

NBMC OFR 83-11

See also 83-12
for geochemical
results.

WINDYPAH DISTRICT

(98)
Item 6

5400 0001

The Windypah or Fesler district is located in the southwestern Silver Peak range just north and south of Oasis Divide and about six miles northeast Nevada-California state line. The district was discovered in the winter of 1903 by J.E. Fesler (Spurr, 1906) and, according to Lincoln (1923) a little lead ore containing gold and silver was shipped from the district in 1908. The workings in the district are not extensive, and show no evidence of recent work. No production records are available; apparently Windypah production has historically been reported with that of the Palmetto district.

Mines and prospects in the Windypah district occur partly in granitic rocks of the Palmetto and Palmetto Wash plutons and partly in flanking lower Paleozoic hornfels, slate, and marble. Four classes of veins have been described by Spurr (1906) but his classifications seem to more reflect host rock than vein type. Spurr's description of the district in U.S.G.S. Professional Paper 55 (1906) is, however, the best description of this area.

During the examination in 1982, three general areas of mineralization were noted, and all three are basically related to northwest trending dikes or shear zones which cut both granite and the Paleozoic sediments. In the northern part of the district, around the Magpie and Gold Dust prospects, vein quartz containing pyrite and presumably gold occurs in a $N60^{\circ}-80^{\circ}W$ shear zone along the margin of an aplite dike within the granitic outcrop. The dike is exposed for about 500 feet of width near the Magpie prospect, and it is laced with stockworks type quartz veins. Both the vein material and the dike are stained with limonite, the aplite itself is locally slightly greenish in color due to minor chloritic alteration.

To the southwest of the Gold Dust area, in the low, rolling hills which flank the main range, numerous small prospect cuts and pits explore small skarn

zones which are associated with a series of mafic dike rocks. The dikes trend northwest, and cut the older granitic rocks as well as small pendants of sediments. The skarn bodies are lenticular pods of silicated rocks containing irregular masses of white quartz, gossan clots, and patches of green copper staining. At the Copper Stack prospect, samples collected contained clots of coarse-grained scheelite. There is no record of tungsten production from this district, but some of the more recent exploration activity may have been for this commodity.

In the southermost part of the district, just south of Oasis Divide, prospects both northwest and southeast of the road over the pass explore northwest trending quartz veins which cut metasediments of the Cambrian Harkless Formation. The vein exposed at sample site 1264 is about 15 feet wide, is brecciated, and is stained with copper-manganese-iron oxides. This vein projects to the northwest to the North Star claim, which is near the old Festler discovery area. There was no sign of recent mining activity in this part of the district, but the camp at the North Star is apparently serving as a weekend retreat for the current surface owners. An odd assortment of cabins, old machinery, wind machines, signs, bottles, and assorted collectables litter the claim area, giving it a Disneyland appearance.

Selected References:

- Albers, J. P., and Stewart, J. H. (1972) Geology and mineral deposits of Esmeralda County, Nevada: NBMG Bull 78.
- Garside, L. J. (1973) Radioactive mineral occurrences in Nevada: NBMG Bulletin 81.
- Lincoln, F. C. (1923) Mining districts and mineral resources of Nevada: Nevada Newsletter Publishing Co., Reno.
- Spurr, J. E. (1906) Ore deposits of the Silver Peak quadrangle, Nevada: U. S. G. S. Professional Paper 55.
- Stewart, J. H., Robinson, P. T., Albers, J.P., and Crowder, D.F. (1974) Geologic map of the Piper Peak quadrangle, Nevada-California: USGS Map GQ-1186.