

PLACERITES DISTRICT

LOCATIONS

The Placerites district is located about 41 miles north of Lovelock and 8 miles south of Scossa on the west side of the Lovelock-Sulphur road. The gold placers are in an area of low hills northeast of the Seven Trough Range.

HISTORY

According to Vanderburg (1936) the district was first worked in the 1870's by a character by the name of "Mahogany Jack" and three partners who took out about \$30,000 in gold. From the 1880's to 1928 the district was worked and prospected by individuals and small groups with marginal success due largely to a lack of water. The first large scale operation was assembled in 1929 when the Newmont Placer Mining Co. acquired 4000 acres of placers, built a large reservoir, installed storage tanks, and brought in a dragline scraper to mine gravel. The operation reached a daily production of 140 tons of gravel per day for a short period in 1931 (Johnson, 1977). Water shortages continued to plague the operation and they suspended work shortly thereafter. By 1934 the district was once again being mined by "snipers" who worked the gulches with dry washers. In 1984-85 the district was being mined on a large scale by a private company from California and there are reports they too are having water shortage problems.

GEOLOGIC SETTING AND ORE DEPOSITS

The gold placers are found in a small area of gravel hills north of Rabbit Hole Creek. Most of the work has been concentrated along the southern and eastern margins of the hills. The bedrock in the majority of the placer areas is reported to be metasediments mostly slates and shale. According to Vanderburg (1936), the gold is coarse and presumably has not traveled far, although the source is not known. The gold ranges in fineness from 730 to 900 with total production estimated to be 2,500 oz.

SELECTED REFERENCES

- Johnson, M. G. (1977) Geology and Mineral Deposits of Pershing County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 89.
- Vanderburg, W. O. (1936) Placer Mining in Nevada: Nevada Univ. Bull. 27.