

Iron Age Mine, Spring Mountains, Clark County Nevada

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Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

The information in this paper is taken largely from published and public sources. I have reproduced this material and present it pretty much as we found it, not trying to harmonize discrepancies in mine or geologic descriptions. I have changed verb tenses for readability and have used some paraphrase. I have expanded abbreviations or special characters with full text (e.g. feet instead of ft., inches instead of ") Italics indicate quotations. Authors of the original information are indicated at the end of each paragraph. Paragraphs without a citation are our own materials. The maps in this report have been compiled and rectified from digital and paper copies of original sources that were made at different scales and in different geographic projections. Therefore, many of the maps had to be adjusted or stretched. They do not fit perfectly. Most are accurate to within 100 feet, but reproduction and projection errors can be as much as 300 feet for some maps. PLSS means Public Land Survey System. That survey data was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management website.

MRDS, 2011, Mineral Resources Data System, U.S. Geological Survey, <https://mrdata.usgs.gov/mrds/>. This database relies on records that, in many cases, are inaccurate or imprecise. For example, if a report describes a mine as being in "Section 9", with no other information, MRDS plots the mine location in the center of the section. If a mine is reported in "SW ¼" of a section, MRDS plots the mine in the center of that SW quarter-section. Where I could confidently adjust a MRDS location of a mineral deposit to features identifiable in aerial photographs or topographic maps, I did so.

Help me make this report better. If you have any photographs, memories or reports for this mine that you can share, please send them to yosoygeologo@gmail.com so that I can incorporate that information and material into this paper.

LOCATION (MRDS, 2011)

T.20S R.59E Sec 03	36.23419	-115.3689 (mine)
T.20S R.59E Sec 04	36.23777	-115.3733 (mill site)

Note: USGS topographic map show the mine and mill as being in the SW1/4 of Section 4 and the mine shaft in SE1/4 of section 3. But the MRDS location shows the mine in SW1/4 Section 4.

The Iron Age mine is in the Charleston District on the eastern flank of the Spring Mountains, 35 miles northwest of Las Vegas (Longwell and others, 1965:144).

PREVIOUS NAMES

Iron Age Prospect

HISTORY AND OWNERSHIP

Little is known of the [Charleston] district's history or its total production (Longwell and others, 1965:144).

*The chief properties in the district, all of which are now idle, are the Lucky Strike mine (No. 78, pl. 2), which produced lead and zinc; the Griffith mine (Stanley B) (No. 79, pl. 2), which produced some lead; and the **Iron Age claims** (No. So, pl. 2), where iron gossan with perhaps a little lead and zinc was mined (Longwell and others, 1965:144).*

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The regional geology of the central Spring Mountains is described in the overview paper for this report series. It can be accessed at

http://www.greggwilkerson.com/uploads/1/0/6/5/106585235/geology_and_mining_history_of_the_central_spring_mountains.pdf

MINE GEOLOGY

Oxidized lead· silver· zinc replacement ore in dolomitized limestones (Longwell and others, 1965:178)

MAPPING

1:250,000

Longwell and others (1965) mapped the area of the Iron Age mine being north of a south-dipping thrust fault that strikes east-west in Devonian-Cambrian Goodsprings Dolomite (DCg). The Iron Age Mine is in the upper plate of this thrust fault. The mine also lies east of a southeast-dipping high angle fault that strikes northeast

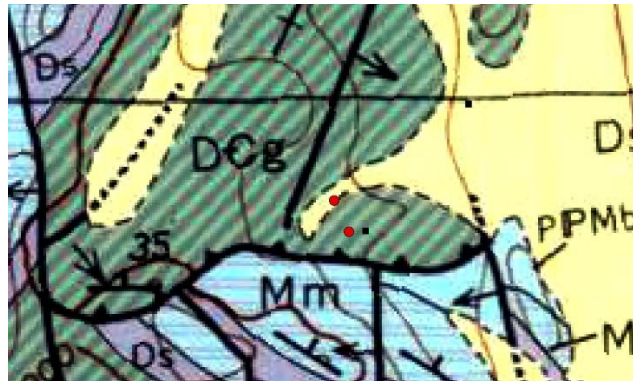


Figure 1. Portion of geologic map by Longwell and others, 1965. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.



DCg
 Goodsprings Dolomite
*(Found only in the area west
 and southwest of Las Vegas)*

1:100,000

Page and others (2005) mapped the area of the Iron Age mine as being in the upper plate of the Keystone Thrust fault in a block of northwest-dipping Bonanza King Dolomite (€bk). The lower plate of the Keystone Thrust in this area is Mississippian Monte Cristo Formation (Mm). To the east of the block with the Iron Age Mine is Nopal Formation (€n). East of that it the Box Canyon Fault which trends north-south.

