Colorado Mining Districts

A Reference

By Lisa G. Dunn
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COLORADO MINING DISTRICTS: A REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

Colorado Mining Districts was compiled to help bring order to the chaos of mining district references in the literature on Colorado mining. This chaos is the result of the variety of purposes mining districts served—geographic, legal, economic, promotional. Colorado Mining Districts is both a reference work and a record of historical mining activity. Mining districts reflect the ups and downs of mining, the growth and disappearance of settlements, metal market booms and busts, and the success of promotions used to finance mining operations.

District names are recorded according to their occurrences in the literature—little attempt has been made here to evaluate a mining district’s “true” status. This work:

- Documents the approximate locations and/or boundaries of mining districts
- Defines relationships between districts and with selected mines within a district
- Provides information to help place districts in the context of Colorado’s mining industry
- Serves as a starting point for in-depth research of mining districts

Coverage. Colorado Mining Districts includes:

- Metal mining districts
- Selected placers
- Non-metal mining districts (for example: pegmatites, clays, uranium)
- Coal fields and coal mining districts

Excluded are:

- Oil and gas fields
- Larger areas such as “regions” (Denver coal region; Clear Creek pegmatite region) or “mineral belts” (Uravan mineral belt)
- Most small mining areas which may have had only one or two operating mines or prospects

Use of Mining Districts. Originally, mining districts in Colorado were officially designated areas bounded by geographic features and mineral surveys. Mineral monuments (locating monuments) were established to execute mineral surveys and locate claims in the absence of a reliable township and section survey. Resident miners adopted a district name, boundaries, and laws governing mining activity.

After the institution of land surveys and the organization of the Colorado Territory into counties, mining districts lost much of their legal importance. However, they continued to be commonly used as convenient reference names (Vanderwilt 1947; Henderson 1926) although their boundaries were often less well-defined. A “district” might attract financing, labor, businesses, or railroad lines where a couple of mines would not. Districts appeared, disappeared, changed names or absorbed other districts with the rise and fall of prospecting and mining activity. The decline of the mining industry in Colorado after World War II is reflected in the literature by the more informal and infrequent references to districts.

References to mining districts in the literature are correspondingly confusing and sometimes contradictory. The word “district” has, in addition to its standard usage, been used to refer to the area around a single mine, town, mountain, or other geographic feature where mining or prospecting occurred. After World War II, “district” sometimes referred to an area of economic mineralization (established or potential) rather than to actual mining activities.

Sources of Information. Much of the information in Colorado Mining Districts was provided by Vanderwilt’s Mineral Resources of Colorado (1947), Del Rio’s Mineral Resources of Colorado: First Sequel (1960), Henderson’s Mining in Colorado (1926), and Parker’s Gold Placers of Colorado (1974). There are also supporting references to publications of the US Geological Survey, US Bureau of Mines, Colorado Geological Survey, and others. Manuscripts and unpublished USBM-sponsored mine reports held by the Colorado School of Mines Arthur Lakes Library in Golden and the Colorado Historical Society Library in Denver, and reference materials from the US Bureau of Land Management Office in Lakewood, Colorado are also cited. Since these
materials are not readily available elsewhere, they are treated as supplementary sources where possible. Recent (post-1960s) publications on the economic geology of Colorado are cited infrequently, reflecting the decrease in references to mining districts. USGS topographic maps and the USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) on the World Wide Web (http://geonames.usgs.gov/gnishome.html) were used to help verify geographic locations.

Local and regional histories on Colorado mining, while not always containing verifiable data, are sometimes used here to supplement more authoritative sources. For example, information on mining camps may be included because a camp’s rise and decline tells something about a nearby district’s lifespan and degree of success. In addition, some historical information is included just for fun.

Colorado county archives maintain mining claim records and original manuscripts and maps. These records are a likely source for information on the details of a district’s organization, including legal boundaries, records of specific claims and the names of owners or operators. Some districts are poorly documented and do not appear in the published literature at all—they were so short-lived or obscure that claim records may be the only evidence that the district existed. I did not perform a comprehensive search of all Colorado county records in compiling this reference; some districts may be missing. Additions to Colorado Mining Districts that are documented from county records or elsewhere are welcome—contact the author:

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Revised version (2015): The revised version corrects typographic and formatting errors.
HOW TO USE THIS REFERENCE

To find a mining district
- Look up the district by county, or
- Use the Alphabetical Index of mining districts

Records. Each mining district is represented by a record consisting of:
- A. Mining district name
- B. Location (if known)
- C. Description (if available)
- D. References to the literature and related terms

A. Mining District Name
This is the name as it appears in the literature. Alternate names appear in the “Description” or “References.” Main entries for mining district names are in bold. Other (unbold) district names are unsubstantiated, variations on a main name, little-used alternate names, local names, or superceded names.

B. Location
Locations and boundaries are almost always approximate. Where recorded in the literature, the district’s location is given by Township and Range. Contradictory location information is noted in some cases.

A caution on county boundaries—some mining districts in what is now Colorado pre-date the formation of present county boundaries or, in some cases, the establishment of the final Colorado Territory. Colorado Mining Districts makes no comprehensive attempt to track boundary relationships with mining districts over time; districts are placed in their counties as documented by the literature. Changing geographic boundaries are usually referred to only as they help clarify the history of a district or its place in the literature. “SEE ALSO” references are used as related terms to connect districts across county boundaries over time.

C. Description
Included are descriptions of relationships with other districts and the district’s history, mines, and production activity as this information appears in the literature. Some of the same information may appear in different records because of overlapping district relationships.

Where possible, the preferred and less-used names for the district are indicated. The terms USE and UF (Use For) in the “References” designate Colorado Mining Districts’ preferred district name. The districts cited preferentially in Vanderwilt (1947) are mostly those in use by the US Bureau of Mines in the 1940s. The districts cited in Henderson (1926) are mostly those used up to 1924 from records of the US Surveyor General in Denver.

D. References
Representative references to the literature are included. This is a starting point for research, not a comprehensive bibliography.

Related Terms
Related terms are included under “References.” Mining district relationships are defined as they appear in the literature. To trace all of the information on a district, use the related terms.

UF  Use For this peripheral or derivative name
USE  Use this name rather than the peripheral or derivative name
NT  Narrower Term—This district is included in the larger district
BT  Broader Term—This district includes the smaller district
SEE ALSO  See Also this related name—this may be an alternate name; may overlap the other district; or the relationship exists but is unclear

Evaluating a Mining District’s Significance.
Gundy (2003) asks, “How many mining districts were there in Colorado before they faded into oblivion?” and concludes, “An exact number seems impossible to arrive at.” I agree. While the successful districts had a high profile in the literature, unsuccessful districts rated barely a mention. Some districts have indeed faded into oblivion along with any written records of their existence.
Although most of the mining districts listed in *Colorado Mining Districts* were not economical, there were many successful districts. Some are almost legendary in their rich deposits or their place in Colorado’s history. To identify economically or historically important districts here, look for:

- Production information
- Description of the district’s history and a range of dates covering the district’s activity
- Citations to core literature in economic geology, for example the USGS, USBM, or Colorado Geological Survey

The other districts? Those were the unsuccessful or on-the-edge districts doomed by lack of economic ore deposits, unfavorable transportation or poor metal markets. Despite this fate, though, money and manpower went into their development as reports of successes (hypothetical or otherwise) swept through the region, making each district part of the history of mining in Colorado.
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PART 1: MINING DISTRICTS BY COUNTY
Adams County

Summary: Minor placer production along Clear Creek to the South Platte River is recorded for Adams County as a byproduct of sand and gravel operations.

Clear Creek gold placers

Location: Area included in T3S R68W; in the fluvial deposits of Clear Creek from the Jefferson County border to Clear Creek’s junction with the South Platte River.

Description: Placer gold was discovered here ~1860, encouraging prospectors to come to the region. Between 1910-1922 there was only sporadic small-scale placering activity, but a gold saving device was installed in a gravel washing plant in 1922 to recover gold as a byproduct. There are production records for gold and silver from 1922 continuing into the 1960s; production from the 1940s onward occurred mostly as byproducts of sand and gravel operations.

References:

Scranton coal mining district

Location: Sect 16 T3S R65W; ENE of Denver and N of Aurora.

Description: This is the site of a single coal mine (rather than a district) near the former town of Scranton. This coal mine was in operation as early as 1860 and was accessible as late as 1896.

References:
Alamosa County

Summary: There was little mining activity in Alamosa County; the Blanca district, the County’s only recorded district, reports a small amount of gold production.

Blanca mining district
Location: T28S R73W (SE corner); W of Blanca Peak, near the borders with Huerfano and Costilla counties, in both Alamosa and Huerfano counties.
Description: The Blanca district in Costilla County was included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County’s boundaries were created in 1913. The district includes the Blanca Mine located in Alamosa County. This district has records of limited production of gold ore in 1928 and 1934.
References:
BT West Blanca mining district
SEE ALSO Huerfano County – Blanca mining district

West Blanca mining district
Location: T27-28S R73W; in both Alamosa and Huerfano counties.
Description: Used as an alternate name for the Blanca district by Vanderwilt (1947). Originally a part of Costilla County, the West Blanca district was included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County’s boundaries were created in 1913. The West Blanca district is probably closely associated with the Blanca district, but differences merit a separate entry. Huerfano County’s West Blanca district is included within its Sierra Blanca district. The area includes mineral monuments Nos. 13436 and 14257-B.
References:
UF Costilla County – West Blanca mining district
NT Blanca mining district
SEE ALSO Huerfano County – West Blanca mining district
Arapahoe County

Summary: Arapahoe County’s mining activity consists of gold placer mining along Cherry Creek, the South Platte River, and their tributaries starting in the 1850s. These placer deposits extend into Denver, Douglas and Elbert counties.

Big Dry Creek gold placers
Description: Used as an alternate name for the Dry Creek placers.
References:
   USE Dry Creek gold placers

Cherry Creek gold placers
Location: T5S R66-67W; from the point where Cherry Creek flows out of Douglas County to where it flows into Denver County (Denver County separated from Arapahoe County in 1902); in Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Elbert counties.
Description: Parker (1974) includes the Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek placers (Arapahoe County) and the tributaries of Cherry Creek to the S (Douglas and Elbert counties) in the Cherry Creek placer group. The South Platte placers are also included in this group by Parker (1974). Placer gold was discovered in 1858. These placers are among the oldest known placer deposits in the state and consist of small placer deposits worked intermittently for gold for many years.
References:
   NT Cottonwood Creek gold placers
   NT Dry Creek gold placers
   NT Little Dry Creek gold placers
   SEE ALSO South Platte River gold placers
   SEE ALSO Denver County – Cherry Creek gold placers
   SEE ALSO Douglas County – Cherry Creek gold placers
   SEE ALSO Elbert County – Cherry Creek gold placers

Cottonwood Creek gold placers
Location: T5S R67W; along Cottonwood Creek just W of Cherry Creek.
Description: Used to refer to the Dry Creek placers by Vanderwilt (1947) but these placers occur along a separate creek bed. They are included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974).
References:
   BT Cherry Creek gold placers

Dry Creek gold placers
Location: T5S R66-67W; on the ridge between Cherry Creek and the Platte River; include the area of Big Dry Creek flowing NW to enter the South Platte River N of Petersburg; in Arapahoe and Douglas counties.
Description: Included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974); also called the Big Dry Creek placers. Placer gold was discovered here in 1858.
References:

UF Big Dry Creek gold placers
BT Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Douglas County – Dry Creek gold placers

**Little Dry Creek gold placers**

*Location*: T5S R68W; between Dry Creek and Cherry Creek; Little Dry Creek is a tributary of the South Platte River.

*Description*: Included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974). Placer gold was discovered here in 1858.

*References:*


BT Cherry Creek gold placers

**Missouri Gulch mining district**

*Location*: Reported to be in the Kansas Territory, in Arapahoe County in ~1860. There is a Missouri Gulch in present-day Douglas County in the SW part of the county near the Teller County border; this area would have been in the Kansas Territory, but not in Arapahoe County, which in 1861 bordered Douglas County on the N.

*Description*: Claims were being filed using this district’s name in 1860.

*References:*

- Missouri Gulch district, Arapahoe County, 1860 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

**South Platte River gold placers**

*Location*: T5S R68W; in Arapahoe, Denver, and Douglas counties; along the South Platte River.

*Description*: Included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974). Placer gold was discovered here in 1858.

*References:*


SEE ALSO Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Denver County – Platte River gold placers
SEE ALSO Douglas County – South Platte River gold placers

**Spring Gulch mining district**

*Location*: Reported to be in the Kansas Territory, in Arapahoe County in ~1860. There is a Spring Gulch in present-day Gilpin County; this area would have been in the Kansas Territory, but not in Arapahoe County, which in 1861 bordered neighboring Jefferson County on the E.

*Description*: This district was reported organized and claims were being filed using this district’s name in 1860.

*References:*

- Spring Gulch district, 1859-1864 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Spring Gulch mining district
Archuleta County

Summary: The few mining districts in Archuleta County were relatively inactive and resulted in very little if any production. The San Juan River coal region extends into Archuleta County.

Banded Peak mining district
Location: T34N R2-3E; in the area of Banded Peak on the Continental Divide; between the Navaho River and the Conejos County line.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Minor gold and silver production, with small amounts of lead and zinc, is reported for Archuleta County but the source district is not known.
References:

Bayfield-Yellow Jacket Pass coal mining district
Location: NE of Durango; includes the San Juan River region from the drainage divide between the Piedra River and Cat Creek W to the W line of R7W, including the S part of T34N R8W; in both Archuleta and La Plata counties.
Description: Landis (1960) reports coal beds of mineable thickness and reserves.
References:
SEE ALSO La Plata County – Bayfield-Yellow Jacket Pass coal mining district

Marion mining district
Location: Sect 15, 24 T35N R1W, Sect 18-19 T35N R1E NMPM.
Description: Also referred to as the Pagosa Springs district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the Marion mineral monument. Minor gold and silver production, with small amounts of lead and zinc, is reported for Archuleta County but the source district is not known.
References:
UF Pagosa Springs mining district

Pagosa Junction coal mining district
Location: NE of Pagosa Junction.
Description: Landis (1959) refers to both a Pagosa Junction and Pagosa Springs district and appears to differentiate between the two even though they are in the same general area. No activity or production is reported. Use “Pagosa Springs” district.
References:
USE Pagosa Springs coal mining district
Pagosa Springs coal mining district

**Location:** About 10 miles NE of Pagosa Junction.

**Description:** Also appears as “Pagosa Junction” district in Landis (1959); part of the San Juan River coal region. Coal was mined here for local domestic use for a number of years. No production is reported as of ~1960. Landis (1959) reports estimates of mineable reserves.

**References:**
- UF Pagosa Junction coal mining district

Pagosa Springs mining district

**Description:** Used to refer to the Marion mining district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

**References:**
- USE Marion mining district
Baca County

Summary: The Carrizo Creek district is the only district in Baca County. Deposits were located there in the 1880s and the district’s mines produced gold, silver and copper.

Carrizo Creek mining district
Location: T34S R50 W; SW corner of the county, S of the junction of East and West Carrizo creeks.
Description: Also appears as “Carrizo district”; later also referred to as the Estelene district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). This district includes the Independence Mine, located in 1889, and the Jackpot mines. Production of gold, silver, copper is recorded for 1900-1902, 1915-1917. Strip mining works for copper was planned for 1958.
References:
UF Estelene mining district

Estelene mining district
Description: Used as a later name for the Carrizo Creek district; used to refer to the Carrizo Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
USE Carrizo Creek mining district
Boulder County

Summary: Boulder County was an active mining area, producing chiefly gold but also silver, lead, copper and zinc. The county was an important producer of tungsten and fluorspar. Major districts include the Boulder, Caribou, Gold Hill, Grand Island and Ward districts. The Denver coal region and the Front Range uranium mining district are part of Boulder County.

Allens Park mining district
Location: Sect 23-26 T3N R73W.
Description: Also appears as “Allen’s Park”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The town of Allens Park was established ~8 miles N of Ward by 1896 but was in decline by 1901. Mines in the area include the Snowbank, Tiger, and Vulcan. Deposits of gold and silver are reported.
References:

Ballarat mining district
Location: N of Jamestown, in the area of the town of Balarat.
Description: Also appears as “Balarat district.” This name may refer specifically to the Ballarat Mine, which doesn’t constitute a district by itself. The camp of Ballarat was established ~3 miles N of Jamestown by 1877 with discoveries at the nearby Smuggler vein. A flood destroyed most of the camp in 1894. The area includes the Smuggler, Orofino and Fourth of July mines.
References:
USE Central mining district

Beaver Creek mining district
Location: In the area around Beaver Creek within the Boulder tungsten mining district; S of Nederland and the Barker Reservoir.
Description: Included within the Boulder mining district; possibly a local name. Tungsten ore was discovered in 1901 on Tungsten Mountain. The district includes the Elsie, Sunday, Mammoth, and Tungsten (Chance) mines. Mardirosian (1976) reports placer gold in Beaver Creek.
References:

BT Boulder mining district

Boulder coal field
Location: In both Boulder and Weld counties; when referred to as the Boulder field may be primarily in Boulder County.
Description: Also referred to as the Boulder-Weld coal field. The field is part of the Denver coal region. It includes mines near Lafayette, Louisville, Superior and Broomfield (Boulder County).
References:
Boulder mining district

Location: T1N R71W; a narrow SW belt ~10 miles long and 1-2 miles wide from Arkansas Mountain ~4 miles W of Boulder to Sherwood Flats 1 mile NW of Nederland.

Description: Covers ~20 sq miles; also appears as "Boulder County district" or the "Boulder tungsten mining district;" name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Beaver Creek district to the S and Tungsten Mountain; overlaps or includes the earlier established Grand Island district. Tungsten ore from the area was repeatedly assayed for gold and silver, becoming known as "barren silver," "heavy iron," or "black iron." Tungsten minerals were identified in the district in the 1890s, and finally recognized as economic by H. Wanamaker and Samuel Conger in ~1900. By 1904 mining and development activity was centered in the area of Nederland (Grand Island district), and the district was producing most of the tungsten mined in the US at the time. The town of Steven’s Camp (Ferberite) was established in the early 1900s in Boulder Canyon, and was soon renamed Tungsten; by late 1910s Tungsten was a city of 20,000 but declined almost overnight with the tungsten market crash. The district includes the Cold Spring (discovered in 1918), Conger, Oregon, Hoosier, Vasco, and Last Chance mines. Production, depending on the tungsten market, is reported from ~1900-1956; by 1956 only 13 mines were open.

References:

NT Beaver Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Grand Island mining district
Boulder-Weld coal field

Location: In both Boulder and Weld counties.

Description: Also referred to as the Boulder coal field. The field is part of the Denver coal region and includes mines near Lafayette, Louisville, Superior and Broomfield (Boulder County).

References:
- NT Boulder coal field
- SEE ALSO Weld County – Boulder-Weld coal field

Cardinal mining district

Location: In the area of Boulder County Hill, and later Coon Creek; neighbors the Caribou district.

Description: Used to refer to the Grand Island district by Vanderwilt (1947); probably included within the Grand Island district. This district may be named for the Cardinal Mine in Boulder County, but doesn’t seem to have had more than one or two working mines. The Boulder County Mine was discovered in 1870 and continued to be worked through the early 1900s, one of the few mines in operation in the area by then. The area was somewhat active in the late 1870s-early 1880s, then declined. The town of Cardinal (Old Cardinal, Cardinal City, then New Cardinal) was established on Boulder County Hill in 1870 to support the Boulder County Mine; it was later moved and/or renamed at least once, but finally appears to have been relocated to Coon Creek in 1904 to accommodate changes in the workings of the Boulder County Mine. Mostly gold and silver, with some lead and copper, have been produced.

References:
- USE Grand Island mining district
Caribou-Grand Island mining district

**Location:** T1S R73W; ~20 miles W of Boulder, ~4 miles NNW of Nederland.

**Description:** Incorporates the Caribou and Grand Island districts. This district was a major silver producer, although lead and some gold were also produced. Uranium discoveries place this district, or at least the Caribou part of this district, in the Front Range uranium mining district.

