

Placer Mining in Nevada AURA DISTRICT Vanderberg, W.O. 1936

The Aura District, also known as the Bull Run, Centennial, or Columbia District, is in the central part of the Bull Run Mountains, 20 miles southwest of Mountain City in northern Elko County. The District was discovered by Jesse Cope and party in 1869. The placer deposits, which have been of secondary importance to the lodes, were first worked in the seventies. In 1905, a company was organized to work the gravels of Bull Run Basin on a large scale. An extensive system of ditches, flumes, and pipe lines was built to hydraulic the gravels, but after washing only a few hundred yards the project was abandoned. It is said that some gold was recovered, but, owing to the size of boulders, exploitation of the gravels was not profitable.

In 1925, a ditch was constructed to bring water to the placers from Blue Jacket Canyon for the purpose of hydraulicking. This venture also was not successful and operations ceased after a short time. In recent years the placer deposits have not been worked.

44

Item 18

NMGS B-1127 p71

6400 0017