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## BLACK DIABLO DISTRICT

## LOCATION

The Black Diablo mining district is located on the Pershing-Humboldt County line on the east side of the Sonoma Range. The major mine, the Black Diablo, is located in S2,T32N,R39E. That mine and a few nearby properties make up the district.

## HISTORY

Manganese deposits have been known in the area since 1900, but no ore was produced until 1929. Johnson (1977, p. 55) reports that the Black Diablo Mine produced most of the manganese mined in Pershing County between 1929 and 1954. The Black Diablo Mine is apparently the same property as the O'Brian and Tucker claims and the De La Vega claims (Johnson, 1977, p. 55).

## GEOLOGIC SETTING

The manganese deposits in the Black Diablo district are syngenetic deposits in the Pennsylvanian and Permian Pumphernickel Formation, which consists of argillite, chert, and greestone. The manganese is believed to have been deposited from submarine hot springs.

## ORE DEPOSITS

At the Black Diablo Mine, a massive lens of black manganese ore occurs in a sequence of dark greenstone, light gray chert, and olive to maroon argillite. Red jasper occurs above, within, and below the ore zone. The deposit is almost entirely braunite intergrown with chalcedony; small amounts of bementite, rhodenite, and piedmontite occur also, as well as manganese oxides near the surface (Johnson, 1977, p. 55). The deposit parallels bedding in the Pumphernickel Formation. Nearby manganese properties are reported to be similar to the Black Diablo deposit, although small in size and of lower grade (Johnson, 1977, p. 55).

## SELECTED REFERENCES

- Ferguson, H. G., Muller, S. W. and Roberts, R. J. (1951 Geology of the Winnemucca quadrangle, Nevada: U.S. Geological Survey Map GQ-11.
- Johnson, M. G. (1977) Geology and mineral deposits of Pershing County, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 89.



Needham, A. B. and Trengrove, R. R. (1950) Investigation of Black Diablo, Black Eagle and Black Rock manganese deposits, Pershing and Lander Counties, Nevada: U.S. Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 4713.

Trengrove, R. R. (1959) Reconnaissance of Nevada manganese deposits: U.S. Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 5446.