

NM Mine File No. 170

THE BEARUP BLACK SANDS DEPOSIT

Catron County, New Mexico

By

R. J. Thompson

J. R. Brooks

December 11, 1962

N.M. Bureau of Mines
& Mineral Resources
Socorro, N.M. 87801 File Data

Confidential

Open

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Introduction

The Bearup Black Sands Deposit was brought to the attention of C.F.&I. by a Mr. E. J. Bearup of Glenwood, New Mexico. It was investigated by R. J. Thompson and J. R. Brooks on December 8, 1962, in the company of Mr. E. J. Bearup.

Location

The Bearup deposit is located at the intersection of Section 36, T-10-S, R-20-W, and Section 31, T-10-S, R-19-W, Catron County. The deposit can be reached by taking New Mexico Highway 260 to Alma. Then turn east on Cooney Canyon road and continue to the confluence of Mineral and Silver Creeks as shown on the Mogollon, New Mexico, topographic sheet. The deposit encompasses the confluence of the creeks and Silver Creek Canyon.

Geology

The Bearup Deposit lies within the old Mogollon mining district, which was principally a gold-silver belt. Apparently, the gold-silver comes from a brecciated zone within an andesite of probable Tertiary age. Both stream channels are cut in the Gila Conglomerate. At the confluence of Mineral and Silver Creeks the channel is about 250 yards wide, but at a point three-quarters of a mile up Silver Creek, it had narrowed down to about 75 yards.

The source of the magnetite is now known. It may have come, partly at least, from the weathering of the andesite and also from the erosion of the Gila Conglomerate. There is the possibility of some free gold in the placer as cobbles of the gold-silver bearing breccia were seen in the creek bed.

The rest of the drainage of Mineral Creek westward to its junction with the San Francisco River appears to be composed of the same type of material as found in the placer area.

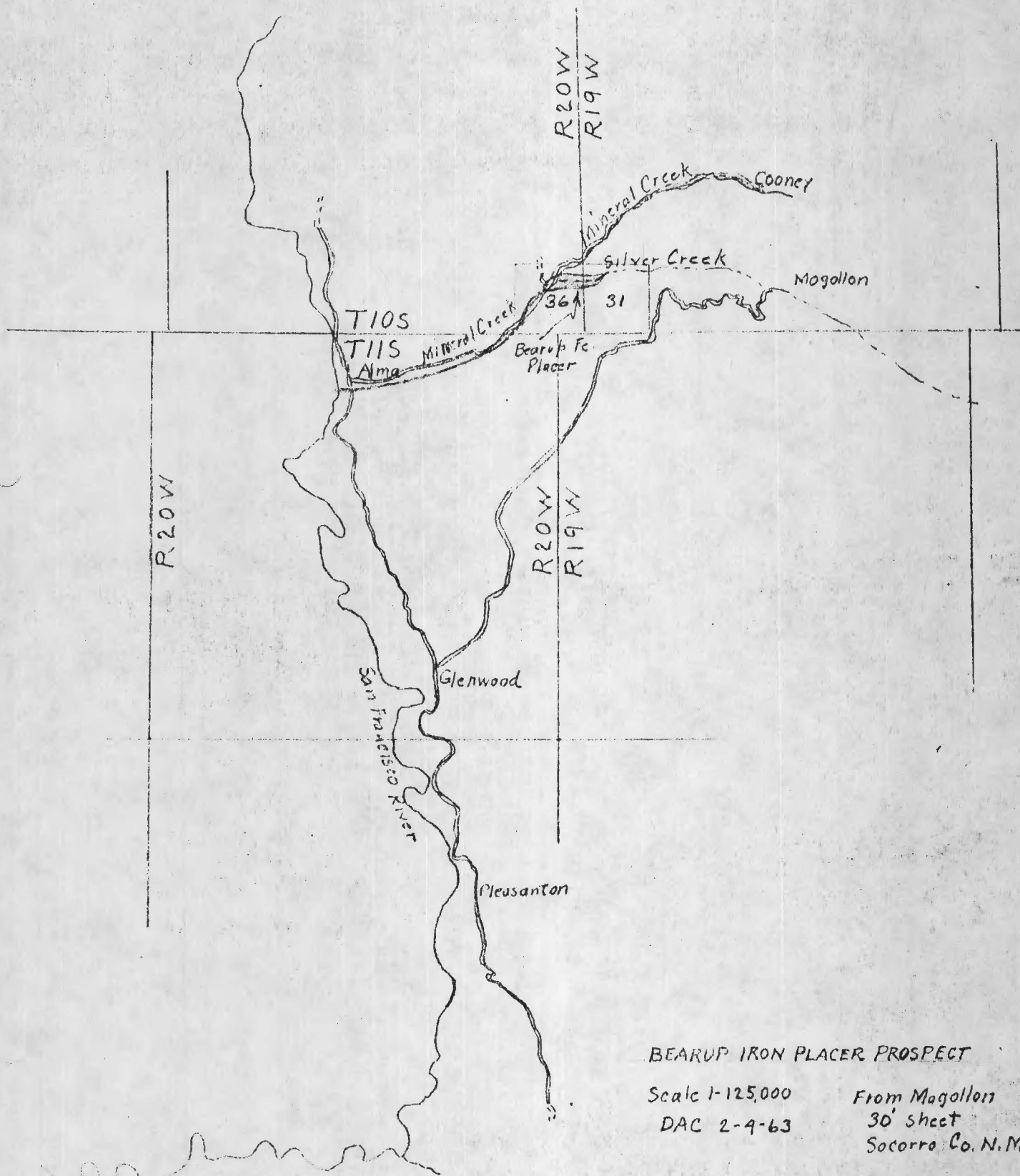
From water wells drilled on the Mineral Creek drainage, the stream fill is from 30 to 50 feet deep, bottoming on Gila Conglomerate.

Samples

Two samples were taken and are being forwarded to Pueblo for analysis. No. 1 was taken at the confluence of Mineral and Silver Creeks. No. 2 was taken near the southwest corner of Section 36, T-10-S, R-20-W.

Conclusions

The placer appears to be of no commercial value to CF&I because of its limited area. The rest of the drainage area of Mineral Creek from the southwest corner of Section 36, T-10-S, R-20-W, lies on patented land. Mr. Bearup tells us that he knows of an area south of Glenwood where he has seen iron outcropping. This will probably require future investigations.



BEARUP IRON PLACER PROSPECT

Scale 1-125,000
DAC 2-4-63

From Mogollon
30' sheet
Socorro Co. N.M.