



Mining Projects and Services

1. Ashdown Mine Cultural Resource Inventory

Location: Nevada
Client: Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH)

Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) of Boise, Idaho, requested that Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth) conduct a cultural resources inventory of the Ashdown Mine property in Humboldt County, Nevada, on behalf of Golden Phoenix Minerals, Inc. of Sparks, Nevada. The inventory was carried out in support of a larger Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Ashdown Mine property and was required by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as part of the mine application process. The proposed development at the Ashdown Mine focused primarily on the extraction of molybdenum and gold resources. The original scope of the Ashdown Mine project included an irregularly shaped block encompassing 295 acres of land.

During the course of the project, the scope was reduced significantly, and a revised mine plan was proposed by Golden Phoenix that will affect approximately 16.3 acres of land located largely within areas disturbed over the last 20 years.

Staff completed supplemental survey work that focused on the primary access road to the mine, an access road to the current mill site, and an associated gravel pit adjacent to the mill site road. Staff identified and recorded all cultural resources found in the proposed APE, including one previously recorded prehistoric site, five new prehistoric sites, and one proposed historic district. Each was evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In addition, six isolated artifacts were identified in the project area.

The proposed Ashdown Mine Historic District and one prehistoric site were recommended eligible for the NRHP; the remaining sites were recommended not eligible. The Ashdown Mine dates from ca. 1863 to the present and includes 31 remnant mining-related feature areas associated with the historic mine. Operating for over 140 years, the Ashdown Mine has varied from small individual workings to large-scale corporate mining. The Ashdown Mine Historic District was recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D.

2. Darrow Road (SR 91) Improvement Project Cultural Resource Survey

Location: Utah
Client: Azomite Mineral Products

In May 2019 Azomite Mineral Products requested that Commonwealth conduct a cultural resources survey of a quarry expansion for an already operating Azomite Mine south of Levan, in Sanpete County, Utah. The project was an approximate 37-acre parcel. No cultural resources sites were identified, but one isolated prehistoric biface was located in the study area.

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