
**Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s)
Preliminary Assessment Trip Report
Whatcom County, Washington
TDD: 03-01-0002**

Contract: 68-S0-01-01
September 2004

Region 10

START-2

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

Submitted To: Joanne LaBaw, Task Monitor
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

TRIP REPORT

DATE: September 16, 2004
TO: Joanne LaBaw, Task Monitor, EPA, Mail Stop ECL-115
FROM: Mark Longtine, Project Manager, E & E, Seattle, WA
SUBJ: Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s) Preliminary Assessment
REF: Contract No. 68-S0-01-01, Technical Direction Document No. 03-01-0002

Place Visited:

Site Name:	Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s)
CERCLIS ID No.:	WAN001002514
Location:	Whatcom County, Washington
Latitude:	Not known
Longitude:	Not known
Legal Description:	Sections 1, 2, and 12, Township 37 North, Range 3 East, Willamette Meridian
Congressional District:	Washington
Site Owner:	Not known
Site Contact:	Not known

Purpose of Trip:

Site reconnaissance visit for preliminary assessment.

Person Responding:

Mark Longtine, Ecology and Environment, Inc., Seattle, Washington.

Site Owners:

The location of the site was not determined; therefore, site owners were not identified.

Date of Trip:

February 5 and February 18, 2004.

BACKGROUND

A preliminary assessment (PA) was performed at the Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s), located in Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting PAs and pre-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) screenings at several abandoned coal mines in the Bellingham/Lake Whatcom area, Washington. The purpose of the PAs and pre-CERCLIS screenings is to determine whether the mines pose a threat to public health or the environment, and to determine whether environmental cleanup is needed. The EPA is conducting the PAs and pre-CERCLIS screenings in response to a citizens' petition filed by two environmental groups in Bellingham, the Environmental Exposure Network and the Clean Water Alliance. These groups contend the mines may contain pollutants, such as mercury and heavy metals.

SITE DESCRIPTION/OWNERSHIP HISTORY

For the purposes of this PA, the Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s) are defined to include several abandoned coal mines or prospects located in Sections 2 and 12, Township 37 North, Range 3 East (Figure 1). For the purposes of the PA, this includes mine(s) or prospects(s) referred to as the "Manning's Camp" mine/prospect. Information on these mine(s) or prospect(s) is limited. The most complete information on coal mining in the general area is provided by Olaf Jenkins, who prepared the *Geological Investigation of the Coal Fields of Western Whatcom County, Washington* (Jenkins 1923) for the State of Washington Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Geology, which provides details regarding the many coal mines and prospects in the area. Another valuable source of information is *An Historical Geography of the Settlement around Lake Whatcom Prior to 1920*, prepared by F. Stanley Moore (1973) for the Institute for Freshwater Studies at Western Washington State College. Jenkins (1923) reported that "coal was prospected and even mined at a number of places in the region about Manley's Camp." The name "Manley's Camp" is used by Jenkins (1923) since it is the name used on the contemporary topographic map (USGS 1918); however, Jenkins (1923) and Moore (1973) note that most people referred to the area as "Manning's Camp."

As of 1922, there still existed "the remains of old bunkers on an old skid road, near the range line," in the southeast corner of Section 1, Township 37 North, Range 3 East (Jenkins 1923). However, the location of the mine associated with the bunkers is not certain. It is reported that:

... the coal is said to have been brought down on a skid road from somewhere in the southeast quarter of section 12 of the same township. The coal outcrop was evidently covered at the time of this investigation, for only fragments of coal could be found in a small creek that flows northeast in this section. (Jenkins 1923)

The general location of a mine referred to as the “Mountain Bank Coal Mine” is marked in the southeast quarter of Section 12, Township 37 North, Range 3 East on the *Map of Whatcom County* (Campbell 1904). Based on its location, this mine appears to be one of the mines referred to as the Manley’s Camp mines by Jenkins (1923). It is not known when the mine was developed; however, the inclusion of the mine on the map (Campbell 1904) indicates the mine existed by at least 1904.