**References:**

NT Caribou mining district
NT Grand Island mining district
SEE ALSO Front Range uranium mining district

Caribou mining district

**Location:** T1S R73W; NW of Nederland.

**Description:** Used to refer to the Grand Island district by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated with the Grand Island district to become the Caribou-Grand Island district. The area's rich silver discoveries were made in what was then the Grand Island district; the Caribou district was organized from these discoveries. Although prospectors discovered ore veins here as early as 1860 and gold claims were made by 1864, silver ores were not yet recognized. Finally prospectors led by Samuel Conger claimed the rich silver deposits of the Caribou and Poorman mines in 1869. With these discoveries, prospectors rushed to the area and the No Name, Native Silver, and Seven-Thirty mines were located in 1870. The Caribou Mine is the principal lode of the district and was considered by some to be the greatest silver mine in early Colorado; it was named after the Cariboo mining region in Canada by George Lyle, prospector. The town of Caribou was established in 1870 to support the Caribou and nearby mines. By the end of 1871 most of the richest lodes in the district had been located. Despite the rich discoveries, production fell rapidly and was only intermittent by 1890. The town of Caribou was in decline by the 1880s. The Caribou Mine, which was struggling by 1873 when it was bought by Dutch investors, closed for good in the early 1890s, impacted by the Silver Panic of 1893. However, there was still a little activity at the Cross Mine as late as the 1980s. Pitchblende was discovered on the Caribou dump in 1948, which reopened the Caribou Mine into the 1950s. The district includes the Idaho, Perigo, Sherman and Grand View mines. In addition to silver, the district produced lead and some lode gold.

**References:**

Caribou, Caribou district, Boulder County CO. 1911. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, BES00224.
Boulder County


BT Caribou-Grand Island mining district
SEE ALSO Grand Island mining district

Central mining district

Location: T1-2N R71-72W; 7 miles NW of Boulder; in the area around Central Gulch, a tributary of South St. Vrain Creek.

Description: Also referred to as the Utillah district, which was probably the Central district's original name; also refers to the Enterprise district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The district includes the Crescent, Grand Union and St. Mary's mines and the Elkhorn mineral monument. Gold, telluride and silver ores, along with lead and some copper and zinc have been produced.

References:
Heizelman, F. 1932. Mining lease and option on property of Frank Heizelman: Crescent lode, Grand Union lode and St. Mary’s lode all being survey no. 5327 in the Central mining district in the county of Boulder and the state of Colorado [manuscript]. USBM Mine Report 3, 3 p.

UF Ballarat mining district
UF Utillah mining district
SEE ALSO Enterprise mining district
SEE ALSO Jamestown mining district

Eldora mining district

Location: SW of Nederland; in the area of the town of Eldora and Spencer Mountain.

Description: Also appears as “Eldorado” district; used to refer to the Grand Island district by Vanderwilt (1947). Some gold was discovered in the area by the late 1880s and the Happy Valley placer was worked in the early 1890s; exaggerated reports of gold discoveries brought more prospectors to the area. In 1896 gold tellurides were discovered on Spencer Mountain and the camp of Eldora (originally Happy Valley, then El Dorado or Eldorado Camp) was founded that same year on a site 2 miles S of Caribou; it also served as a supply town for other districts nearby. The district was experiencing a boom by 1898 but activity peaked by 1900. The district includes the Huron, Fourth of July, Clara, and Enterprise mines and the Mogul Tunnel. Production of gold tellurides is reported. Mardirosian (1976) records both gold and silver deposits for the area. Sims and Sheridan (1964) identify this district as a uranium district.

References:
Eldorado mining district

Description: Alternate name for the Eldora district.
USE Eldora mining district

Enterprise mining district

Location: Sect 10-11, 14-15 T2N R72W.
Description: Also referred to as the Central district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district may be named for the Enterprise Mine. Its location marks it as unrelated to the Enterprise district in Gilpin County.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Central mining district

Front Range uranium mining district

Location: Includes areas of pitchblende occurrences in parts of the Front Range mineral belt and in associated metal mining districts, mostly in Jefferson and Boulder counties but also including an area in Clear Creek County; may also include the uranium occurrences in Gilpin County.
Description: Includes many metal mining districts with uranium occurrences, including the Jamestown, Gold Hill, Caribou-Grand Island, and Eldora districts (Boulder County), the Alice district (Clear Creek County), and the Central City and North Gilpin County districts (Gilpin County). The first pitchblende discovery in the US was made in 1871 from the Wood dump, Central City district. Ore was shipped from the Central City-Idaho Springs district starting shortly after the discovery of radium in 1898. Uranium minerals were identified in the Old Leyden coal mine (Jefferson County) in the early 1870s although not mined there until the 1950s. Most of the large mines are in the E central part of the Front Range; activity and production concentrated on the 1950s discoveries on the Front Range mineral belt’s margins at the Schwartzwalder, Fairday A.M. (Fair Day), and Wright Lease mines.

References:
SEE ALSO Caribou-Grand Island mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Front Range uranium mining district

Gold Hill mining district

Location: T1N R71-73W; includes the area around Gold Hill.
Description: Covers ~12 sq miles. This is a general name for the mines and at least portions of other districts in and around Gold Hill; this district was the largest gold producer in the county. Also (rarely) appears as “Golden Hill district”; overlaps the Sunshine and Ward districts; either mostly or completely includes the Sugarloaf district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The area was the original site of “Mountain District No. 1” of the Nebraska Territory, the first mining district registered in the Colorado region (Benson 1994). Gold placer discoveries were made here by 1859, and gold ore deposits were found shortly after, including the Horsfal Mine (Fifty Nine Mine) located in 1859. The camp of Gold Hill and the area’s first stamp mill were established the same year. The Logan Mine (Great Logan Mine), reported to be one of the richest gold mines in the region, was located near the future site of Crisman in 1874. The easy ores were quickly exhausted and the area declined until 1869 when regional smelter facilities to treat low grade ores were available. Gold-telluride ore was discovered in 1872 at the Red Cloud Mine, further reviving activity in the district. The camp of Sunnyside was established in 1873 and Sunshine was established in 1874. A few mines, including the Victoria and Black Cloud, were located in the area of the camp of Summerville between...
Gold Hill and Salina in the 1870s. The town of Crisman, established in the mid-1880s and named after Obad Crisman who built the area’s first concentrator mill, may be included in this district; the Yellow Pine Mine was located near Crisman. The town of Rowena (or Rockville) was the site of several mills that processed ores from the Prussian, Gold Nugget, Cold Spring and other mines. The mines in the area of Wall Street (originally Delphi) to the SE of Gold Hill may be included in the district. Wall Street was revived when one of the first chlorination mills in N Colorado was built there to process ore from the Nancy mines (Last Chance, Gold Eagle and other mines) in 1902. The Logan Mine was operated intermittently through 1908. Mining again declined in the area, despite a brief revival when a railroad was completed between Boulder and Ward, until an increase of gold mining activity occurred in 1933. The district remained somewhat active until 1942. Mining again declined in the area, despite a brief revival when a railroad was completed between Boulder and Ward, until an increase of gold mining activity occurred in 1933. The district remained somewhat active until 1942. Wall Street was revived when one of the first chlorination mills in N Colorado was built there to process ore from the Nancy mines (Last Chance, Gold Eagle and other mines) in 1902. The Logan Mine was operated intermittently through 1908. Mining again declined in the area, despite a brief revival when a railroad was completed between Boulder and Ward, until an increase of gold mining activity occurred in 1933. The district remained somewhat active until 1942. The Logan Mine was operated intermittently through 1908. Mining again declined in the area, despite a brief revival when a railroad was completed between Boulder and Ward, until an increase of gold mining activity occurred in 1933. The district remained somewhat active until 1942.

References:

Gold Lake mining district
Location: Unknown.
Description: Kemp (1960) reports that a Gold Lake district was organized in Boulder County in February 1861. No other information is reported.
References:

Grand Island mining district
Location: T1S R73-74W; ~4 miles NNW of Nederland; includes the area of the South Fork of Middle Boulder Creek.
Description: This is a general name referring to the area from the Caribou district on the W to the Nederland district on the E and the South Fork of Middle Boulder Creek to the S; also referred to as the Caribou, Eldora or Nederland districts; probably includes the Cardinal district; overlaps the Snowy Range and Sugarloaf districts; adjoins the Ward district on the N according to Worcester (1920); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The original rich silver discoveries of the Caribou district were made in what was at the time the Grand Island district; the Caribou district was organized from those discoveries. The Grand Island district was later consolidated with the Caribou district to become the Caribou-Grand Island district. The
district was organized in 1861, one of the first mining districts in the Colorado region. The only town in the district at the time was Dayton (later Nederland). Despite early activity and prospecting for gold, the district was mostly inactive through the mid 1860s until rich silver discoveries were made in Caribou in 1869, renewing activity. The camp of Grand Island, located along the North Fork of Boulder Creek, was active for a short time in the 1890s but declined quickly. Tungsten was recognized as economical by 1899 and by 1904 development was centered in the area of Nederland, referred to as the Boulder tungsten district. The area includes the camps of Hessie and Lost Lake, the Shirley, Revenge, Lost Lake and Norway mines, and the Jenny Lake mineral monument. Production of gold and silver, with some copper and lead-silver-zinc ores to 1945 is reported.

References:
UF Cardinal mining district
UF Nederland mining district
BT Caribou-Grand Island mining district
SEE ALSO Boulder mining district
SEE ALSO Caribou mining district
SEE ALSO Eldora mining district
SEE ALSO Snowy Range mining district
SEE ALSO Sugarloaf mining district

Grand Lake mining district
Location Sect 21-22, 27-28 T1N R74W; possibly in both Boulder and Grand counties but on the Boulder County line and mostly in Grand County.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
USE Grand County – Grand Lake mining district

Jamestown mining district
Location: T2N R71-72W; ~9 miles northwest of Boulder; includes the area of the junction of James (Jim) and Little James (Little Jim) creeks.
Description: Used to refer to the Central district by Vanderwilt (1947). This district is one of the county’s major gold and fluorspar producers. Jamestown is one of Colorado’s four main fluorspar districts, along with the Salida district (Chaffee County), Northgate district (Jackson County), and Wagon Wheel Gap district (Mineral County) (Cox 1945). There were prospectors in the area by the 1860s and gold was discovered in 1865. The camp of Elysian Park was established in 1865 and renamed Jamestown (originally Jimtown or Camp Jimtown after the nearby Jim and Little Jim creeks) by 1867. Telluride ores in a rich belt near Jamestown were discovered by 1875 and the Golden Age and Wano mines located that same year. Lead-silver ore was being produced by 1885. Mardirosian (1976) also reports copper. After a period of activity there was a decline in mining, interrupted for a time by the regional increase in gold mining in 1933. Fluorspar deposits were developed by 1903, including the Alice, Blue Jay, Yellow Girl, Emmett, Early Bird, Tip Top and Lookout mines. Fluorspar mining increased in 1942-1943 to become the main activity in the district, and continued through the 1950s. Jamestown is part of the Front Range uranium mining district; uranium was produced in the N and E margins of district at the Fairday A.M. Mine through the 1950s. Other uranium mines include the Lulu B lode and the Golden Age Mine.
References:
Left Hand Creek pegmatite mining district

Location: T1-2N R71-73W; along Left Hand Creek, including the Ward and Gold Hill areas.

Description: Economic beryl, feldspar and scrap mica is reported. The district includes the New Girl, Elkhorn and Highline prospects and the Beryl Lode Mine. Mardirosian (1976) also mentions placer gold in Left Hand Creek itself.

References:

Magnolia mining district

Location: Sect 25-26, 35-36 T1N R72W, Sect 29-32 T1N R71W, Sect 1, 12-13, 24-25 T1S R72W, Sect 7, 18-19, 30-31 T1S R71W; ~5 miles from Boulder, 1 mile S of Middle Boulder Creek; Wilkerson (1939) includes in the district an area S past the S Platte River to N of Jamestown.

Description: Overlaps the Sugarloaf district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Gold telluride ore was discovered in 1875 at the Slide and Keystone lodes; the Magnolia lode from which the district gets its name was staked at the same time. The camp of Magnolia was
established in 1875 with these ore discoveries. Mines include the Dunraven, Mountain Lion and Keystone. The district’s production was primarily gold, with its most productive years over by 1905. Silver was also produced in the district. A small amount of tungsten production is recorded during the World War tungsten boom.

References:
SEE ALSO Sugarloaf mining district

Nederland mining district
Location: Area around T1S R73 W.
Description: Used to refer to the Grand Island district by Vanderwilt (1947). The Caribou Mill was built in the supply town of Middle Boulder (originally Dayton, then Brownsville, then East Caribou) in ~1871 to process the Caribou Mine’s ores. Middle Boulder was renamed Nederland for Dutch investors who bought both the Caribou Mine and mill in 1873. After the decline of the Caribou Mine, Nederland operated as a supply town for Eldorado (Eldora) in the late 1890s. Gold and silver, with some lead and copper, were produced. The district included some pegmatite prospecting, and tungsten exploration in the early 1900s. No economic tungsten workings are reported to the Nederland district, although the town of Nederland benefited briefly from the area’s tungsten boom; tungsten production is referred to with the Boulder tungsten district overlapping this area.

References:
USE Grand Island mining district

Rowena mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Gold Hill district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
USE Gold Hill mining district

Salina mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Gold Hill district by Vanderwilt (1947). Prospectors eventually began working their way down Gold Run Gulch from Gold Hill after the discoveries there in 1859. A group of prospectors from Kansas discovered gold in the Gulch further E in ~1874 and the town of Salina, named for Salina, Kansas, was established by 1875. Most claims were not profitable, however, and the majority of the prospectors moved on after only a few years. The district was the site of the Black Swan mill and camps of Chinese placer miners who worked Four Mile Creek. The district includes the Black Swan and Melvina mines.

References:

USE Gold Hill mining district

**Snowy Range mining district**
*Location:* Sect 16-21 T1N R73W.

*Description:* Overlaps the Grand Island district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was organized in 1861, one of the first mining districts in the Colorado region. The area continued to be worked intermittently through the 1880s. The district includes the camp of Albion.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Grand Island mining district

Sugarloaf mining district
*Location:* Sect. 13-16, 18-30 T1N R72W, Sect 15-23, 26-30 T1S R72W; NE of Nederland and S of Gold Hill.

*Description:* Also appears as "Sugar Loaf" district; overlaps the Grand Island, Magnolia and Ward districts; most of this district was incorporated into the Gold Hill district. The district was organized in 1861, one of the first mining districts in the Colorado region. The area includes the Pine Forest mineral monument. Production of gold and silver, with some lead and copper is reported, as well as small tungsten veins; gold and silver production is reported to 1942.

*References:*
- BT Gold Hill mining district
- SEE ALSO Grand Island mining district
- SEE ALSO Magnolia mining district
- SEE ALSO Ward mining district

Sunshine mining district
*Location:* Sect 3-4 T1N R71W; E of Gold Hill.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Gold Hill district by Vanderwilt (1947); overlaps the Gold Hill district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was named for the Sunshine Mine, discovered in ~1874. The camp of Sunshine was established the same year. The Sunshine Mine and camp are located within the district’s overlap with the Gold Hill district, ~2 miles E of Gold Hill. Sunshine declined by the 1890s despite intermittent new discoveries. The district includes the American, Inter-Ocean, Little Miami, Grand View and White Crow mines. The camps of Lyon, Tellurium and Bloomerville were in the area. Mostly gold, with some silver, lead and copper have been produced. Zinc is present in some locations.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Gold Hill mining district

Utilah mining district
*Description:* Also appears as “Utila district”; used to refer to the Central district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was organized in 1861, one of the first mining districts in the Colorado region. It was probably the original name for the Central district.

*References:*

USE Central mining district

Ward mining district
Location: Sect 1-4 T1N R73W, Sect 2-11 T1N R72W; ~9 miles N of Nederland; includes an area between S. St Vrain and Lefthand creeks.
Description: Overlaps the Gold Hill and Sugarloaf districts; adjoins the Grand Island district (Worcester 1921); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Ward was established in 1860, one of the first districts in the Colorado region. Calvin Ward discovered the Miser’s Dream Mine in 1860. The town of Ward was established in ~1860 with the nearby discovery of the Columbia vein. The Ward lode was discovered just N of Lefthand Creek in ~1861. By 1870 most of the district’s major deposits had been located, and Ward became one of the area’s richest districts. Activity declined after 1893, revived briefly during 1936-1942, then continued its decline. According to Koeschmann and Bergendahl (1963), the camps of Sunset and Copper Rock to the SE between Ward and Sugarloaf are in the Ward district; both were small camps active in the 1890s. The district includes the camps of Tolcott, Quiggleyville, Francis and Puzzler. The district also includes the Niwot, Columbia, Utica and Baxter mines and the Hanging Rock (No. 2) and No. 3 mineral monuments. Production of gold and silver, with some lead and copper to 1945 is reported.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64, 68.
SEE ALSO Gold Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Sugarloaf mining district
Chaffee County

Summary: Chaffee County’s mining districts produced gold, silver, zinc and lead, with some copper. Iron was mined in the area around Turret. Gold placers were worked along the Arkansas River and its tributaries. The county is also a uranium producer and a large fluorspar producer. Significant fluorspar districts include the Browns Canyon, Chalk Creek and Monarch districts.

Alpine mining district
Location: T51N R80-81W.
Description: Also known as the Chalk Creek district and used to refer to the Chalk Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The camp of Alpine was established along Chalk Creek by the late 1870s as a supply center for other camps further up the Creek and across the divide to Tin Cup and beyond. It was eventually replaced as a supply camp by St. Elmo. The district includes the Tilden Mine. A smelter and the settlement of Iron City were reportedly established W of Alpine in 1880 to treat the district’s ores.

References:

USE Chalk Creek mining district

Arkansas River gold placers
Location: Along the Arkansas River from Buena Vista SE 25 miles to Fremont County and near Granite about 15 miles NW of Salida.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold was discovered here by 1897. Operations have been small and intermittent, with some production reported in 1934.

References:

NT Buena Vista gold placers
NT Nathrop gold placers
NT Salida gold placers

Browns Canyon mining district
Location: ~8 miles NW of Salida, covering an area bounded on the E by the Arkansas River and on the W by US Hwy 285.
Description: Covers ~9 sq miles. This district was a major center of fluorspar production in Colorado and in the US. Fluorspar deposits were discovered in ~1923 and shipments were being made by 1927. The district includes the Colorado-American, Manganese Hill, Chimney Hill and Last Chance mines. Fluorspar production is reported from 1929 through the 1950s. Gold placers were worked along Browns Creek, with some production reported.

References:
Cox, D.C., Van Alstine, R.E. 1969. Geology and mineral deposits of the Poncha Springs NE quadrangle, Chaffee County, Colorado; with a section on fluorspar mines and prospects. USGS Prof Paper 626, 52 p.
SEE ALSO Salida fluorspar mining district

**Browns Creek gold placers**

*Location:* T1S S R78W; 2-4 miles S of Nathrop; along Browns Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River.

*Description:* Also appears as "Browns Canyon gold placers"; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). A small amount of gold was retrieved intermittently from these placers in the early 1900s. Some small production is reported in 1932 and 1939. The Browns Canyon mining district was a major fluorspar producer.

*References:*

- Cox, D.C., Van Alstine, R.E. 1969. Geology and mineral deposits of the Poncha Springs NE quadrangle, Chaffee County, Colorado; with a section on fluorspar mines and prospects. USGS Prof Paper 626, 52 p.

**Buena Vista gold placers**

*Description:* Used to refer to the Arkansas River placers near Buena Vista by Vanderwilt (1947). Placer gold was discovered in the area.

*References:*


BT Arkansas River gold placers

**Cache Creek gold placers**

*Location:* On the N border of Chaffee County; Cache Creek is a tributary of the Arkansas River. The placers extend W to the foot of Lost Canyon Mountain according to Parker (1974).

*Description:* Included in the Lost Canyon district by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold was discovered in 1859 or 1860 and worked by small groups until claim consolidation by the Twin Lakes Hydraulic Gold Mining Syndicate in 1883. The placers were worked by hydraulic operations but by 1911 hydraulic mining was severely limited due to a permanent injunction brought against mining operations for polluting the Arkansas River. The placers include the Cache Creek hydraulic cut and the cut along Gold Run Gulch. There was no production after 1918.

*References:*


BT Lost Canyon mining district

**Calumet mining district**

*Location:* T51N R9E NMPM; T51N R77W according to Henderson (1926); in the range of hills that are the extreme S end of the Mosquito Range, W of Calumet Mountain.

