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near 247

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Item 49

MOORES CREEK AREA

## LOCATION

Moores Creek is on the northwest slope of Mount Jefferson in the central Toquima Range about ten miles north of the town of Round Mountain. The only known prospects in the area are located on the second drainage south of Moores Creek in Sections 1 and 2, Township 11 North, Range 44 East, and Section 35, Township 12 North, Range 44 East.

## HISTORY

Little is known of the history of this area, it has no recorded production and there is no activity in the area at the present time. Old workings in the area may date to the late 1800's or early 1900's (Kleinhampl and Ziony, 1984). The area has been included with either the Northumberland district to the north, or the Round Mountain district to the south, and only Kleinhampl and Ziony (1984) have described it as a separate mining area.

## GEOLOGIC SETTING

The Moores Creek area lies on the lower northwestern flank of the Mount Jefferson early Miocene volcanic massif, in a sequence of altered, rhyolitic ash-flow tuffs that originated in the Moores Creek caldera, the oldest of three nested calderas that make up the Toquima caldera complex of Boden (1986). The tuff of Moores Creek is characterized by light colored, porphyritic fiamme, and the unit forms light-colored slopes underlying the cliff-forming brown rhyolitic to quartz latitic tuffs of Mount Jefferson (Boden, 1986; Kleinhampl and Ziony, 1984). The prospects in the district are located within the intracaldera tuffs of Moores Creek, but the mining area is adjacent to the northern margin of the younger Mount Jefferson caldera. The Mount Jefferson caldera is to the south and nested within the larger Moores Creek caldera (Boden, 1986).

## ORE DEPOSITS

Several shallow inclined shafts, two adits, and about a half-dozen prospect pits are located about two miles south of Moores Creek, just east of the Toiyabe National Forest boundary. The workings are in a light gray, lithic-rich ash-flow tuff and are concentrated along a N10-15W, 55NE fault zone. Rock along the fault zone is iron- and manganese-oxide stained, brecciated, and cemented with drusy quartz. Less than one mile to the west, in Section 2, native sulphur was noted in bleached, argillitized tuff exposed in a road cut. This area (in both Sections 1 and 2) has been drilled within the past 5 years for bulk-mineable precious metal deposits. Work was reportedly done by Louisiana Land Co.

## GEOCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Samples of mineralized material from dumps in Section 1 contained high gold (1.5-1.7 ppm), and high silver (200-300 ppm), associated with anomalous arsenic and molybdenum. Antimony values were only moderate (82-92 ppm).

NBME OFR 86-14

## SELECTED REFERENCES

- Boden, D. R. (1986) Eruptive history and structural development of the Toquima caldera complex, central Nevada: GSA Bull., v. 97, p. 61-74.
- Kleinhampl, F. J., and Ziony, J. I. (1984) Mineral resources of northern Nye County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 99B.