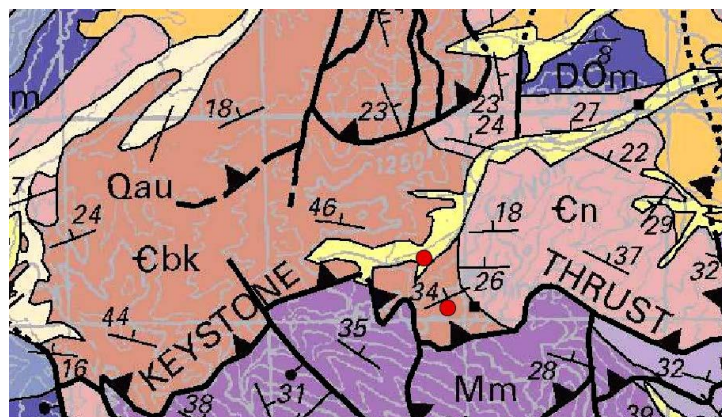


Figure 2. Figure 2. Portion of geologic map by Page and others, 2005 Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

- Mm Monte Cristo Group (Upper and Lower Mississippian)
- €n Nopah Formation (Upper Cambrian)

Єbk Bonanza King Formation (Upper and Middle Cambrian)

1:24,000

Carr and others (1995) and Carr and others (2000) mapped the area of the Iron Age mine as being in a block of Cambrian Bonanza King formation (Єbb) that is bounded to the north and south by thrust faults.

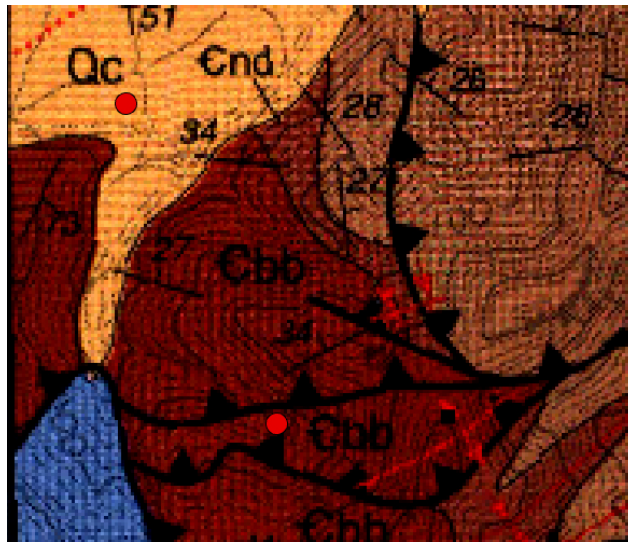


Figure 3. Portion of geologic map of Carr and others, 2000. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

Bonanza King Formation (Cambrian)

Cbb **Banded Mountain Member** Uppermost part is light-gray to very light-gray, medium grained, massive dolostone with sugary weathering surfaces. Nonbedded to poorly bedded; medium to thick beds. Contains sparse chert nodules. Overlies interval of light- to dark-gray, fine- to medium-grained dolomite, which locally contains small pellets that give the rock a peppery appearance. Overlies alternating intervals of (1) dark-gray to grayish-black dolostone mottled with brownish-gray, (2) medium-gray dolomite with medium- to dark-bluish-gray chert nodules, and (3) light- to dark-gray dolomicrite forming alternating color bands 1 to 4 m thick. An interval of light-brown silty dolomite forms the lowermost 15 m of the unit. Lower two-thirds of Banded Mountain Member is missing above the Red Springs thrust fault; Keystone thrust fault cuts near, but generally above, silty unit forming lowermost part of member. Basal contact is a thrust fault everywhere in the quadrangle. Thickness of partial section is 445+ m.

MINERALOGY

Lead and silver minerals (Longwell and others, 1965:178).

DEVELOPMENT

Small production recorded (Longwell and others, 1965:178)

