did not have access to sophisticated methods of gold detection and recovery.

Geologists suggest that the early prospectors recovered less than ten percent of the available gold. Oregon Gulch remains relatively unworked for almost 150 years.

Gold is present at a grade sufficient to have a strong effect on the economics of an excavation project. These claims could contain world-class mineral deposits. Further study, sampling and drilling will likely prove major gold reserves.

Historical Notes – Oregon Gulch

[“The best place to find a new mine is in the shadow of an old mine”](#)



The Montana Department Of Environmental Quality, reports. [“The Cedar Creek Mining District](#), known primarily for its placer deposits, encompasses Cedar, Quartz, and Trout Creeks, rising near the crest of the

northward extension of the Bitterroot Mountain range. The creeks flow northeastward to enter the Clark Fork River above Superior (Sahinen 1935).

The placers were first claimed in 1869 by French Canadian Louis A. Barrette, and have seen continuous production since then. By 1935 the district had yielded at least \$2,000,000 in gold and perhaps as much as \$10,000,000. Annual output between 1869 and 1935 ranges from \$1,000 to \$50,000: with recovery primarily through sluicing and hydraulic methods.

A connected-bucket dredge was reported to have operated in the early 1900's, and some shaft, drift and limited lode mining has been done. The gold was transported from Superior, a station on the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroads (Rowe 1911; Sahinen 1935).

The gold recovered from the placers was considered to be exceptionally rich, ranging from \$19.75 to \$20.45 with a standard price of \$20.67 per ounce.

In 1875 it was reported that the various drifts were yielding as high as \$300 to \$600 to a set of timbers, and that about \$50,000 in gold was recovered each year from 1871 to 1873. The fineness was reported as ranging from .950 to .982 (Sahinen 1935; Lyden 1948).

Surface Geology

The surficial geology of the area was created by Glacial Lake Missoula about 15,000 years ago. The entire flow of the Clark Fork River backed up behind an ice dam, and the glacial lake reached an elevation of about 4350 feet. When the ice dam failed, Glacial Lake Missoula emptied through the Clark Fork Valley in just a few days, releasing the greatest flood of known geologic record. This process occurred repeatedly, each time resulting in colossal floods. Exposed bedrock and sedimentary deposits provide evidence of the lake in the Missoula Valley, as do layers of lakebed deposits alternating with river sediments exposed just west of Missoula (Alt and Hyndman 1986).



Gold Production In Mineral County, Montana

The US Geological Survey ranks Montana as number 7 in gold production in the US and reports the state contains 31 gold mining districts, including the Cedar Creek Mining District, located in Mineral County. Total state gold production from the 19th century to 1968 was 17.8 million ounces, but considerable amounts of gold have been mined since (Bergendahl and Koshmann, 1968).

Situated in the western section of Montana, Mineral County is bounded by Missoula and Sanders counties and the state of Idaho. Most of the county topography is quite rugged with elevations ranging from 2500 to 8000 feet above sea level.

Located along the Idaho border, Mineral County was formed in 1914 by partition of Missoula County. The county derives its name from the diverse array of minerals including lead, copper, zinc, silver and gold located in its mountainous terrain. The county has a rich historical heritage of mineral discoveries in the late 1800s. Gold and silver were commercially produced from mines located in Mineral County. All gold mined before 1914 from the area now included in Mineral County is credited to Missoula County.

Almost all of the entire gold output in Mineral County came from placer deposits along the creeks that drain the east side of the Bitterroot Mountains and that flow into Clark Fork River between Tarkio and Superior. The most productive placers, and the only ones that produced more than 10,000 ounces of gold, were those along Cedar and Trout Creeks and their tributaries.

Estimates by Lyden (1948, p. 98-103) suggest that placer production before 1904 may have exceeded 120,000 ounces. From 1904 through 1956 the county produced placer gold valued at about \$665,000 (32,175 ounces), most of which was produced before 1942.

Mineral County continues to be a site of active gold exploration. Based on geology, it is predictable that several large undeveloped and undiscovered gold deposits will be found, identified and developed in the future.

Offered For Lease or Joint-Venture - Investor Inquiries Invited.

[Barber Gulch Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Southern Cross Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Bonanza Gulch Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Hard Times No. 1 and 2 Placer Gold Claims](#)

[Grubstake Gulch Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Missoula Gulch Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Wild Rose Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Rainbow's End Placer Gold Claim](#)

[Hard Times No. 3 Placer Gold Claim](#)

With the price of gold holding at a strong high, participation in the Oregon Gulch Project presents a unique investment opportunity for a visionary entrepreneur.

For Further Information, Contact:

Marlene A. Affeld

Oregon Gulch Gold

PO Box 70

Saint Regis, Montana 59866

509-389-2606

marneaffeld@mac.com

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[History Of Cedar Creek Mining District](#)

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Each of the creeks has several notable tributaries for which some information is available. Oregon Gulch and Snowshoe Gulch have both been significant producers along Cedar Creek. In 1875, one company on Snowshoe Gulch grossed \$9,200 in 10 weeks with nine men. The net profit for the owners was \$4,600, with an additional two to three thousand dollars stolen from the sluices. Windfall Creek, a tributary of Trout Creek, is considered to be the largest producer of placer gold in the district. The "Miller Ground" claim on Windfall Creek was reported to have yielded gold valued at \$150,000 by 1919. Tucker Gulch is an important tributary of Quartz Creek, although production along Quartz Creek probably did not exceed \$100,000 (Lyden 1948).

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