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Item 6

VALDEZ PROSPECT

Other names Gold prospect, Pyramid mine.
Location. Sec. 4, T. 46 N., R. 61 E.
Ownership Pyramid Tungsten, Inc.
Discovery W. H. Austean, 1957.
Production. None.
Geologic type

The Valdez prospect is on the west flank of White Elephant Butte, approximately 80 miles north of Wells and 16 miles west of Contact (see U. S. Geological Survey, Elk Mountain 15-minute quadrangle map).

The property was first located by W. H. Austean. In 1953, it was relocated by Fred Humes as the Valdez claims, then sold to Pyramid Tungsten, Inc. The mine is developed by two pits. Considerable stripping and mining has been done on the contact, 500 feet to the southeast, for tungsten (scheelite) and molybdenum.

The two pits are along a silicified zone up to 60 inches wide, striking N. 15° E. and dipping 78° E. This zone parallels the granodiorite-limestone contact, cutting the limestone which here strikes N. 60° W. and dips 20°-30° NW.

A quartz vein, 12 to 18 inches wide, occurs in the silicified zone. Pods, small blebs, and single crystals of stibnite are scattered through the silicified zone and quartz vein, and replaces the limestone along the edges of the zone. A small amount of pyrite and arsenopyrite are intermixed with the stibnite. The stibnite commonly is partially replaced by fibrous or earthy white antimony oxide and powdery to earthy yellow antimony oxide.

This prospect does not appear to have any potential as a source of antimony.

ELK MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT

The Elk Mountain mining district is near the Idaho-Nevada line, at the head of O'Neil Creek, 16 miles northwest of Contact and 80 miles north of Wells. The district was discovered before 1890.

In the district, shale, limestone, quartzite, and slate have been intruded by a stock of granodiorite, which is exposed over a 3/4- by 1 1/2-mile area. The sedimentary rocks have been domed by the intrusion (Granger, 1957, p. 58).

Mineral deposits occur along the granodiorite-sedimentary contact, most commonly in the limestone. The early interest in the district was in copper, gold, and silver which occur as azurite, bornite, chalcopyrite, chrysocolla, malachite, stibnite, gold, and silver. Later scheelite and molybdenite were found on the Robinette claims, and a tungsten mill was built at the head of O'Neil Creek by Pyramid Tungsten, Inc., of Yakima, Washington.

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