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MAPS

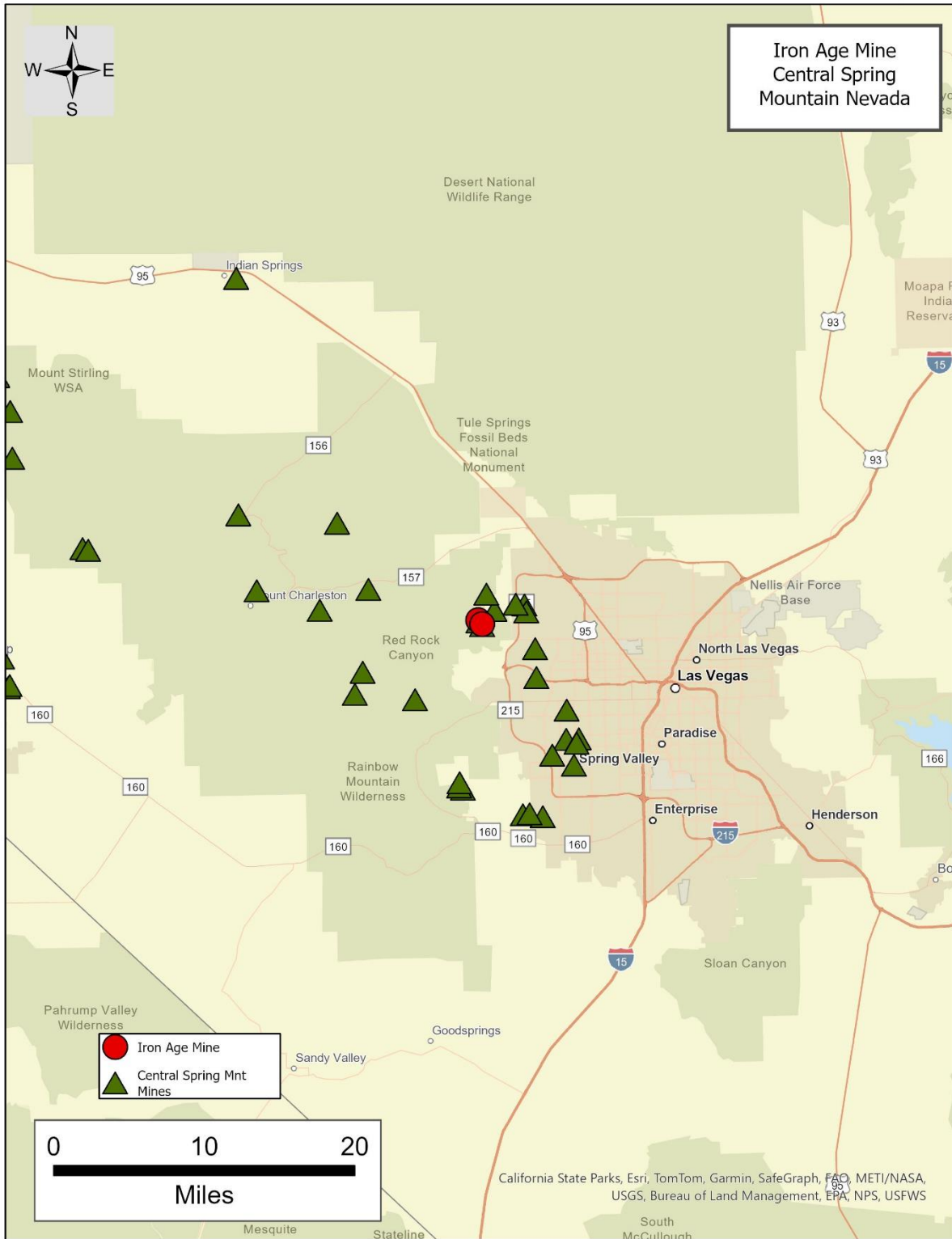


Figure 4. Location map for the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

