from NBMG OFR 83-9
See also 83-10 for
geochemical results.

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Item # 3

2010 0001

GILBERT CANYON AREA

The Gilbert Canyon area is within the Humboldt National Forest on the west slope of the Ruby Mountains about seven miles east of Jiggs.

Pegmatites containing beryl and minor amounts of columbite-tantalite and uraninite occur in the vicinity of Gilbert Creek, McCutcheon Creek and the divide between the two creeks. Two of several pegmatite dikes, one near each creek, were explored for beryl by small pits and trenches prior to 1942 (Smith, 1976). No production has been reported from the area. No recent activity was noted at the time of the field examination in August, 1982.

The area covers the northern portion of the Harrison Pass intrusive and the contact area between it and the older granite to the north. The pegmatites occur in the Harrison Pass intrusive and in migmatites which have formed along the contact of the two intrusive bodies.

In the area of our sample 1579, the pegmatite and workings related to it followed a N75°E trend. In the area between our two sample locations, the Harrison Pass pluton graded from granodiorite, quartz monzonite into migmatite, with pegmatitic zones and quartz veins. Huge perthitic feldspar weathered out from the intrusive can be seen in float. At sample site 1580, pegmatite dikes containing smoky quartz, perthitic feldspar, muscovite, and small tantalite crystals cut a large outcrop of quartz monzonite. Beryl crystals up to ½ inch in diameter occur intergrown in the pegmatite.

The Gilbert Canyon area is one of many small beryl occurrences which seem to be associated with the Harrison Pass stock. Other areas are near Corral Creek to the south, in Dawley Canyon and Hankins Canyon on the east side of the Ruby Range, and at the Star tungsten mine in Harrison Pass.

Selected References

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