*Description:* Included within or overlaps the Turret district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used in conjunction with the Whitehorn district (Fremont County) by Vanderwilt (1947). The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County). The Calumet Mine was located in 1880 and was owned by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company; the mine was worked for iron from 1881-1889. The town of Calumet was named for the Calumet Mine by CF&I and was populated while the mine was active. A county boundary dispute touched off by the district’s mineral discoveries resulted in Whitehorn being transferred from Chaffee County to Fremont County in 1899. Although Vanderwilt (1949) reports no recorded production, others indicate that the area’s mines were actively producing iron, with some gold, silver and copper in ~1904, and the supply towns of Whitehorn, Manoa and Cameron were booming. The Iron King Mine operated until the 1920s, but was worked mostly for its gold, the iron ore being dumped aside. In addition to iron, small veins of gold, silver, and copper are reported.

*References:*

Chaffee County

BT Turret mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Whitehorn mining district

Cameron mining district
Description: Also appears as “Cameron Mountain district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is possibly related to the Cameron district in Fremont County and appears to be associated with the Cleora district in Chaffee County. The district is also cited as later being part of the Turret district (Shaputis and Kelly 1982). The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County). Mines in the area were actively producing iron, as well as some gold, silver and copper in ~1904 and the supply towns of Whitehorn, Manoa and Cameron were booming.

References:
USE Cleora mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Cameron mining district

Chalk Creek mining district
Location: T15S R80-81E; T51N R6E NMPM according to Henderson (1926); includes the area drained by Chalk Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River S of Buena Vista. The major area of significance within the district is a ½-2 mile wide and 10 mile long belt from the Continental Divide NE across Chrysolite Mountain to the NE corner of the Garfield quadrangle.
Description: Also referred to as the Alpine district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); overlaps the Monarch district according to Henderson (1926). The Chalk Creek and Monarch districts are two of the county's largest gold producers. Discoveries may have been made in this area as early as the late 1860s. The Mary Murphy Mine was the district's largest operation and may have been in continuous production from its discovery in 1870 to 1925, operating intermittently thereafter. The silver ores of the Hortense Mine were discovered in 1871; the Hortense Mine was supported by the nearby railroad station of Hortense (Chalk Creek Hot Springs). The town of Romley (originally Murphy's Switch, then Morley) was established by 1883 and was a shipping point for the nearby Mary Murphy mine group. The towns of Iron City and St. Elmo are also in the district. The district includes the Allie Belle, California, Pat Murphy, Tressie C. and Iron Chest mines and the Elk and Lee mineral monuments. Considerable production is recorded from 1887-1908, followed by a decline, then an increase in activity to 1918 when most of the district's ore reserves were exhausted. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc has been reported to 1944.

References:
UF Alpine mining district
UF Romley mining district
UF St. Elmo mining district

Clear Creek gold placers
Location: T12S R80W; on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River S of Cache Creek.
Description: No notable gold placer deposits and little if any activity or production is reported. The area was more important for its water supply to the Cache Creek placer operations.

References:

Clear Creek mining district
Description: Little-used alternate name for the Winfield district; may be related to the Clear Creek district (poorly documented) in Lake County.

References:
- USE Winfield mining district
- SEE ALSO Lake County – Clear Creek mining district

Cleora mining district
Location: T49N R9E NMPM; T49-51N R8-10E NMPM according to Henderson (1926); 4 miles S of Salida.
Description: Also refers to the Coon Park district; possibly also referred to as the Cameron district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Turret Mountain (Turret) district. This district is possibly related to the Cleora district in Fremont County. The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County). The supply camp of Cleora along the Arkansas River was reportedly named for Cleora Bale, daughter of the stage stop manager. Gold, silver, zinc and lead exploration took place and copper prospects were located, but no production is reported.

References:

Cottonwood mining district
Location: T13-15S R79-81W; near head of Cottonwood Creek, 14 miles W of Buena Vista.
Description: Also appears as “Cottonwood Creek district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the North and South Cottonwood district. Heyl (1960) refers to this as a small silver-lead district. Harvard City was established near Cottonwood Creek with reports of a gold strike in 1874, but was more of a supply center for transportation over nearby Cottonwood Pass to the W. Hooper (1896) reports that ore discoveries were made along Cottonwood Gulch by 1895, but with no economic result. The district includes Hangman Camp, site of a couple of mines. The area includes the Leonhardy mineral monument. Small veins of lead, silver, and gold have been found, but no production is reported.

References:
Chaffee County


UF Middle Cottonwood mining district
UF North Cottonwood mining district
UF South Cottonwood mining district
UF Westphalian mining district

Four Mile mining district
Location: T13-14S R78W; reported to be ~3 miles NW of Buena Vista, exact location reported as "unknown"; Fourmile Creek is N of Buena Vista.
Description: Also appears as "Fourmile district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). There are gold production records for 1935-1937, and gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc production records for 1940.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Free Gold mining district
Location: Sect 15-16, 21-22 T14S R78W; on Trout Creek ~5 miles SE of Buena Vista, 1 mile E of Arkansas River.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). With a lode discovery on Gold Hill, the company town of Free Gold was well established and the site of a stamp mill by 1885. The district included the Free Gold, Dundena and Friendship claims. Small gold placer production is recorded in 1932, and gold ore production in 1933.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Garfield-Monarch mining district
Location: T49-50N R6E NMPM; 19 miles W of Salida.
Description: Although this district has a combination name, no record of a separate Garfield district was found; the name Garfield may have come from the town of Garfield which is included in the Monarch district. Garfield (originally Junction City) was established by 1880 and supported area mining operations. Production of lead-silver, zinc, and a little gold ore is recorded to 1945; a little copper ore production is recorded.
References:
Granite mining district

**Location:** Sect 31-35 T11S R79W, Sect 2-6 T12S R79W; in both Chaffee and Lake counties, with just a small part of the district in Lake County.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Lost Canyon district; overlaps the Hope district (Chaffee and Lake counties), to which it sometimes refers. Prospectors were exploring the area by ~1859 and established the camp of Granite in 1860; Granite also acted as a supply town for the Clear Creek district. Some gold placers were discovered at the time but quickly exhausted. Gold lode discoveries in 1867 led to a short-lived boom. The district and Granite camp were in decline by 1880, although Shaputis and Kelly (1982) record that the town still had a population of 400 and two stamp mills processing the ore of nearby mines as of 1891. The district includes the New Year, Troy, Silver Horn, and Belle of Granite mines. There was small and intermittent output from the 1870s-early 1900s. Gold and silver production to 1945, copper production through 1940, and lead production to 1939 is recorded.

**References:**
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 43, 64.

NT Lost Canyon mining district
SEE ALSO Hope mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Granite mining district

Hancock mining district

**Location:** In the area ~4 miles S of St. Elmo.

**Description:** Possibly a local name. The Hancock placer claim and the Stonewall claim were located in ~1879. The town of Hancock peaked in the 1880s-1890s, then declined with the closing of area mines and the closure of the nearby Alpine (train) Tunnel. Although there was some activity in this area, the district was apparently not economical. The district includes the O & W, Dutchman, Allie Bell and Last Chance mines.

**References:**

**Hope mining district**
*Location:* In T11-12S R80-81W; in both Chaffee and Lake counties.
*Description:* Also referred to as the Granite district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Granite district (Chaffee and Lake counties) in both counties. The area includes the Blake, Key, Twin Mt. and No. 133 mineral monuments.
*References:
SEE ALSO Granite mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Hope mining district

**Jones Mountain mining district**
*Location:* To the N of the head of the S fork of Cottonwood Creek, SW of Buena Vista.
*Description:* Adjoins the Mineral Basin district. This area was prospected intermittently since the late 1800s with little success. The district includes the Little Mac and Copper King mines. Silver, lead and copper ores are present. A few carloads or ore are reported shipped in ~1891 but no production is reported.
*References:

**La Plata mining district**
*Location:* T12S R81W; T12-13S R80-81W according to Henderson (1926); mineralized area 1-3 miles WSW of Winfield, extended by some authors E to the area of Pine Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); includes the Pine Creek and Winfield districts. The district was organized in 1867 with the extensive gold prospecting activity at the time; there was no resulting production and the district was abandoned. Discoveries of silver in the area’s lead ores in 1879 resulted in renewed activity and the creation of the camps of Beaver City, Vicksburg, Silverdale, Rockdale and Winfield. There was another brief period of activity in the late 1890s to ~1910. The district includes the Banker, Tasmania and Baracouta mines, and the Abbott and No. 7218 mineral monuments. Small amounts of gold, silver and lead production are recorded for 1932, 1939, and 1941; a little copper ore production was also recorded.
*References:
NT Pine Creek mining district
NT Winfield mining district

**Lake Creek mining district**
*Location:* In the area of Twin Lakes; in both Chaffee and Lake counties.
*Description:* Also appears as “Lake Gulch district”; also appears as “Lake district” in Lake County; alternate name for the Twin Lakes district in both Chaffee and Lake counties, although the Chaffee County portion of the Lake Creek district is depicted as extending S to adjoin the La Plata district. The area includes the Craig and Willis Creek mineral monuments.
*References:
USE Twin Lakes mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Lake mining district

**Lost Canyon mining district**
*Location:* Area of T12S R80W; in the area of Lost Canyon; may extend into Lake County as the Willis district.
Description: Probably originally referred to as the Willis district when the area was first organized in the Kansas Territory, Lake County, in ~1860; later incorporated into the Granite mining district. Gold placers were discovered in the area in 1860. The district includes the Lost Canyon gold placers, and the camps of Cache Creek, Ritchie’s Patch, Gold Run, Gibson Gulch and Bertschey’s Gulch. Vanderwilt (1947) includes the Cache Creek gold placers further to the E as well. Small scale placering operations were intermittent from 1922-1970s. The district was more well known for its placer operations than lode deposits.

References:

NT Cache Creek gold placers
BT Granite mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Willis mining district

Marshall Pass uranium mining district
Location: Near Marshall Pass in the Sawatch Range; most of the district is in Gunnison and Saguache counties, with a small NE area in Chaffee County.
Description: Covers ~182 sq km. Uranium was discovered near the mouth of Indian Creek in 1955 and deposits were mined by small operations starting in 1958. Underground leaching and open pit mining were used after 1968. The district includes the Pitch (Pinnacle) Mine, the Lookout No. 22 and Marshall Pass No. 5 mines in Saguache County, and the Little Indian No. 36 Mine in Gunnison County.

References:
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Marshall Pass uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Saguache County – Marshall Pass uranium mining district

Middle Cottonwood mining district
Location: In the area of Sect 16-17, 20-21 T15S R80W.
Description: Included generally within the Cottonwood district. The district includes the Gladstone, Friendship and Mohawk mines. Lead and silver are reported.

References:
USE Cottonwood mining district

Mineral Basin mining district
Location: To the S of the head of the S fork of Cottonwood Creek, SW of Buena Vista.
Description: Adjoins the Jones Mountain district. This area was prospected intermittently since the late 1800s with little success. The district includes the Humphrey, June and Longfellow claims. Silver, lead and copper ores are reported but no production is recorded.

References:

Monarch-Garfield mining district
Description: Appears more commonly as “Garfield-Monarch district.”
USE Garfield-Monarch mining district

Monarch mining district
Location: T49N R6-8E NMMP, T51N R79-80 W, T50N R80W; ~20 miles W of Salida and just E of the Continental Divide.
Description: Covers ~94 sq miles; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Tomichi district (Gunnison County) to the W and the Chalk Creek district to the N. The Chalk Creek and Monarch districts are two of the county’s largest gold producers. Although the district covers a large area, most of the district’s principal mines are on Monarch Ridge, ~1/2 mile S of Monarch extending from Taylor Gulch W to Columbus Gulch. In addition to the mines on Monarch Ridge,
other mines are grouped principally on Taylor Gulch, Cree’s Camp, Middle Fork, North Fork, and Browns Gulch. Ore was discovered in ~1878 on the Great Monarch claim by the Boone brothers and by 1882 most of the district’s major silver discoveries had been made. The camp of Monarch was established in 1878. By 1880 the town of Chaffee City (later renamed Monarch) was laid out on the site and was active until 1893. The camps of Shavano, Babcock and Crazy Camp were established by ~1879. The Madonna Mine is credited with almost 50% of the district’s production. By 1883 a railroad connection was made to Monarch, increasing production until the drop in silver prices in 1893 closed most of the mines and emptied the district. Garfield, Maysville (Marysville, Crazy Camp) and Shavano were mostly deserted by or before 1911. The district includes the Hawkeye, Silent Friend, Eclipse, Garfield, and Alaska mines, the camps of Bullion City, Cree’s Camp, Foose’s Camp, Columbus and Hartville, and the Black Tiger, Cave, Cliff, Columbus, Madonna, Monarch, Penn, Taylor’s Gulch No. 1 mineral monuments. Significant production is recorded from 1883-1893, with little afterwards until 1906. Production of silver, lead, zinc, and gold is recorded prior to 1913, and some copper production later.

References:
BT Garfield-Monarch mining district

Monarch Pass pegmatite mining district
Location: On the border between Chaffee and Gunnison counties.
Description: Not developed. No economic pegmatite minerals are reported, although feldspar is mentioned as a possibility for development.
References:
SEE ALSO Gunnison County — Monarch Pass pegmatite mining district

Mount Antero pegmatite mining district
Location: S central Chaffee County around Mount Antero.
Description: The district includes the California Mine. Economic deposits of gem beryl (aquamarine) are reported but although there has been some development in the area, no production is recorded.
References:

Mount Harvard mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Riverside district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
USE Riverside mining district

Nathrop gold placers
Location: Along the Arkansas River near Nathrop.
Description: Used to refer to the Arkansas River placers around Nathrop by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
BT Arkansas River gold placers
North Cottonwood mining district

Location: Sect 29-32 T13S R79W, Sect 25-27, 34-36 T13S R80W, Sect 4-9 T14S R79W; including the area of North Cottonwood Creek.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Cottonwood district. Properties in this district were being worked as late as 1891. The district includes the Queen Elizabeth, Eclipse, Aspen Tunnel Group and Homestake mines. Silver, lead and gold are reported.

References:
USE Cottonwood mining district

Pine Creek mining district

Location: Sect 5-8 T13S R80W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the La Plata district. This district was reported abandoned as early as 1867. The area includes the Pine mineral monument.

References:
BT La Plata mining district

Poncha mining district

Location: SSE corner of Chaffee County.

Description: The district includes the Poncha Springs Mine 1 mile SE of Poncha Springs, and fluorspar deposits mined near the top of Poncha Pass around the early 1930s. Minor fluorspar production is recorded. Mardirosian (1976) reports tungsten deposits.

References:
SEE ALSO Salida fluorspar mining district

Red Mountain mining district

Location: T12S R82W, Sect 32-36 T11S R82W; in the area of Red Mountain, at head of Peek-a-boo Creek, a tributary of South Fork of Lake Creek; possibly extends into Gunnison and/or Lake counties.

Description: Used to refer to the Twin Lakes district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Lincoln Gulch district to the W in Pitkin County. The town of Everett (Lake County) was established by 1882; its mills processed ores from the area’s mines. This district includes the Black Bess and Amazon claims, and the Alva, Acme and Red Mountain mineral monuments. Gold and silver production is reported as late as 1941.

References:
UF Gunnison County – Red Mountain mining district
UF Lake County – Red Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Twin Lakes mining district

Riverside mining district

Location: T13S R80W; 15 miles NNW of Buena Vista.
**Chaffee County**

*Description:* Also referred to as the Mt. Harvard district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Production of copper is recorded to 1937, silver and lead to 1938, and gold to 1939.

*References:*
- UF Mt. Harvard mining district

Romley mining district
*Description:* Used to refer to the Chalk Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947). The camp of Romley grew up around the Mary Murphy Mine.

*References:*
- USE Chalk Creek mining district

St. Elmo mining district
*Description:* Used to refer to the Chalk Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947). The town of St. Elmo (originally Forest City) was established in the late 1870s to support the mines in Tin Cup to the W, cutting the town of Alpine further E out of the supply business. Both the district and the town of St. Elmo, which was the site of the Mary Murphy mill, peaked in the mid 1880s and were in decline by 1900. The district includes the town of Iron City near St. Elmo.

*References:*
- USE Chalk Creek mining district

Salida fluorspar mining district
*Location:* In the area around Salida.
*Description:* One of Colorado’s four main fluorspar districts, along with the Jamestown district (Boulder County), Northgate district (Jackson County), and Wagon Wheel Gap district (Mineral County) according to Cox (1945). However, Van Alstine (1974) reports no fluorspar production in this district. Cox may instead be referring to the area around the Poncha Springs Mine in the Poncha district, or more likely to the Browns Canyon fluorspar district to the N which was a major center of fluorspar production.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Browns Canyon mining district
- SEE ALSO Poncha mining district

Salida gold placers
*Location:* Along the Arkansas River in the area of the town of Salida.
*Description:* Used to refer to the Arkansas River placers around the town of Salida by Vanderwilt (1947). Salida was a major supplier for the mining camps over the range and along the South Arkansas River.

*References:*
- BT Arkansas River gold placers
- SEE ALSO Salida mining district

Salida mining district
*Description:* Used to refer to a general area around the town of Salida (originally South Arkansas). Other more specific district names for the area, including the Browns Canyon and Cottonwood districts, should be used. Hooper reports gold discoveries in the area by ~1885. With the discoveries in Cripple Creek, there was
renewed prospecting activity between Salida and Cripple Creek and a number of new camps were established NE of Salida by 1900. A smelter was built near Salida in 1901 and operated until 1920. The Salida Granite Works processed granite from quarries in the area.

References:
SEE ALSO Salida gold placers

Sedalia mining district
Location: T51N R8E NMPM, on the E side of the Salida Valley ~ 4 miles N of Sedalia; 6 miles ENE of Salida.
Description: Heyl (1960) reports that the Sedalia Mine in this district is commonly included in the Turret copper-gold district as well. The Sedalia Mine was discovered in ~1883 and was worked intermittently until 1923; it was the largest copper mine in the state, as well as producing zinc, silver and gold. The district includes the Copper King and Copper Queen mines. The area was an active producer of copper to 1907; production of copper, gold and silver were recorded, but none by the early 1940s.

References:
SEE ALSO Turret mining district

South Arkansas mining district
Location: 19 miles NNE of Salida.
Description: This name refers to the area around the South Arkansas Mine, consisting of six claims and ~700 acres, rather than a district. The Mine, owned by the Colorado Coal & Iron Company, was one of the six principle iron mines in Colorado at the time and was producing iron ore by 1883.

References:

South Cottonwood mining district
Location: Sect 1-2, 11-14 T15S R81W, Sect 1-18 T15S R80W; includes the area of South Cottonwood Creek.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Cottonwood district. The district includes the Cora Belle, Saint Geneva, Charlie D., Old Cashier and Green Copper mines. The area includes the Arthur mineral monument. Silver ore is reported.

References:
USE Cottonwood mining district

Trout Creek mining district
Location: T13S R77W, T14S 78W; 13 miles NE of Buena Vista, including the area of Trout Creek and near Trout Creek Pass.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Lead production is recorded to 1932, copper and silver to 1936, and gold to 1939. There has been intermittent pegmatite mining of feldspar to 1958; the district includes the Yard and Clora May pegmatite mines.

References:
Chaffee County


Turret Creek mining district

Location: T50-51N R9E NMPM; ~11 miles N of Salida.
Description: Also referred to as the Turret district. Copper production is recorded in 1935 and gold and silver production to 1941. There has been intermittent pegmatite mining for feldspar to 1958. Iron mining from the Calumet Mine occurred in the late 1800s.

References:

USE Turret mining district

Turrett mining district

Location: Area ~14 miles N of Salida; T16-17S R9E according to Henderson (1926).
Description: Also appears as "Turret Creek district"; also appears as "Turret Mountain district" where this name is used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes or overlaps the Calumet district; overlaps the Cleora district. Heyl (1960) reports that the Sedalia Mine (Sedalia district) is commonly included in this district. The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County). The camp of Turret was established by 1897, peaked in ~1900, and declined quickly afterward with the decline of mining in the district. The camp of Manoa (originally Paradise Camp) was also established in 1897 and was a supply town for the mines around Turret and Whitehorn. A county boundary dispute touched off by the area's mineral discoveries resulted in the area around Manoa being transferred from Chaffee County to Fremont County in 1899. By 1904 Manoa was almost deserted. The Independence Mine was reportedly producing copper and gold until 1916. Properties include the Gold Bug, Mandate, Mascot, Jasper, Little Frank, Molly Gibson, Copper King, and Calumet mines. Based on descriptions of the Turret Creek and Calumet districts, iron was a major product; copper, gold and silver production is also reported with some production to 1941. Pegmatite mines include the Combination Prospect, Homestake and Last Chance Spar-Mica Dyke Prospect.

