



MAP A. DISTRIBUTION OF SITES FOR MINUS-60-MESH (0.25-MM) STREAM-SEDIMENT SAMPLES WITH SIGNIFICANT LOADINGS ON FACTOR 7 OF AN 8-FACTOR R-MODE ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a series of maps of the Walker Lake 10 x 20 quadrangle, California and Nevada, prepared under the Continental United States Mineral Assessment Program. The map includes geological, geochemical, and geophysical maps, as well as mineral resource assessment maps, which identify known or possible sediment mineral-deposit environments in the quadrangle. The geochemical maps show the distributions of selected individual elements (Chaffee and others, 1988a, b, c, d) and the distributions of selected groups of elements (Chaffee, 1988a, b, c, d) and the distributions of individual elements as well as to what types of mineral deposits and environments may be represented by anomalies of a particular element. Discussions accompanying the geochemical maps describe the possible types of mineral deposits that may be related to each element group and indicate the most favorable localities for these deposits.

This chapter of the report shows the distributions of elements grouped into selected factors by means of factor analysis. For 1,116 samples of minus-60-mesh (0.25-mm) stream sediment or 1,005 samples of nonmagnetic heavy-mineral concentrate derived from stream sediment, 110 samples and 3 concentrate samples included in this report are from samples collected and analyzed during 1967 and 1968 for the Great Basin Primitive Area study (Vannoy and others, 1970). The rest of the samples were collected and analyzed during 1978 and 1979 specifically for the present report. A combined tabulation of all 1,116 samples is published as U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Report 80-881 (Chaffee and others, 1989). This same tabulation is also available on computer tape from the National Technical Information Service (McNair and others, 1982).

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The Walker Lake quadrangle includes parts of two major physiographic provinces: the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Mountains and the Basin and Range provinces. These two provinces have contrasting geological frameworks that reflect their different geologic histories. Because the geology of the Walker Lake quadrangle is complex, only a brief generalized summary is given here.

Sierra Nevada-Cascade Mountains province

Most of the western one-third of the quadrangle is in the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Nevada includes the major Sierra Nevada batholith, which is composed of plutons ranging from Permian(?) to late Cretaceous in age (Stout and Sells, 1983). These plutons range from alkalic to subalkalic in composition, with the majority of the rocks being in the quartz monzonite to granodiorite range. These plutons are overlain by a sequence of Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks that comprise both clastic and igneous rocks. Overlying these older units locally are tertiary volcanic rocks consisting of basaltic and andesitic flows and tuffs. These tertiary volcanic rocks are andesitic in composition; however, rocks of rhyolitic composition are present locally. Glacial and landslide deposits are present locally in many of the valleys in the Sierra Nevada.

Basin and Range province

Most of the eastern two-thirds of the quadrangle is in the Basin and Range physiographic province. Much of this part of the quadrangle contains thick sequences of extensively bedded Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks of widely varying compositions. Mesozoic plutons, which range in composition from rhyolite to basalt, are also present locally. Alluvial, lacustrine, and eolian sedimentary deposits are present in most of the valleys in this part of the quadrangle.

Geologic base for the geochemical maps

A simplified geologic base map of the Walker Lake quadrangle has been used with each of the accompanying geochemical maps. A more detailed geologic map of the quadrangle is available as a separate chapter in this report (Stewart and others, 1982). For purposes of discussion in this report, the geologic base map has been condensed into three major units.

Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks—These units (units F, G, H, and I on map) have been condensed into this one unit. Many but not all of these rocks have been metamorphosed.

Mesozoic intrusive rocks—Plutons ranging in composition from alkalic to gabbro (unit J on map) but also including predominantly of flow rocks of rhyolitic composition, but it also includes rocks and flows ranging in composition from rhyolite to basalt as well as felsic to intermediate tuffs (includes units K and L on map).

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

The Walker Lake quadrangle contains many mines and prospects. As a result of the complex geologic history of the area, many different mineral-deposit environments exist within the quadrangle. On the basis of geologic and geochemical studies conducted for the reports in this folder, as well as on the recorded findings in reports by other workers, it is believed that the greatest resource potential within the Walker Lake quadrangle are copper, lead, zinc, silver, molybdenum, tungsten, and uranium. To have the greatest resource potential within the Walker Lake quadrangle are copper, lead, zinc, silver, molybdenum, tungsten, and uranium. To have the greatest resource potential within the Walker Lake quadrangle are copper, lead, zinc, silver, molybdenum, tungsten, and uranium.

