

Township 17 North, Range 19 East

General Description

The extension of the subdivisional lines in this township, completing the survey of sections 29, 30 and 32, was run over extremely rough slopes of Slide Mountain, a prominent large mountain in the Mount Rose Range lying between Lake Tahoe to the southwest and the Truckee River valley lands to the northeast. The elevation varies from 9694 feet at the highest point on the mountain in section 30 to about 4900 feet on the east boundary of section 13.

The soil is generally a coarse shallow rocky loam with many small rock outcroppings and occasional areas of slide rock. "Washoe Slide", a prominent bare scar on the southeast slope of Slide Mountain, covers an area of about 300 acres. The top portion of the slide is composed of a firmly packed coarse rock and clay soil, with numerous granite outcroppings, while the lower portion is composed of broken fragments of granite boulders with little or no soil. Except for the slide area, the slopes of the mountain are covered with a dense undergrowth of manzanita, laurel, buckbrush, willows, mountain ash, yew, and scrub mahogany along with a medium heavy stand of timber. The predominating timber of this area is the long-leaf yellow or western pine. The entire area had been closely logged during the period 1870 to about 1890 for lumber and fuel for the Virginia City and Comstock Lode mines. A dense second growth of red fir, white fir, lodge pole pine and hemlock is now found in the old stumpage areas. On the crest of the mountain, a dense stand of large limber pine and western white-bark pine is found. None of the timber, however, can be classed as having a commercial value because of the difficult transportation problem to the nearest saw-mill. The dense stands of dead timber are being now used for fuel on the many valley farms.

The newly constructed Mount Rose Highway from Reno to Lake Tahoe crosses the main divide in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 30 at an elevation of 8933 feet. The same highway enters the north boundary of resurveyed section 16 in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and extends southerly and westerly, thence northwesterly until it leaves the west boundary of the section in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

During the early summer months, nearly all draws have small spring branches ample for all stock watering purposes. All creeks are of a permanent nature, although the flow of the creeks in the late summer and early fall months is very low. Prices' Lake, a body of water of about 12 to 15 acres area, is situated in section 32 in the Ophir Creek bottom at the extreme southeast base of Washoe Slide. Two small wet weather ponds were encountered on line between sections 32 and 33.

The only indication of minerals or of past mining activity was noted on the west slope of Slide Mountain in the east half of section 30. A small deposit of silver-lead ore has been found in this area. Patented mineral claim, Survey No. 37 "Union Lode", is situated in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 12 and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 13. There is no remaining evidence of mining work on this claim.

The magnetic declination was not recorded owing to excessive differences found in various places in the township.