

~~Taken from NBMG OFR 81-4~~
(1981) See also 81-3 for
geochemical results.

Contact

(48)
Item 8

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The Contact mining district is centered around the old town of Contact near the Salmon River in northeastern Elko County. The district is large and includes the old districts of Alabama, Salmon, Kit Carson, Salmon River, and Porter (Portis). The first recorded activity in the area was in 1870, and small shipments of copper ore were made from the district beginning in 1880. According to Smith (1976) half of the district production was made during 1952-57 from the Marshall (Nevada-Bellevue) mine. Recent activity here has included exploration by Sunshine Mining Company at the Silver Stone property, work by Calta Mines and Phelps Dodge Company on their holdings in the western part of the old district near the town of Contact. Exxon Minerals conducted uranium exploration on a large block of claims east of Contact, and Homestake Mining Company holds a large block of claims surrounding the Volcan Mine in the eastern portion of the district. No work was in progress at any of these locations during the time this investigation was being conducted.

Mineral deposits within the Contact district are of two general types, copper in veins and metasomatic replacement deposits associated with a large granodiorite intrusive which crop out near the old town of Contact, and silver in veins and breccia zones in Paleozoic metasediments in the eastern part of the district.

The largest copper orebodies mined were in quartz veins along the contact on the north side of the granodiorite near its west end, and most of the other copper occurrences are associated with this western portion of the granodiorite contact. The granodiorite is coarse grained and appears unaltered except where it is cut by dikes of younger quartz monzonite and syenite. Most of the dikes, veins and shear zones which cut the intrusive appear to trend N40° to 70°E, with some N45°W, and are near vertical. The

dikes are not quartz rich, but some contain large amounts of potassium feldspar. The dikes appear to be more closely spaced and alteration along the dikes seems more intense along the southeast side of the contact, toward the Salmon River.

Prospects examined in the Knoll Mt.-Blanchard Mt. quadrangles, east of Contact, show the same general structural trends noted within the main Contact district, with dikes and fault zones trending N40°-70°E, N40°W, all with weak copper oxide staining along them.

Samples of mineralized rock from dumps in the main Contact district usually showed copper to be present associated with some silver. Individual samples showed anomalous tin, tungsten, cobalt, nickel, and molybdenum (not all elements were anomalous in the same samples).

Silver values were higher in the eastern part of the district, and some of these were also high in tin, tungsten, and arsenic.

Selected References:

Schrader, F. C. (1912) A Reconnaissance of the Jarbidge, Contact, and

Elk Mountain Mining Districts, Elko County, Nevada, U.S. Geol. Survey
Bull. 847-A.

Smith, R. M. (1976) Mineral Resources of Elko County, Nevada.

U.S. Geol. Survey Open-file Rpt. 76-56.