FARRELL DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Farrell district is located in the vicinity of Stonehouse Canyon on the eastern side of the northern Seven Troughs range, central Pershing County.

The mines of the district are clustered in two distinct and separate localities, one at the head of Wildcat Canyon in Sections 16 and 17, T21N, R29E, the other southwest of the old Farrell townsite in Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33, T31N, R29E. Prospects also occur to the west in the upper drainages of both Stonehouse and American Flat Canyons. The Farrell district is usually included within the Seven Troughs district which lies to the south. The mineral occurrences within the two districts are, however, distinct enough to warrant separate consideration.

HISTORY

The first mines in this district were discovered in 1863 (Lincoln, 1923). The original name was Stonehouse district and the first discoveries were probably made near the Wildcat Mine in Wildcat Canyon. No production is recorded for this early period, however, and the district was inactive until 1907 when discoveries at Seven Troughs to the south revived interest in the entire area. Prospects south of Stonehouse Canyon date from this second period of activity. The camp of Farrell was laid out near the mouth of Stonehouse Canyon, and the district was renamed Farrell. Although there are reports of rich ore being mined, only some $50,000 is credited to production from this district through 1936 (Vanderburg, 1936). At the time of our examination (June, September, 1984), at least two major companies were conducting exploration work in the district, and most of the area was under claim.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

The northwestern part of the Seven Troughs range, including a belt that extends east across the range to the mouth of Stonehouse Canyon, is underlain by Triassic and Jurassic sedimentary rocks that have been intruded and locally metamorphosed by Cretaceous granodiorite. These rocks are bordered on their south side, south of Stonehouse Canyon, by a thick sequence of andesitic volcanic rocks. To the north of Stonehouse Canyon, the older metamorphic rocks and andesites are overlain by rhyolite flows that interfinger and intrude the andesitic rocks. Some of the prominent ridges in the rhyolite outcrops near the Wildcat Mine are underlain by silicified rhyolite breccia.

ORE DEPOSITS

Most of the mineralization in the Farrell district is associated with northeast-trending shear zones which cut rhyolite and andesitic wallrocks. Some areas of alteration and mineralization occur in granodiorite and metamorphic rocks but these are usually near contacts with the volcanics. Wallrocks are commonly kaolinized and silicified and the veins are bordered by zones of wallrock laced with chalcedony and quartz. Workings at the Wildcat Mine expose a N55E shear zone in kaolinized rhyolite, rhyolite breccias crop out east of the mine. The Wildcat vein consists of pods of brecciated chalcedonic material cemented by later silica. Both fine-grained sulfides and free gold are present. To the south, in the area south of Farrell townsite, fluorite occurs as a late-stage filling in the chalcedonic veins. The fluorite-bearing veins follow a shear zone in hornfels and are associated with a rhyolite dike which also follows the shear zone.

GEOCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Free gold was seen in several samples of ore collected from this district and silver values in these samples ranged from trace to just under 10 oz. Arsenic values were spotty but generally moderate to high and antimony values were uniformly low. Base metals were low in all samples but molybdenum and tungsten were present in low amounts in several samples. Fluorite was noted in the prospects near the camp of Farrell and barium was moderately high in samples from this area. The geochemical association appears to be gold, silver, and arsenic, with low molybdenum and tungsten.

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