

# Upper Owyhee Watershed Assessment

## Appendix B. Mining Districts.

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<b>Aura</b>		
Other names:	Bull Run, White Rock, Centennial, Columbia, Blue Jacket, Edgemont	
Discovered:	1867	
Organized:	1869	
Period Active:	1869-1879; 1899-1919; 1934-37	
Commodities:	gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, antimony	
Comments:	The Aura district covers the east slope of the Bull Run Mountains, formerly the Centennial Range, north of the site of Aura in Bull Run Basin and extends east to include the drainages of Trail, Badger, and Doby George Creeks in the northern Independence Range. This is the eastern portion of the original Bull Run district which also included the present Edgemont district. Bull Run was later changed to White Rock, then to Centennial. The Aura name dates from about 1906 when the town of Aura grew on Columbia Creek, below the old town of Columbia.	
<b>Burner</b>		
Other names:	Burner Hills	
Period Active:	Early 1880s to 1893	
Commodities:	silver, lead, zinc, arsenic	
Comments:	District covers the Burner Hills, an isolated group of hills about 2 by 3 miles across which rise out of the Owyhee Desert. The district is about 16 miles north of Midas and 10 miles west of Good Hope.	
<b>Cornucopia</b>		
Discovered:	1872	
Organized:	1872	
Commodities:	silver, gold, copper, lead, antimony	
Comments:	Located about 15 miles north of Tuscarora, north of the South Fork of the Owyhee River in low mountains bordering the southeast margin of the Owyhee Desert. The main mines are located in sections 18-19, T42N, R51E.	
<b>Divide</b>		
Other names:	Rock Creek	
Discovered:	1916	
Period Active:	1916-1929	
Commodities:	silver, gold, antimony	

	Comments:	This district is located at the head of Dry Creek, about 8 miles northwest of Tuscarora, and covers the drainage divide northeast of McCann Creek Mountain. The district is sometimes included in the adjacent Rock Creek district.
<b>Edgemont</b>		
	Other names:	Bull Run, White Rock, Centennial
	Discovered:	1890s
	Commodities:	gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, tungsten, molybdenum, uranium, arsenic
	Comments:	This district covers the west slope of the Bull Run (Centennial) Mountains and includes the western portion of the original Bull Run district. The site of the early town of White Rock is located in the northwest corner of the district and the town of Edgemont was located near the west center. The Edgemont name came into use for the western part of the historic Bull Run district following activity in the 1890s. The eastern part of the old Bull Run district is now within the Aura district.
<b>Good Hope</b>		
	Other names:	Aurora, Amazon
	Discovered:	1873, 1875
	Commodities:	silver, antimony, gold, arsenic
	Comments:	Located about 25 miles northwest of Tuscarora in T41N, R49E. Two historic districts, Amazon and Aurora, are included in the present Good Hope district; Amazon (1873) was in the northeast corner of the township, Aurora (1875) was in the west half of the township. According to Smith (1976), the area was renamed Good Hope, probably in 1878.
<b>Independence Mountains</b>		
	Other names:	Jerritt Canyon, Jerritt, Burns Basin, Big Springs, Gance Creek
	Commodities:	gold, silver, antimony, mercury, barite, titanium
	Comments:	The Independence Mountains district was defined by LaPointe and others (1991) to include all of the Independence Mountains north of Taylor Canyon and south of the Aura district, including the old Burns Basin antimony district and the gold-mining areas of Jerritt Canyon (Jerritt), Big Springs, and Gance Creek. The Wood Gulch Mine area at the north end of the Independence Mountains is included in the separate Aura district.
<b>Island Mountain</b>		
	Other names:	Gold Creek, Bruno, Bruneau, Wyoming, Penrod
	Organized:	1869
	Commodities:	silver, lead, zinc, antimony, copper, gold, tungsten, uranium, barite, arsenic

	Comments:	Organized in 1869 as the Wyoming district which included what is presently known as Martin Creek (Crystal Creek), Penrod Creek, west of Cornwall Mountain, and the town of Bruno, on "Crystal Creek." The present district extends northeast and southwest from Island Mountain to include most of the drainage basin of Penrod Creek. The district occupies the southeastern flank of Tennessee Mountain and the area to the south, including Cornwall Mountain, Cornwall Basin, and Rosebud Mountain.
<b>Lime Mountain</b>		
	Other names:	Deep Creek, Independence
	Commodities:	copper, silver, gold
	Comments:	Includes all of Lime Mountain, a ridge about 6 miles long extending northward from Deep Creek toward Bull Run Creek. Smith (1976) used Independence and Deep Creek as alternate names for this district.
<b>Mountain City</b>		
	Other names:	Cope, Rio Tinto, Fairweather, Fair Weather, Murray, Murrey, Sooner, Marseilles, Van Duzer, Van Duzen, Van Duyser, Vanduser
	Discovered:	1869
	Organized:	1869
	Commodities:	copper, silver, gold, lead, zinc, antimony, uranium, tungsten, molybdenum, arsenic
	Comments:	Located on the Owyhee River, 7 miles south of the Idaho state line. The original district name was Cope. The district now includes the old districts of Cope, covering California Creek, Hansen Gulch, Grasshopper Gulch, and Mill Creek; Murray, to the northwest; Sooner, about 10 miles to the east; Marseilles, in section 21, T45S, R53E; the Van Duzer placer district on Van Duzer and Cobb Creeks; and the Rio Tinto Mine area, southwest of Mountain City. The Van Duzer placers are sometimes considered to be a separate district.
<b>Tuscarora</b>		
	Organized:	1867
	Commodities:	gold, silver, lead, copper, mercury, arsenic
	Comments:	The Tuscarora district is at the town of Tuscarora on the southeastern slope of Mount Blitzen in the Tuscarora Range. The district was organized to include placers along McCann Creek below Beard Hill in the western part of the present district. The district was enlarged to include lode mines in and north of the present town of Tuscarora and now also includes Berry Basin, west of McCann Creek.