

CABINS IN THE SKY

The Ruby Hill Mining District

Nevada's 19th century prospectors and miners searched even the highest mountain ranges in their quest for gold and silver. The abandoned mines, cabins, and other features dotting the landscape around you, at an elevation of 8,500 feet, are the remnants of mining life at the remote Ruby Hill Mining District.

Mining at Ruby Hill began in 1871 with the discovery of silver here at the crest of the Schell Creek Range. The Ruby Hill Mining District was established early the next year. At its peak, from 1871 to 1873, almost 300 people lived in the district. They located 150 claims, dug shafts and tunnels, and built two 5-stamp mills. The town of Rubyville included two restaurants, two stores, a bar, and a boarding house.

Did you know?

The Ruby Hill Mining District is more than 500 feet higher in elevation than Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains of Peru.



Your Responsibility

The Ruby Hill Mining District historic site is protected by federal and state law. Damaging or defacing any of the cabins and structures or removing artifacts is a crime. Remember, what you see here is the evidence of history. Leave it undisturbed so that others can enjoy and learn about our mining heritage.



The log cabins likely date to the last resurgence of mining at Ruby Hill, from 1924 to 1928.



Photo Courtesy Shawn Hall

This ore bin also dates to the 1920s. Mineral-bearing ore was separated from waste rock, dumped into the bin, and then emptied into wagons or trucks from the chute below.