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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
(BUREAU OF MINES)

*Douglas County
(general)
Item 3*

MINERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE LINCOLN CREEK RARE II AREA
(NO. 5983), DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA

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MLA 93-82

1982

This open file report summarizes the results of a Bureau of Mines wilderness study and will be incorporated in a joint report with the U.S. Geological Survey. The report is preliminary and has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with the U.S. Bureau of Mines standards and nomenclature. Work on this study was conducted by personnel from Western Field Operations Center, East 360 Third Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99202

FOREWORD

The U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey jointly conduct mineral surveys of lands which in the U.S. Forest Service Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program have been designated for further planning. The RARE II program conforms with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 215; 16 U.S.C. 528-531), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (88 Stat. 476, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1601 note), and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2949; 16 U.S.C. 1600 note). Reports on these surveys provide the President, Congress, the U.S. Forest Service, and the general public with information essential for determining the suitability of land for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

This report is on the Lincoln Creek RARE II area (No. 5983), Nevada.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	4
Present and previous studies.....	4
Prospects and mineralized areas.....	7
Assessment of mineral deposits.....	8
References.....	9

ILLUSTRATION

Figure 1. Prospects and sample locations, Lincoln Creek area.....	5
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SUMMARY

During 1981, the U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey conducted a mineral resource survey of the 6,400 acre (15,800 ha) Lincoln Creek RARE II area (No. 5983) in the Toiyabe National Forest (fig. 1).

Samples of outcrops and stream channels contained no significant amounts of economic minerals. A radioactive deposit in a pegmatite dike occurs 1.25 mi (2.02 km) southeast of the study area, but similiar deposits have not been discovered within the area boundary. No coal or deposits were found.

INTRODUCTION

U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey personnel conducted a mineral resource appraisal of the Lincoln Creek RARE II area during 1981. The Bureau of Mines examined mines, prospects, and mineralized areas, while the Geological Survey conducted geological, geochemical, and geophysical studies of the area.

Overlooking Lake Tahoe, the Lincoln Creek area covers 10 sq mi (15,800 ha) of forested hills in west Douglas County, Nevada. Elevations range from 6,400 ft (2,100 m) at Cave Rock to 8,433 ft (2,767 m) near the east boundary.

Present and Previous Studies

Publications of the State of Nevada, the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, the State of California Division of Mines, and the U.S. Geological Survey describe mineral deposits and prospects in and around the roadless area. Douglas County records were examined to determine claim locations.

Eight man-days were spent on field work. An attempt was made to find, examine, and sample all claims near the roadless area. A scintillometer was carried during field investigations to measure gamma radiation levels.

Five chip samples were taken from outcrops in and near the study area. Eleven placer samples were taken from stream beds. Rock chip samples were crushed, pulverized, and split in preparation for analysis. All chip samples were fire assayed for gold and silver, with selected samples being analyzed by fluorimetric methods for U_3O_8 . At least one sample from each mineralized structure or prospect was analyzed by semiquantitative spectrographic methods for 42 elements 1/ to detect unsuspected economic minerals. Heavy minerals from stream bed samples were initially concentrated by hand panning, further concentrated on a Wilfley table in a laboratory, and then analyzed. All lode and placer samples were checked for radioactivity and fluorescence.

1/ Aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, bismuth, boron, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, columbium, copper, gallium, gold, hafnium, indium, iron, lanthanum, lead, lithium, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, phosphorus, platinum, rhenium, scandium, silicon, silver, sodium, strontium, tantalum, tellurium, thallium, tin, titanium, vanadium, yttrium, zinc, and zirconium.

PROSPECTS AND MINERALIZED AREAS

Exploration and mining activity began in the Sierra Nevada as early as 1850, with the first recorded activity near the area occurring in 1901. The area lies 25 mi (40 km) southeast of the Comstock Lode district, and 50 mi (80 km) northwest of the Mother Lode district, two of the largest gold and silver producers in the United States. The Genoa mining district, 3 mi (5 km) east of the study area, was organized in 1860. Prospecting in the district for gold, copper, and silver met with discouraging results (Smith and Vanderburg, 1932). These districts are all located in geologic settings different than those of the study area.

No claims have been located within the RARE II boundary. Twelve claims were located near Spooner Junction in 1901 for gold, and several claims were located along the Kingsbury Grade in the 1950's for uranium. No visible signs of mining activity were observed during field investigations, and no production has been recorded.

Although no prospects were found in the study area, one prospect outside on the Kingsbury Grade was examined (fig. 1). The Kingsbury Queen Prospect is located on a 15 ft (4.6 m) wide radioactive pegmatite dike trending N. 15° E. and dipping 25° to the southeast. One sample of the dike contained <0.001 percent U_3O_8 . No radioactive pegmatite dikes were found in the study area.

Five additional lode and eleven placer samples were taken (fig. 1). Lode samples of structures and outcrops contained no anomalous amounts of gold, silver, or copper. One placer sample of an unnamed stream near Zephyr Cove contained 11 cents per cu yd gold, and another from North Logan House Creek contained 4 cents per cu yd gold (at \$400 per troy oz gold). Both streams originate near a contact between granodiorite and volcanic rocks east of the study area. These samples contain low gold values and represent small volumes of gravel and, therefore, do not constitute a resource. Nine other placer samples from major drainages contained no gold.

ASSESSMENT OF MINERAL DEPOSITS

A radioactive deposit in a pegmatite dike occurs 1.25 mi (2 m) southeast of the study area, but similar deposits have not been discovered within the area boundary. Minor amounts of gold found in two placer samples probably originate from a contact between granodiorite and volcanic rocks near Genoa and South Camp Peaks. These samples contained low gold values and represent small volumes of gravel which do not constitute a resource.

REFERENCES

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- Smith, Grant H., 1943, The history of the Comstock Lode: State of Nevada, Bulletin 37, 297 p.
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Figure 1.--Prospects and sample locations, Lincoln Creek area