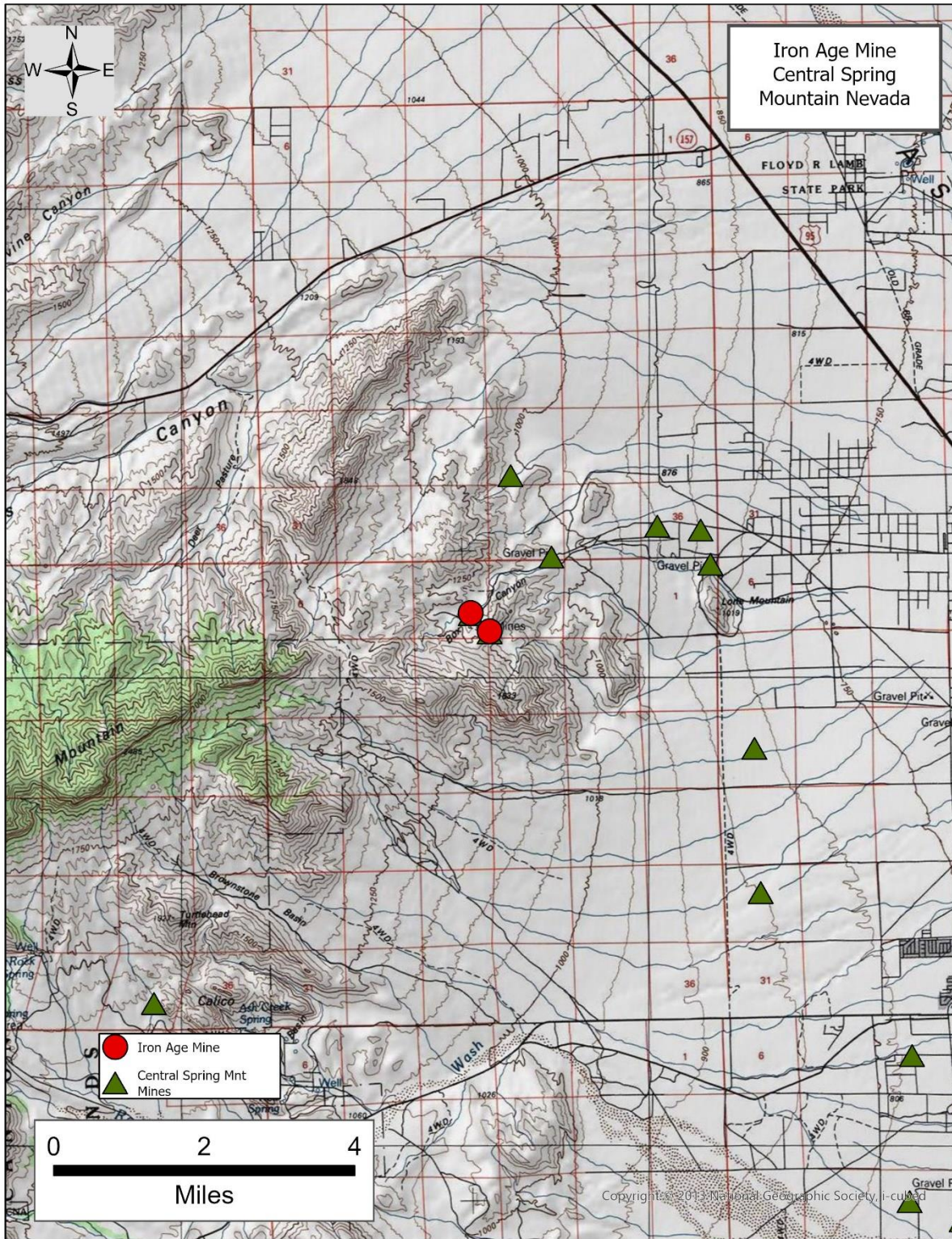


Figure 5. Regional topographic map of the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

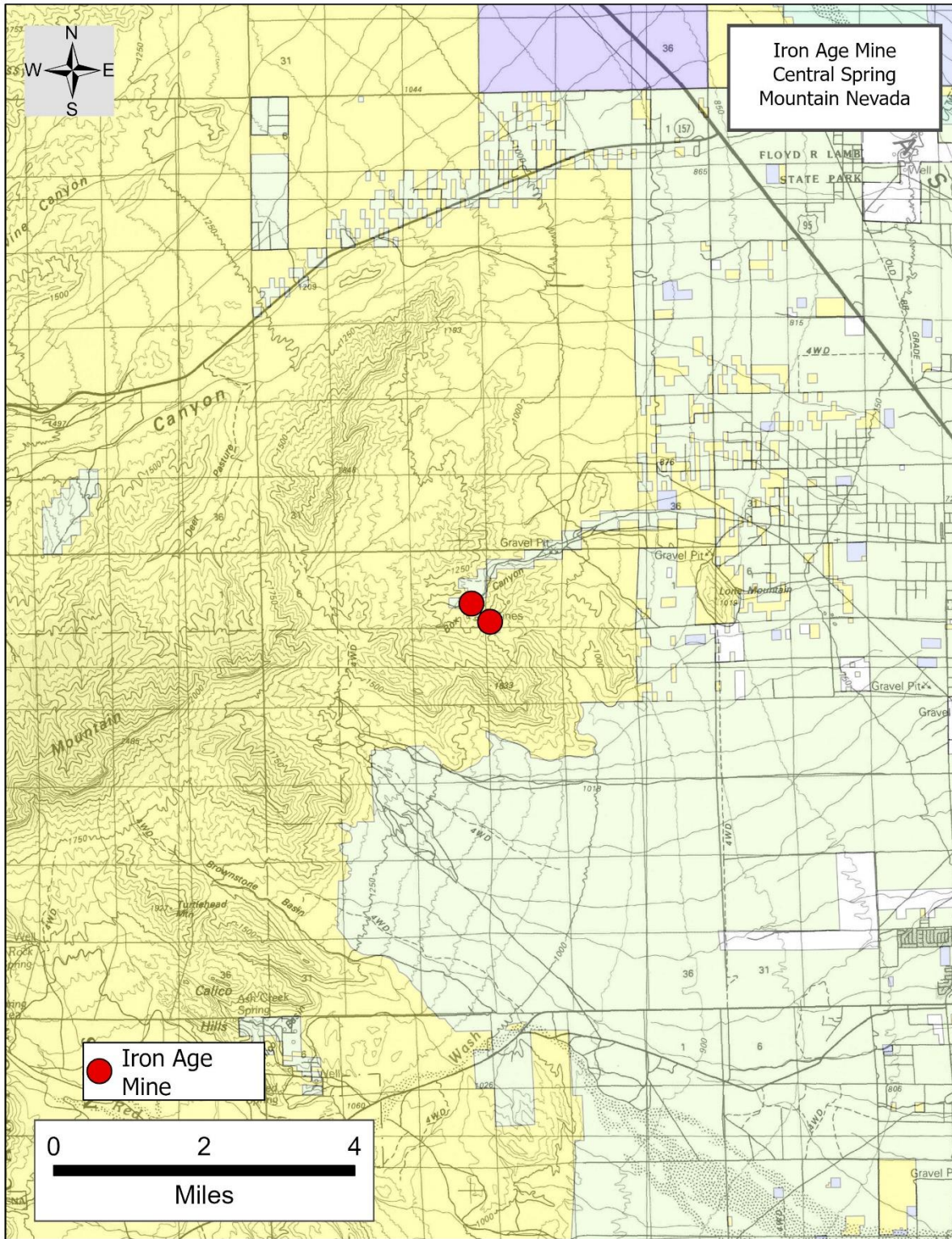


Figure 6. Land status map of the Iron Age Mine. Green is U.S. Forest Service. Yellow is U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Blue is private land. Purple is military lands. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

