

## SAWTOOTH DISTRICT

## LOCATION

The Sawtooth district is on the Pershing-Humboldt County line about 10 airline miles, a little south and west of Jungo, a railroad siding on the Western Pacific Railroad. The mines and prospects can be located on the Sawtooth Knob and Sugarloaf Knob 7-1/2 minute topographic maps.

## HISTORY

Placer gold was discovered in the district in 1931 as a result of prospecting stimulated by the discovery of the gold veins at Scossa, which is about 12 miles south. Shortly after the discovery many claims were staked and before the end of the summer of 1931 as many as 35 men were dry washing in the district. It is reported that some individuals recovered as much as \$35 per day. The placers were worked continuously until 1942 and intermittently since that time. Because there is little water in the area available for working the placers, dry concentration methods have been the most prevalent. Various attempts at large-scale placer mining have not been successful. Johnson states that reported production amounts to 810 oz of gold.

## GEOLOGIC SETTING

Placer gold has been found over a fairly level area of about six square miles, near the west side of Sawtooth Knob. An unusual feature of the placer is that the best values have been found at shallow depths. Much of the gold was found above a false clay bedrock at depths of eight inches to two feet. The gravel is rough and angular, with a small percentage of boulders. Considerable clay is present in places and the clayey material had to be dried and pulverized before a satisfactory saving of the gold could be made with the dry washers. Some barren white quartz fragments were found on the surface and the prospectors used these as an indicator of gold concentration. The gold was coarse and rough and averaged about 880 fine. No time was spent in this district during the current program.

## SELECTED REFERENCES

- Johnson, M. G. (1973) Placer gold deposits of Nevada: USGS Bull. 1356, p. 29-30.
- Vanderburg, W. O. (1936) Placer mining in Nevada: NBMG Bull. 27, p. 155-156.
- \_\_\_\_ (1938) Reconnaissance of mining districts in Humboldt County, Nevada: U.S. Bur. Min. IC 6995, p. 42.