

TREGO HOT SPRINGS AREA

LOCATION

The Trego Hot Springs area is about 13 miles northeast of Gerlach along the northern and southern boundaries of the Black Rock Desert, in Pershing County. The center of the district is near the junction of Highways 48 and 49.

HISTORY

Included within the Trego area are the Arcturas Mine, about 10 miles northeast of Gerlach off Highway 49, and the Cassidy Mine, about 3.5 miles northeast of Highway 34 on the northern edge of the Black Rock Desert. Approximately 5 to 6 miles east of Trego Hot Spring and south of Highway 49 are about 12 to 15 small mines and prospects located along the northern drainages of the Pahsupp Mountains. The eastern most workings of these were identified from location notices to be part of the Black Star Claim Group. None of the current references for Pershing County describe any of the mines in this area.

Stager (in prep) refers to the Arcturas property as a tungsten prospect, discovered by the Dalton brothers and John Durin of Gerlach in 1941. In spite of the size of the workings, there is no recorded production from the property.

GEOLOGIC SETTING AND ORE DEPOSITS

The Arcturas workings consist of a caved crosscut adit, 420 feet long (Stager, in prep). The adit was driven into the steep northwest flank of the Selenite Range near the contact between granodiorite, calc-silicate rocks and interbedded metavolcanics. The scheelite-bearing tactite forms a narrow band along the cliff and consists of coarse-grained garnet, epidote, quartz, scheelite and occasional powellite. The tungsten ore appears to be fairly high grade but the tactite zone is very narrow making it difficult to develop reserves.

Opposite Trego on the north side of the Black Rock Desert is the Cassidy Mine. The location is shown on the Trego 7-1/2' map in an unsurveyed portion of T34N, R24E. The mine workings are in Permian metavolcanics and metasediments near a contact with granite. Currently there are portions of the local outcrops that are covered by wind blown sands. The entire area was under water during the Pleistocene as vestiges of calcareous lake sediments coat the rocks above the level of the mine workings. An incline in the central part of the camp has explored a quartz-rich hydrothermal breccia that is deeply iron stained and contains visible pyrite, chalcopyrite, siderite, and possible silver mineralization. A second shaft on a hill to the west of the main camp contains dump material of quartz breccia but with less visible mineralization. However, the country rock included granite with epidote coatings and skarn mineralization may be present. These workings appear to date from the 1930's but may have been earlier.

South of highway 49 about 5 miles east of Trego Hot Spring at about 4600 feet is the site of an old unnamed mine. The mine was developed on quartz veins in granodiorite and has several south-bearing adits, both of which are caved. Access to the mine for the last third of a mile was from the south via a hand built road of granite boulders covered by gruss. The vein material at the mine included copper minerals, tetrahedrite and unidentified sulfides in a matrix of white quartz. The workings may predate the 1930's but there has been no activity in recent years.

Along the northernmost portion of the Pahsup Mountains about six miles east of Trego Hot Spring there are a series of small mines and prospects known currently as the Black Star Claim Group. Development includes roads that allow access from both the north and the east, neither of which are in good repair. Mine workings include small shafts, adits, open-stopes, minor trenching and prospects, with at least one ore loading facility and remnants of a crushing and sorting mill. The development is spread out over several square miles in steep terrain. Geology within the claim block and in the area of the main camp consist of Permian meta-volcanics to the east and granodiorite to the west. Most of the mining activity was associated with fairly large north trending quartz veins in granodiorite. Veins in the area of the mill site were mined through to the surface as open stopes or pods. Some of the wall rock adjacent to veins contains black tourmaline. Much of the vein material is scattered along the mountain or broken into piles. The only visible mineralization within this portion of the district was pyrite. To the southwest, at sample site 2930, is a cabin associated with an adit in dark gray granodiorite. Veins in this area have considerable copper mineralization, including both oxides and sulfides, some tetrahedrite, and possible silver sulfides. Most of the workings in the claim block are old and may predate the 1930's.

SELECTED REFERENCE

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