

from NBMG OFR 83-9

See also 83-10 for
results of geochemistry.

CAVE CREEK DISTRICT

S. of 80

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The Cave Creek district is located on the east side of the Ruby Mountains just north of the Elko-White Pine County line. The only known mine workings in the district are on barite claims in section 5 and 10, T26N, R57E. The district lies within the Humboldt National Forest.

The district was formed in 1869 following the reported discovery of lead-copper-silver deposits in the vicinity of Cave Creek by soldiers stationed at Fort Ruby. However, at the time of our examination of the district, a ranger living at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge headquarters near the mouth of Cave Creek informed us that, to his knowledge, there is no evidence of mining in the Cave Creek area other than very minor weekend prospecting. It is this authors opinion that the reported deposits do not exist or are undeveloped occurrences only accessible by foot or horseback. The most recent mining activity in the district focuses on the exploration for barite in the southern part of the district.

At the Judy claims, grey and white barite occurs in veins and irregular replacement bodies within a roughly stratiform horizon in grey, fetid, sandy dolomites of Devonian age. The mineralized zone which conforms with the moderate south-dipping beds of the host rock, is estimated to be 85' thick. Barite is not uniformly distributed in the zone, making up less than 1/10th of the horizon exposed in a N25E trending bulldozer cut at the minesite. Coarse white barite also cements breccia along fault zones exposed in the cut. A high-angle fault terminates the deposit to the north. The property has probably produced less than 3,000 tons of barite (Papke, in press).

A similar barite deposit is located on the B and P claims located just west of the ridge line about 2½ miles northwest of the Judy claims. The minesite is

accessible through Mitchell Creek on the west side of the range. The claims are developed by some trenching and drilling. There has been little or no production from the deposit (Papke , in press).

Selected References:

Papke , in press, Barite deposits in Nevada: NBMG Bull.

Smith, R. M. (1976) Mineral resources of Elko County, Nevada: USGS OFR 1976-56
p. 35.

White, A. F., (1871) Third biennial report of the state mineralogist of Nevada
for the years 1869 and 1870, Carson City, Nevada.