

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### SNAKE RIVER MINING AREAS IN NEVADA

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A number of important upper Owyhee mining areas extended Snake River's gold and silver production from Idaho into Nevada.

Other substantial mining operations on Salmon Falls Creek also contributed to that enhancement of Snake River mines. All of those ventures had significant Idaho contacts, which were expanded with an early twentieth century Idaho rush to an upper Bruneau camp at Jarbidge. Many of those mines extended into Great Basin terrain adjacent to Snake River's borderland, and Columbia divide splits a lot of mountainous country in peculiar ways. Mineral deposits often have little or no close association with surface drainage that frequently cuts across earlier geological formations. Snake River's Nevada mines offer good examples of that kind of discrepancy.

Early Snake River gold and silver properties in Nevada generally were discovered along or near routes leading from older Nevada camps into Idaho. Important placers at Tuscarora were discovered in July 1867 and another district around Mountain City followed in 1869. While major development and production, along lines already tried less successfully in more remote Snake River areas like Rocky Bar and Atlanta, marked Tuscarora's lodes, other large properties, including a substantial Salmon Falls Creek lode at Contact, displayed advantages that Nevada operations profited from, because of their advantages of nearby Nevada rail transportation. Altogether, those operations contributed to development of large scale Snake River lode mining during an era before rail service reached Snake River valley communities, making more extensive lode operations economically feasible.

**(This information has not been edited.)**

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