References:

Twin Lakes mining district

Location: T11-12S R81-82W; on either side of Twin Lakes Creek from the Continental Divide E to Twin Lakes; considered to include all of Lake Creek basin; reported by Howell (1919) to be in both Chaffee and Lake counties.
**Description:** Covers ~85 sq miles at its broad definition; also known as the Lake Creek district in both counties; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold was discovered in the Cache Creek gravels ~1860; by 1865 the town of Dayton was established. The town of Twin Lakes was established in 1879 and prospered during the Leadville (Lake County) boom. Some placers were producing to 1890. Gold lodes were discovered, and the district includes the Twin Lakes (Gordon Mine, Fidelity Mine), Lackawanna Gulch (Eureka Mine), Bull Hill and Red Mountain (Anchor mines) mine groups. The Key, Twin Mt. and Blake mineral monuments are located in this area. Prospecting in the area since its decline has been intermittent; a little silver and gold production since 1931 is recorded for 1941.

**References:**
- UF Lake Creek mining district
- SEE ALSO Red Mountain mining district
- SEE ALSO Lake County – Twin Lakes mining district

**Westphalian mining district**

**Location:** In the area along Cottonwood Creek, running through the town of Buena Vista; originally in both Chaffee and Lake counties.

**Description:** This district was reportedly organized in 1866 and was later divided into three districts in Chaffee County—the North Cottonwood, Middle Cottonwood and South Cottonwood districts. Very little development was done in the district. Ores with lead, gold, copper and zinc are reported, as well as some iron.

**References:**
- USE Cottonwood mining district
- SEE ALSO Lake County—Westphalian mining district

**Winfield mining district**

**Location:** In the S part of T12S R81W near the center of the Sawatch Range in the Clear Creek drainage.

**Description:** Covers ~12 sq miles; used to refer to the La Plata district by Vanderwilt (1947) and others; also referred to as the Clear Creek district (Chapman 1926); included in the La Plata district according to Ranta (1974). The area was originally explored in 1867 with little resulting development. Prospectors found silver in the area’s lead-bearing ores in 1879. The small camp of Winfield became the principal settlement in the valley and peaked in population in the early 1880s. The area was later almost abandoned after the Silver Panic in 1893. Renewed work in the Banker Mine and the location of the Tasmania Mine in 1900 started another small period of activity but by 1915 there were only 2 people living in Winfield. The district includes the Fortune, Tasmania, Uranus, Fairplay and Swiss Boy mines, and the camps of Vicksburg, Beaver City, Silver Dale and Rockdale along Clear Creek. Gold, silver, lead and some copper ores are reported. Chapman (1926) reports zinc and copper, as well as lead and silver. Exploration for molybdenum took place in the 1960s and 1970s.

**References:**
- UF Clear Creek mining district
- BT La Plata mining district
Clear Creek County

Summary: Clear Creek County was a significant mining area and included some of Colorado’s earliest mining districts. Some districts are continuous into neighboring Gilpin and Summit counties, also major mining areas. In addition to lode deposits, gold placers were worked along North and South Clear Creek, Fall River, and their tributaries. The county is included in the Front Range uranium mining district. Major districts include those in and around Idaho Springs and the Argentine, Empire, Griffith, Freeland-Lamartine, Lawson-Dumont and Georgetown-Silver Plume districts. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper were produced here.

Alice mining district

Location: T2S R74W; ~10 miles NW of Idaho Springs; in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties, but mostly in Clear Creek County.

Description: Also referred to as the Lincoln district in Clear Creek County and the Yankee Hill district in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties; consolidated with the Yankee Hill district to become the Alice-Yankee Hill district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold placers near the head of Fall River were discovered, and worked in the early 1880s. Most of the district’s production came from the Alice Mine (Clear Creek County), which was also being worked in the early 1880s, and the town of Alice (originally Yorktown) was settled at about the same time. The district was generally inactive after its oxidized ore deposits were worked out, revived briefly from 1935-1942, then continued its decline. The Alice Mine closed, then reopened in 1933. The North Star-Mann Mine, the district’s other major mine, was worked through 1916. Gold, silver and lead production is recorded to 1945, and copper to 1942. The Clear Creek part of the district is included in the Front Range uranium mining district; Sims and Sheridan (1964) also identify this as a uranium-bearing district. The Gold Anchor Mine contains pitchblende but no ore was shipped.

References:


BT Alice-Yankee Hill mining district

BT Front Range uranium mining district

SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district

SEE ALSO Yankee Hill mining district

SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Alice mining district

Alice-Yankee Hill mining district

Location: In both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.

Description: Incorporates the Alice district (Clear Creek and Gilpin counties) and the Yankee Hill district (Clear Creek and Gilpin counties). See the Alice and Yankee Hill district entries for descriptive information.

References:


NT Alice mining district
NT Yankee Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Alice-Yankee Hill mining district

Argentine mining district

Location: T4-5S R74-75W; includes mines along Leavenworth Creek and the SE side of Leavenworth Mountain; continues SW to the SE side of McClellan Mountain; straddles the Continental Divide into Summit County to stretch from the Silver Plume-Georgetown district to the Montezuma district (Summit County) according to Del Rio (1960).

Description: Also referred to as and may incorporate the East Argentine (Clear Creek County) and West Argentine (Summit County) districts; overlaps and is also referred to as the Queens district in Clear Creek County; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Griffith district in Clear Creek County and borders it to the N; included in the Peru district (Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties). The district's mineralized area is continuous with the Montezuma district (Summit County) to the W and it is sometimes referred to as the Montezuma district in Summit County, but the first discoveries and most of the mines identified with the district are in Clear Creek County. In 1864 the Belmont lode, Colorado's first important silver lode, was discovered on McClellen Mountain (Clear Creek County). The Baker Mine on nearby Kelso Mountain was discovered in 1865, and the camp of Bakerville grew up around it. There was a rush to the new-named district in 1865 with these discoveries. The Baker and Belmont mines became the district's most important producers during the 1860s. Encouraged by these rich discoveries, there was much active development in the area by 1867. The Stevens Mine (Clear Creek County) was located in 1866. The camp of Decatur (Rathbone) was established in 1868 but the low grade ores in the immediate area didn't support much activity until the discovery of the Pennsylvania Mine in 1879. Decatur was renamed Argentine. Silver placer (talus) workings were established on Leavenworth Mountain in the early 1870s. Additional discoveries were made, but district activity was starting to decline by 1880. The Baker Mine, which had been one of the Argentine-Silver Plume's major producers in the 1870s, was intermittently inactive by ~1885. The Pennsylvania, Delaware, Peruvian, Santiago and Independence (East Argentine district) veins eventually became the bulk producers in the area. The Colorado Central Mine in Leavenworth Gulch SW of Georgetown was discovered in 1872 and worked almost continuously through 1908. The Stevens Mine was worked almost continuously up to about 1895. However, district silver and lead production continued to fall and many mines were worked only intermittently after 1888. The district includes the towns of Sydneyville and Waldorf. The area includes the Argentine, Josephine, Bertha, Sidney, Mint and Grizzly (Kelso) mines and the Bakerville, 4582, Hamill, Ida, Ira, Kelso Mt., and Turck mineral monuments. Gold and silver, with some copper, lead and zinc production is recorded to 1945.

References:

NT East Argentine mining district
NT West Argentine mining district
BT Peru mining district
SEE ALSO Griffith mining district
SEE ALSO Queens mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Argentine mining district
Atlantic mining district
Location: T3S R75W.
Description: Also referred to as the Dailey district; used to refer to the Dailey district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
USE Dailey mining district

Banner mining district
Location: Sect 38 T3S R73W; W of Idaho Springs in the area between South Clear Creek and Trail Creek, including the area around Turkey Creek.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included within the Idaho Springs district. This district borders the Trail district to the SE. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. Claims are recorded for the Banner district in 1861. The Banner gold placers in this area were worked as late as 1941 by mechanized operations. The district includes the Black Prince and Stephens Placer claims.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

Canon mining district
Location: Sect 2-3 T4S R72W.
Description: The district’s name is probably an alternate spelling of “canyon”; also appears as “Canion district.”
This name was used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. Claims are recorded for the Canion district in 1861. No production is reported.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

Cascade mining district
Location: T4S R73-74W; includes the area around Cascade Creek, SSW of Idaho Springs.
Description: Also referred to as the Democrat or Ottawa district; also used to refer to the Coral district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Idaho Springs district by Vanderwilt (1947); used to refer to the Jackson district by Hill (1912); included in the Idaho Springs district. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The district includes the Treasure Trove, Rialto, Cascade, and Vermillion claims. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.
References:
Cascade mining district, Clear Creek Co., Colo. 19-. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF Ottawa mining district
BT Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Coral mining district
Clear Creek County

SEE ALSO Democrat mining district
SEE ALSO Jackson mining district

Central City-Idaho Springs mining district
Location: A large indistinctly defined area including Central City (Gilpin County) and Idaho Springs (Clear Creek County) and their surroundings; in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.
Description: Incorporates the Central City district (Gilpin County) and Idaho Springs district (Clear Creek County) as reflecting a single series of ore bodies in the two counties; includes the Freeland-Lamartine district (Clear Creek County) according to Vanderwilt (1947). In addition to its many major lode and placer deposits, the district contains uranium deposits, with some ore shipped shortly after the discovery of radium. Some of the first uranium exploration of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was concentrated in this district in Clear Creek County, which includes the Kirk, Wood-Calhoun, and Cherokee mines.
References:
NT Freeland-Lamartine mining district
NT Idaho Springs mining district
BT Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Central City-Idaho Springs mining district

Chicago Creek mining district
Location: Includes the area along Chicago Creek, specifically between Chicago Creek to the S, Spring Gulch to the NE and the borders of the Freeland-Lamartine district at the town of Lamartine to the NW.
Description: Probably a local name or used to describe the Chicago Creek area in general; may be included in or overlap the Jackson Bar district. Placer gold was discovered near the mouth of Chicago Creek in 1859, encouraging prospectors to search up its length. By 1884, the Little Martie, Silver Ring, Kitty Clyde, Humboldt and Eclipse mines were established. The Little Martie Mine produced both silver and gold. Like most of the region, mining activity was interrupted by the Silver Panic and almost halted by 1894, but resumed intermittently after 1900. By the 1950s only a couple of mines in this area were being worked.
References:
Harrison, J.E., Wells, J.D. 1959. Geology and ore deposits of the Chicago Creek area, Clear Creek County, Colo. USGS Prof Paper 319, 92 p.
Spurr, J.E., Garrey, G.H. 1908. Economic geology of the Georgetown quadrangle (together with the Empire district), with general geology by S.H. Ball. USGS Prof Paper 63, 422 p.
SEE ALSO Jackson mining district

Clear Creek pegmatite mining district
Location: Includes NW Jefferson County, SE Gilpin County, NE Clear Creek County; generally an area from Evergreen to Central City.
Description: Reported to contain economic deposits of mica, feldspar, and (rarely) beryl.
References:
SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Clear Creek pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Clear Creek pegmatite mining district

Collier Mountain mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Geneva Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
USE Geneva Creek mining district

Coral mining district
Location: Sect 32-33 T3S R73W, Sect 4-5 T4S R73W; W of Idaho Springs, including the area of the upper Spring Gulch.
Description: Also appears as "Corral district" in Hill (1912) and used by him to refer to the Jackson district; also referred to as the Cascade district; used to refer to the Idaho Springs district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district is bordered by the Jackson district on the SE and the Trail Run district on the N. This is one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. It includes the Greenback, Kitty
Clyde, Atlantic and Metropolitan claims, and the upper Spring Gulch placers. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records. Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF Corral mining district
BT Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Cascade mining district
SEE ALSO Jackson mining district

Corral mining district
Description: This is probably an alternate spelling for the Coral district, used by Hill (1912).
References:
USE Coral mining district

Dailey mining district
Location: T3-4S R75-76W; near head of West Fork of Clear Creek and Butler Gulch.
Description: Also known as the Atlantic district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). This is one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. Well after its early period of activity, the Henderson and Urad molybdenum mines on Red Mountain were opened. The Urad Mine was operated starting during World War I; the first ore was shipped from the Henderson Mine in 1976 after years of development. The area includes the Ebert, Gog, No. 1 Daily Mining District, Rue and Stanley mineral monuments. Silver-lead production is recorded to 1940; molybdenum from WW1.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records. Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF Atlantic mining district
UF Jones Pass mining district

Democrat mining district
Location: Sect 11-14, 23-24 T4S R74W; SSW of Idaho Springs.
Description: Also appears as “Democratic district”; also referred to as the Cascade or Ottawa district; also used to refer to the Jackson district by Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Cascade mining district
SEE ALSO Jackson mining district
SEE ALSO Ottawa mining district
Downieville mining district
Location: T3S R73-74W, around Sect 23; between South Clear Creek and Mill Creek.
Description: Also referred to as the Lawson or Morris district; used to refer to the Montana district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the first four districts organized in Clear Creek County in 1859: the Downieville, Grass Valley, Jackson and Lower Union districts. The district includes the town of Downieville, and the Red Elephant Mountain (also included in the Lawson district), Lincoln, Grand Central, Burns and Silver Coin mines, as well as the Lawson mineral monument. Silver and lead, with some gold, copper and zinc ores, are reported.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF Morris mining district
SEE ALSO Lawson mining district
SEE ALSO Montana mining district

Dumont mining district
Location: Area around the town of Dumont along Clear Creek WNW of Idaho Springs.
Description: Used to refer to the Montana district by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated with the Lawson district to the W to become the Lawson-Dumont district. Gold was discovered in veins near Dumont in 1859 and the Albro Mine NE of Dumont was producing shortly thereafter. The town of Mill City, established by 1860, was named for the several stamp mills in operation there. Nearby mines were not as productive as hoped. The district declined, many of the area's ore processing facilities closed, and Mill City was renamed Dumont for John Dumont, a successful area mine operator. The district includes the Silent Friend and Osceola mines. Silver and lead, with some gold, copper and zinc ores are reported.
References:
Hawley, C.C., Moore, F.B. 1967. Geology and ore deposits of the Lawson-Dumont-Fall River district, Clear Creek County, Colo. USGS Bull 1231, 92 p.
BT Lawson-Dumont mining district
SEE ALSO Montana mining district

East Argentine mining district
Location: Sect 35-36 T4S R75W according to Henderson (1926).
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); can be considered to be included in the Argentine district. The camp of East Argentine gave its name to Argentine Pass (originally Sanderson Pass) (Benson 1994).
References:
BT Argentine mining district

Empire mining district
Location: T3S R74W; in the area of Empire.
Description: Covers ~8 sq miles; also referred to as the Upper Union district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The North Empire district is probably a local name for an area included within the Empire district. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. Gold deposits were discovered in 1860. The town of Valley City was renamed Union City, then renamed again as Empire City by New York prospectors in ~1860. The camp of Ophir (Ofer City) was also reportedly the district's main camp by 1860 and may have been another name for Empire. Silver was discovered in 1862. The gold deposits discovered in the 1860s were again worked to some extent by placer methods in ~1890. The district includes the town of North Empire, settled by those working the mines on Silver Mountain. Production in the area increased with the development of the Minnesota Mine in 1934. The mines closed
during World War II, with only intermittent activity thereafter. The district includes the Conqueror, Harrison, Hecla, Mint, Cashier, Empire City and Gold Bug mines. Silver production was continuous until 1943, copper production to 1942. Gold, silver, lead and zinc production is recorded to 1945.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

UF North Empire mining district
SEE ALSO Upper Union mining district

Fall River mining district
Location: ~T3S R73-74W; includes the area along the Fall River.
Description: Also referred to as the Lower Fall River district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Gold was discovered in placer deposits near the junction of Clear Creek and the Fall River in 1859. Gold placers along the Fall River were worked in the 1870s. The district includes the Almaden Mine.

References:
Hawley, C.C., Moore, F.B. 1967. Geology and ore deposits of the Lawson-Dumont-Fall River district, Clear Creek County, Colo. USGS Bull 1231, 92 p.
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
NT Lower Fall River mining district
NT Upper Fall River mining district

Freeland-Lamartine mining district
Location: Between Lamartine to the S and Freeland to the N and in the immediate area around the upper part of Trail Creek.
Description: Covers ~4 sq miles; incorporates the Freeland and Lamartine districts; also referred to as the Lamartine-Trail Creek district; included in the Central City-Idaho Springs district according to Vanderwilt (1947). With gold discoveries in 1859 in nearby Chicago Creek, prospectors explored Trail Creek and made discoveries in this area in 1861. Development was stimulated in 1868 by smelter operations in Blackhawk, and again in 1870 by railroad extensions in the area. The Lamartine and Freeland mines were the primary producers. Mining activity in the district was intermittent and in decline by 1910, with a brief revival in 1934. By 1952 only one mine was operated throughout the year. The district includes the Avalanche, Brazil, Crazy Girl, Diamond Mountain (Lanagan), Lone Tree, New Era, and Turner mines. Production is reported from ~1868-1953.

References:
NT Freeland mining district
NT Lamartine mining district
BT Central City-Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Lamartine-Trail Creek mining district
Freeland mining district
Location: ~3 miles W of Idaho Springs; includes the area around Freeland on Trail Creek. Description: Used to refer to the Trail district by Vanderwilt (1947); also used to refer to the Trail Creek district; consolidated with the Lamartine district into the Freeland-Lamartine district. The Freeland vein was discovered in 1861, becoming the district’s principal gold producer. The town of Freeland was established in 1877. The Great Western vein was discovered in 1878. The district probably includes the small town of Bonito to the W; Bonito housed area smelter and mill workers, including those for the Bullion smelter operating in the 1880s. Production of silver and lead, with some gold, copper and zinc is recorded.

References:

BT Freeland-Lamartine mining district
SEE ALSO Trail mining district

Front Range uranium mining district
Location: Includes areas of pitchblende occurrences in parts of the Front Range mineral belt and in associated metal mining districts, mostly in Jefferson and Boulder counties but also including an area in Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.
Description: Includes many metal mining districts with uranium occurrences, such as the Jamestown, Gold Hill, Caribou-Grand Island, and Eldora districts (Boulder County), the Alice district (Clear Creek County), and the Central City and North Gilpin County districts (Gilpin County). The first pitchblende discovery in the US was made in 1871 from the Wood dump, Central City district. Ore was shipped from the Central City-Idaho Springs district starting shortly after the discovery of radium in 1898. Uranium minerals were identified in the Old Leyden coal mine (Jefferson County) in the early 1870s although not mined there until the 1950s. Most of the large mines are in the E central part of the Front Range; activity and production concentrated on the 1950s discoveries on the Front Range mineral belt’s margins at the Schwartzwalder, Fairday A.M. (Fair Day), and Wright Lease mines.

References:
NT Alice mining district
NT Central City-Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Boulder County – Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Front Range uranium mining district

Geneva Creek mining district
Location: T5S R75-76W; at the head of West Geneva Creek; in both Clear Creek and Summit counties; that part of the district in Summit County lies between the Breckenridge district 5 miles SW of Montezuma, and the Argentine district to the NE.
Description: Also appears as “Geneva district”, especially when used to refer to related districts in Summit County; although the Geneva Creek and Geneva districts are basically the same district, they are represented by two separate records to clarify their relationships with other districts; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The Baltic and Revenue veins were discovered in 1872 and became the most important producers through the 1890s. Gold, silver, copper and lead production is recorded to 1940.

References:
UF Collier Mountain mining district
Geneva mining district

Location: Sect 29-32 T5S R75W, Sect 25-26, 35-36 T5S R76W; in both Clear Creek and Summit counties.

Description: Also appears as “Geneva Creek district”; although the Geneva Creek and Geneva districts are basically the same district, they are represented by two separate records to clarify their relationships with other districts; also referred to as the Montezuma district (Summit County) with which it is continuous across the county line; also referred to as the Snake River district (Summit County), which includes the Montezuma district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

USE Geneva Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Montezuma mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Snake River mining district

Georgetown mining district

Location: Includes the area around Georgetown.