Many anomalies shown on the accompanying maps are related to known mining activity. Some known mineral deposits are not reflected by anomalies, however, primarily because they are too close to sampled stream channels but also because not all samples collected were truly representative of the material being eroded upstream from the sample site. Because the sampling was designed and executed on a reconnaissance scale, some relatively small, unexposed areas of anomalous rock may not have been detected despite proximity to sampled stream channels. Mineral deposits not exposed at the surface may not be easily detected even if part of the deposit system, such as an alluvial fan or a stream channel, is exposed. Additional geochemical surveys may be necessary to identify and delineate specific mineralized areas.

Deposits of both heavy minerals and selected geochemical surveys may be necessary to identify and delineate specific mineralized areas. Deposits of both heavy minerals and selected geochemical surveys may be necessary to identify and delineate specific mineralized areas. Deposits of both heavy minerals and selected geochemical surveys may be necessary to identify and delineate specific mineralized areas.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE MEDIA

Sediment was collected from active stream channels and processed to produce the minus-60-mesh stream-sediment and the nonmagnetic heavy-mineral-concentrate samples. Unlike rock samples, which represent a restricted, essentially point source, the sediment collected at a given site is considered to represent a composite of outcrop material eroded from the entire drainage basin upstream from the collection site.

The stream-sediment samples provide information about the elements in a limited number of minerals. The concentrating process removed most of the quartz, feldspar, clay minerals, and highly magnetic minerals. This selective concentration of minerals commonly related to mineral deposits is not specific for certain minerals. For example, the concentration of barium in a stream-sediment sample represents the sum of barium contained in all barite plus barium contained in silicates and possibly other minerals. Because of the processing procedures used, the barium in a concentrate sample represents primarily the single mineral barite.

SAMPLE PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS

Sample preparation

The stream-sediment samples were composed from active alluvium collected from several locations within a 50-ft (15-m) radius of the collection site. The sediment was air-dried and then sieved. The material passing a screen with 0.25-mm openings (a minus-60-mesh) was used for the analyses. The material retained on the 0.25-mm screen was discarded.

The concentrate samples were processed from the same composite active alluvium material collected for the minus-60-mesh stream-sediment samples. The material was wet-sieved until only the quartz, feldspar, and mica remained. The heavy fraction of the sample was removed using a magnet. Any light material remaining in the concentrate was removed by washing one or two times with water. The concentrate was then separated into a magnetic and a nonmagnetic fraction using a Frantz Isodynamic Separator set at 0.5 ampers, with 15° forward and 15° side settings. The resulting nonmagnetic fraction was used for the analyses.

Sample analysis

Both stream-sediment and nonmagnetic heavy-mineral-concentrate samples were analyzed for 31 elements (Ag, As, Au, Bi, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Pb, Zn, Ni, Mo, Mn, Mg, Na, K, Sr, Sc, Sn, Sb, Th, U, V, W, and Zr) using a step-wise quantitative emission spectrometric method (Ornes and Metzger, 1980). For the stream-sediment samples, the concentration of the elements was determined by comparing the intensity of the emission lines of the elements in the sample to the intensity of the emission lines of the elements in a series of standard solutions. For the nonmagnetic heavy-mineral-concentrate samples, the concentration of the elements was determined by comparing the intensity of the emission lines of the elements in the sample to the intensity of the emission lines of the elements in a series of standard solutions.

APPLICATION OF R-MODE FACTOR ANALYSIS TO THE CHEMICAL ANALYSES

For the geochemical study of the Walker Lake quadrangle, elements having a high percentage (generally above 90 percent) of qualified values (values above the lower limit of detection) or of qualified values (values above the lower limit of detection) were selected for the R-mode factor analysis. For this study, 10 elements (Ag, As, Au, Bi, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Pb, Zn, Ni, Mo, Mn, Mg, Na, K, Sr, Sc, Sn, Sb, Th, U, V, W, and Zr) were selected for the R-mode factor analysis. For this study, 10 elements (Ag, As, Au, Bi, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Pb, Zn, Ni, Mo, Mn, Mg, Na, K, Sr, Sc, Sn, Sb, Th, U, V, W, and Zr) were selected for the R-mode factor analysis.

