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Item #12

PARADISE PEAK DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Paradise Peak district is located in the southern Paradise Range, south of Paradise Peak. The mines of the district extend from the southeast slope of Paradise Peak to B and C Spring on the east, then west to the southwestern flank of the range. All of the mines and prospects included in this district are in the southern half of Township 11 north, Range 37 East, Nye County. Both Kral (1951) and Kleinhampl and Ziony (1984) included this district within the adjoining Fairplay district. Schilling (1976), however, recognized Paradise Peak as a separate district.

HISTORY

The first record of activity within the boundary of the present Paradise Peak district is the discovery of the Scheebar mercury mine in 1929 (Bailey and Phoenix, 1944). An article in the Mines Handbook for 1931 (Rand and Sturgis 1931) mentions that the Paradise Peak Mining Company was incorporated in 1929 to develop an older copper, gold, silver property at Paradise Peak, but no accurate location information is given. There are numerous, small prosepcts on copper-bearing gossans in the area north of B and C Spring on the east side of the district. These workings are old, the style of timber used and the presence of purple glass and cut nails indicates work predating the turn of the century, and it is possible that this is the area referred to in the Mines Handbook article.

The Scheebar Mine produced mercury through 1943, and was again explored in the mide 1960's. Tungsten, in the form of scheelite, was discovered at the property in 1943 and a small quantity of tungsten was produced from the Scheebar Mine in 1954 (Stager and Tingley, in prep.). The Baxter tungsten property was discovered on the west side of the district in the early 1950's, and over 16,000 units of WO_3 were produced from the property through 1956. Exploration on a large porphyry molybdenum deposit in the area near B and C Spring began about 1970, and discovery of a body of porphyry molybdenum, silver, copper ore was announced in 1978. Due to the present depressed state of the molybdenum-copper market, however, there is now no activity in this area.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

Paradise Peak is underlain by limestone and siltstone of the Jurassic-Triassic Sunrise, Gabbs, and Luning Formations, undivided (Kleinhampl and Ziony, 1984). Outcrops of Permian Pablo Formation occur as the upper plate of a thrust sheet which covers the Jurassic-Triassic rocks along the southeast and southwest flank of Paradise Peak. Tertiary volcanic rocks cover the older rocks from the area of B and C Spring to the south and east. Two small outcrops of Cretaceous granite occur in the western part of the district where they intrude both Jurassic-Triassic and Perwmian sedimentary rocks. Large areas of hornfels outcrops northeast of B and C Spring may indicate that intrusive rock may underlie that area also.

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ORE DEPOSITS

Mines and prospects in this district are confined to the areas of pre-Tertiary rock outcrops and, with the exception of the Scheebar Mine, are located along the southern flanks of Paradise Peak.

At the Scheebar Mine, workings expose a wide zone of quartz-carbonate veining along a shear zone in recrystallized limestone. The banded quartz-carbonate veins have strings of crystalline cinnabar along them and are reported to locally contain both scheelite and fluorite.

The U. V. Industries molybdenum property, north of B and C Spring, is in the area of several old shafts and adits that were driven on copper-bearing gossans and jasperoid zones in silicated limestone and hornfels. Stockworks quartz veining is exposed in several road cuts and trenches, the veins contain chalcocite as well as blue and green oxide copper minerals. Silicified, quartz-veined porphyry was found on dumps in this area.

On the western side of the district, on the lower western slopes of Paradise Peak, scheelite-bearing quartz veins and skarns have been mined at the Baxter-Hancock and Big Dike mines. At the Baxter-Hancock, scheelite occurs in quartz seams and stringers that cut silicated limestone adjacent to a major fault zone. A hematite-bearing garnet, epidote skarn zone which formed along a limestone-dike contact is exposed at the Big Dike Mine.

To the southeast of the Baxter-Hancock area, old workings in the Mildred Mine area were probably originally worked for gold and silver. Kleinhampl and Ziony (1984) attribute more recent dozer work and trenching in this area to exploration for tungsten during the 1950's.

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