4630 0008

Washoe Co. - general

NV-30-6
Rare Earths
(Thorium and
cerium family),U

Item 50
(8 of 18)

Mining District: RED ROCK PROSPECT
(Rare Earths, Uranium)

T. 22 N., R. 18 E.
Washoe County, Nevada
USGS Reno 15-min. quadrangle (1950)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Red Rock Prospect is located in section 27, T. 22 N., R. 18 E., north of Cold Spring Valley. Rare earths of the cerium group and thorium have been reported from this prospect. Uranium mineralization reportedly occurs in the vicinity. The area was not examined by the writers and there has been apparently no production.

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

In the Red Rock Prospect area aplite-pegmatite dikes cut quartz diorite that has been intruded by quartz monzonite. According to Bonham (1), eight allanite pegmatite segregations occur in a large aplite-pegmatite at the Red Rock Prospect. The allanite occurs as anhedral crystals up to 6 cm. long and and 1 cm. wide in a matrix of quartz, albite, and microcline. The allanite forms from 5 to 30 percent of the pegmatite segregations, is radioactive, and contains some thorium.

The AEC reports uranium mineralization along a fracture zone in diorite in the vicinity of the Red Rock Prospect. Two samples were analyzed and contained an average of 0.50 percent equivalent U_3O_8 (2). It is not known how representative the samples are or the extent of the radioactive zone.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

These occurrences are reported to be relatively small in size and to have relatively low thorium-cerium values. They occur in hard-rock occurrences in contrast to deposits associated with beach or river sands. The fact that there are known deposits of relatively higher grade, of different mineralogy and geology, and of larger reserves in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and North and South Carolina--which would accrue greater economic value because of these and other attributes, suggests that little if any production will occur from this source in the forseeable future. These elements, however, achieve considerable economic and strategic importance--they are vital to the electronics, analytical, and metal alloy industry--so in the final analysis the source cannot be written off in the event of a national emergency.

Bennett, Jan. 1973

Pegmatites such as these are relatively unique. But, although not many are known in the area, the geology is such that others may exist which heretofore have not been discovered. It is conceivable that even richer sources exist. If this is the case, development could take place at once.

The potential for uranium production is unknown.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The following claimant was identified in the Red Rock Prospect area:

1. O'BLARNEY Group
   W. W. Waters
   315 Clay, Reno
   (lode claims)

SELECTED REFERENCES

1. Bonham and Papke: Geology and Mineral Resources in Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada; Nev. Bur. Mines Bull. 70, 1969. (Includes Geologic Map of Resource Area)

2. US AEC: Reports of Uranium Investigations, 1955 (unpublished).

FIELD EXAMINATION

Not examined.

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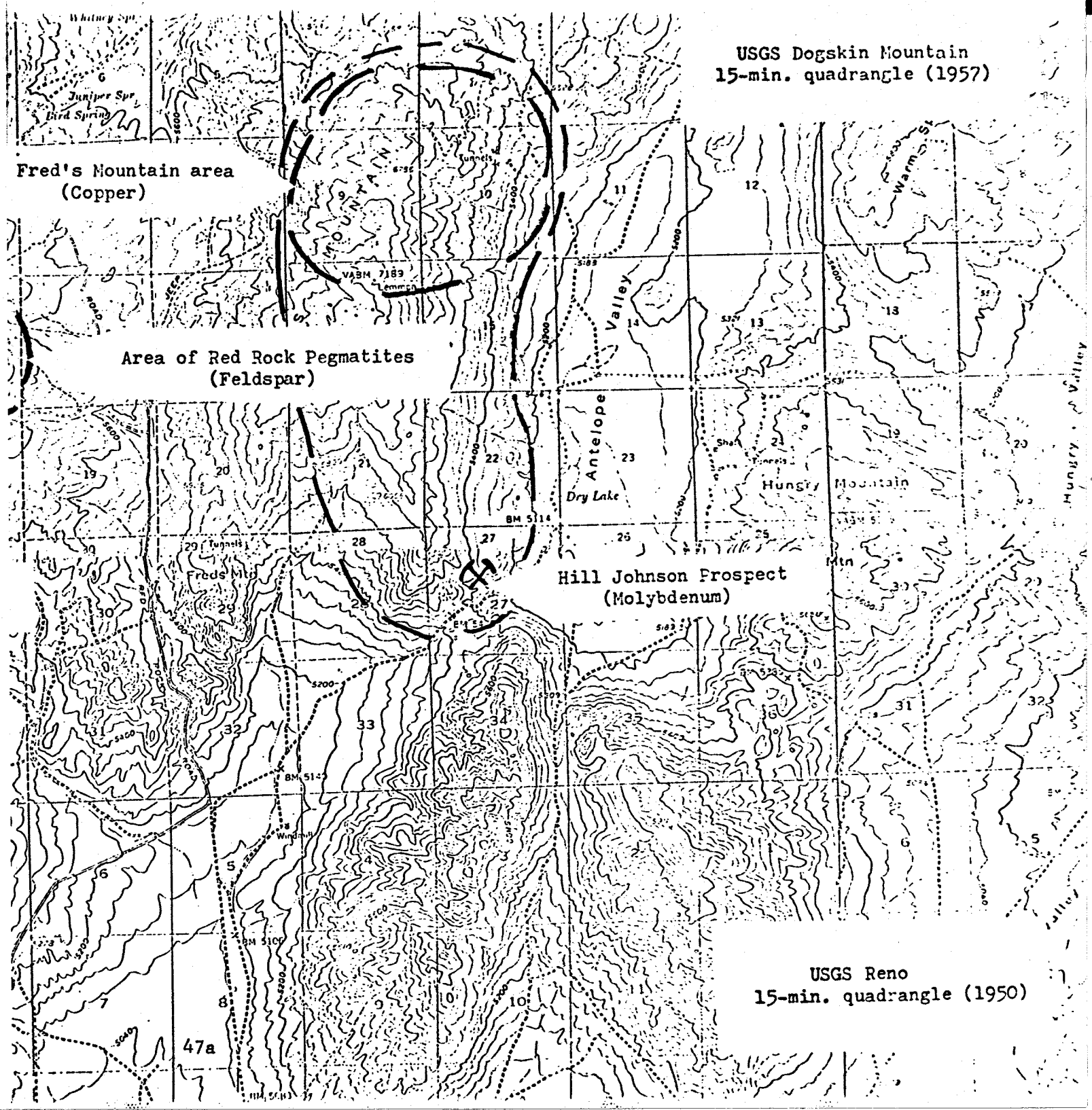
USGS Dogskin Mountain
15-min. quadrangle (1957)
Fred's Mountain area
(Copper)
Area of Red Rock Pegmatites
(Feldspar)
Hill Johnson Prospect
(Molybdenum)
USGS Reno
15-min. quadrangle (1950)
47a

Washoe Co. - general
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Mineral Resources Inventory and Analysis

of the

Pyramid Resource Area

Carson City District
Nevada and California

by

R. E. Bennett and H. W. Mallery

1973

See Washoe County - general file for the complete introduction to this report
(0160 0035)