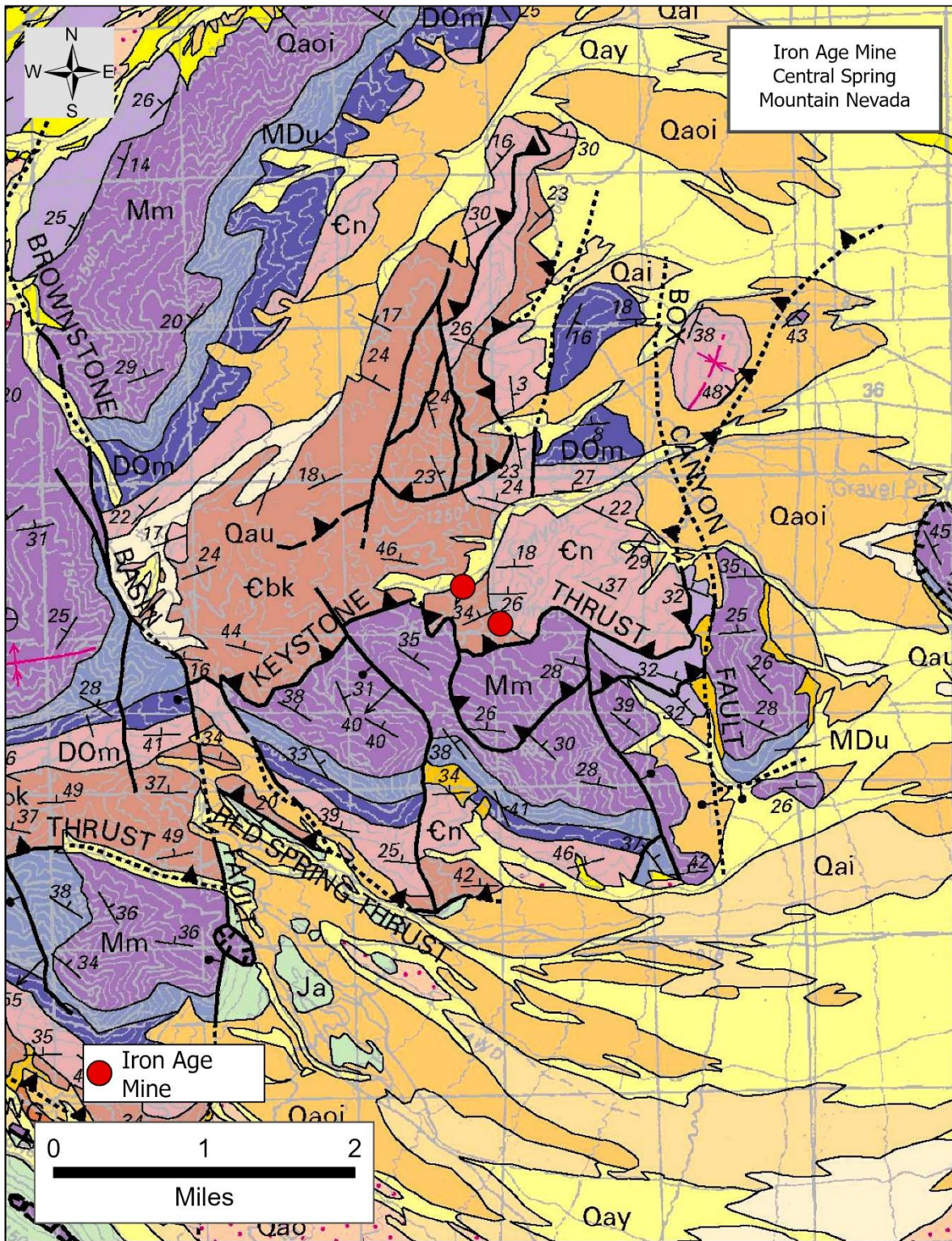


Figure 8. Area geologic map of the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

