RAWHIDE MINING DISTRICT

Location and Access. The Rawhide mining district is at and surrounding the ghost town of Rawhide, which is in T. 13 N., R. 32 E. in northern Mineral County (see Army Map Service, Reno topographic quadrangle map), 25 miles east of Shurz on a branch line of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

History and Production. In 1906, promising silver-gold veins were found in the district. Reportedly over $2,000,000 worth of ore has been produced, the values being nearly entirely in gold and silver.

Mines and Prospects. There are several hundred mines and prospects in the district, the workings totalling over a hundred thousand feet and reaching depths of over 750 feet.

Previous Work. Schrader (____) described the geology of the district and mines in detail.

The Rocks. Tertiary volcanic rocks crop out over nearly all of the district, and lie unconformibly on Mesozoic limestone, shale, and slate. The volcanic rocks consist of a sequence of andesite, dacite, quartz latite, and rhyolite flows and pyroclastic units over 1,000 feet thick, which contain all the ore deposits. Nearly all the principal ore deposits are in the several-hundred-foot-thick, lower, "ore-bearing" member of the Balloon Hill rhyolite, which is believed to lie unconformably on the Hooligan Hill dacite, the oldest formation in the volcanic sequence. The older formations of the volcanic series have been intruded by dikes derived from the later members.

Structures. The volcanic rocks have been uplifted, faulted, fractured, and crushed along persistent north-trending lines and zones.

Veins and Orebodies. The mineralization occurs as replacement veins and irregular bodies along 3 of the north-trending brecciated zones. The largest zone is about 3 miles long and a mile wide. The veins are up to 5 feet wide, the orebodies commonly being much larger. The ore deposits have been mined to a maximum

depth of 800 feet.

Quartz adularia, cerargyrite, pyrite, native silver, native gold, and electrum are common in the oxidized zone which extends downward for 500 feet. The primary mineralization below the oxidized zone is mainly quartz, adularia, argentite, proustite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, gold, and electrum.

Intense hydrothermal alteration accompanied the formation of the veins and ore bodies. Devitrification, silicification, kaolinization, alunitization, and pyritization has changed both the wallrock and mineralization. Accompanying and closely following the hydrothermal alteration, veinlets and stringers of quartz were deposited in the wallrock and kaolin.

Molybdenum Minerals. Schrader (____) mentions the occurrence of molybdenite in the Rawhide district, but does not describe its occurrence.

from John Schilling's notes (1968)