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White Pine County  
Item 13CHASE DISTRICT

The Chase mining district occupies a small area between Walker and Water Canyons on the west slope of the southern Ruby Mountains. The district is inside the boundaries of the Ruby National Forest about three miles south of the Elko/White Pine County line.

The district is little known and produced only a few tons of lead-silver ore in 1951 and 1954 (Smith, 1976). The ore probably came from the Bellview Mine, the largest in the district. This mine is located in a small draw which contains several other old, unnamed workings.

The southern Rubies are composed of limestones, shales and quartzites of Cambrian through Devonian Age. The sediments on the west side of the range are oldest with progressively younger rocks outcropping to the east. The section is interrupted and truncated by north, northeast-striking faults. No intrusive rocks have been mapped within or near the district (Hose and Blake, 1976, Geologic map of White Pine County).

The rocks underlying the Chase district are Cambrian limestones, siltstones, and shales. An ovoid-shaped body of Tertiary jasperoid breccia caps the sediments in the central part of the district.

A portion of this jasperoid body, south of the Bellview Mine, was visited during our field investigation. Here, quartz-veined jasperoid breccia forms the spine of a small northeast-trending ridge. Close examination of the breccia revealed that it contains highly silicified, angular fragments of limestone and siltstone. Some of the fragments are quite large, reaching up to

See also 83-2 geochemical results.

J. Tingley + J. Bentz (1988) Mineral Res. of Egan Resource Area: NBMG OFR ~~82-9~~ 83-1



10" in length. The fragments display a random network of quartz veinlets which predate brecciation. Complete or partial leaching of the fragments is evident in outcrop and in the surface rubble. The breccia is cemented by massive to crystalline, vuggy quartz veins averaging 5" in width. Coarse, terminated prisms of quartz commonly fill open spaces, encase limestone fragments or occur as drusy encrustations on milled fragments. Most of the veins strike N 20 E, an orientation which may reflect the original bedding of the host rock. Except for scattered manganese oxides, no mineralization was observed.

Most of the old workings in the district are near the Bellview Mine just below the summit of a small flat-topped hill. Several short adits and cavernous cuts explore exposures of jasperoid breccia along a north-striking, east-dipping fracture zone. Outcrops of limestone near the zone display fine honeycombs of siliceous stockwork veining. Silicified breccia fragments from dumps on the west side of the hill contain pods and stringers of galena, malachite, and pyrite. Unoxidized pyrite also occurs along the selvages of quartz veins.

At the time of our examination (1982) an active precious metals exploration program was being conducted by NWX, Inc. Exploration holes up to 400' deep had been drilled throughout the entire area with extensive exploration concentrated on the flat-topped hill above the Bellview Mine.

#### Selected References

- Hose, R. K., Blake, M. C., and Smith, R. M. (1976) Geology and mineral resources of White Pine County, Nevada: NBM&G Bull. 85.