

What Do I look For

By Rob Boyko

What do I look for? This is a question question that I frequently get asked. What some are asking is: How do I find what I am looking for? What I look for is geological signs. Besides the usual such as checking the gravel banks on the inside curves of streams and creeks etc; I try to look for out crops.

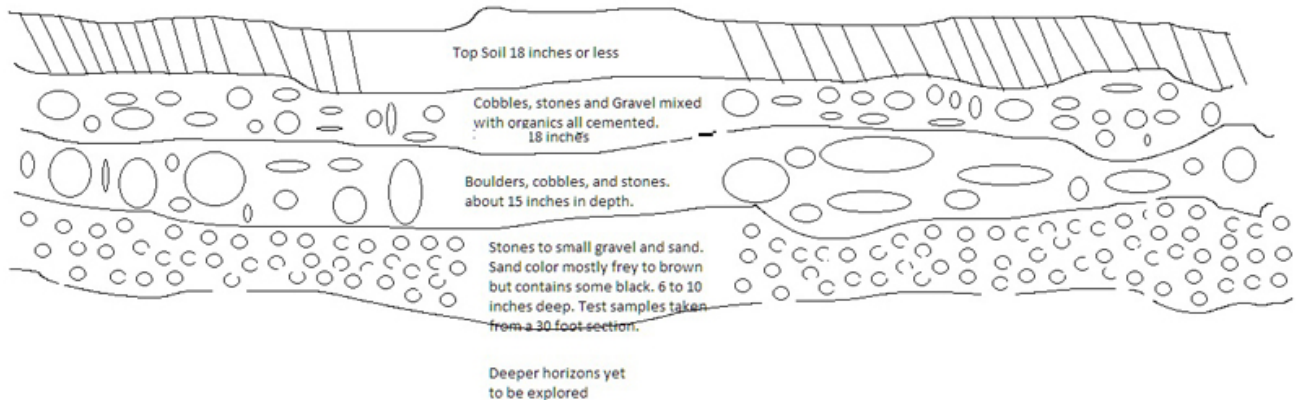
Most of the time, I am looking for Placer material. These would be huge areas of loose rock, stone, gravel, and sand mixtures. These earthly fields of gravel beds are glacier created millions of years ago after and during the great ice ages. I also look at outcrops that are created by process of erosion through time, such as land and rock slides. These can and usually are along the ravines and steep valleys of most of the creeks I prospect as seen in the file pictures below.



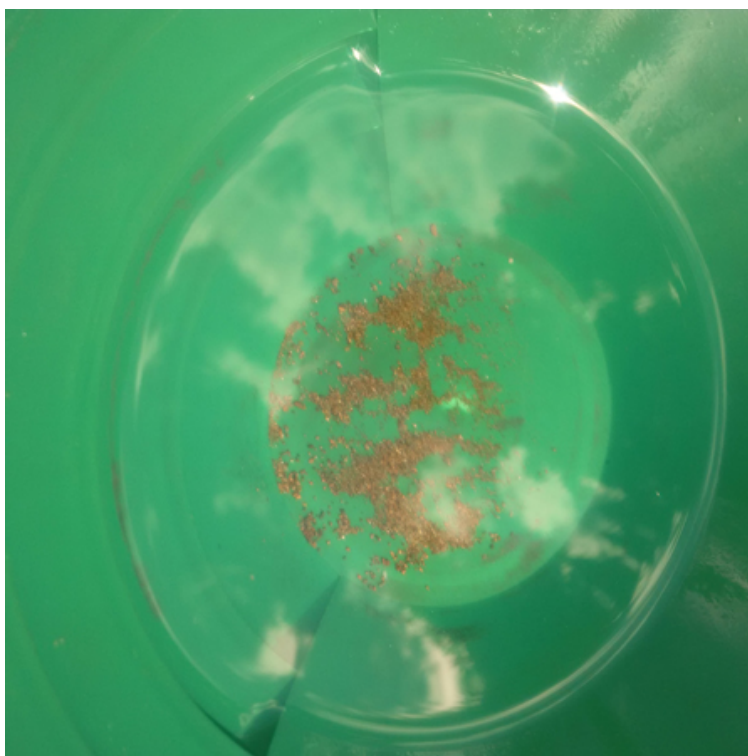
It all depends on what I may be prospecting for. In most cases it is gold. In other cases it could be anything of mineral value such as silver, copper, molybdenum, and others that can be mined commercially. Mostly gold, platinum, palladium, and silver that is usually found in those alluvial fields. These outcrops can be easily found along the creek path where the soil has eroded from a steep embankment such as the picture below. Here is where you can see the horizons or in other words the layers of sediment, rock, and gravel / sand combinations. It is between these layers that the minerals or metals may be found.



In the drawing below is a graphical representation of the picture above. Here you can see where I have started my exploration of that eroded embankment. As one digs further downward, it would be expected to start finding the heavier material before hitting bed rock (solid rock at the bottom of the gravel field). At the bottom there may or in most cases may not be the heavy black sands (magnetite) along with the gold fragments caused by glacier and or river erosion. Above the bottom layer of the field one may be able to find some lighter fragments (filings, slivers, powder known as micro gold. Who knows what might be there, usually nothing of value.



However, during the sampling process working from the top down; if one should start to see color in the bottom of the pan as in the picture below, it becomes important to collect the material that is being sampled by panning and sent to a certified lab for analysis unless you have the knowledge and equipment to complete the task yourself. Once the analysis confirms the existence or non-existence of the mineral that you are searching for will determine if further explorations is warranted.



Hopefully further exploration would be warranted, then one can start the process of proving the claim (further digging or drilling will be the process and more sample sent to lab). If the claim proves viable (oz. Or % per ton), (see copy of assay below) then you have a choice of mining it yourself, selling the claim, or marketing the claim to a mining company that would have the resources to start a mining operation. Agreements can be and are usually negotiated.

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CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS		VAN11007061.1																		
Method	WGHT	GC	GC	GC	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR
Analyte	Wgt	Au	Pt	Pd	Mo	Cu	Pb	Zn	Ag	Ni	Co	Mn	Fe	As	Sr	Cd	Sb	Bi	Ca	P
Unit	kg	gwt	gwt	gwt	%	%	%	%	gwt	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MDL	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.001	0.001	0.01	0.01	2	0.001	0.001	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.001	0.001	0.01	0.01	0.01	
1	Rock	0.19	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001	<0.01	<0.01	2	<0.001	<0.001	<0.01	0.45	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001	<0.01	0.01	0.001

A more visual look at an outcrop that is described in this article can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/SPUEgw10yO4>