

0770 0025

(35)
Item 25

NW-31-7
(Cu, Fe, Au,
Ag, gyp, W,
Ti, Mo, U)

AREA: → SINGATSE RANGE (Part of Yerington District)
→ BUCKSKIN MOUNTAINS (Buckskin District)
(copper, iron, gold, silver, gypsum, tungsten,
titanium, molybdenum, uranium)

T. 12-14 N., R. 23-25 E.
Lyon and Douglas Counties, Nevada
U.S.G.S. Como, Wabuska, Yerington and Wellington,
Nevada quadrangles 1:62,500

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The literature defines the Yerington mining district as the area covering the entire Singatse Range south to Wilson Canyon, the buttes in Mason Valley, and the northwestern Wassuk Range. The Buckskin district covers the hills at the north end of Smith Valley called the Buckskin Range. The Singatse Range-Buckskin Mountains area encompasses all the Buckskin district and that portion of the Yerington district which lies in the Singatse Range west of Yerington.

The area is noted primarily for production of copper and iron. Other minerals which have been extracted in the past include placer gold, silver, iron, gypsum, tungsten, titanium, molybdenum, uranium, pyrophyllite, and turquoise gem.

Mining dates back to 1865, but operations did not become significant until after 1912 when oxidized copper ore was mined for copper sulfate which was used in the amalgamation of silver from the Comstock Lode in Virginia City. Copper production continued intermittently until the 1950's when two large open-pit mines were developed, one for copper at Weed Heights and the other for iron at the north end of the Buckskin Range. These mines were active through the 1960's accounting for significant production from Lyon and Douglas counties. In 1971 the open-pit iron mines closed down, but the Weed Heights copper pit is still in production.