

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This township is situated entirely within Hawthorne quadrangle, which was surveyed in 1909 by the U. S. Geological Survey. It lies principally in the Gillis Range of mountains, which traverse the township in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction. The summit of the range enters the township on the east boundary of section 12 and leaves the township on the north boundary of section 4. About one-third of the area in the southwestern portion of the township consists of sand hills and is gently rolling land, all the rest of the area within the township being very rough and broken. The general elevation of the township ranges from 4,300 in the southwestern portion to about 8,000 along the summit of the Gillis Range.

The soil in the southeastern portion of the township is a sandy to gravelly clay loam and in the remainder of the township, it is a rocky clay loam, the whole township being unfit for agriculture of any sort. There is very little timber within the township. A few scattered junipers grow along the north tier of sections. There is a sparse undergrowth growing in this township, which consists of sagebrush, shadscale and greasewood. There is very little grass or other plants suitable for grazing.

The only road of any importance runs in a northeasterly direction across the township, entering at the west boundary of section 30 and leaving at the north boundary of section 3, and is known as the Ryan Canyon Road. There are a number of old roads leading into the mountains in the southeastern portion of the township.

There are no settlers within the township, the whole area being unfit for any profitable pursuits. No cattle or sheep were in evidence in this immediate vicinity. Due to the absence of water and scarcity of range feed, stock grazing has never been attempted.

Although there has been some prospecting for mineral throughout the more mountainous portions of the township, no mining on even a small scale would be profitable since no mineral of commercial value has been found.

The magnetic declination was not determined, due to faulty and inaccurate compasses.

Section 31 is included within the boundaries of the Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot and was surveyed in 1931 under Group 171 Nevada. A dependent resurvey of the north boundary of T. 8 N., R. 31 E., which forms the south boundary of this township was also made under Group 171.