

SCOSSA DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Scossa district is in north-central Pershing County and is accessible via the Lovelock-Sulphur road which bisects the district. The center of the district is about 60 miles north of Lovelock in Sec. 10, T33N, R30E.

HISTORY

The area included in the present Scossa district was originally the eastern part of the old Antelope Mining district. After the 1930 discovery of gold at the North Star claim by the Scossa brothers the area was designated as the Scossa district. The North Star strike was on quartz veins that contained nodules and stringers of free-gold. The various discovery claims were later consolidated and developed as the Dawes Gold Mine, Inc. The major workings are along three northeast-trending quartz veins that were reported by Johnson (1977) to be 1-6 feet wide. The underground development included a 400 foot shaft and 1000 feet of lateral workings. From 1931-34 the district produced 489 oz/gold and 705 oz/silver.

The Hawkeye Mine, located to the north of the Dawes property, was discovered in 1934. The mine worked a 16 inch, 75° dipping vein from a 70 foot shaft and 350 feet of laterals. The Dawes and the Hawkeye mines were the biggest producers in the district from 1930-1939. After 1939, the veins played out and the camp declined (Paher, 1977). Some placer activity between 1934-1955 produced minor amounts of gold. There was also a brief period of titanium placer exploration, that operated without success to the west of the main camp. Today, only a few buildings are still standing at the bottom of the mountain that marks the townsite.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

The northwestern spur of the Antelope Range in the vicinity of the major mining activity at Scossa is composed of interbedded slate, schist, quartzite and limestone of Jurassic and Triassic age. The sediments have been intruded by diorite dikes, and two episodes of quartz veining only one of which carried gold (Jones and others, 1931). Jones states that the veins were formed during periods of successive movement along shears, initially by quartz diorite dikes and later by high temperature barren quartz and finally by low temperature gold bearing quartz veins. The formation of the dikes and high temperature quartz had a tendency to form impervious zones and thereby localize the gold bearing veins at intersections with dikes and silicified rocks.

ORE DEPOSITS

Quartz vein systems and placers are the only two types of deposits that have been mined in the district. However, a third type precious metal occurrence was prospected by older workings on the west side of the

district. Here, gossan-like mineralization along a NNW trending structure in limestone can be traced on the surface for several hundred yards. During 1983 a series of drill roads and pads were constructed and used to drill along the structure.

GEOCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Mineralization in the mines was reported to be a mixture of yellow gold and electrum intergrowths in quartz. Alunite was sometimes present associated with the electrum and fine-grained quartz. Our samples revealed low concentrations of base metals from the four sample sites within the district. A sample from a prospect in the area of drilling on the west side of the district ran .20 ppm gold, and 500 ppm silver with 1000 ppm arsenic and only minor base metals.

SELECTED REFERENCES

- Johnson, M. G. (1977) Geology and Mineral Deposits of Pershing County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 89.
- Jones, J. C., Smith, A. M., and Stoddard, C. (1931) The Preliminary Survey of the Scossa Mining District, Pershing County, Nevada: Nevada University Bull. 11.
- Paher, S. W. (1970) Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps: Howell-North, San Diego.