Other mining and/or prospecting activities were reported by Jenkins (1923) in the area of Manley’s Camp. As reported by Jenkins:

... a mile west of Manley’s Camp are a few other old workings which are now practically obliterated by a thick growth of vegetation as well as by caving and general surface disintegration. An old tunnel occurs in one place (NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 2, T. 37 N., R. 3 E.) running in the direction of the dip of the rocks which is 35°, N. 35° W., which is said to cut a coal seam 30 feet from its entry. (Jenkins 1923)

Available historical documents do not indicate who owned the mine(s) or prospect(s). Despite considerable effort, the physical location of the mine(s) or prospect(s) could not be determined (see “START-2 ACTIONS” section below). For these reasons, the ownership history of the property on which the mining/prospecting occurred could not be determined. However, based upon available information, it is likely that the mine(s)/prospect(s) referred to by Jenkins (1923) in Section 12, Township 37 North, Range 3 East was located on a 440-acre parcel of land (Whatcom County Parcel Number 370312 198330 0000) currently owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (Whatcom County 2003). Similarly, it is likely that the mine(s)/prospect(s) referred to by Jenkins (1923) in Section 2, Township 37 North, Range 3 East was located on a 466.24-acre parcel of land (Whatcom County Parcel Number 370302 194340 0000) currently owned by Trillium Corporation (Whatcom County 2003). Both parcels are currently are managed for commercial forestry.

SITE OPERATIONS AND WASTE CHARACTERISTICS

No information has been located on the precise location or dates of prospecting and/or mining reported in the area of Manley’s Camp. No information on the operations at the mine(s)/prospect(s) is

available. Based upon Jenkins' (1923) observations, it is likely that the mining/prospecting ceased well prior to 1922, and that the prospect workings were small in size.

START-2 ACTIONS

To obtain information about coal mining in the Bellingham/Lake Whatcom area, including the area of the Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s), START-2 reviewed numerous reports, maps, and other documents. In addition, START-2 conducted interviews with representatives of federal, state, and local agencies; representatives of academic institutions; and owners or representatives of properties in the vicinity of the former coal mining activities. A list of data sources for the Bellingham/Lake Whatcom Coal Mines PA/pre-CERCLIS screening project is provided in Appendix A.

Little documentation or other information regarding the Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s) was obtained as a result of the information gathering efforts. All pertinent information gathered has been incorporated into this trip report, and was used to guide efforts to physically locate the mine(s)/prospect(s) during site reconnaissance visits performed by START-2. START-2 conducted visits of the area of the mine(s)/prospect(s) located in Section 2, Township 37 North, Range 3 East on February 5 and February 18, 2004, to attempt to locate the former mine features. The area of the mine(s)/prospect(s) located in Section 12, Township 37 North, Range 3 East was not visited because access to the property was not allowed. Much of the area in the general vicinity of the mine(s)/prospect(s) located in Section 2, Township 37 North, Range 3 East has been recently clear cut for timber harvest, and is overgrown with brush. As such, visibility and physical access were limited. START-2 walked along logging roads to access the general area of the mine(s)/prospect(s), and, where possible, walked overland and along streams looking for indications of coal mining activities or other anthropogenic disturbances. No evidence of coal mining activities was noted at any of the locations observed.

CONCLUSIONS

Available historical information indicates that coal mining activities were very limited, and ceased prior to 1922. No evidence of coal mining activities were noted during the site visits on February 5 and February 18, 2004. No sources or evidence of contamination of any kind (e.g., stained soil or distressed vegetation) were observed during the site visits.

Source: Maptech, Inc. 2001.

WASHINGTON



Area of Manley's Camp Mine(s)/Prospect(s)



BELLINGHAM/LAKE WHATCOM COAL MINES
Whatcom County, Washington

Figure 1
SITE VICINITY MAP
MANLEY'S CAMP MINE(S)/PROSPECT(S)

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APPENDIX A
PROJECT DATA SOURCES

PROJECT DATA SOURCES:

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PROJECT DATA SOURCES:
RESEARCH FACILITY CONTACTS

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, Washington 98225
Margaret Ziegler, Reference Librarian

Center for Pacific Northwest Studies/Washington State Archives: Northwest Regional Branch
Goltz-Murray Archives Building
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington 98225-9123

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