

ROSEBUD DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Rosebud district is about halfway between Gerlach and Winnemucca in north-central Pershing County. The major workings are on the east and southeast flanks of Rosebud Peak from whence the district and camp got its name. The Rosebud townsite is just north of the main Lovelock-Sulphur road about 18 miles south of Sulphur and 60 miles north of Lovelock.

HISTORY

According to Vanderburg (1936) some of the ravines tributary to Rosebud Canyon were worked in the 1870's by Chinese placer miners, and several thousand dollars worth of gold was recovered. These same tributaries and the main drainage from Rosebud Canyon were worked by placer miners in the 1930's from 50 to 90 foot shafts dug in the stream courses. At least three of the 1930-era shafts are still intact today.

According to Emmons (1910) gold-silver ore was discovered in veins near the site of Rosebud in 1906. This discovery was followed by a "senseless boom" in which, folly played into the hands of fraud. Apparently, the town was developed well in advance of any sizeable ore-bodies. As a consequence, most of the promoters and miners had left by 1908. A few die-hards hung on, however, and by late 1908 a shipment of ore was made from the district.

From 1908 to 1952 a total of 3,775 ounces of gold, 116,293 ounces of silver, 18,772 pounds of copper and several tons of lead were produced from the district (Johnson, 1977, table 16). Another 7,775 ounces of gold were produced from placers down stream and to the west of Rosebud Peak and the mines. The placer production is, however, considered to be part of the production of the Rabbit Hole district that adjoins the Rosebud district to the west.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Rosebud district is in the Kamma Mountains that form part of the southern boundary of the Black Rock Desert. The 6,500 foot-high Rosebud Peak consists of a thick sequence of rhyolitic flows, flow breccias and assorted pyroclastic rocks of Tertiary age that overlie metasedimentary rocks of Triassic and Jurassic age (Johnson, 1977).

ORE DEPOSITS

All of the mineralization in the district is hosted in rhyolite flows that are strongly altered and partly brecciated along fault structures. Hydrothermal alteration has bleached the grayish-purple rhyolites to a white and reddish-brown. The major mine workings are along the altered vein-fault system with several stopes following the veins to the surface. Samples were taken from these stopes which consisted of kaolinized fault breccia with minor quartz and visible sulfides. Other samples taken from

the main camp came from open-stopes which bear N80°W and cross under the road which leads to the upper shaft. A major E-W vein system was also sampled from underground workings. Ores from all of these workings were treated in a small cyanide mill erected on the steep hill in the center of the camp. The mill may have been erected during the more recent history of the camp because there is no mention of it in any of the references.

Ransome (1908) reported the ore minerals at Rosebud to be argentite and free-gold which occurred in kaolinized zones associated with a small amount of quartz, some pyrite, limonite, and jarosite.

GEOCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIPS

All of the samples collected in the district contained detectable gold and silver but at relatively low levels of concentration. Gold values ranged from .05 to 5.0 ppm while silver ranged from 3 to 150 ppm. Anomalous antimony was present in only one sample, arsenic values were low to slightly anomalous. Most of our samples had low levels of base metal concentrations, but anomalous molybdenum (300 ppm) occurred in one sample and three samples reported the presence of tungsten near the lower detection limit.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Johnson, M. G. (1977) Geology and Mineral Deposits of Pershing County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 89.

Ransome, R. L. (1909) Notes on Some Mining Districts in Humboldt County, Nevada: USGS Bull. 414.