

STAGGS DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Staggs district is located in what are locally called the Lava Bed Mountains in west-central Pershing County. The area designated as "Lava Beds" on the Lovelock 2° sheet is in fact entirely underlain by granitic and minor metasedimentary rocks—there is no "lava" or volcanic rock of any nature in the range. The Fortieth Parallel Survey described these mountains as the Pahsupp Range (Ransome and Burchard, 1921). The northern portion of the district is accessible by traveling south 8 miles from Highway #49 beginning just east of the Pahsupp Mountain on the south side of the Western Pacific track. Access is also possible by traveling north of Highway #48 starting 4 miles west of Porter Spring in the Seven Troughs Range.

HISTORY

According to Stager (in prep) the Sage Hen Mine, located in the central portion of the district, was first located for gold in 1914 without success and was relocated in 1949 for tungsten. Thereafter, the mine operated intermittently until 1955. Tungsten was first reported in the district by members of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1917. The tungsten was in several prospects in the central portion of the district but was too small to be economical and was apparently never mined. The first ore reported from the district was shipped from the Hilltop prospect in 1942 consisting of 20 tons of .75 WO₃ (Johnson, 1977).

The Twin Buttes Mine, the biggest producer in the district, is located in Sec. 1, T30N, R26E. The mine was discovered in the 1930's and operated intermittently until 1980, with the biggest period of production occurring between 1941-1943. Total production to date amounts to 625 oz gold, 7557 oz silver and approximately 20 tons of lead.

The Garrett and Windy Hill mines, sections 19 and 21 respectively, T32N, R27E, are in the northern part of the district about two miles apart on the only road that crosses the range. The mines are not mentioned in the references for Pershing County, although both have workings of considerable size and the Windy Hill Mine appears to have had two distinct periods of development. The first was an underground operation and the upper portion of the old workings have been mined out by a more recent open pit. On a second bench below the open pit an incline has been driven using motorized equipment while much of the older workings were dug by hand. Both of the mines have workings that exposed vein systems in shear zones with quartz stringers and in some cases felsic dikes (?) hosted in granodiorite.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The central portion of the district is a highland of deeply weathered granodiorite and monzonite while the north and south ends of the range consist of metasediments of Triassic and Jurassic age. Tertiary volcanic sediments are exposed along the flanks of the metasediments that are

themselves intruded by Quaternary basalts in the northeast part of the district.

ORE DEPOSITS

Two general types of ore occurrences are present within the Staggs district. Scheelite-bearing tactite deposits all associated with metasediments of the Auld Lang Syne Formation of Triassic-Jurassic age and granitic rocks of Cretaceous age. The second type of occurrence is limited to veins in shears and fissures associated with quartz stringers and felsic dikes. The veins are commonly brecciated, iron stained and oxidized.

GEOCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIPS

A sample from the east bearing quartz vein in the main adit of the Twin Buttes Mine ran 39.0 ppm gold, 200 ppm silver with anomalous arsenic, lead, zinc, and antimony. Minor tungsten was lamped from prospects. Sample results from the Garrett and Windy Hill mines were not available at this time.

SELECTED REFERENCES

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

Ransom, F. L., and Burchard, E. F. (1921) Contributions to Economic Geology: USGS Bull. 725D.

Stager, H. K. (in prep) Tungsten Deposits of Nevada: NBMG Bull.