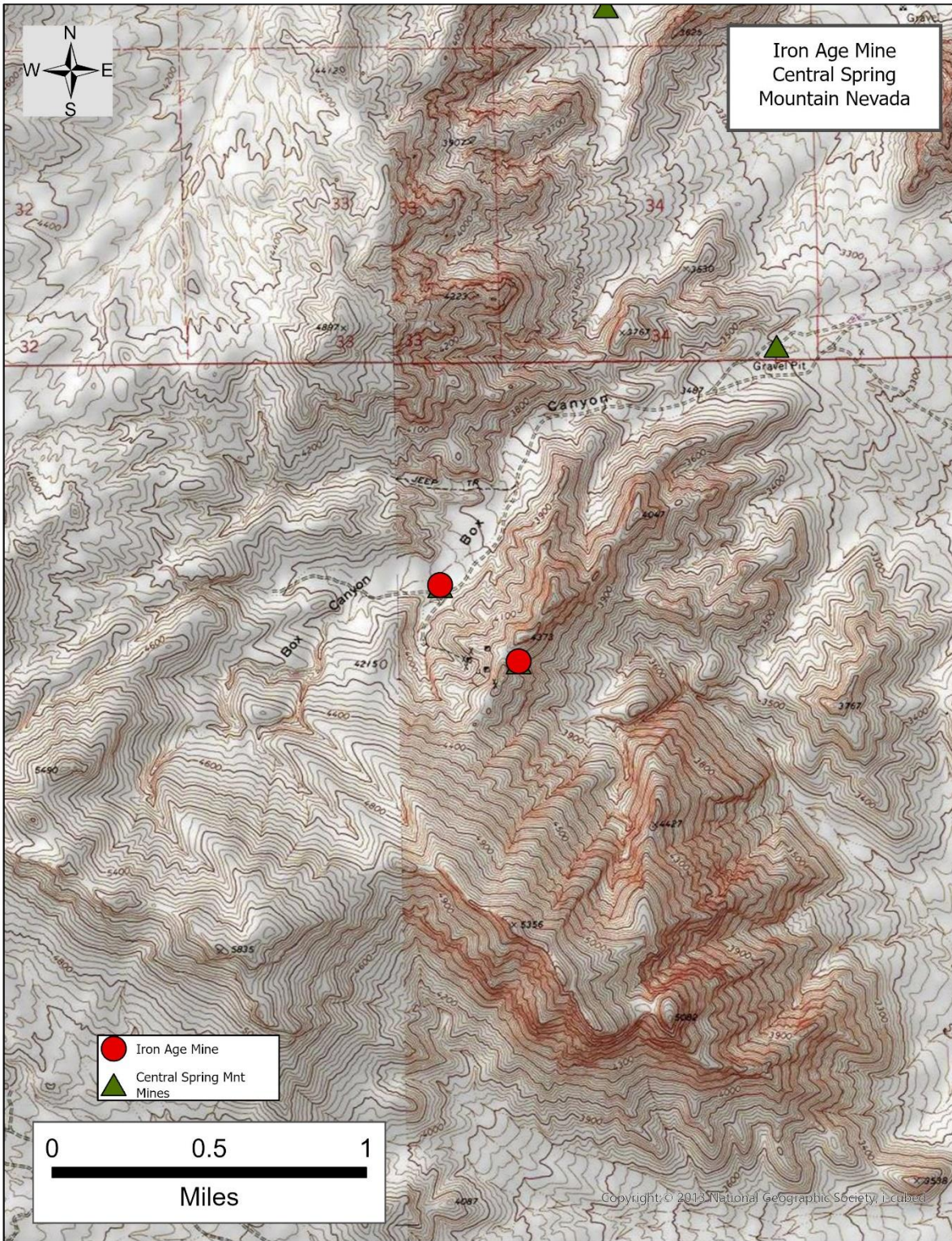


Figure 9. Area topographic map of the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

