

1560 0002

126

36 Item 3

DONNELLY DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Donnelly district is located approximately nine miles north-northeast of the southwest corner of Humboldt County on the west slope of the Calico Mountains, southwest of Donnelly Peak. This places the district on the Division Peak 7 1/2 minute topographic map. The best access to the district is through Gerlach, past Leadville where a road takes off to the east. Running this route brings the traveler into the district from the north.

HISTORY

Quoting from Lincoln on the early history of the district: "The Donnelly mine was discovered in 1910 by James Raser. He shipped a little high-grade gold ore and in 1911 built a 5-stamp mill, which is credited with a production of \$90,000 in gold bullion. The property was operated up to 1914. In 1919, the mine was operated by lessees. The Reeder mine to the south is said to have made a small production with the aid of an arrastra." According to Vanderburg, gold was discovered in 1907 by a cowboy who located several claims and later sold them to James Raser. When Vanderburg visited the district in 1937 there was no activity. Nothing is known about activity in the district since Vanderburg's visit. When visited during the current study there was no activity and hadn't been for some years.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

According to Willden there is a Late Cretaceous, Early Tertiary granodiorite intrusive which cover approximately 1/2 to 3/4 square mile on the west flank of Donnelly Peak. This intrusive is bounded on the west by a high angle fault. West of this fault, and covering the valley floor, Willden has mapped Quaternary alluvium. On the south and southeast edge of the intrusive is a very small cropping of an un-named formation of Triassic-Jurassic age composed of phyllite, slate, and fine-grained quartzite. Willden shows this unit being bounded on its south side by a fault. Surrounding all of the above units, and covering several square miles is an undivided sequence of Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary rocks.

ORE DEPOSITS

According to Vanderburg, "The ore occurs as lenses in narrow veins in granodiorite intruded into slate and quartzite. The principal veins strike northwest and southeast, dipping 30° northeast, and they vary in width from a few inches to a maximum of 2 1/2 feet. The gangue is chiefly iron-stained quartz. The gold is disseminated through the quartz in fine particles associated with a small amount of silver." This same setting was observed during the current visit but in addition to heavy iron-staining a fair amount of pyrite was observed on dump material.

The extent of workings during Vanderburg's visit, which was a combination of the Donnelly and Reeder properties, consisted of eight adits along with lateral workings which total about 2,000 feet. During the current visit it was observed that most all of these workings were caved and have been for some time. Sample #2406 collected, and picture #7 taken here.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Lincoln, F.C., 1923, Mining districts and mineral resources of Nevada: Reprint 1970, Douglas McDonald pub., Verdi, NV, p. 234.

Vanderburg, W.O., 1938, Reconnaissance of mining districts in Humboldt County, Nevada: U.S. Bur. Min. Infor. Circ. I.C.-6995, pp. 20-21.

Willden, R., 1964, Geology and mineral deposits of Humboldt County, Nevada: Nev. Bur. Min. Bull. 59, 154 p.