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BLUE MOUNTAIN AREA
(Ten Mile District)

LOCATION

The Blue Mountain area lies approximately 18 miles west of Winnemucca and to the immediate north of the road that runs between Winnemucca and Jungo. It is located on portions of the Rose Creek, Pronto, Gaskell, and Mormon Dan Butte 7 1/2 minute topographic quadrangle maps, with the bulk of it on the Pronto quadrangle.

HISTORY

Nothing could be found in the literature on the history of the mine workings at Blue Mountain. There are only two areas in which work has been done. One lies on the south and east flank of the mountain. From all appearences these workings may date back as far as the 1930's(?). The second area of workings is located on the west-northwest flank of the mountain. Work here originally(?) consisted of mainly one shaft which has been wiped out from later, overlying exploration work. The most extensive workings are in and about the Atlas mine area. Individual workings here are quite small but they are spread over an area of approximately one mile in length (north-south) by approximately 1/2 mile in width.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

Blue Mountain is composed essentially of two formations separated by a thrust fault, one of which has been intruded by a gabbro. The western third of the mountain is composed of an un-named formation of Triassic-Jurassic age. It is made up of phyllite, slate, fine-grained quartzite, and limestone. Towards the south-southeast edge of this formation is a gabbro intrusive which covers approximately one square mile. To the east of these two units and making up approximately two-thirds of the mountain is the Triassic Raspberry formation which was first described by Ferguson et. al. This formation is composed of gray, black, buff or green colored slate, which locally can be phyllitic; limestone lenses with limestone conglomerate in the lower portions of the formation and quartzite lenses varying from a few inches in thickness up to a 100 feet in thickness. The contact between these two largest units is a thrust fault (as mapped by Willden). It runs from the north end of the mountain to the south end and puts the younger metasediment formation over the older Raspberry formation. Two other, much smaller, areas of outcrop are found on the mountain, neither of which exceeds 2 square miles in areal extent. One of these is a quartzite and mudstone unit which crops out on the southeast flank of the mountain. It is Triassic in age and shown by Willden to be somewhat older than the Raspberry formation. It is in normal sedimentary contact with the Raspberry formation, although the contact is mapped as approximately located or inferred. The second small unit outcrops on the far east edge of the mountain and extends beyond what the writer considers as Blue Mountain proper. These rocks consist of basalts and andesites.

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ORE DEPOSITS

Only two areas of mineralization are known to exist. One is the Atlas Mine area, located on the south-southeast side of Blue Mountain. The second is the Blue claims, located on the northwest flank of the mountain.

Geology around the Atlas Mine consists of medium to dark gray phyllitic shale that is thinly to coarsely laminated, heavily iron stained and cut by small quartz veins. The quartz veins vary in color from dark, greasy gray to milky white. Also observed in the immediate mine area were fragments of granitic "dike" material. The writer did not see any of these granitics in outcrop. It is thought that the mineralization is associated with the quartz veins and granitic dike material.

Individual workings are small but widely scattered and consist of inclined shafts and adits scattered over the top of a ridge. A later set of workings is superimposed over these and consists of dozer cuts and trenches. It is thought that there has probably been some production from this area but how much is not kown. Judging from the size of the workings and the occurrence of mineralization it would have had to have been quite small. Sample #2456 was collected here.

The Blue claims are staked on what appears to be an up-faulted block of highly silicified and iron-stained limestone. Silicification has been so intense in a few small areas that the limestone has been altered to jasperoid. Iron gossan is developed in a few places also. There has been no production from this area. It is just a good looking prospect. Original work, judging from the topographic map, appears to have been the sinking of a shaft. It is not known what the size or depth was. Superimposed over the shaft, and extending for the better part of a mile north of the old shaft, is a series of dozer cuts/roads and drillsites. There must be a couple of dozen drillsites, some of which were drilled, most seemed not to have been drilled. This work was done within the past two years and while "no paper" could be found on the claim posts, it is thought that the work was performed by Atlas Minerals. The mineral commodity sought was probably gold, the same as at the Atlas Mine. Sample #2457 was collected here.

REFERENCES

Ferguson, H.G., Muller, S.W., and Roberts, R.J., 1951, Geology of the Winnemucca quadrangle, Nevada: U.S. Geol. Sur. Geo. Quad Map GQ-11.

Willden, R., 1964, Geology and mineral deposits of Humboldt County, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines Bull. 59, 154 p.