Description: This is a generally defined district that overlaps or is referred to by the names of most of the districts in the area; used to refer to the Griffith district by Vanderwilt (1947); used as the preferred name but also referred to as the Griffith, Silver Plume, and Queens districts by Hill (1912); consolidated with the Silver Plume district to become the Silver Plume-Georgetown district. The discovery of placer gold in nearby Chicago Creek in 1859 flooded the area with prospectors. With George Griffith’s lode discovery in 1859, the camp of Georgetown was established in 1860. Elizabethtown (named for George’s sister) was established nearby and in 1866 merged with Georgetown. Although these lodes were worked for gold, most of them were later found to be richer in silver. Georgetown became a silver camp with the discovery of this silver in 1864. The development of the Blackhawk smelter in 1867 and new railroad lines reaching to Denver and Golden by 1870 improved production in the entire region. Rich silver-bearing lodes around Georgetown were developed from 1870-1873, and the operations of other deposits were switched from gold to silver production. Despite the Silver Panic of 1893 and resulting decline in silver prices, production continued to increase as area gold lodes were also developed. The area’s production finally declined starting in 1903. The district includes the Mineral Chief, Wide West, Centennial and Pulaski mines, and the camp of Silver Dale S of Georgetown. In addition to silver and gold, copper, lead and zinc were produced.

References:

Spurr, J.E., Garrey, G.H. 1908. Economic geology of the Georgetown quadrangle (together with the Empire district), with general geology by S.H. Ball. USGS Prof Paper 63, 422 p.

BT Silver Plume-Georgetown mining district
SEE ALSO Griffith mining district
SEE ALSO Queens mining district
SEE ALSO Silver Plume mining district
Clear Creek County

Gold Dirt mining district

*Location:* Sect 10-14 T4S R73W; S of Idaho Springs, including the area E of Soda Creek.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Lexington mines and the Gold Crown and Phoenix claims.

*References:*
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Grass Valley mining district

*Location:* Sect 35-36 T3S R73W, Sect 1-2 T4S R73W; S of Idaho Springs; Grass Valley Bar gold placers are located in the area along the S bank of South Clear Creek from Soda Creek to Sect 31 T3S R72W.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Idaho Springs district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is bounded on the W by the Ohio and Gold Dirt districts. This was one of the first four districts organized in Clear Creek County in 1859: the Downieville, Grass Valley, Jackson and Lower Union districts. The Grass Valley Bar gold placers were worked in the early 1860s, with considerable activity by 1863 before their decline.

*References:*
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

BT Idaho Springs mining district
Griffith mining district

**Location:** Sect 9-16 T4S R75W, Sect 7-10, 15-21 T4S R74W; bounded on the W by the Continental Divide; bounded on the S by a line drawn between Loveland Pass to the W and Paines Mountain to the E and bordering the Argentine district to the S; bounded on the E to include Georgetown and part of South Clear Creek, N to Douglas Mountain; bounded on the N to include Columbia Mountain and along a line running W from Bard Creek (not including Empire) and bordering the Union district to the N.

**Description:** This is a large general area that overlaps the Argentine and Queens districts, and districts in the area of Silver Plume and Georgetown, including the Griffith district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Discoveries were made in the area by 1859-1860. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The Griffith district was the first district in the upper Clear Creek area and included the Silver Plume mines according to Ellis and Ellis (1983). By 1867 active development had begun. The Aetna Mine was located in 1867. The Comet Mine was being worked prior to 1871. The district includes the Griffith and Magnet mines, the mines on the Republican, Democrat and Columbia Mountains, the Scot mineral monument, and the town of Georgetown. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.

**References:**
- Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
- Spurr, J. E., Garrey, G.H. 1908. Economic geology of the Georgetown Quadrangle (together with the Empire District), Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 63, p. 278-301.

SEE ALSO Argentine mining district
SEE ALSO Georgetown mining district
SEE ALSO Queens mining district
SEE ALSO Silver Plume mining district

Hall Valley mining district

**Location:** T6S R75-76W; in both Park and Summit counties; also extends into Clear Creek County according to Henderson (1926), but if so the Clear Creek County portions are probably not significant.

**Description:** Also commonly appears as the “Hall Gulch district” or “Halls Gulch district”; borders the Summit County line and, according to Henderson (1926), overlaps the Montezuma (Summit County), Snake River (Summit County) and Middle Swan River (Summit County) districts; the Park County portion of this district includes the Platte district (Park County); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). See the Park County entry for more details.

**References:**
- USE Park County – Hall Valley mining district
- SEE ALSO Summit County – Hall Valley mining district

Idaho mining district

**Location:** Sect 25, 36 T3S R73W, Sect 30-31 T3S R72W; gold placers on the N bank of South Clear Creek from Dry Gulch to Rose Gulch.

**Description:** Also appears as “Idahoe district”; at one time this district was included in or was an original name for the Idaho Springs district; also referred to as the Virginia district; also used to refer to the Jackson and Ohio districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The Northern and Shirt Tail districts, two other of the original 29 districts, joined the Idaho district by the end of 1860. Gold placers were located in this district; see the entry for the Idaho Springs district for a fuller description.

**References:**
Idaho Springs mining district

Location: T3S R73W; extended by some into Gilpin County as part of what is now the Central City-Idaho Springs district.

Description: Covers ~25 sq miles and used to refer broadly to almost all of the districts in or near Idaho Springs; at one time was referred to as or included within the Idaho district, which may have been an early alternate name; also refers to the Grass Valley district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); Hill (1912) uses the Virginia district to refer to this district; originally included in the Iowa district, which later ended up as a much smaller subdivision of the Idaho Springs district; includes the Banner district (or subdistrict), Cascade, and Paynes Bar districts; became consolidated with the Central City district (Gilpin County) to become known as the Central City-Idaho Springs district. Gold placers and lodes were discovered along Chicago Creek by George Jackson in 1859, and camp of Jackson’s Diggings was formed, went through several name transformations, then finally named Idaho Springs (Idaho City, Idaho) by ~1861. Placer mining was pursued along South Clear Creek from the Grass Valley Bar 3 miles below Chicago Creek to the forks of the South Branch ~9 miles above. Placers were worked most profitably from 1859-1863. Mining activity halted when the area’s oxidized ores were depleted, but resumed with the support of the newly constructed Blackhawk smelter in 1868. Silver was discovered in 1877-1878. The town of Gilson Gulch was established N of Idaho Springs near the Gilpin County border with extensive mining activity in the area around 1880. The Newhouse Tunnel (later the Argo Tunnel) was started in 1893 to exploit the Central City deposits over the mountain, helping to sustain mining in the district into the 1900s. Idaho Springs was also a thriving smelter town for processing the area’s ores. Mining activity in the district peaked in 1894; overall production declined for the whole county after 1894, with a brief revival in ~1933-1942 before the decline continued to intermittent production. The Bald Eagle Mine was still producing in 1959. The district includes the Whale, Stanley, Specie Payment, Sun and Moon, Frontenac and Gem mines, and the French Flag, Silver Age, and Franklin mine group. Gold, silver and lead, with some copper and zinc production, is recorded to 1959.

References:
Illinois Bar gold placers

Location: In the area of the N bank of South Clear Creek from Virginia Canyon to Sect 31 T3S R72W.

Description: The Illinois Bar placers are included in the Idaho and Independent districts.

References:
- BT Idaho mining district
- BT Independent gold placers

Independent gold placers

Location: Along the N bank of South Clear Creek from Rose Gulch E of Virginia Canyon to Sect 31 T3S R72W; includes both banks downstream to Forks Creek.

Description: Also appears as "Independent district"; includes the Illinois Bar gold placers and so could be considered to overlap the Idaho district as well; overlaps or contiguous with the Independent district (Gilpin County) to the N. As the Independent district, this was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860.

References:
- Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
- NT Illinois Bar gold placers
- SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Independent mining district

Iowa mining district

Location: Sect 28 T5S R73W; a small area between the Fall River and South Clear Creek at their junction.

Description: The name originally referred broadly to the area around Idaho Springs. The district originally included the Idaho Springs district, but appears to have ended up by usage as a much smaller subdivision of the Idaho Springs district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860.
Clear Creek County

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

BT Idaho Springs mining district

Jackson mining district

Location: Sect 2-3, 10-11 T4S R73W; includes the area along Chicago Creek ~1/2 mile from South Clear Creek, possibly including the S bank of South Clear Creek between the mouth of Chicago Creek and the W end of Idaho Springs according to Parker (1974).

Description: Also appears as "Jackson Bar district", "Jackson's Bar district", or "Jackson Diggings"; also referred to as the Idaho, Virginia and Ohio district; as the Jackson Bar district it is used to refer to the Idaho Springs district by Vanderwilt (1947); used as preferred name by Hill (1912) for the Coral (Corral), Cascade, and Democrat districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Idaho Springs district. This was one of the first four districts organized in Clear Creek County in 1859: the Downieville, Grass Valley, Jackson and Lower Union districts. George Jackson's discovery of gold placer deposits at Chicago Creek in 1859 led to the establishment of the camp of Jackson's Diggings, eventually to become Idaho Springs. Drift mining on the Jackson placer deposits was being done as late as 1898. The district includes the Parker placers and the Little Annie, Gold Dust, White Rose and Ophir claims. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

BT Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Cascade mining district
SEE ALSO Chicago Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Coral mining district
SEE ALSO Democrat mining district
SEE ALSO Idaho mining district
SEE ALSO Ohio mining district
SEE ALSO Virginia mining district

Jones Pass mining district

Description: Used by Eckel (1997) to refer to the Dailey district.

References

USE Dailey mining district

Lake mining district

Location: In the area of Sect 13, 18 T4S R74-75 W; W of Georgetown.

Description: Probably included within the Griffith district. The Upper Union district is to the N, the Argentine district to the S of this area.

References:

USE Griffith mining district
Lamartine mining district

Location: Includes the area around the town of Lamartine S of Freeland and Trail Creek; between Trail and Chicago creeks.

Description: Used to refer to the Trail district by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated with the Trail Creek district to become the Lamartine-Trail Creek district, by which name it is also known; consolidated with the Freeland district into the Freeland-Lamartine district. The Lamartine vein was discovered in 1867 and became the district’s principal gold producer. The town of Lamartine grew up around this mine. The district was relatively active in the 1880s-1900s. Gold, silver and lead production, with some copper and zinc, is reported.

References:

BT Freeland-Lamartine mining district
BT Lamartine-Trail Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Trail mining district

Lamartine-Trail Creek mining district

Description: Incorporates the Lamartine and Trail Creek districts; also used to refer to the Freeland-Lamartine district.

References:

NT Lamartine mining district
NT Trail Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Freeland-Lamartine mining district

Lawson-Dumont mining district

Location: Along South Clear Creek.

Description: Covers ~10 sq miles; incorporates the Lawson and Dumont districts. The Lawson district is on the W, the Dumont district on the E, with the Fall River district E of the Dumont district.

References:

NT Dumont mining district
NT Lawson mining district

Lawson mining district

Location: T3S R74 W; includes the area along South Clear Creek W of Dumont.

Description: Also used to refer to the Downieville district; used to refer to the Montana district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); consolidated with the Dumont district to become the Lawson-Dumont district. The district borders and probably overlaps the Downieville district on the N and the Montana district on the S. The Free America silver vein was discovered in 1876; there were additional discoveries at Red Elephant Mountain to the N and Silver Creek to the S. (The Red Elephant Mountain mines are also included in the Downieville district.) The town of Lawson (originally Free America) was settled in 1877 with these discoveries. Many mines closed during the 1893 Silver Panic, but the Jo Reynolds Mine remained open into the 1900s. The district includes the St. James, Young America, Dexter and Lulu mines, and the camps of Red Elephant and Silver Creek. The district had generally small output compared to neighboring districts. Silver and lead, with some gold, copper and zinc ores, are reported.

References:
Hawley, C.C., Moore, F.B. 1967. Geology and ore deposits of the Lawson-Dumont-Fall River district, Clear Creek County, Colo. USGS Bull 1231, 92 p.

BT Lawson-Dumont mining district
SEE ALSO Downieville mining district
SEE ALSO Montana mining district

**Lincoln mining district**

*Location:* Sect 26-29, 32-36 T2S R74W, Sect 1-5, 9-12 T3S R74W, Sect 5-8 T3S R73W; to the NE of the Mill Creek district along the Upper Fall River.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Upper Fall River district; used to refer to the Alice district by Vanderwilt (1947); Hill (1912) also refers to this district as the Yankee district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. Gold, silver, copper and lead production is reported.

*References:*
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

SEE ALSO Alice mining district
SEE ALSO Upper Fall River mining district
SEE ALSO Yankee Hill mining district

**Lower Fall River mining district**

*Location:* Sect 15-22 T3S R73W; ~5 miles from Idaho Springs along the lower Fall River.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Spanish Bar district; also used to refer to the Fall River district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district occasionally appears as an alternate name for the Silver Lake district in Gilpin County, but the Lower Fall River district is not commonly described as extending that far N. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The camp of Fall River, near the junction of Fall River and Clear Creek, reached its peak in the early 1880s and was the site of several mills. The district includes the Almaden mine group (including the Colorado, Blazing Star, Dickerson, Woodward and Comstock mines), the Golconda, Standard and Virginia mines and the Gillmore mineral monument.

*References:*
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

BT Fall River mining district
SEE ALSO Spanish Bar mining district

**Lower Union mining district**

*Location:* Sect 31-34 T5S R72W.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjacent to and may have been included in or overlap the Union district. This was one of the first four districts organized in Clear Creek County in 1859: the Downieville, Grass Valley, Jackson and Lower Union districts.
Clear Creek County

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

SEE ALSO Union mining district

Mill Creek mining district
Location: Sect 10-11, 14-15 T3S R74W; includes the area N of Mill Creek, a tributary of South Clear Creek.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district borders the Downieville district to the S, and includes the Elm City, Whip Poor Will, Magnetic and Boomerang claims.
References:

Montana mining district
Location: T3S R73-74W; includes the area along Silver Creek, S of Lawson.
Description: Westward extension of the Idaho Springs district; also referred to as the Dumont or Lawson district; also may have been used to refer to the neighboring Downieville district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); overlaps with and is sometimes referred to as the Morris district. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The district includes the Monte Christo, Psalm of Life, Hecla, New Discovery and Silent Friend mines. Production of silver and lead, with some gold, copper, and zinc is recorded to 1945.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
SEE ALSO Downieville mining district
SEE ALSO Dumont mining district
SEE ALSO Lawson mining district
SEE ALSO Morris mining district

Morris mining district
Description: Also used to refer to the Downieville district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Montana district. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The district includes the Pioneer Extension and John Russel mines, and shares possession of the Burns Lode Mine with the Downieville district.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Downieville mining district
SEE ALSO Montana mining district

Mountain mining district
Description: Mentioned by Ellis and Ellis (1983) as having established claims that were purchased by 1865.
References:
North Empire mining district
*Location:* In the area of the town of North Empire.
*Description:* Included in the Empire district. This is probably a local name for the area around the town of North Empire within the Empire district.
*References:*
USE Empire mining district

Northern mining district
*Description:* This was one of the original 29 mining districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The district existed only for months; by the end of 1860 it had joined with the Idaho district.
*References:*
  Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Idaho mining district

Ohio mining district
*Location:* The area to the W of Soda Creek, SW of Idaho Springs.
*Description:* Also referred to as the Idaho, Jackson, or Virginia district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district borders the Jackson district on the W. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. It includes the Big 4, Comstock and Columbia claims.
*References:*
  Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
SEE ALSO Idaho mining district
SEE ALSO Jackson mining district
SEE ALSO Virginia mining district

Ottawa mining district
*Description:* Also referred to as the Cascade or Democrat district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
*References:*
USE Cascade mining district
SEE ALSO Democrat mining district

Paynes Bar mining district
*Location:* Sect 26, 34-35 T3S R73W; includes the N bank of South Clear Creek from the W end of Idaho Springs to Dry Gulch.
*Description:* Used to refer to the Idaho Springs district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Idaho Springs district. Gold placer mining was done at Paynes Bar starting in the early 1860s. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc ores, are reported.
*References:*
  Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
BT Idaho Springs mining district
Peru mining district
Location: T5S-6S R75W; in Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties.
Description: This is a general name for the large area including the Argentine (Clear Creek and Summit counties) and Snake River (Summit County) districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). See those entries for a fuller description of the district in Clear Creek County.
References:
NT Argentine mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Peru mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Peru mining district

Queens mining district
Location: Sect 10-16, 22-24 T4S R75W.
Description: Used to refer to the Georgetown district; used to refer to the Griffith district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Griffith and Argentine districts. This was the second district established in the upper Clear Creek area with the discoveries W of the Griffith district according to Ellis and Ellis (1983). The area includes the Rab and Rose mineral monuments. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Argentine mining district
SEE ALSO Georgetown mining district
SEE ALSO Griffith mining district

Shirt Tail mining district
Description: This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The district existed only for months; by the end of 1860 it had joined with the Idaho district.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Idaho mining district

Silver Plume-Georgetown mining district
Location: The area surrounding the towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume.
Description: Covers ~25 sq miles; also appears as "Georgetown-Silver Plume district"; incorporates the Georgetown and Silver Plume districts. Gold was discovered in the Georgetown area in 1859, and rich silver veins in 1865-66. By 1880 the district was the county’s principal silver producer. Lead-silver mining activity peaked in 1894, then declined. Zinc became a major product after 1903. The lead-silver mines were reopened for a time in 1943. Production of gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc is recorded through the 1950s. Some pegmatites are present but no economic deposits have been reported.
References:
Spurr, J. E., Garrey, G.H. 1908. Economic geology of the Georgetown Quadrangle (together with the Empire district), Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 63, p. 278-301.
NT Georgetown mining district
NT Silver Plume mining district

Silver Plume mining district
Location: Includes the area around the town of Silver Plume and on the neighboring slopes of Leavenworth, Sherman, and Brown mountains.
Description: Used to refer to the Griffith district by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated with the Georgetown district to become the Silver Plume-Georgetown district. The town of Silver Plume was settled in the 1860s by
prospectors looking for silver along Clear Creek. The Bismark lode was discovered in 1866 by prospectors from Central City. The Pelican lode was discovered in 1868. The Pelican and Dives properties involved the same mineralized veins and were in litigation (which included the death of a Pelican stockholder at the hands of a Dives lessee) until 1880 when the properties were acquired by the Pelican-Dives Mining Company. The Pelican-Dives Mining Company went on to consolidate other neighboring major properties including the Bismark. The town and area boomed from operations through the 1870s, ending with the 1893 Silver Panic. Area mines include the Baxter, Wisconsin, Seven-Thirty, Burleigh Tunnel, Mendota, Snowdrift, Illinois, Dunkirk, Silver Plume and Terrible mines, and the Gold Belt Tunnel (Silver Plume Tunnel). Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.

References:
Spurr, J.E., Garrey, G.H. 1908. Economic geology of the Georgetown quadrangle (together with the Empire district), with general geology by S.H. Ball. USGS Prof Paper 63, 422 p.

BT Silver Plume-Georgetown mining district
SEE ALSO Georgetown mining district
SEE ALSO Griffith mining district

Spanish Bar mining district
Location: Includes the area along South Clear Creek from the mouth of the Fall River to the W end of Idaho Springs; originally was bounded on a line E to a bridge over Clear Creek near the head of Payne’s Bar, S to the divide between Chicago and Clear creeks, W to the junction of Clear Creek and Fall River, and N to the divide between Virginia and Clear creeks.
Description: Also referred to as the Lower Fall River district, although the Spanish Bar district appears to be limited to the area around the junction of the Fall River and South Clear Creek; used to refer to the Idaho Springs district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. It was reportedly named by or for the Mexican prospectors working the area. Lode
Clear Creek County

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claims were recorded for this district in 1861. Gold placers were worked profitably until 1861 when they were mostly abandoned due to operating difficulties. The district includes the Doubtful, Ottawa, Dow, Interested and Friday lodes. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc production, is reported.

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Spanish Bar district [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
BT Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Lower Fall River mining district

Trail Creek mining district
Location: Includes the area along Trail Creek.
Description: Also appears as “Trail district”; also refers to the Trail Run district, although the Trail Creek and Trail Run districts appear to have been considered as two separate districts by some; also referred to as the Freeland district; consolidated with the Lamartine district to become the Lamartine-Trail Creek district. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860.

