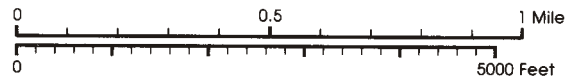


Swift River Gold Panning Area

Town: Byron, Oxford County

Base map: Roxbury and Ellis Pond 7.5' quadrangles

Contour interval: 20 feet



Type of deposit: Placer (in stream gravel).

Collecting status: Open for gold panning. The land in this area is owned by Boise Cascade Corp., whose permission is required. Contact: Timberlands Manager, Boise Cascade Corporation, Rumford, Maine 04276 (207-364-4521). Disturbance of the river bank is not allowed. No State permit is required for gold panning, use of suction dredges with a hose diameter of 4 inches or less, or sluices of less than 10 square feet. Larger-scale operations require a permit from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Minerals observed: gold and other heavy minerals associated with placer deposits (almandine garnet, biotite, magnetite, scheelite, staurolite, etc.).

Comments: Highest gold concentrations reportedly occur downstream from parking area. Gold from this area was used in making the chain for a tourmaline necklace which was presented to the State by the Maine Retail Jewelers' Association. A circular on gold in Maine is available from the Maine Geological Survey. There is much interesting information in a book titled "The Next Bend in the River: Gold Mining in Maine" (Stevens, 1989).

Directions: *Driving:* From Coos Canyon picnic area on Rte. 17 in Byron, drive 1.65 miles north and east on Byron Road (toward Byron Notch and Tumbledown Mtn.). Turn left onto unpaved road. Take right fork and cross East Branch Swift River. Park on left or right just after crossing bridge.