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Item 1

WILD HORSE DISTRICT

The Wild Horse mining district is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Austin in T23N, R40E, in the low rolling hills of the Augusta Mountains. The district is accessible along good, but occasionally washed out dirt roads, north of U.S. Highway 50. With the realignment of Churchill and Lander Counties, the new county line passes through the district and most of the older workings fall in Churchill County, therefore, out of the Eureka-Shoshone project area.

Originally, the Wild Horse district was formed when mercury was discovered in 1916 by Bert McCoy (Dane and Ross, 1942). Mercury was produced for over 20 years from the McCoy and Wild Horse Mines. The only remaining working in the district after the realignment was the Black Devil manganese deposit in the southern part of the district. The Black Devil deposit was discovered in 1954 by G. M. Packard and W. L. Peterson and produced between \$5,000 and \$100,000 worth of 47.6% manganese ore (Stager, 1977).

The Wild Horse district is located in the Lower and Middle Triassic Augusta Sequence. The lower part of the sequence is chiefly sandstone, shale, and conglomerate, with the upper sequence being limestone, shale, and sandstone. The beds dip gently to steeply west except in the southern part of the district where they dip steeply south and southwest (Dane and Ross, 1942). There is local silicification of the sediments. The beds appear to be a northward continuation of the west dipping homocline structure found in the New Pass Range (Stager, 1977). Locally, the sedimentary rocks are unconformably overlain by Tertiary volcanics: andesite, dacite, ash flow tuffs, and tuffaceous lake sediments. Faulting has resulted in a number of east dipping fault blocks. The Pre-Tertiary rocks of the district are cut with high angle faults with an average northward trend and the downthrown sides to the south (Dane and Ross, 1942). Exposures of outcrops are poor due to alluvium and vegetation.

See also 83-4 for geochemical results.

J. Tingley + P. Smith (1982) Mineral inventory of Eureka-Shoshone Resource Area:
NBMG OFR ~~82-10~~ 83-3

The workings at the Black Devil manganese deposit consist of a small open pit with a winze, and peripheral prospect pits and dumps that cover several acres. Pods and lenses of wad, pyrolusite, and psilomenane replace chert and opaline in Miocene volcanic ash and tuffaceous lake sediments. The limonite stained pyroclastics are bleached and weathered to friable masses. Patches of gossan and specularite occur in the vugs and fractures of the host rock. Gangue minerals include silica, clays, and iron oxides (Stager, 1977). The deposit had been staked in 1979, but no recent activity at the deposit or elsewhere in the district was noted.

Selected References:

- Dane, C. H. and Ross, C. P. (1942) The Wild Horse Quicksilver District, Lander County, Nevada. U.S.G.S. Bulletin 931-K.
- Stewart, J. H. and McKee, E. H. (1977) Geology and mineral deposits of Lander County, Nevada. NBMG Bull. 88.
- U.S.B.M. Report (undated). Hazardous surface openings to abandoned underground mines - Nevada. Prepared by International Mining Consultants, Inc., Contract #J0295039.