

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by: **Randall E. Brown**
Date of visit: **Jan. 28, 1942**

McDonald Manganese

Sixes River Area

Curry County

(prospect)

Manganese stains are prominent in a reddish chert lens six miles up Floras Creek from U.S. Highway 101. A reported "heavy" boulder was not found, but may conceivably have been manganese. Further prospecting is justified on basis of accessibility and lack of knowledge of extent of chert.

Owner: **C.E. McDonald**

Bullard's Ferry

Bandon, Oregon

Area: Deeded land, 60 acres

Location: Six miles up the Floras Creek road and about one mile north to the north bank of Floras Creek. Property includes that part of Sec. 5, T. 31 S., R. 14 W. bounded on the south by Floras Creek, in the NE 1/4 of Sec. 5

Prospect is 7 miles from US Highway 101 and one half mile from that point to Langlois, 32 miles to Coquille.

History: Property was bought and operated for cedar. Several years ago a boulder was found which may have been manganese.

Topography: Located on the north bank of Floras Creek, a stream with a large flow during all the year except mid-summer.

Development work: No development work done.

Geology: Prospect is in serpentine country rock, adjacent to the northern contact of the serpentine with the Myrtle sandstone, and extends eastward from the basalt plug bounding the serpentine on the west to the Myrtle sandstone on the east.

Manganese occurs as heavy stains on seams and fractures in a reddish chert zone which strikes east-west. The chert zone is marked by a series of knobs which rise conspicuously from the north bank of the canyon. No evidence of high grade manganese could be found. Heavy vegetation prevented a thorough investigation.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the area be carefully prospected.

Informant: **C.E. McDonald**

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Report by: Randall E. Brown
Date of visit: Feb. 12, 1942

Roberts Manganese

Sixes River Area

Curry County

Manganese oxides are exposed 1.5 miles northeast of Edson Butte near the South Fork of Floras Creek. The manganese occurs in a series of cherts which crop out around a small hill, in place. The chert lens in which the manganese occurs is continuous for more than 100 feet and averages about 3 feet thick. The grade of ore is below 40% except locally, and is highly siliceous. The deposit is located near an old logging road which would require rebuilding for 3 miles to permit operation.

Owner: Lee J. Roberts Langlois, Oregon

Area: Deeded land

Location: Located two miles beyond the end of the Floras Creek road in the NW 1/4 of Sec. 13, T. 31 S., R. 14 W. a half mile southwest of the South Fork of Floras Creek.

Deposit is 12 miles from US Highway 101 at a point 1/2 mile south of Langlois, and 32 miles south of Coquille, the nearest railhead.

History: Property was recently leased to Toy L. Young, mining operator from Oakland, California, and at present is being opened up to expose the manganese zone with intent of stockpiling the ore.

Topography: Deposit is exposed on the south side of a small hill, about 50 feet above the base of the hill and 30 feet from the top. The talus slope below the exposure contains considerable manganese boulders. Slope is downhill to the end of the Floras Creek road. Deposit is in cutover land, in moderately rugged country, at an altitude of 1,000 feet.

Development: Deposit is exposed over a distance of 100 feet and from 3 to 10 feet vertically. The manganese zone is terminated on either end by the ends of the hill. No work has been done to determine the depth of the manganese zone.

Geology: The country rock, according to Diller, is basalt. If covering the area designated by Diller, the ridge containing the manganese is surrounded by the basalt. However, it is believed that the deposit lies on the northern edge of the basalt plug. The rock cropping out above and below the chert zone is Myrtle sandstone. The manganese occurs in a red chert lens which constitutes the basal member of a series of cherts resting on sandstone bedrock.

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White chert crops out to the crest of the hill, about 30 feet above the top of the red chert lens, with traces of sandstone at the hill summit.

The manganese occurs as pods, boulders and irregular masses of psilomelane and pyrolusite within the red chert. Only traces of stain occur in either the white chert or the underlying sandstone. The highest grade ore is found at the western end of the deposit where the manganese zone is less than 3 feet thick. Toward the east end the zone thickens to ten feet but the manganese decreases in grade. Apparently the effect of weathering has been to concentrate the manganese in a narrower zone on the west.

The chert composes the entire top of the hill and can be traced completely around the hill. The red chert crops out around the hill but is only stained on the north side. The attitude of the chert is: Strike N. 65 E, dip 15 to 40° N.

This deposit clearly shows the relationship between the red chert, the white chert and the manganese. It is possible that the iron in the red chert is being replaced by manganese, and that the lack of iron in the white chert may prevent precipitation within that rock.

Mining and metallurgy: The ore is the siliceous type, common to this type of manganese deposits and can probably not be concentrated. The deposit must be blasted, but the "ore" can be handled easily from the talus slope below.

An assay of typical ore from the deposit gave: Mn 29.8%