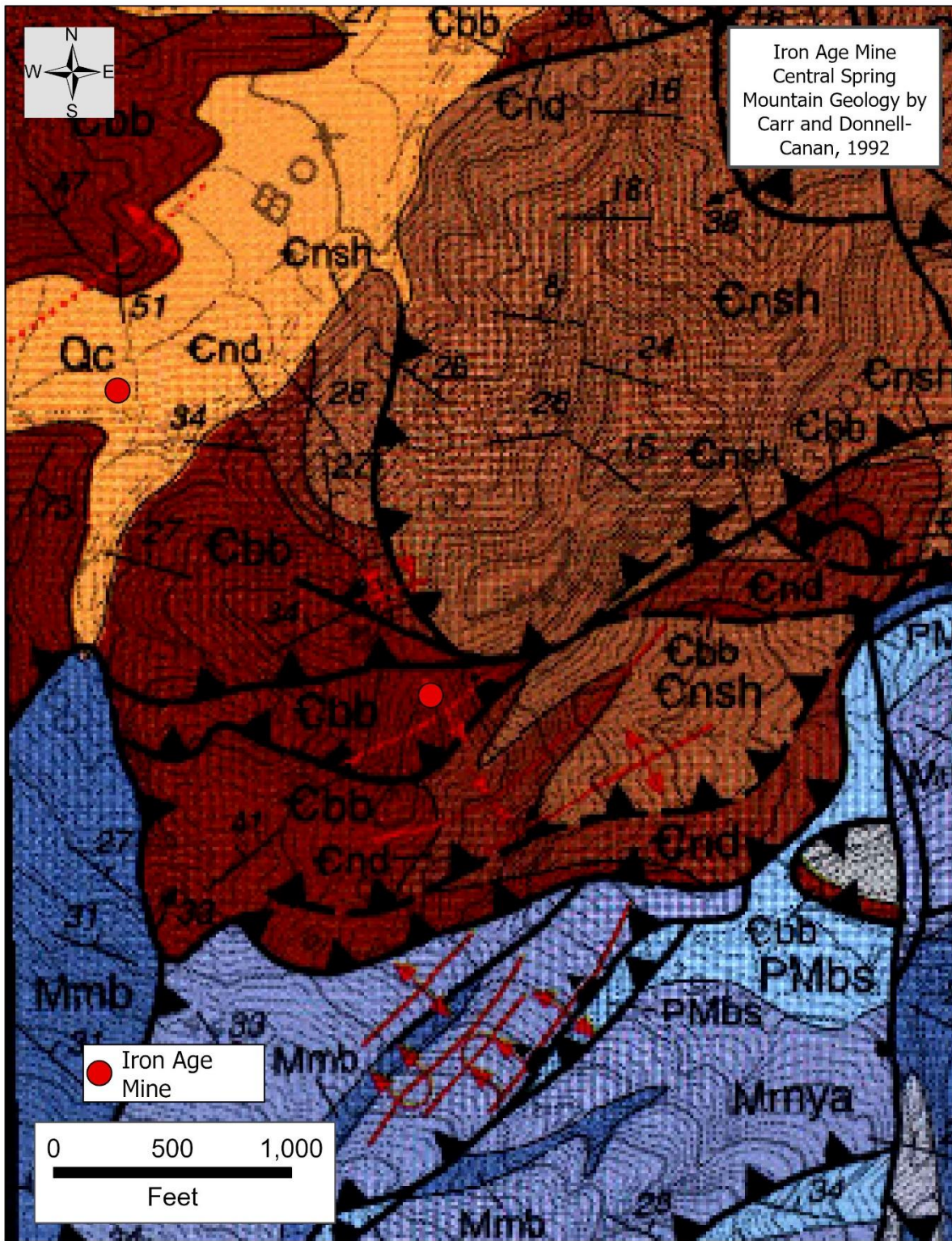


Figure 10. Site geologic map of the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

