

PILOT PEAK DISTRICT

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Location

The Pilot Peak district is on the southeast flank of Pilot Peak in the Pilot Range, about 1 mile west of the Utah-Nevada border. Most of the mines and prospects are clustered near the mouth of Miners Canyon in sections 20 and 30, T36N, R70E.

History and Production

Prospect shafts in the district appear to be quite old, but the first recorded production was not until 1934,

TABLE 75.—Pilot Peak district production, 1934–1938.

Year	Copper (lbs)	Gold (lode, oz)	Silver (oz)
1934	154		440
1935	679		10
1936		22	59
1938			127
TOTAL	833	22	636

when a few tons of silver-copper ore were produced. Small amounts of gold-silver-copper ore were produced until 1938 (table 75). No activity has been reported since 1938. No recent exploration activity was noted in the area at the time of an NBMG examination in 1980 (Tingley, 1981b). A small claim group staked by ZYX Mining Company covered much of the district in 1989

(Bureau of Land Management mining claim records, 1989).

Geologic Setting and Ore Deposits

Precambrian argillite and conglomeratic quartzite are exposed at the western base of Pilot Peak and are overlain by Cambrian Prospect Mountain Quartzite which extends to the summit. East-dipping Cambrian through Pennsylvanian limestone is exposed along the lower south and east slopes. These carbonate rocks host mineralization in the district. Sedimentary rocks have been displaced by as much as several thousand feet along normal faults that strike generally northward or eastward. Small outcrops of both Tertiary and Jurassic intrusive rocks occur along the east side of the range, and fragments of diorite and granodiorite were found with the limestone on the dumps of several of the

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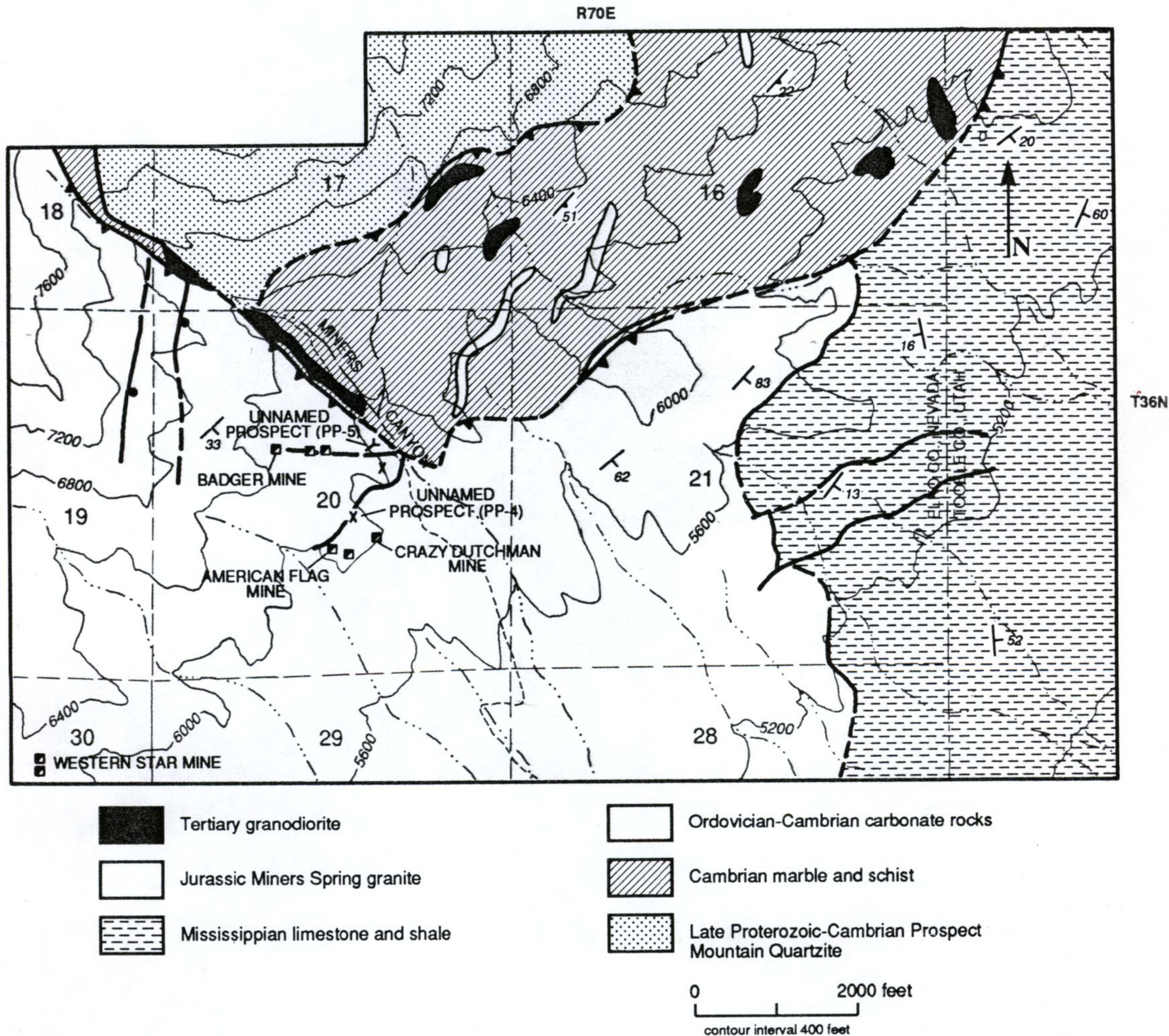