Factor maps for nonmagnetic heavy-mineral concentrate

Factors 4, 6, and 7 of the 8-factor model for the concentrate samples are considered to be related to mineralization (table 5). Maps B and C show the distributions of anomalies based on factors 4 and 6, the loadings on factor 4 include, in order of importance from highest to lowest, the elements silver, lead, barium, copper, tungsten, and tin (table 5). This factor is interpreted to represent an element suite that should be a useful guide to porphyry molybdenum deposits as well as to contact-metamorphic deposits of tungsten and base and precious metals. The sample with the factor score of 1.0 for this factor is from the Silverado district (area A on map B), a pre-cambrian metal district that may also contain molybdenum deposits. The upper 5 percent of the samples in the concentrate data set have been arbitrarily selected as anomalous. The most significant sites and areas, as identified by the R-mode factor analysis program, are (A) the southern end of the Pine Nut Mountains, (B) the Lone Grove area west of Mono Lake, (C) the Sweetwater Mountains, (D) the Camantera district in the Camantera Hills, (E) the Silverado district in the Sweetwater Mountains, (F) the Bodie and Aurora districts in the Bodie Hills, (G) the area between Virginia Lakes, Lundy Canyon, and Garway Summit northeast of Mono Lake, (H) the Corey Peak area in the central Sierra Nevada, (I) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (J) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (K) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (L) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (M) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (N) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (O) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (P) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (Q) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (R) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (S) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (T) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (U) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (V) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (W) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (X) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (Y) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, (Z) the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada.

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EXPLANATION

Symbol locality and boundary of associated drainage basin—Anomalous for stream-sediment samples with significant loadings on factor 7. Locality of element symbol plotted on map. Square symbol indicates upper 2% of the data (95th percentile). Circle symbol indicates 3% of mean, next 5% triangle, next 5% and plus symbol (+), remaining 85% of data. Element symbols identify the most significant sites.

A SIGNIFICANT ANOMALOUS AREA OR SITE—letter is keyed to list in text.

Table 1.—Lower and upper limits of analytical determination for samples of minus-60-mesh (0.25-mm) stream sediment and nonmagnetic heavy-mineral concentrate, Walker Lake 10 x 20 quadrangle.

Element	Stream sediment		Nonmagnetic heavy-mineral concentrate	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Ag	0.5	---	1.0	---
As	200	---	500	1,000
Au	10	---	20	100
Ba	20	---	20	50,000
Be	1	---	2	---
Bi	10	---	10	---
Bi	0.05	---	0.1	---
Cd	20	---	10	---
Co	20	---	20	---
Cr	10	---	10	---
Cu	5	---	10	---
Fe	0.05	---	0.1	---
La	20	---	50	2,000
Mg	0.02	---	0.05	---
Mo	5	5,000	20	---
Mn	5	---	10	---
Ni	5	---	10	---
Pb	10	---	20	---
Pb	100	---	200	---
Sc	5	---	10	---
Sn	100	---	200	10,000
Sr	100	---	500	---
Th	200	---	500	5,000
Tl	0.002	1.0	0.005	2.0
U	50	---	100	---
V	5	---	10	---
Zn	200	---	500	---
Zn	1,000	---	500	---
As-cd	10	400	---	---
As-au	0.005	---	---	---
As-fe	0.05	---	---	---
As-pb	0.05	---	---	---
As-zn	5	---	---	---

Table 2.—Summary of the number of qualified and unqualified analyses for selected elements in 1,116 samples of minus-60-mesh stream sediment.

Element	Number of unqualified analyses	Qualified samples	
		Number of A	Number of B
Ag	90	970	56
Ba	1,011	90	0
Be	1,015	8	0
Bi	1,015	93	0
Co	1,055	28	33
Cr	1,020	8	88
Cu	1,071	4	0
Fe	1,115	0	1
La	1,115	32	2
Mg	1,116	0	0
Mn	1,115	0	1
Mo	1,116	0	0
Ni	955	53	108
Pb	1,115	0	0
Sc	1,065	9	34
Sr	1,114	0	2
Sn	1,115	0	0
V	1,116	0	0
W	1,116	0	0
Zr	1,110	0	6
As-cd	111	749	145
As-au	109	247	20
As-fe	805	60	141
As-pb	4	5	10
As-zn	466	0	0

Table 3.—Summary of the number of qualified and unqualified analyses for selected elements in 1,005 samples of nonmagnetic heavy-mineral concentrate.