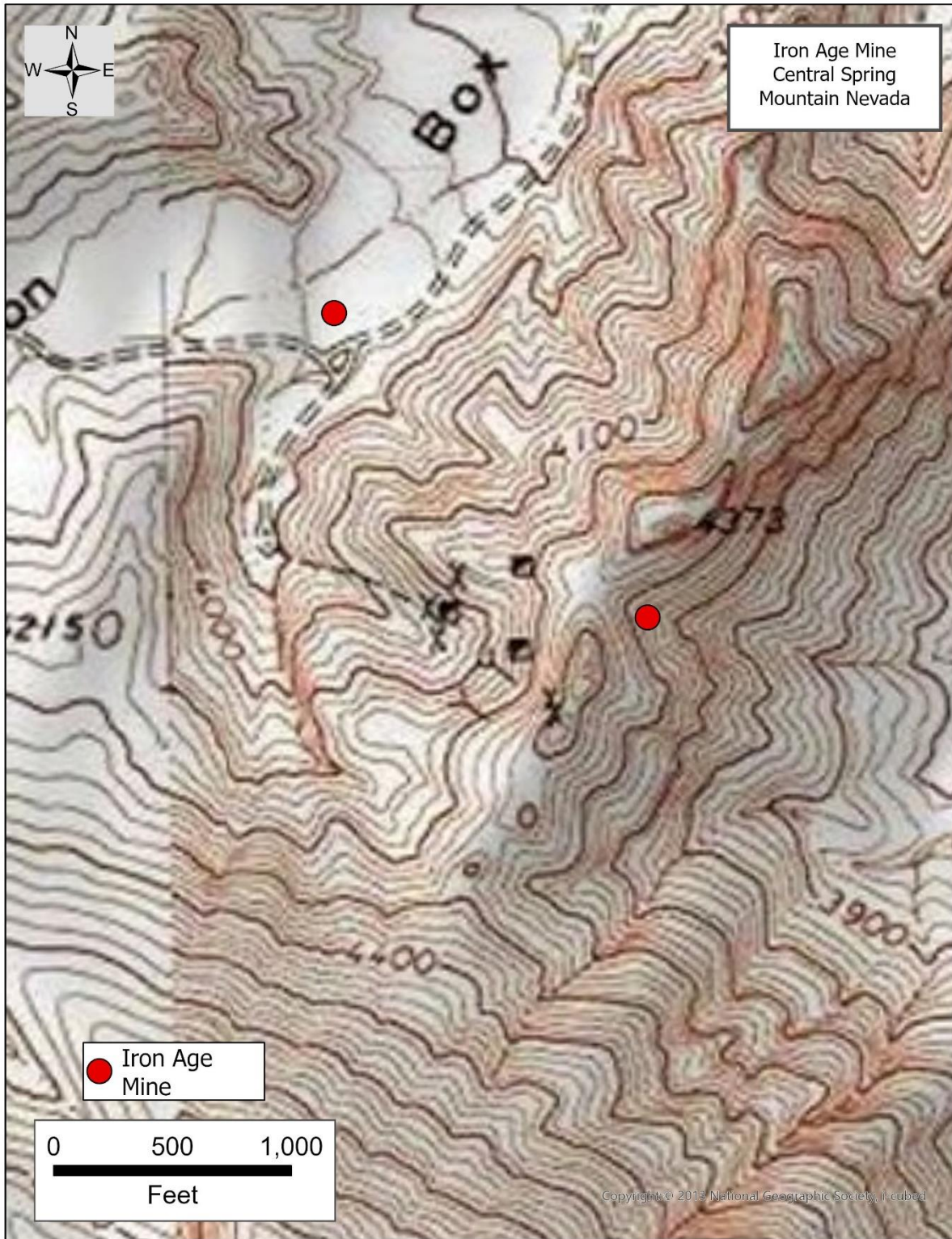


Figure 11. Site topographic map of the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.

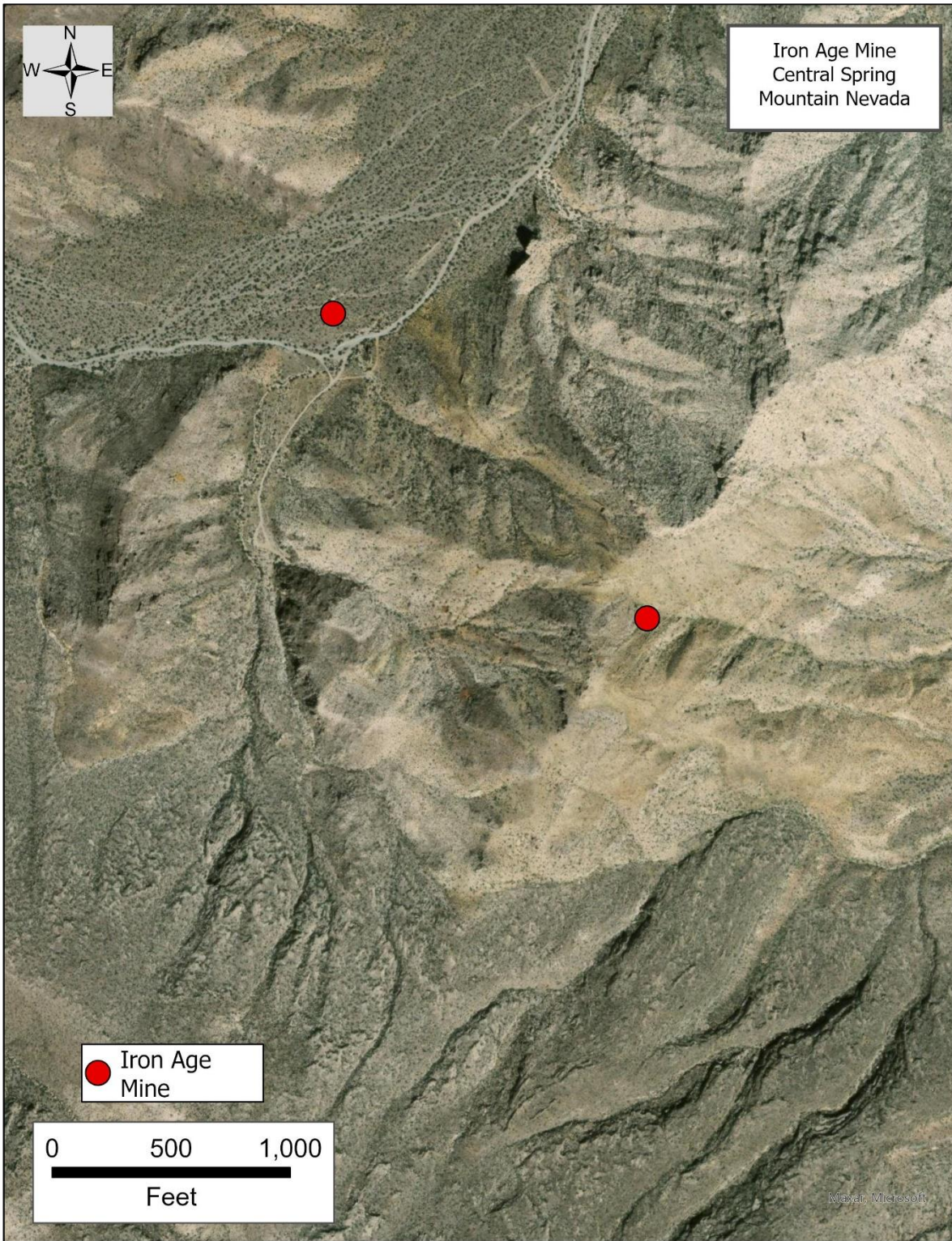


Figure 12. Aerial photograph of the Iron Age Mine. Open source for educational purposes. No copyright.