

ASPEN DISTRICT

The Aspen mining district is located at the south end of the Desatoya Mountains about 70 kilometers southwest of Austin and on the Lander-Churchill County line. The district adjoins the Eastgate district that is located just to the northwest. Probably the mines and prospects in this portion of the Desatoya Mountains should be considered as one district. The majority of the production from mines in the Aspen and Eastgate districts was probably from the Churchill County part of the area. Except for the Buffalo Hump Mine, these mines and prospects were not visited during this study because the Eastgate district is outside of the Eureka-Shoshone Resource area.

The mines and prospects in the Alpine<sup>?</sup> district explore epithermal gold-silver-bearing quartz veins which cut Tertiary felsic pyroclastic rocks or flows and intrusive rocks of intermediate composition. The veins exhibit open-space textures, and contain sparse pyrite and, locally, free gold. The wallrocks are silicified adjacent to the major veins, and argillic alteration is common further from the veins in some areas.

Gold was probably discovered in the district in the early 1900's. There was some prospecting and small-scale production in the 1930's and 1950's. Except for recent sampling at the Highland Mine, the district was inactive in 1981. The total production from the district is estimated to be less than \$5,000 (Stewart and others, 1977). The adjacent Eastgate district has produced over 3,000 ounces of gold and 38,000 ounces of silver (Willden and Speed, 1974).

## Selected References:

Speed, R. C., and Willden, R. (1974) Geology and mineral deposits of Churchill County, Nevada. NBMG Bull. 83.

- Stewart, J. H., McKee, E. H., and Stager, H. K. (1977). Geology and mineral deposits of Lander County, Nevada. NBMG Bull. 88.

*J. Tingley + P. Smith (1982) Mineral Inventory of  
Eureka-Shoshone Resource Area: NBMG OFR ~~82-10~~  
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