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Trail mining district
BT Lamartine-Trail Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Trail Run mining district

Trail mining district
Location: T3.4S R73-74W; ~2.5 miles from Idaho Springs along Trail Creek.
Description: This name is a shortened form of the Trail Creek district; probably an alternate name for the Trail Run district although the reported locations of the two districts vary somewhat and the Trail Creek and Trail Run districts appear to have been considered as two separate districts by some; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The area has mineralization similar to that of the neighboring Idaho Springs district. The district includes the Brazil, Poor Man and New Era mines and the Little Hibert, Iron Mask and Robert Emmet claims. Silver and lead production, with some gold, copper and zinc is recorded.

References:
UF Trail Creek mining district
UF Trail Run mining district
SEE ALSO Freeland mining district
SEE ALSO Lamartine mining district

Trail Run mining district
Location: Sect 31-32 T3S R73W, Sect 5-7 T4S R73W.
Description: Also referred to as the Trail Creek district; may have been an alternate name for the Trail district although the reported locations of the two districts vary somewhat; the Trail Creek and Trail Run districts appear to have been considered as two separate districts by some; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Trail mining district
SEE ALSO Trail Creek mining district

Union mining district
Location: In an area that includes or borders most of the middle and lower parts of Bard Creek, a tributary of the West Fork of South Clear Creek; originally bounded by the Montana district, the junction of the South and Middle branches of Clear Creek, Douglas Mountain, and Columbia Mountain.
Description: Also appears as “upper Union district”, and refers to the Upper Union district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjacent to and may have included part of the Lower Union district; borders the Griffith district to the S. This district may share the town of Empire with the Upper Union district.
References:
Union district, Clear Creek County, C.T. [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Upper Union mining district
SEE ALSO Lower Union mining district

Upper Fall River mining district
Location: Sect 26-34 T2S R74W, Sect 2-8 T3S R74W; includes an area along the upper Fall River.
Description: Also referred to as the Lincoln district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably included within the Fall River district. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The Whale lode was developed in 1864; the Hukill and Whale mines were consolidated to form the Stanley Mine in 1878. The Gold King Mine was still producing in the late 1930s. There are also placers in or near this area on the Fall River. The district includes the Lulu mine.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Spurr, J.E., Garrey, G.H. 1908. Economic geology of the Georgetown quadrangle (together with the Empire district), with general geology by S.H. Ball. USGS Prof Paper 63, 422 p.
BT Fall River mining district
SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district

Upper Union mining district
Location: Sect 12-16, 21-28, 33-36 T3S R75W, Sect 7-9, 16-21, 28-32 T3S R74W, extending into T4S R74W.
Description: Also refers to the Union district, which sometimes appears as “upper Union” district; used to refer to the Empire district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); is the preferred name for the Union district by Henderson (1926). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The area includes the Leet and Empire mineral monuments. Gold, silver, copper and lead ores are reported.
References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Virginia mining district

**Location:** T3S R72-73W; includes the area around Virginia Canyon N of Idaho Springs.

**Description:** Also appears as “Virginia Canyon district”; also referred to as the Idaho district; also used to refer to the Idaho Springs, Jackson, Ohio and York districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Idaho Springs district by Hill (1912). This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The area includes the Bellevue mineral monument. Silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc ores, are reported.

**References:**
- Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

SEE ALSO Idaho mining district
SEE ALSO Idaho Springs mining district
SEE ALSO Jackson mining district
SEE ALSO Ohio mining district
SEE ALSO York mining district

West Argentine mining district

**Location:** According to some authors, that portion of the Argentine district that lies mostly to the W of the Continental Divide, with a narrow mineralized belt trending NNE; given that location, the district is more commonly known as the Argentine district (Summit County). Ellis and Ellis (1983) identify the district as the area to the W of the long ridge of McClellan Mountain; probably in both Clear Creek and Summit counties.

**Description:** In Clear Creek County, used as an alternate name for the Argentine district by Vanderwilt (1947); probably included within the Argentine district. This district was part of the Argentine district and covered the entire upper Clear Creek region according to Ellis and Ellis (1983), with a note that the area S of upper Clear Creek was often referred to specifically as the West Argentine district in newspaper articles. Gold and silver, with some copper, lead and zinc production, is reported.

**References:**
- BT Argentine mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – West Argentine mining district

Yankee Hill mining district

**Location:** Around Yankee Hill in N Clear Creek County, extending into Gilpin County; in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.

**Description:** Also appears as “Yankee district”; used to refer to the Alice district by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated with the Alice district to form the Alice-Yankee Hill district; used to refer to the Lincoln district by Hill (1912). The town of Yankee (Yankee Hill) was established by 1893 with the rise of the Yankee Consolidated Mining, Milling and Tunneling Company. Although a mill was built as late as 1905 to handle ores from the Gold Anchor Mine, the town and district were in decline by the 1910s. Gold, silver, copper and lead production is reported.

**References:**

BT Alice-Yankee Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Alice mining district
SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district
SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Yankee Hill mining district

York mining district
Location: In N Clear Creek County; NE of the Lower Fall River; includes the area of York Gulch W of Virginia Canyon.

Description: Also referred to as the Virginia district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district borders the Lower Fall River district on the SW. This was one of the original 29 districts organized in Clear Creek County, most by the summer of 1860. The district includes the Waterloo, Sultan and Millionaire claims and the Clifford mineral monument.

References:
Means, D. 1977. Early mining district records, Clear Creek County, Colorado Territory (1859-64) [descriptive index of the mining district records in the Clear Creek County archives]. Georgetown CO: Clear Creek County Archives. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

SEE ALSO Virginia mining district
Conejos County

Summary: Conejos County’s major mining activity was in the Platoro district and surrounding area, producing mostly gold and silver. The King turquoise mine, located in east Conejos County apart from the county’s mining districts, is of note.

Axell mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Platoro district by Vanderwilt (1947); possibly named after Charles O. Axell who published maps on the Platoro region in ~1934.
References:

USE Platoro mining district

Conejos mining district
Location: T36N R4E.
Description: Also referred to as the Ute district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

USE Ute mining district

Decatur mining district
Location: T36-37N R3-5E NMPM; in both Conejos and Rio Grande counties; may include the areas of Iron and Prospect creeks, northern tributaries of the Alamosa River in Conejos County.
Description: Also referred to as the Summit district in Rio Grande County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 7000 mineral monument. Silver, lead and gold production, with some copper and zinc, is reported for the county to 1941, although it is unclear from which district.
References:
SEE ALSO Rio Grande County – Decatur mining district

Gilmore mining district
Location: Includes the area around the W slope of Klondyke Mountain, W of Platoro and S of Stunner.
Description: Used to refer to the Platoro district by Vanderwilt (1947). Although there seems to have been some activity in the area, very little came of it and the district was mostly inactive by the 1910s. Gold telluride ores were discovered in 1912 on the claim of a man named Gilmore; this encouraged renewed activity in 1913 in the area around Platoro and Stunner, and around Jasper and Summitville in Rio Grande County. The short-lived camp of Gilmore is located at Gilmore Meadow, the site of the abandoned Little George placer. No production is reported specifically for this district. Silver, lead and gold production, with some copper and zinc, is reported for the county to 1941.
References:
SEE ALSO Platoro mining district

Lake Fork mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Platoro district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
USE Platoro mining district

**Platoro mining district**
Location: T36N R4E NMPM; includes the area of Platoro along the Conejos River E of the Gilmore district.
Description: Also referred to as the Axell, Gilmore, Lake Fork or Stunner district; also used to refer to the Ute district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The camp of Platoro on the Conejos River is said to have been established in the early 1880s; by 1890 it had a population of ~300. With no rich discoveries in the area both the town and district were in decline by 1900. This area received renewed attention with the discovery of the nearby Gilmore Mine in 1913. The district includes the Mammoth, Congress, Parole, Valley Queen and Merrimac mines. Gold and silver production was sporadic to 1941, with minimal gold production to 1945. In 1959 the Mammoth Mine was reopened and continued production into the 1970s.

References:
UF Axell mining district
UF Lake Fork mining district
UF Ute mining district
SEE ALSO Gilmore mining district
SEE ALSO Stunner mining district

Mammoth Revenue Mine, Platoro district, Conejos County CO. Courtesy of Colorado School of Mines Library, Colorado School of Mines Library Image Database, SC797.
**Stunner mining district**

*Location:* Between Cornwall Mountain and Summit Peak, N of Gilmore and S of the county line; may include the area of Alum Creek, a tributary of the Alamosa River.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Platoro district by Vanderwilt (1947). Some prospecting was being done in the area as early as 1879. The Emma claim, part of the Watrous claims, was opened in 1881 and had shipped ore. With this and other discoveries the camp of Stunner (Conejos Camp, Loynton) was established between Platoro and Summitville. The district's population peaked in the 1890s. The Eurydice Mine was inactive as of 1893. The Asiatic Mine was closed by ~1910 but the Pass-Me-By Mine was still being developed as of 1913. With the discovery of the nearby Gilmore Mine attempts were made to reopen other area mines; some prospecting was done to ~1917 but no production is reported specifically for this district. Silver, lead and gold production, with some copper and zinc, is reported for the county to 1941.

*References:
SEE ALSO Platoro mining district

**Ute mining district**

*Location:* Sect 13-29 T36N R4E NMPM; 45 miles SW of Monte Vista.

*Description:* Also used to refer to the Conejos district; also referred to as the Platoro district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the Ute and No. 6763 mineral monuments. Silver and gold ores are reported.

*References:
USE Platoro mining district
UF Conejos mining district
Costilla County

Summary: The two major areas of activity in Costilla County were the Plomo district, site of the El Plomo mine, and the area around the town of Russell. Gold placers on the Sangre de Cristo Creek and tributaries may have been worked near Russell as early as 1852. The county produced some gold, silver, lead and zinc, and a little iron.

El Plomo mining district
Description: Also appears as “Plomo district.” The area was named for the El Plomo mine located on the S bank of the Rito Seco River.
References:
USE Plomo mining district

Grayback mining district
Location: 3 miles N of Russell; includes the area around Grayback Gulch and Grayback Mountain.
Description: Used to refer to the Russell district by Vanderwilt (1947); used as the preferred name by Patton (1910). Placers were identified E of Blanca Peak mostly in the lower watershed of Placer Creek, a tributary of Sangre de Cristo Creek. The placers, called Officers Bar, were worked by soldiers stationed at Ft. Massachusetts as early as 1852; they were possibly the first placers to be worked in the state. Placer claims in the district extend from the N part of Stearns Gulch, a tributary of Sangre de Cristo Creek, to the town of Russell. There was intermittent placering activity through the 1890s. Dredging operations were established by 1910-1911, but there was only intermittent and small scale placering afterwards. Some gold ores were mined in this area. Mardirosian (1976) also records iron deposits.
References:
SEE ALSO Placer mining district
SEE ALSO Russell mining district

Placer mining district
Location: Included in the area of T28S-29S R70-71W with the Grayback district, centered around Placer Creek and the town of Russell.
Description: The district is possibly an informal designation, and consists of the placers located in the Grayback/Russell district and on Placer Creek. This district may be a precursor to the Russell district; it includes the nearby town of Russell, originally called Placer.
References:
USE Russell mining district
SEE ALSO Grayback mining district
Plomo mining district
Location: T32S R71W; on Rito Seco Creek and the area to the S; NE of San Luis.
Description: Also appears as “El Plomo district” in Henderson (1926); also referred to as the Rito Seco district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). An ore body was located in the area in 1896-97, with some small gold production. The series of tunnels and shafts in this ore body is collectively known as the El Plomo Mine, which is owned by the Trinchera Estate Company. This area may include the San Luis Mine, which was worked by the Battle Mountain Gold Company in the 1990s. Lead and silver, with some gold, copper and zinc production, is reported for the county intermittently to 1945.
References:
UF El Plomo mining district
UF Rito Seco mining district

Rito Seco mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Plomo district by Vanderwilt (1947). This district is probably named after the Rito Seco River, a branch of the Culebra River.
References:
USE Plomo mining district

Russell mining district
Location: T28S R71-72W; includes the area of Grayback Mountain 5 miles N of Russell; according to Patton (1910), the border of Costilla and Huerfano counties forms the N boundary of the district.
Description: Covers ~30 sq miles; also referred to as the Grayback district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold placers were reported by the Hayden Expedition, drawing prospectors to the area and resulting in some development. The mining operations in the district were eventually categorized as illicit by the Trinchera Estate (part of a Mexican land grant honored by the US), and all operations were stopped in 1877 by the Trinchera Estate’s authorities until new rules for lode claims were adopted. In addition to gold and silver mines, the Star of the West Mine produced iron to ~1893. The area’s gold placers were being developed in 1898. The district includes the town of Russell (originally Placer). Gold, silver, lead and zinc were produced to 1942; gold placers were producing from 1932-1945; iron production is reported.
References:
UF Placer mining district
SEE ALSO Grayback mining district

Sierra Blanca mining district
Location: T27-28S R72-73W; in both Costilla and Huerfano counties.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The part of the district in Costilla County was later included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County’s boundaries were created in 1913.
References:
SEE ALSO Huerfano County – Sierra Blanca mining district

West Blanca mining district
Location: T27-28 R73W.
Description: Used as an alternate name for the Blanca district (Alamosa County) by Vanderwilt (1947). Originally a part of Costilla County, the West Blanca district was included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County’s
boundaries were created in 1913. The West Blanca district is probably closely associated with the Sierra Blanca district, but differences merit a separate entry. Huerfano County’s West Blanca district is included within its Sierra Blanca district.

References:
USE Alamosa County – West Blanca mining district
Custer County

Summary: Custer County’s major mining districts include the Rosita Hills and Silver Cliff-West Cliff districts and their neighbors, which produced mostly silver, lead and gold, with some copper and zinc. Minor amounts of fluorspar and thorium were also produced in the county.

Antelope Creek mining district
Location: SSE corner of Custer County, 7 miles SE of Rosita; near Antelope Creek.
Description: Minor fluorspar production was reported prior to 1920.
References:

Fairview mining district
Location: T23S R70W.
Description: No activity or production is recorded for this district.
References:

Hardscrabble mining district
Location: T22S R72W; T21-22S R70-72W according to Henderson (1926).
Description: May be used to refer to a large area as far W as Silver Cliff and E to the upper reaches of North Hardscrabble Creek; Hill (1912) uses Rosita and Silver Cliff to refer to this district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may be related to the Hardscrabble district to the N in Fremont County. Eberhart (1969) refers to a Smith district centered around the camp of Minersville near the junction of North and South Hardscrabble creeks. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is recorded to 1945. Mardirosian (1976) reports iron deposits. The Zabel-Beardsley lease led thorium production in the state in the 1950s.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF Smith mining district
SEE ALSO Rosita Hills mining district
SEE ALSO Silver Cliff-Westcliffe mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Hardscrabble mining district

Ilse mining district
Location: Located in the area of Oak Creek in the N part of the county.
Description: Formerly known as the Spaulding district; used to refer to the Oak Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947) and probably included within it. The district was one of the county’s silver, gold and lead mining areas
in 1875-1885, with declining activity afterward. The camp of Ilse peaked in the mid 1880s; little of the town was rebuilt after a fire in 1887. Heyl (1960) places the Terrible Mine in this district.

References:
UF Spaulding mining district
BT Oak Creek mining district

Oak Creek mining district
Location: T21S R70W; includes the area along Oak Creek near Hardscrabble Mountain.
Description: Includes and is sometimes referred to as the Ilse district; also referred to as the Spaulding district (the Ilse district’s original name); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The Terrible Mine was located in 1879 and produced to ~1900; it was reopened in the early 1920s. The short-lived camp of Galena N of Ilse was established by the late 1870s. The district includes the camp of Yorkville and the Wild Girl, High Kicker, and Slip Up mines near Galena. Production from 1931-1943 has been mostly lead and silver.

References:
NT Ilse mining district
SEE ALSO Spaulding mining district

Querida mining district
Location: Includes the area around the town of Querida, ~2 miles N of Rosita.
Description: Used to refer to the Rosita Hills district by Vanderwilt (1947). The Maine claim, later renamed the Bassick, was discovered in 1877 and was the district’s big producer. The town of Querida (originally Bassickville) grew up around the Bassick Mine shortly after its discovery and peaked around 1882. The town went into decline when the Bassick Mine was closed in 1885 and was mostly deserted by the early 1900s. The Mine has since been worked intermittently to ~1915. Gold, silver, lead and copper ores are reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Rosita Hills mining district

Rosita Hills mining district
Location: T22S R71W; includes the area of Rosita Hills and the town of Rosita to the SE.
Description: Also appears as “Rosita district”; also referred to as the Querida district; as “Rosita district” is used to refer to the Hardscrabble district by Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). This district was one of the county’s major silver, gold and lead mining areas in 1875-1885. Lead and silver were discovered in 1872 with the Senator Mine (later renamed the Maverick Mine). The town of Rosita was established in 1873. The Humboldt-Pocahantas vein was discovered in 1874. The district’s period of greatest activity was from 1877-1890. Rosita was almost deserted by 1885. The district was in decline after 1890 and activity was intermittent; there was little or no activity after 1932. The district includes the camp of Silver Circle and the Virginia, Globe, Leavenworth, and East Leviathan mines. Silver ores with some copper and gold are reported. Intermittent output is recorded to 1923, with copper production to 1936, and some gold, silver and lead production to 1937.

References:
Silver Cliff mining district

Location: Includes the low hills on the plains bordering the bottom lands of the Wet Mountain Valley, the S end of the White Hills (White Mountains), and the Blue Mountains ~2 miles N of the town of Silver Cliff.

Description: Later consolidated into the Silver Cliff-Westcliff district. This district was one of the county’s major silver, gold and lead mining areas in 1875-1885. After thorough prospecting of the Rosita Hills district, prospectors moved to the hills bordering the Wet Mountain Valley. The camp of Ula (Ure) was settled by prospectors in ~1870, but lost its residents to Rosita by 1873. Three lumbermen supplying timbers to Rosita discovered silver in the S end of the White Mountains in 1878, and the Racine Boy, Silver Cliff and other claims were established. The town of Silver Cliff was established in ~1878 as a result of discoveries in and around Wet Mountain and within months was one of the largest cities in Colorado. The Bull-Domingo Mine (from the Johnny Bull and Domingo claims) was discovered ~1879. The camp of Dora was established by 1879 to support the Chambers smelter. The district includes the Geyser Mine, which is also sometimes placed in the Rosita Hills district. After an initial period of activity, the district was in decline by the mid 1880s. Active production ceased in 1885, with intermittent production through the 1910s. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is recorded.

References:
SEE ALSO Silver Cliff-Westcliff mining district
Silver Cliff-Westcliff mining district

Description: Also appears as "Silver Cliff-Westcliff district"; used to refer to the Hardscrabble district by Vanderwilt (1947). This district is also referred to as an expansion of the Silver Cliff district into the area around Westcliff, which includes the Ophir Mine. The town of Westcliff (or Westcliffe), originally called Clifton, was a farming community that experienced a boom with the nearby gold and silver discoveries and became a mining and supply town. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is recorded.

References:

See ALSO Hardscrabble mining district
See ALSO Silver Cliff mining district

Smith mining district

Location: In the area of the junction of North and South Hardscrabble creeks.

Description: Eberhart (1969) refers to a Smith district established in 1874 and centered around the short-lived camp of Minersville. Both the district and town were apparently deserted shortly thereafter.

References:

Use Hardscrabble mining district

Spaulding mining district

Description: Original name for the Ilse mining district; used to refer to the Oak Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947). Lead, gold and silver ores are reported.

References:

Use Ilse mining district
See ALSO Oak Creek mining district

Spruce Creek mining district

Location: Sect 17-20 T46N R12E NMPM.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

Verde mining district

Location: Sect 18-19 T22S R73W, T45N R12E.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district may include the Arkansas No. 1, Grand View and New York mines.

References:
Delta County

Summary: Coal mining was the major mining activity in Delta County. Some coal was mined from areas in the Grand Mesa coal field, which extends into neighboring Mesa and Montrose counties.

