

- 1 15. Placer: Charleston district (Cornwall district)
- 2 Location: In several gulches located on the south side of Copper
- 3 Mountain, east of the Bruneau River. T. 43-44 N., R. 47 E.
- 4 Topographic maps: Mounta Velma 15-minute quadrangle; Wells 2°
- 5- sheet, Army Map Service.
- 6 Geologic maps: Coash, 1967, Geologic map of the Mount Velma
- 7 quadrangle, Elko County, Nevada (pl. 1), horizontal scale 1:
- 8 62,500.
- 9 Granger, Bell, Simmons, and Lee, 1957, Reconnaissance
- 10- geologic map of Elko County, Nevada (pl. 1), scale
- 11 ~1:250,000.
- 12 Access: From Elko, 26 miles northeast on Interstate 80 to
- 13 Deeth. A dirt road crosses the low hills leading from the
- 14 Marys River Road about 8 miles north of Deeth, about 38 miles
- 15- north to Charleston.
- 16 Extent: Placer gold has been found in Badger Creek, Union Creek,
- 17 Seventy-Six Creek, Pennsylvania Gulch (not shown on maps) and
- 18 Dry Creek, all southwest-draining tributaries of the Bruneau
- 19 River, and for an unknown distance along the Bruneau River
- 20- in the vicinity of these creeks. The placer gravels are
- 21 as much as 50 feet thick and consist of well-rounded
- 22 pebbles of volcanic rocks with smaller amounts of quartzite
- 23 and granitic pebbles.
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- 25-

1 Production history: The placer deposits were the first metalliferous
2 deposits discovered in the area and were presumed to have
3 been found in 1876 because of the name given to the creek.
4 Considerable placer gold was recovered from the gravels
5- of Seventy-Six Creek during the years following discovery,
6 but no production records, estimates of production, or
7 discussions of the placers have been found in the literature.
8 I estimate that about 300 ounces of placer gold was
9 probably recovered prior to 1900.

10- During the early years of placer mining activity,
11 after 1876, Seventy-Six Creek was most actively worked, but
12 in the 1900's mining has been concentrated in the other
13 tributaries and along the river. In 1907 and in 1932,
14 ambitious plans were made to mine placer gravels on a large
15- scale in the vicinity of Badger Creek and the Bruneau
16 River (secs. 22 and 27, T. 44 N., R. 57 E.), but these plans
17 were abandoned ^{almost immediately} ~~soon after initiated~~.
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Source: Schrader (1923, p. 83) considers the source of the placer gold to be erosion of small gold veins which occur in Paleozoic sedimentary rocks intruded by Cretaceous granitic rocks in the vicinity of Copper Mountain. The metallization is considered to be related to the Cretaceous intrusions and of Cretaceous age. Subsequent volcanic activity and erosion of the volcanic rocks probably caused mixing and diluting of the gold-bearing debris; the thick gravel deposits in the area are principally derived from the Tertiary volcanic rocks and contain only small amounts of quartzite and granitic debris from the metallized area.

Literature:

Coash, 1967: Notes Charleston as placer mining district.

Lincoln, 1923: Location; history.

Schrader, 1923: Locates major placers; source.

Smith and Stoddard, 1932: History; gold yield per day per man in 1932; placer mining developments at Earl Prunty Ranch.

Smith and Vanderburg, 1932: Names gold-bearing creeks; lithology and thickness of placer gravels; placer mining operations in 1907; 1932; average value of placer gravel at Prunty Ranch.

Vanderburg, 1936: Essentially repeats Smith and Vanderburg, 1932; reports no development at Prunty Ranch placers; number of men working the placers in early 1930's.