

MG. Tolson 1972  
USGS Bull 1356

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(7)  
Item 42

16. Placer: Cope (Mountain City) district

Location: On the south side of the Owyhee River, north of Mountain City and Sugarloaf Peak in the Bull Run Range (partly on Humboldt National Forest land). T. 46 N., R. 53 E.

Topographic maps: Mountain City 15-minute quadrangle.

Geologic maps: Coats, R. R., 1968, Preliminary geologic map of the southwestern part of the Mountain City quadrangle, ~~Elko County, Nevada~~: U.S. Geol. Survey open-file map, scale 1:20,000.

Access: From Elko, 87 miles north on State Highway 11 and 43 to Mountain City. Placers are located on the south side of the Highway north of the town.

Extent: Small placer deposits occur along the Owyhee River, north of Mountain City and near Sugarloaf Peak. Grasshopper Gulch (secs. 26 and 35, T. 46 N., R. 53 E.) a north-trending tributary to the Owyhee River is said to have been placers<sup>ed</sup> extensively in the early days of the district <sup>which was</sup> discovered in 1869. Other deposits have been worked along banks of the Owyhee River, for a few miles north of Mountain City.

1        Production history: No records of placer production directly  
2        credited to this area have been found. Any gold produced from  
3        the Owyhee River gravels and reported to the U.S. Bureau of  
4        Mines was probably included with production from the Van Duzer  
5-        district on the south--even though the production was  
6        listed under the Mountain City or Cope district name. The  
7        placers were worked as early as 1870 when Chinese placer  
8        miners were reported to recover \$2 to \$3 per day per man  
9        from gravels on the north side of the river. The placers  
10-       in Grasshopper Gulch were worked in the middle 1870's and  
11       considerable gold is said to have been recovered from the  
12       placers which were worked for a distance of about 1/2 mile  
13       along the gulch. I would estimate that not more than 200  
14       ounces of placer gold was recovered prior to 1900 and perhaps  
15-       another 50 ounces since.

16       Source: The source of the placer gold is small pyritic-gold-silver  
17       veins which occur in a granodiorite pluton. The age of  
18       mineralization is said to be Cretaceous.  
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Literature:

Raymond, 1872: Placer mining activity on Owyhee River;  
yield per day.

Roberts and others, 197 : Source of placer gold; age of  
mineralization.

Smith, 1932: History; placer mining operations on Owyhee  
River in 1932; source of gold.

Vanderburg, 1936: <sup>a</sup>Essentially repeats Smith and Vanderburg,  
1932; names placer bearing creeks; history and early  
production; placer mining operations and developments  
in 1932.