Coal Creek coal mining district
Description: E part of the Grand Mesa coal field; an informal subdivision of the Grand Mesa coal field.
References:
BT Grand Mesa coal field

Grand Mesa coal field
Location: Extends from Palisade on the Colorado River to the West Elk Mountains, S from Mesa County into the N half of Delta County; primarily in Delta and Mesa counties; the Delta County portion covers ~86 sq miles; a portion of the field is stated to extend into Montrose County; may also extend as far as Gunnison County.
Description: Informally subdivided (from W to E) into the Gunnison, Palisades, Rollins (Mesa County), Somerset (multiple counties) and Coal Creek (Delta County) districts. The coal field is part of the Uinta coal region. By 1918 there were only 13 mines from this field operating in Delta County and 2 in Montrose County. The coal field includes the Wells Gulch, Bailey, Hall, Patterson, Kuhnley, Rollins, Winton, Conine, and King mines.
References:
NT Coal Creek coal mining district
NT Somerset coal mining district
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Grand Mesa coal field
SEE ALSO Montrose County – Grand Mesa coal field

Rollins coal mine, Grand Mesa coal field, Delta County CO. 1907. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, LWT00273.
**Muddy mining district**

*Location:* Sect 36 T10S R91W, Sect 1 T11S R91W.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

Gold, silver and lead ores are reported present in the county, as well as some gold and silver placer deposits.

*References:*


**Somerset coal mining district**

*Location:* In an area including T13S R90-91W in Delta County; in Delta and Gunnison counties, possibly extending into Mesa County.

*Description:* E part of the Grand Mesa coal field; an informal subdivision of the Grand Mesa coal field according to Lee (1912); part of the Uinta coal region in Delta County according to Wray (2001). In Delta County only the Bowie No. 2 Mine was operating in 2000; in Gunnison County only the West Elk and Sanborn Creek mines were operating in 2000. The town of Somerset (Gunnison County) was named for its counterpart in Pennsylvania.

*References:*


BT Grand Mesa coal field
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Somerset coal mining district
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Somerset coal mining district
Denver County

Summary: Denver County’s mining activity consists of gold placer mining along Cherry Creek, the Platte River, and their tributaries starting in the 1850s. These placer deposits extend into neighboring Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert counties.

Cherry Creek gold placers
Location: T4S R68W; in Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Elbert counties.
Description: Northern continuation of the Cherry Creek placers in Arapahoe County. Parker (1974) includes the Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek placers (Arapahoe County) and the tributaries of Cherry Creek to the S (Douglas and Elbert counties) in the Cherry Creek placer group. Placer gold was discovered in 1858, among the oldest known such discoveries in the state. The deposit consists of small placers worked intermittently for many years. Gold production with a little silver is recorded to 1941, with additional production as a byproduct of industrial sand operations.
References:
SEE ALSO Platte River gold placers
SEE ALSO Arapahoe County – Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Douglas County – Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Elbert County – Cherry Creek gold placers

Platte River gold placers
Location: T4S R68W.
Description: Northern continuation of the South Platte River placers in Arapahoe County. Gold production with a little silver is recorded to 1941, with additional production as a byproduct of sand and gravel operations.
References:
SEE ALSO Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Arapahoe County – South Platte River gold placers
SEE ALSO Douglas County – South Platte River gold placers
Dolores County

Summary: The major mining district in Dolores County is the Rico district, the county's leading producer. The county produced gold, silver, lead, zinc, some copper, and pyrite (for sulfuric acid production). Gold placers were worked intermittently along the Dolores River.

Dunton mining district
Location: In the area of the town of Dunton along the West Dolores River, NW of Rico.
Description: Used to refer to the Lone Cone district by Vanderwilt (1947). The camp of Dunton was established in 1885 when the Emma Mine was discovered in the area. Other nearby discoveries included the Smuggler and American lodes. By 1917 the area was more well known for its hot springs than for mining activity.
References:
USE Lone Cone mining district

Lone Cone mining district
Location: Sect. 32-33 T41N R11W, Sect. 4-5 T40N R11W NMPM; on the West Dolores River, 16 miles NW of Rico.
Description: The Pioneer district, which was the original district in the area, was later renamed the Lone Cone district, then the Rico district—these districts include most of the same mineralized areas. This district is also referred to as the Pioneer or Rico district; also referred to as the Dunton district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Most of this area overlaps what was earlier defined as the Pioneer district. Gold, silver and lead production is reported intermittently through 1941.
References:
UF Dunton mining district
SEE ALSO Pioneer mining district
SEE ALSO Rico mining district

Pioneer mining district
Location: T39-40N R10-11W NMPM.
Description: The Pioneer district, which was the original district in the area, was later renamed the Lone Cone district, then the Rico district—these districts include most of the same mineralized areas. This district is also used to refer to the Lone Cone and Rico districts; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Pioneer claim was opened in 1869, giving its name to the district; this claim originally covered what was to become parts of the Shamrock, Smuggler and Riverside claims. The Atlantic Cable, Blackhawk, Hope, Cross, Phoenix and Yellow Jacket mines were discovered in 1878. The Nigger Baby Hill claims were located in 1879; the Enterprise Mine opened in 1887. Since 1895 the district’s output decreased and by 1900 only scattered ore shipments were made. The area includes the Dolores, Johnny Bull, Melvina Lode and No. 3 mineral monuments. Gold, silver, lead, and zinc production, with some copper, is reported through 1945.
References:
Rico mining district

Location: In the Rico Mountains, including the area around the town of Rico.

Description: The Pioneer district, which was the original district in the area, was later renamed the Lone Cone district, then the Rico district—these districts include most of the same mineralized areas. Used to refer to the Pioneer district by Vanderwilt (1947); treated separately from the Pioneer district by McKnight (1974). The Rico district is the major producer in the county. Exploration of the area may have started as early as 1861. The Pioneer claim was located at the future site of the town of Rico in 1869, giving the name Pioneer to the district. The district was mostly abandoned after a period of discouraging production, until rich silver discoveries were made on Nigger Baby and Chestnut hills in 1878-1879. The town of Rico (Carbonateville, Lead City) was established at about the same time; the Grand View Smelter was built in 1880. Mines near Rico include the Enterprise, Grand View, Johnny Bull, Puzzle, and Parole mines. The camp of Coke Ovens near Rico supported coke production for the area’s railroad and mining operations. After a period of decline, the Enterprise Mine was discovered in 1887, again reviving mining activity in the district. The district was very active but development was slowed by the lack of transportation until the railroad reached Rico in 1891. The United Rico Mining Company consolidated most of the district’s mine holdings in ~1900. The Blaine, Argentine and Mountain Springs mines were still being operated by the Rico-Argentine Company from the late 1930s into the 1960s. There was some gold placer activity along the Dolores River near Rico starting in ~1882, with small scale intermittent activity tapering to almost no activity by the 1930s. Silver (pre-1904), lead and zinc (post-1904) were the district’s major products, though, with some gold and copper. District production is recorded through the 1960s; pyrite production (for sulfuric acid production) is reported from 1955 through 1964.

References:
SEE ALSO Lone Cone mining district
SEE ALSO Pioneer mining district

Sunday uranium mining district

Location: WNW part of Dolores County to the San Miguel County border (Colorado Geological Survey 2003); an alternate location is listed as primarily in San Miguel County to the N.

Description: Informal name for the area around the Sunday Group mines and generally referred to just as the Sunday Group mines; part of the “Colorado Plateau uranium mining districts” as depicted by the Colorado Geological Survey. Although this area is described as being in NW Dolores County, there is a Sunday mine group located near Big Gypsum Creek NE of Slick Rock in WNW San Miguel County. This area is described as a prolific uranium and vanadium producer starting in 1898, when carnotite ore was shipped to Marie and Pierre Curie.

References:
SEE ALSO San Miguel County – Sunday uranium mining district

West Dolores mining district

Location: Along the West Dolores branch of the Dolores River, which joins the Dolores River a few miles below Rico.

Description: An early or perhaps local name for the area. Lode gold was informally reported in the 1890s.
References:
USE Rico mining district
Douglas County

Summary: Douglas County’s major mining activity consists of gold placer mining along Cherry Creek, the South Platte River, and their tributaries starting in the 1850s. These placer deposits extend into Arapahoe, Denver and Elbert counties. The county’s other mining districts show minimal activity and were not productive. Some pegmatites contain economic deposits of minerals.

Castle Rock mining district
Location: In the area of Newlin and Lemon gulches N of Castle Rock.
Description: Refers to the placer deposits around Newlin and Lemon gulches. The area experienced a rush of prospectors with reports of discoveries in ~1884 and again in the 1890s, but activity died down quickly with the lack of discoveries of economic deposits.
References:
USE Newlin Gulch gold placers

Cherry Creek gold placers
Location: T6-7S R66W; in Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Elbert counties.
Description: Parker (1974) includes the Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek placers (Arapahoe County) and the tributaries of Cherry Creek to the S (Douglas and Elbert counties) in the Cherry Creek placer group. Placer gold was discovered in 1858, among the oldest known such deposits in the state. The placers consist of small deposits worked intermittently for many years. Most of the placers’ gold production (minor) was from 1946 through 1958 as a byproduct of gravel operations.
References:
NT Dry Creek gold placers
NT Happy Canyon gold placers
NT Newlin Gulch gold placers
NT Russellville Gulch gold placers
SEE ALSO Arapahoe County – Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Denver County – Cherry Creek gold placers
SEE ALSO Elbert County – Cherry Creek gold placers

De Sobe mining district
Location: Sect 29-32 T7S R69W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). No lode production is reported for the county.
References:

Dry Creek gold placers
Location: T6S R67W; some maps show this as Big Dry Creek; lies between Cherry Creek and the South Platte River of which it is a tributary.
Description: Included in Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974).
References:
F.M. Bennett mining district

*Location:* In the area of Mill Gulch, a tributary of the South Platte River; N of Steven’s Gulch.

*Description:* In the area of and may overlap the South Platte River placers; the F.M. Bennett, Keystone and Platte Canyon districts probably adjoin or overlap. The district was formed in the mid 1890s with renewed activity and reports of strikes in the area, including at Newlin Gulch and West Creek, but prospectors met with little success; the district is poorly documented and little known. The town of Dow Center supplied prospectors during the brief boom of a few years.

*References:*
  - SEE ALSO Keystone mining district
  - SEE ALSO Platte Canyon mining district

Happy Canyon gold placers

*Location:* In the divide between the South Platte River and Cherry Creek W of Parker; Happy Canyon Creek is a tributary of Cherry Creek.

*Description:* Included in Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974).


BT Cherry Creek gold placers

Keystone mining district

*Location:* In the area of Mill Gulch, a tributary of the South Platte River; N of Steven’s Gulch.

*Description:* In the area of and may overlap the South Platte River placers; the F.M. Bennett, Keystone and Platte Canyon districts probably adjoin or overlap. The district was formed in the mid 1890s with renewed activity and reports of strikes in the area, including at Newlin Gulch and West Creek, but prospectors met with little success; the district is poorly documented and little known. This district may have been named for the Keystone Ranch, which also served as a stagecoach station and post office in the area. The town of Dow Center supplied prospectors during the brief boom of a few years.

*References:*
  - SEE ALSO F.M. Bennett mining district
  - SEE ALSO Platte Canyon mining district

Newlin Gulch gold placers

*Location:* T6S R66W; in Newlin Gulch and its tributaries; Newlin Creek joins Cherry Creek from the SW ~1.5 miles NW of Parker.

*Description:* May also appear as “Newland Gulch placers”; may also occasionally be referred to as the Castle Rock district (Marr 1983); included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974). The area experienced periods of activity in the mid 1880s starting in 1884 and again in the late 1890s. Lack of water to process the placers hindered development. The camp of Newlin ~35 miles S of Denver was still inhabited as of 1912. The area includes the American and Muldoon claims. Production is reported to 1941.

*References:*

UF Castle Rock mining district

BT Cherry Creek gold placers

Night Hawk mining district

*Location:* Sect 18 T8S R69W, Sect 13 T8S R70W; near the mouth of Pine Creek.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Dolores County rather than Douglas County. The camp of Night Hawk was established in 1896 at the terminus of a railroad spur that served the numerous small mining camps of the Westcreek district to the S. The town was booming by 1897 with reports of discoveries nearby but, lacking economic deposits, Nighthawk declined and was mostly deserted by 1916. There was activity in the district but no lode production is reported for the county.


BT Cherry Creek gold placers

SEE ALSO Arapahoe County – Dry Creek gold placers
References:

USE West Creek mining district

Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
Location: Includes parts of NW El Paso, N Teller, SW Douglas, and NE Park Counties.
Description: The district contains economic (minor) deposits of gem topaz, quartz and amazonstone.
References:
SEE ALSO El Paso County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district

Platte Canyon mining district
Location: In the area of Steven’s Gulch, a tributary of the South Platte River; S of Mill Gulch; may extend W into Teller County.
Description: In the area of and may overlap the South Platte River placers; the F.M. Bennett, Keystone and Platte Canyon districts probably adjoin or overlap. This district was established in ~1873 with a small rush of prospectors to the area, but was short-lived as prospectors met with little success. The district is poorly documented and little known. The town of Dow Center supplied prospectors during a brief boom in the area in the mid 1890s. The area includes the California Mine. No production is reported.
References:
SEE ALSO F.M. Bennett mining district
SEE ALSO Keystone mining district
SEE ALSO South Platte River gold placers
SEE ALSO Teller County – Platte Canon mining district

Russellville Gulch gold placers
Location: T8S R65-66W; Russellville Gulch is a tributary of Cherry Creek E of Castle Rock.
Description: Included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974). This is one of the earliest placer deposits discovered in Colorado. The camp of Russellville was established by 1858 near the Russellville Diggings. Lack of water to work the placers hindered development and caused Russellville to be mostly abandoned as a gold camp within a few years. Production is unknown.
References:

BT Cherry Creek gold placers

South Platte coal field
Location: In the area of the Platte Canyon in the NW part of Douglas County.
Description: May be an informal name for a northern extension of the Colorado Springs coal field (El Paso County) and part of the Denver coal region. The field has three mine groups, the Archer, Wakeman, and Lehigh. The Archer Mine near the Platte Canyon entrance operated from ~1863-1879. The Wakeman mines (Willow Mine, McQuire Mine) on Willow Creek operated through the 1890s. The Lehigh mines were the most productive of the three mines. Coal was produced for local consumption and for shipping to Denver. The area includes the towns of Archer and Lehigh. A decrease in production in the 1880s caused by labor problems led to the area’s decline and eventual abandonment by 1893.
References:
SEE ALSO El Paso County – Colorado Springs coal field
South Platte pegmatite mining district

**Location:** From Evergreen in Jefferson County to Dekkers in Douglas County; bounded by the South Platte River and its North Fork; in both Douglas and Jefferson counties.

**Description:** The district’s pegmatites were first prospected for feldspar in the 1920s. These deposits have been quarried for quartz, terrazzo stone, feldspar, rare-earth minerals, and fluorite. The district includes the Oregon, Luster, Dazie Bell, Big Bear and Little Patsy claims. In addition to the above, economic deposits of feldspar and mica are reported.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Jefferson County – South Platte pegmatite mining district

South Platte River gold placers

**Location:** Along the South Platte River in Douglas County; in Arapahoe, Denver, and Douglas counties.

**Description:** Placer gold was discovered here in ~1858.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Arapahoe County – South Platte River gold placers
- SEE ALSO Denver County – Platte River gold placers

Storm Peak mining district

**Location:** In the area of Sect 13 T10S R68W.

**Description:** The location is marked on the US Mineral Monuments and Mining Districts map but no other information is available. The area includes mineral monument No. 20090.

**References:**
- USE West Creek mining district

Tyler mining district

**Location:** Sect 23-27 T10S R70W.

**Description:** Also referred to as the West Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The camp of Tyler (Tyler City, Bunker Hill) was located near West Creek after gold discoveries were reported on the Tyler ranch in 1895 and the report reached Denver, drawing prospectors to the area. A carload of ore was reportedly shipped in 1896 but there are no production records.

**References:**
- USE West Creek mining district

West Creek mining district

**Location:** Sect 22-27 T10S R70W, Sect 19-22, 27-34 T10S R69W; may extend N to include Devil’s Head and NE to Perry Park; may extend S into Teller County.

**Description:** Also appears as “Westcreek district”; also used to refer to the Tyler district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district probably extends into Teller County to border the Cripple Creek district; see the entry for the West Creek district (Teller County). The district was active during the 1890s with the discoveries in the neighboring Cripple Creek district to the S. Discoveries were reported at Devil’s Head and Perry Park in 1895. The town of West Creek (Westcreek) was established ~1895 when gold was discovered along a tributary of nearby Horse Creek. West Creek absorbed the nearby towns and camps in 1896, becoming the second incorporated town in the county. Despite the large numbers of prospectors in the district, few economic deposits had been found by 1896. The area supported a number of small camps, including Pemberton, Ackerman, Dakan, Given, North West Creek (Tabor), Dunaway, Stanley Camp, Tyler and Trumbull in Douglas County. The area includes the Grafton, Red Jacket, Chicago Girl, Concord and Lost Treasure claims. There is no lode production reported for Douglas County.

**References:**

UF Night Hawk mining district
UF Storm Peak mining district
UF Tyler mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – West Creek mining district
Eagle County

Summary: Eagle County’s major mining area is in the vicinity of Red Cliff and Gilman. This area’s productivity encouraged the formation of a new Eagle County from the existing Summit County. Some of the county’s mineralized areas extend into neighboring Lake, Pitkin and Summit counties. Eagle County produced silver, lead, and gold, with some zinc and copper.

Alsace mining district
Location: Sect 3-5 T6S R82W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Battle Mountain mining district
Location: T6S R80-81W; with most of the mineralization in the W and S parts of Battle Mountain.
Description: May have been the original name for the Red Cliff/Gilman district areas; also known as the Red Cliff and Belden districts; used to refer to the Red Cliff district by Vanderwilt (1947); Hill (1912) uses the Gilman district to refer to this district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district, originally part of Summit County, was organized in ~1879 along with the town of Red Cliff. Silver-lead carbonate deposits were discovered here in 1897. The area includes the Adrem, Astor, Battle Mountain No. 1, No. 1, U.P. No. 1, Willow Creek and No. 16231 mineral monuments. Considerable silver, lead and copper production, with some gold and zinc, is reported.
References:
UF Summit County – Battle Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Belden mining district
SEE ALSO Gilman mining district
SEE ALSO Red Cliff mining district

Belden mining district
Location: In the area NNW of Red Cliff.
Description: Probably a local or informal name; used to refer to the Red Cliff district by Vanderwilt (1947). This general area is the site of the Belden Mine which was located in 1879.
References:
USE Red Cliff mining district
SEE ALSO Battle Mountain mining district

Brush Creek mining district
Location: T5S R83W; 6-8 miles up Brush Creek from its juncture with Eagle River.
Description: This area was prospected to some degree before silver ore was discovered in ~1913 on Horse Mountain. These discoveries caused renewed prospecting activity in this area and in the nearby Fulford district. There was active prospecting and some development in the area to ~1926. The district includes the Lady Bell (Lady Belle) Mine. Silver ores are reported. Production is recorded for 1913-1918 by Henderson (1926). Mardirosian (1976) reports vanadium deposits.
Burns and McCoy mining district
Location: T2S R84W; in the general area 5 miles W of McCoy along the Colorado River.
Description: Gold placer occurrences in bench gravels near the Colorado River encouraged considerable prospecting in 1893-1895. The principal placers worked were between the towns of Burns and McCoy.
Production for gold and silver is reported from 1933-1940.
References:

Eagle River mining district
Location: T7S R79-80W; includes the area along the Eagle River to its headwaters, and as far W as Holy Cross and N to Red Cliff.
Description: This district may include the broad general area of the Eagle River. Also appears as "Eagle district", and as such is used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Fairview Hill district; used to refer to the Holy Cross district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912). This was the original name for the Red Cliff district when it was first established in Summit County. After the creation of Eagle County and its annexation of the Red Cliff district in 1883, this mineralized area has sometimes been referred to as two separate and distinct districts; differences merit a separate entry for the Eagle River district in both Eagle and Summit counties. The area includes the Consolidated Ten Mile, Eagle, Pacific, Ruby and Walker mineral monuments. Silver and lead, with some gold and copper production is reported for 1937-1940.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
NT Fairview Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Holy Cross mining district
SEE ALSO Red Cliff mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Eagle River mining district

Fairview Hill mining district
Location: Sect 25-26, 35-36 T7S R80W.
Description: Included in the Eagle River district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
BT Eagle River mining district

Frying Pan mining district
Location: T7S R83-85W; broadly defined to include the area around Frying Pan Creek.
Description: Also used to refer to the Telluride district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Adjoining Eagle, Lake and Pitkin counties each contain a Frying Pan district in the area of Frying Pan Creek. The area includes the Nos. 5298 and 6586 mineral monuments.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF Telluride mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Frying Pan mining district
SEE ALSO Pitkin County – Frying Pan mining district

**Fulford mining district**
*Location:* T7S R83W; at the head of Brush Creek; 18 miles SE of Eagle.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Mount Egley district. Gold was discovered on New York Mountain in 1887, followed by discoveries of the New York, Lucille, May Queen and Cave lodes. The camps of New York Cabins, Nolan’s Creek, and Adelaide Park were located near these initial discoveries. The town of Fulford was established or near the earlier camps’ sites in 1889 with further ore discoveries. Area production, never large, peaked in the late 1890s, then declined. Activity was intermittent but the Polar Star Mine was still operating in the 1900s; there was work going on at the Jack Pot Mine in the 1940s. The area includes the Nos. 6152, 7869, 8034 and 11739 mineral monuments. Gold and copper ores are reported; lead-silver mineralization similar to the Brush Creek district is reported as well.