Element	Number of unqualified analyses	Qualified samples	
		Number of A	Number of B
Ag	89	911	6
As	697	182	123
Ba	891	4	21
Be	772	384	239
Bi	1,005	0	0
Co	773	74	158
Cr	637	107	261
Cu	983	10	12
Fe	1,059	0	0
La	931	0	0
Mg	599	0	0
Mn	1,059	0	0
Mo	521	325	159
Ni	745	28	290
Pb	897	238	70
Pb	843	92	70
Sc	996	0	8
Sr	826	123	54
Sn	1,103	0	67
Tl	497	0	0
U	1,094	0	508
V	1,103	0	107
W	1,053	0	2
Zr	1,053	0	56
As-cd	111	749	145
As-au	109	247	20
As-fe	805	60	141
As-pb	4	5	10
As-zn	466	0	0

Table 4.—Values for factor loadings for the 8-factor model using oblique rotation for samples of minus-60-mesh stream sediment.

Element	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5	Factor 6	Factor 7	Factor 8
Ag	0.32	0.08	-1.65	3.03	1.45	0.17	8.37	0.92
As	-2.28	-2.89	1.51	0.62	0.43	0.09	0.09	0.09
Ba	-2.63	-0.67	0.67	-1.13	-2.15	0.67	2.76	-1.57
Be	-2.63	-0.67	0.67	-1.13	-2.15	0.67	2.76	-1.57
Bi	-2.62	-1.28	0.97	-1.30	-2.60	0.34	1.22	-1.79
Co	-1.13	-2.48	1.90	1.21	-2.18	0.24	0.76	-0.48
Cr	-1.13	-2.48	1.90	1.21	-2.18	0.24	0.76	-0.48
Cu	0.80	-1.69	1.45	1.77	-1.16	1.12	3.24	-0.13
Fe	0.80	-1.69	1.45	1.77	-1.16	1.12	3.24	-0.13
La	0.80	-1.69	1.45	1.77	-1.16	1.12	3.24	-0.13
Mg	-0.01	-2.19	1.64	0.04	-2.22	0.17	0.76	-0.76
Mn	-0.01	-2.19	1.64	0.04	-2.22	0.17	0.76	-0.76
Mo	-2.49	-2.59	1.40	3.37	-2.41	0.12	0.68	-0.54
Ni	-2.49	-2.59	1.40	3.37	-2.41	0.12	0.68	-0.54
Pb	-2.24	-3.62	1.14	1.24	-0.46	0.39	1.86	1.16
Pb	-2.24	-3.62	1.14	1.24	-0.46	0.39	1.86	1.16
Sc	0.20	-1.54	0.21	0.88	-1.47	0.14	0.14	0.14
Sr	-2.25	-2.32	1.93	0.72	-1.32	-0.83	2.25	-1.00
Sn	-2.25	-2.32	1.93	0.72	-1.32	-0.83	2.25	-1.00
Tl	0.02	-1.44	0.54	-0.82	-2.84	-0.46	0.57	-0.19
U	-0.32	-3.44	0.06	0.36	-2.01	0.15	1.50	-0.23
V	-0.32	-3.44	0.06	0.36	-2.01	0.15	1.50	-0.23
W	-0.01	-2.22	-1.14	0.37	-1.67	0.90	0.76	-0.57
Zr	-0.01	-2.22	-1.14	0.37	-1.67	0.90	0.76	-0.57
As-cd	-0.33	-3.24	-1.03	2.07	0.61	0.51	7.99	0.71
As-au	0.86	0.61	1.29	-0.07	0.23	2.85	-0.24	0.24
As-fe	0.34	0.79	0.33	0.52	-1.81	1.09	1.16	1.90
As-pb	-0.73	0.64	-0.33	1.45	0.15	0.08	2.85	-2.49
As-zn	0.99	-0.47	0.46	1.21	-2.49	0.67	5.70	1.41

Table 5.—Values for factor loadings for the 8-factor model using oblique rotation for samples of nonmagnetic heavy-mineral concentrate.

Element	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor
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