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Ruby Creek Named After Early Find

The stream on the upper Skagit now known as Ruby Creek got its name from two of the early prospectors in that area, Sutter and Rowley, who visited there in 1872. The two men were washing the gravel when Sutter recovered a nice ruby in his pan. The creek received it's name then and there.

Ruby Creek has been the scene of much profitable mining and also had one of the most extensive plants operated in the upper Skagit mining rush. In 1906 some \$300,000 was put into building a big camp which included a saw mill, bunk houses and cookhouse, office buildings, tool sheds, a four mile wooden flume and a complete hydraulic plant. The only thing wrong with the whole set-up was the fact that the mouth of the sluice, which had to receive the force of the water dashed against it, was not on bed rock and all particles of gold sank into the ground. The promoters got discouraged and quit, but it is said the watchman they left behind took some \$3,000 worth of gold out of the place where the gold sank.

Later the camp became Ruby Creek Inn, finally fell into disrepair and is now covered by the waters of Ross Lake.