FIGURE 80.—Generalized bedrock geologic map of the Pilot Peak district showing locations of mines and prospects (geology modified from Miller and others, 1987).

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TABLE 76.—*Mines and prospects of the Pilot Peak district.*

Number on plate 1	Name	UTM	Commodity ¹	Host rock	Deposit type	Prod. ²	Description	Workings
PP-1	American Flag mine	4540900N 746150E	Pb Zn Ag Au	limestone	vein	u	Gossan occurs along bedding in thin-bedded slate cut by a vertical vein in a shear zone trending N-S, containing jasper.	Shaft.
PP-2	Badger mine	4541320N 745900E	Ag Au Pb Zn Cu Sb	limestone, diorite-granodiorite	vein	y	Vein contains pyrite, other sulfides.	Shaft and other workings.
PP-3	Crazy Dutchman mine	4540960N 746360E	Ag Au Cu	limestone, diorite-granodiorite	vein	y	Veins are associated with N30°E, 65°NW fault zone in light-gray limestone. Vein contains lens of brown jasper and abundant iron oxides.	Several shafts.
PP-4	Unnamed prospect	4541040N 746260E	Pb Zn Ag Cu	limestone	vein	u	Massive jasper along N30°E, 55°SE shear zone/vein containing dark hematite clots and silica in vugs.	Old shaft.
PP-5	Unnamed prospect	4541370N 746340E	Ag Cu Pb Zn Sb	limestone, granite	vein	n	Vein occurs along limonite-stained fault contact between brecciated limestone and granite. Structure trends N55°E, stained by copper oxides.	Adit, prospect pit.
PP-6	Western Star mine	4539900N 744900E	Pb Zn Ag Cu	limestone	vein, replacement	y	5-ft-thick quartz vein contains galena, pyrite, chalcopyrite. Vein trends N50°E and dips 55°NW, in silicified limestone.	Two shafts, drift, adit.

¹Bold type indicates major commodity.

²Production: y = producer, n = nonproducer, u = undetermined production.

district workings (Smith, 1976; Tingley, 1981b). The Jurassic intrusive was termed the "Miners Spring Granite" by Miller and others (1987) who assigned it an age of 155 to 165 Ma. Generalized geology of the district and locations of mines and prospects are shown in figure 80.

Mineralization in the district is localized along north- to northeast-striking fractures and shear zones in limestone. The limestone is complexly folded and faulted, but is not altered to any great extent except for localized areas of silicification adjacent to mineralized zones. Lenses of brown, limonitic jasperoid occur along the fracture zones. Quartz veins and thin, white calcite veins cut limestone parallel to the fracture zones.

The principal mines of the Pilot Peak district are the American Flag, Badger, and Crazy Dutchman in the Miners Canyon area, and the Western Star in section 30 about 1 mile southwest of the Miners Canyon properties.

Brief descriptions of the individual mines and prospects are given in table 76.