

BALD MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Big and Little Bald Mountains are prominent peaks that form the southern extension of the Ruby Range in northwestern White Pine County. Early activity in the Bald Mountain district was centered around Joy, a mining camp located in the saddle between the two peaks. At this time, exploration for gold and silver took place within the Water Canyon drainage, northeast and southeast of Little Bald Mountain and on the northwest flank of Big Bald Mountain. Recent exploration is in progress on the flanks of both peaks and extends into the range east of the central district. The new Alligator Ridge gold mine is located about ten miles southeast of Bald Mountain, but is considered as a separate district in this report.

In 1869, silver lode claims were staked four miles southeast of Joy probably in the area now known as the Crown Point claims. More than 15,000 ounces of silver were produced from the district in the first year. In latter years, up through 1956, copper and gold, as well as silver, were produced from several working claims. During the 1940's, the Pioneer Mine, part of the Copper Basin Group of claims, became the largest recorded producer in the district.

The gravels in the western part of Water Canyon were explored for coarse gold nuggets in the early days and later in 1936. However, records indicate the overall production of gold from placer deposits was small.

Antimony was prospected and produced on the northwest flank of Big Bald Mountain. Minor production of tungsten is recorded from the mountain's southwest flank.

See also 83-2 for geochemical results.

J. Tingley + J. Bentz (1982) Mineral Res. of Egan Resource Area: NBMG OFR  
82-9

83-1



The Bald Mountain area is underlain by a normal regional sequence of quartzites, limestones, and shales which, from west to east, range from the Cambrian Dunderberg shale to the Mississippian Chainman, Pilot, Joana Formations. Several authors indicate that the sediments comprise the exposed east limb of a south-plunging anticline. Within the mined area, the principal rock type is limestone. The beds dip shallowly to the east and are intruded in the saddle area by two roughly elliptical, northwest-trending porphyritic stocks ranging from granitic to monzonitic in composition. Numerous dikes and veins related to the intrusive bodies occur throughout the area.

Several northerly high-angle and tear faults lie near or adjacent to the central mined area, along which "belts" of mineralization have formed. In addition, northwest-striking tear faults are mapped southeast of Little Bald Mountain. These faults border and are aligned parallel to the main intrusive stocks. A few thrust faults have been mapped on the west side of the peaks.

Mineralization in the district is closely related to the intrusive bodies. Copper, gold, antimony and sulfides are associated with quartz veins in the porphyry and in the surrounding country rock. Some of these veins, like those seen at the Mountain View workings, are emplaced along or cut by faults.

Contact metasomatic replacement deposits were mined adjacent to and in roof pendants above the porphyry stocks. The T G M Tungsten Mine, originally named Dees Tungsten, exposes calc-silicate rocks intruded by an irregular body of quartz monzonite porphyry. Dense, dark green, silicated wall rocks show horizons



containing clots of scheelite and molybdenite.

In the east-central part of the district, silver-copper replacement deposits occur in north-striking breccia zones along high-angle faults and in linear belts along a set of northwest-striking tear faults. Copper mineralization was noted in quartz and calcite gangue along a N60W breccia zone at the extensive workings of the Copper Basin Group. A sample collected from this working contains anomalous tin, tungsten, bismuth, and arsenic.

According to Lawrence (1963), stibnite is found in fissure fillings or in brecciated zones in limestone at the Crown Point Mine, Dees Antimony, and the Gold King Mine. Place Amax has recently conducted extensive drilling and sampling on their BF claims near Dees Antimony.

Extensive outcrops of jasperoid and jasperoid breccia occur at Bald Mountain, and widespread silicification of intrusive and carbonate rocks within the district was confirmed on our field investigation. Several claim blocks and sites of recent drilling east of the district are located in areas of exposed jasperoids associated with hydrothermal brecciation and altered intrusive dikes. A sample taken from this area shows high barium and anomalous arsenic and antimony.

Every sample collected from the district contains anomalous quantities of arsenic.



Selected References

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