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Elko County

14. Placer: Centennial district (Aura, Bull Run)

Location: Central part of the Bull Run Mountains, north of
Bull Run Reservoir. T. 43-44 N., R. 52 E.

Topographic maps: Bull Run 15-minute quadrangle

Geologic maps: Decker, 1962, Geologic map of the Bull Run
quadrangle, Elko County, Nevada (pl. 1), scale 1:62,500.

Access: From Elko, 66 miles north and west on State Highway 11-43
to State Highway 11a; from there it is about 12 miles north
on 11a to the Centennial district.

Extent: Small placers are located in the Centennial district
along Blue Jacket Creek and Columbia Creek (T. 44 N., R. 52
E.) and in the Bull Run Basin (T. 43 N., R. 52 E.). The
placers along Blue Jacket Creek are located on the west
side of the creek in sec. 22 and at the junction of
California Gulch and Blue Jacket Creek in sec. 26. The
placers along Columbia Creek are located north of the
Columbia Ranch in secs. 24 and 25 where the creek drains
southward. Placers in Bull Run Basin are located along
Sheridan Creek (secs. 3, 10, and 9, T. 43 N., R. 52 E.).

1 Production history: The placers in the Centennial district were
2 found after the lode discovery in 1869, and were worked in
3 the 1870's. I have found no estimates of this early
4 production. In 1905, a company was organized to work the
5- gravels in Bull Run Basin and spent considerable amounts
6 of money on ditches, flumes, and pipes to develop the
7 ground. The operation was abandoned after a few hundred
8 yards of material were sluiced. Placer mining since 1905 has
9 been sporadic.

10- Source: According to Decker (1962, p. 55) mesothermal vein
11 deposits occur in limestones in the area near Blue Jacket
12 Creek (formerly called the Aura district) and within and
13 bordering Cretaceous intrusive stocks of dioritic
14 composition in the area near Columbia Creek (formerly called
15- the Columbia district). Most of these veins contain silver
16 with lesser amounts of gold and base metals, in contrast
17 to the predominantly gold-sulfide veins of the Edgemont
18 district on the west flank of the Bull Run Mountains. The
19 Aura King group, in Blue Jacket Gulch, however, is located
20- on a vein containing high gold values.

Literature:

Decker, 1962: Describes lode deposits.

Emmons, 1910: Reports failure of large-scale placer mining operations.

Mining and Scientific Press, 1908a: Reports placer mining activity in the valley of Sheridan Creek; states that the valley has some of the best placer ground in the area.

Mining World, 1907a: Number of acres of placer ground in Bull Run Basin; locates placer claims at Aura King Group of lode claims.

Vanderburg, 1936^a: History; lack of recent activity.