**References:**
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Mount Egley mining district

**Gilman mining district**
*Location:* Includes the area around the towns of Gilman and Red Cliff.
*Description:* Used to refer to the Red Cliff district by Vanderwilt (1947), which it overlaps or includes; used to refer to the Battle Mountain district by Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Tweto and Lovering (1947). This area may originally have been called the Battle Mountain district. The district’s first silver-lead ore discoveries were made in ~1879 during a period of prospecting following the discoveries in Leadville (Lake County). By 1880 the Belden, Black Iron, and Little Chief mines were in production; the camp of Belden was established on the site of the Belden Mine. A smelter was constructed in the town of Red Cliff by 1880 but closed shortly after the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached the town, allowing ore to be shipped to Leadville instead. In 1883 Eagle County was organized from a part of Summit County in large part because of this district’s prosperity; Red Cliff became the county seat. Gold discoveries were made in the area in 1884. The town of Gilman (originally Clinton, Battle Mountain or Rock Creek) was settled by 1886 by miners working the nearby Iron Mask, Star of the West and Belden mines. The New Jersey Zinc Company arrived in 1912 and eventually consolidated the Battle Mountain mines into the Eagle Mine, which became a principal mine in the district. Heyl (1960) refers to the Gilman Mine as the most productive lead-zinc-silver mine in Colorado; it also produced substantial amounts of gold and copper. Gilman became a company town in the World War I years. The New Jersey Zinc Company finally ceased its operations in the area in 1977. The district produced silver, lead, zinc, copper and gold; silver and gold were the primary products pre-1905, zinc from 1905-1930, and silver-copper ore with gold from 1931-1941.

**References:**
SEE ALSO Battle Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Red Cliff mining district

Eagle River running through mine works at the Gilman zinc mine on Battle Mountain, Eagle County CO. Circa 1980. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, GESU0087.

Gypsum mining district
Location: T4S R85W; includes the area along the Eagle River near the town of Gypsum.
Description: Placer gold occurs along the Eagle River near Gypsum. Production of small amounts of gold and silver is reported for 1933.
References:

Holy Cross mining district
Location: T7S R81-82W; at the head of Cross Creek about 10 miles SW of Minturn.
Description: Hill (1912) uses the Eagle River district to refer to this district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district, a minor producer compared to the Gilman district, may have produced most of its gold from 1880-1910. The camps of Holy Cross City and Gold Park were established in ~1880 and supported operations of the Gold Park Mining Company, but were both almost deserted by 1883. The area includes the Cross Creek No. 1, Emerson, Gold Park, Holy Cross No. 1, Joe, Malta and Tese mineral monuments. Silver and lead, with some gold and copper production is reported for 1937-1940.
References:
**Homestake mining district**

*Location:* T7S R80-81W; N along Homestake Creek between the Holy Cross district to the W and the Eagle River district to the E.

*Description:* Probably overlaps the Holy Cross district as far W as Gold Park. This district is referred to as a continuation of the mineralization of the Frying Pan district to the SW and adjacent to it in neighboring Pitkin County. Adjoining Eagle, Lake and Pitkin counties each contain a Homestake district, possibly related. Production is unknown. Gold, silver, lead and zinc deposits are reported.


**Horn Silver mining district**

*Location:* Sect 31-33 T6S R80W, Sect 4-6 T7S R80W.

*Description:* Included in and also referred to as the Red Cliff district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district includes the Horn Silver Mine at the lower end of Battle Mountain.


**Iron mining district**

*Location:* Sect 1 T5S R86W.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the Lo mineral monument.


**Mount Egley mining district**

*Location:* Location is uncertain according to Vanderwilt; Sect 15-16, 21-22 T6S R82W according to Henderson (1926); probably includes the area at the head of Lake Creek.

*Description:* Overlaps the Fulford district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Small amounts of gold and silver were produced in 1932, 1939, and 1941. A little placer gold is reported produced in the 1930s and early 1940s but no placer locations are given. The Mt. Egley veins were the source of gold in the Lake Creek outwash gravels.


**Red Cliff mining district**

*Location:* Sect 33-34 T6S R80W, Sect 3-5 T7S R80W; ~ 20 miles NNW of Leadville.

*Description:* Covers ~58 sq miles; also used to refer to the Battle Mountain and Belden districts; also referred to as the Gilman district, which it overlaps or includes; includes and is used to refer to the Horn Silver district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was originally established in Summit County as the Eagle River district, then renamed the Red Cliff district and annexed into the newly-formed Eagle County in 1883—most authors refer to this district and its history as part of Eagle County. This area or an overlapping area may also have been earlier referred to as the Battle Mountain district. Silver-lead ore was discovered in 1879 when the area was part of Summit County; Red Cliff, the chief settlement in the district, was established in ~1879 by prospectors from Leadville. Gold was discovered in 1884. Zinc production started in
1905. The New Jersey Zinc Company arrived in the area in 1912, eventually consolidated some of the area mines, and maintaining operations here until 1977. This district includes the towns of Red Cliff, Gilman and Bell's Camp. The area includes the Eagle Bird group and the Belden, Clinton, Little Ollie, Silver Wave and Black Iron mines, and the Badge, Homestake No. 1 and Horn Silver No. 1 mineral monuments. Production is reported to 1944. The Old Iron Mask Mine is reputed to contain reserves of manganese ore as of 1958. Considerable silver, lead and copper production, with some gold and zinc, is reported.

References:

UF Belden mining district
UF Summit County – Eagle River mining district
NT Horn Silver mining district
SEE ALSO Battle Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle River mining district
SEE ALSO Gilman mining district

Telluride mining district
Location: Sect 23-26 T7S R82W.
Description: Also referred to as the Frying Pan district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the Nos. 7824 and 7825 mineral monuments.

References:
USE Frying Pan mining district

Tenmile mining district
Location: T7S R78-79W; just N of the Continental Divide near the headwaters of Tenmile Creek and extending N to Dillon where Tenmile Creek joins the Blue River; “ten miles” from Breckenridge; according to Bergendahl and Koschmann (1971) is mostly in Summit County but small portions extend over the Continental Divide and into Eagle, Lake and Park counties, including the Climax Mine.
Description: Refer to Summit County’s entry for the Tenmile district.

References:
USE Summit County – Tenmile mining district

Tennessee Pass mining district
Location: N of Tennessee Pass, bordering the East Tennessee district in Lake County; on the E side of Piney Creek; in both Eagle and Lake counties.
Description: Both this district (Eagle and Lake counties) and the East Tennessee district in Lake County may also be referred to collectively as the Tennessee Pass district, although “East Tennessee” is the preferred name for the Tennessee Pass district in Lake County. This district may include the El Capitan Mine.

References:
SEE ALSO Lake County – Tennessee Pass mining district

Wilkinson mining district
Location: T4-5S R79W, T5S R78W, extends S into T6S R78W; in both Eagle and Summit counties.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Eagle County part of the district includes the Santa Eulalia, Valley Lode, Combination and Rosa Lee mines, and the Deluge, Pitkin, No. 6192 and No. 17258 mineral monuments. The Summit County part of the district...
includes the Excelsior Mine, and the Ady, Josie, Reed, Red Peak, Willow Creek and No. 6362 mineral monuments.

References:
SEE ALSO Summit County – Wilkinson mining district
El Paso County

Summary: The mining districts in El Paso County in the mountains west of Colorado Springs were only intermittently active and not generally economical, with the exception of the Cripple Creek district. Lead and zinc with some gold, silver and copper were produced. The success of the Cripple Creek district encouraged its annexation with the formation of Teller County from the W part of El Paso County and the N part of Fremont County in 1899. Some coal and a little fluor spar were produced in El Paso County, and economic pegmatite deposits are reported.

Blair Athol mining district
Location: T13S R67W; 6 miles NW of Colorado Springs.
Description: No information was found on the mines in this district. Copper production for this area (and for the county) is recorded for 1913-1914.
References:

Cheyenne mining district
Location: T14S R67W.
Description: Also appears as “Cheyenne Mountain district” or “South Cheyene district”; also referred to as the Pikes Peak district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The North and South Cheyenne districts are probably informal partitions of this district. The district includes the Wright and Aulderson claims, and mineral monument No. 5931. No lode production is reported for this area.
References:
Wright, J.C. 19?? Mining claims in So. Cheyenne [El Paso County, Colorado] traced from drawing owned by J.C. Wright. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
UF North Cheyenne mining district
SEE ALSO Pikes Peak mining district

Colorado Springs coal field
Location: Extends from N and NE of Colorado Springs ESE to T15S R62W; may extend into Douglas County as far N as the Platte canyon as the South Platte field.
Description: This field lies within the S part of the Denver coal region. The area’s Franceville Mine was operated in 1882-1898. The field includes the McFerran, Carlton, Pikeview, Curtis, Rapson, and Davies mines.
References:
SEE ALSO Douglas County – South Platte coal field
Cripple Creek mining district

*Location:* Originally in El Paso, Fremont and Teller counties.

*Description:* Most of the history of this district refers to that time period when the district was located in Teller County; see the entry for Teller County’s Cripple Creek district.

*References:*
- Cripple Creek special map. 1895. Washington DC: USGS. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
- USE Teller County – Cripple Creek mining district
- SEE ALSO Fremont County – Cripple Creek mining district

Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district

*Location:* Includes areas of S Teller, NE Fremont and W El Paso counties.

*Description:* Economic deposits of feldspar are reported.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Fremont County – Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district
- SEE ALSO Teller County – Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district

Duffields mining district

*Location:* WSW edge of El Paso County; possibly includes the area near the town of Duffield N of South Cheyenne Creek.

*Description:* Minor fluorspar production is reported in this area.

*References:*

El Paso mining district

*Location:* T16S R67W.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Turkey Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*
- USE Turkey Creek mining district
Front Range mining district
Location: T12S R67W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). No lode production is reported for this area.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Green Mountain Falls mining district
Location: T13S R68W; may include the area near the town of Green Mountain Falls W of the Air Force Academy near the Teller County border.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). No lode production is reported for this area.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Manitou mining district
Location: T13-14S R67-68W NMPM.
Description: Also referred to as the Pikes Peak district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
USE Pikes Peak mining district

North Cheyenne mining district
Location: Sect 27-29, 32-34 T14S R67W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably either an alternate name for or included in the Cheyenne district.
References:
USE Cheyenne mining district

Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
Location: Includes parts of NW El Paso, N Teller, SW Douglas, and NE Park counties.
Description: Economic (minor) deposits of gem topaz, quartz and amazonstone are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Douglas County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district

Pikes Peak mining district
Location: Primarily in Teller County, extending into El Paso County according to some.
Description: Also used to refer to the Cheyenne and Manitou districts in El Paso County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area in El Paso County includes mineral monument No. 7249. No lode production is reported for this area.
References:
UF Manitou mining district
SEE ALSO Cheyenne mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – Pikes Peak mining district

St. Peters Dome mining district
Location: Near the E fringe of the Front Range ~8 miles SW of Colorado Springs near the town of Duffield.
Description: Prospecting for gold and silver in this area has been systematic but unproductive. Intermittent fluorspar producer from 1910 through 1958 is reported, with the last significant reported production in 1944-1945. The district includes the Hughes Boss claim. Mardirosian (1976) reports pegmatite deposits.

References:

Turkey Creek mining district
Location: Sect 19-20, 29-30 T16S R67W; the area around the upper valleys of Turkey and Red creeks.
Description: Also used to refer to the El Paso district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). No production or active mines are reported.
References:
Elbert County

Summary: Elbert County's mining activity consists of gold placer mining along Cherry Creek and Gold (Ronk) Creek starting in the 1850s. These placer deposits extend into Arapahoe, Denver and Douglas counties.

Cherry Creek gold placers
Location: In Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Elbert counties.
Description: Parker (1974) includes the Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek placers (Arapahoe County) and the tributaries of Cherry Creek to the S (Douglas and Elbert counties) in the Cherry Creek placer group. Placer gold was discovered in 1858, among the oldest known such deposits in the state. They consist of small placer deposits worked intermittently for many years; no gold production is reported after 1946.

References:

Gold Creek gold placers
Location: T8S, R65W; 1-1.5 miles WSW of Elizabeth, on Gold (Ronk) Creek.
Description: Also referred to as the Ronk Creek placers by Vanderwilt (1947); similar to the Cherry Creek placers and included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974). No gold production is reported after 1946.

References:

Ronk Creek gold placers
Description: Used to refer to the Gold Creek placers by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Cherry Creek placers by Parker (1974).

References:

USE Gold Creek gold placers
BT Cherry Creek gold placers
Fremont County

Summary: Fremont County’s major mining districts include the Cotopaxi and Cripple Creek districts. The county produced copper and some gold, silver, lead and zinc; most of its mining districts were not economical over any length of time. The success of the Cripple Creek district encouraged its annexation with the formation of Teller County from the W part of El Paso County and the N part of Fremont County in 1899. Some of the county’s mineralization extends into neighboring Park County. Fremont County is part of the Canon City coal region, and has economic uranium, clay and pegmatite deposits.

Alhambra mining district
Location: T14-15S R73W; related to or an extension of adjoining districts in Park County.
Description: Name used for the Fremont County part of the mineralized region shared by Fremont and Park counties, including the Freshwater and Guffey districts in Park County; also known as the Freshwater, Guffey and Red Ruth districts in adjoining Park County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Park County – Freshwater mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Guffey mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Red Ruth mining district

Arkansas River gold placers
Location: Along the Arkansas River from Chaffee County downstream to Florence.
Description: The area produced small amounts of placer gold prior to 1945. Other reported production for the area is from the Florence smelter dump.
References:

Badger Creek mining district
Location: T50N R10E NMPM; 4 miles N up Badger Creek; may now include the area of the Badger Creek gypsum mine.
Description: Copper mineralization is reported, but no production has been recorded.
References:

Bare Hills mining district
Location: T16S R70-71W.
Description: Also known as the South Cripple Creek district, which it overlaps; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO South Cripple Creek mining district

Black Mountain mining district
Location: T16S R75W; in both Fremont and Park counties.
Description: Probably related to and may be an extension of the Black Mountain district in Park County; may overlap the Carbonate district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Carbonate mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Black Mountain mining district

Calumet mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Whitehorn district by Hill (1912). This name may have come from the Calumet district (Chaffee County) to the W, which is associated with the Whitehorn district. The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County).
References:
USE Whitehorn mining district

Cameron mining district
Location: In the area of Cameron Mountain.
Description: Also appears as "Cameron Mountain district"; also refers to the Cleora district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is probably related to the Cameron district in Chaffee County. The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County).
References:
USE Cleora mining district
SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Cameron mining district

Canon City clay mining district
Location: Clay outcrops occur between Sixmile Creek to the E and Parkdale to the W; includes areas around Parkdale, Grape Creek, Skyline Hogback, Oil Creek, Sixmile Creek and Wilson Creek.
Description: Refractory and semi-refractory clays were mined here starting in the early 1900s. Some deposits were exhausted, but intermittent mining is reported to 1958.
References:

Canon City coal field
Location: S of Canon City.
Description: Covers ~36-40 sq miles. The Canon City field is one of earliest developed coal fields in Colorado and is part of the Canon City coal region. It was a consistent producer, with 21 active mines in 1958; the Southfield Mine was still active in 2000. The field includes the Brilliant, Mountain, Chandler, Great Western, Diamond, and Nonac mines, and probably includes the Radiant coal mine and the coal camp of Radiant.
References:

Canon City mining district
Location: T18S R70W.
Description: Some copper and tungsten ores have been found in the area, but no production is reported.
References:

Carbonate mining district
Location: In the area of T16S R74W; may extend into Park County.
**Fremont County**

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926), identified as being in Fremont County; may overlap the Black Mountain district.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Black Mountain mining district

**Cleora mining district**

*Location:* T16S R76W; includes the area near Cameron Mountain.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Cameron district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is probably related to the Cleora district in Chaffee County. The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County).

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Cleora mining district

**Cotopaxi mining district**

*Location:* T48N R11-12E NMPM; includes the area of the town of Cotopaxi and a stretch of the Arkansas River.

*Description:* Also used to refer to the Fremont district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This area is the site of a failed Jewish immigrant colony promoted by mine owner Emanuel Saltiel; immigrants were forced to take work in his mine when the colony’s farmland and lack of resources failed to support them. The district’s principal operation is the Cotopaxi Mine in the hills S of Red Gulch to the N of the town of Cotopaxi. This mine was a copper producer and closed in 1907. Some zinc and lead ores are reported, and minor fluor spar production is reported in the early 1920s.

*References:*
- UF Fremont mining district

**Cotopaxi pegmatite mining district**

*Location:* W Fremont County, running N to the Park County line.

*Description:* Economic deposits of feldspar are reported.

*References:*
- UF Fremont mining district

**Cripple Creek mining district**

*Location:* Originally in El Paso, Fremont and Teller counties.

*Description:* Most of the history of this district refers to that time period when the district was located in Teller County; see Teller County’s record for the Cripple Creek district.

*References:*
- Cripple Creek special map. 1895. Washington DC: USGS. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
- USE Teller County – Cripple Creek mining district
- SEE ALSO El Paso County – Cripple Creek mining district

**Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district**

*Location:* Includes areas of S Teller, NE Fremont and W El Paso counties.

*Description:* Economic deposits of feldspar are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO El Paso County – Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district

Currant Creek mining district
Location: T17S R72W; ~8 miles N of Parkdale on Currant Creek; 26 miles S of Howbert.
Description: Also referred to as the Micanite and Parkdale districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Pegmatite deposits were worked in this area. Zinc, copper, gold, silver and lead ores are reported. No production is reported, despite considerable prospecting to 1902 for lead-silver and zinc ores.
References:
UF Micanite mining district
UF Parkdale mining district

Dawson mining district
Location: May be in the area of Dawson Mountain SW of Canon City.
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926) as being worked by the Copper King Free Gold Mining Company. The camp of Dawson City was established almost overnight by prospectors from Canon City with the discovery of the Copper King lode in 1898. The discovery proved to be only low-grade ore and the camp emptied quickly.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 120.

East Beaver Creek mining district
Location: T16S R68W; in both Fremont and Teller Counties; 8 miles S of Rosemont.
Description: Also appears as "East Beaver district"; also referred to as the East Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The limited information available indicates that copper, gold and silver are present.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF East Cripple Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – East Beaver Creek mining district

East Cripple Creek mining district
Description: Also used to refer to the East Beaver Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
USE East Beaver Creek mining district

Eight Mile Park pegmatite mining district
Location: From W of Canon City to Texas Creek.
Description: The district includes the Mica Lode Mine, located in 1928. Economic deposits of feldspar, mica, beryl, columbite and rose quartz are reported.
References:

Eightmile mining district
Location: T17S R69W; in the area of Eightmile Creek S of Cripple Creek.
Description: Also referred to as the McCourt district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
- UF McCourt mining district

Fall Gulch mining district

Location: In the area of Sect 7, 12 T47N R11-12E NMPM; E of Hayden Creek in the area of Falls Gulch.

Description: The Cotopaxi mining district is to the N of this district.

References:

Fremont mining district

Location: Sect 19, 30 T48N R12E, Sect 24-25 T48N R11E.

Description: Also appears as "Fremont County district"; also referred to as the Cotopaxi district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
- USE Cotopaxi mining district

Gem mining district

Location: Sect 28-29, 32-33 T20S R73W; in the area of Gem Mountain E of Texas Creek and near the Custer County border.

Description: Also referred to as the Texas Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district may include the area of the Gem Mine, an inactive nickel silver mine.

References:
- UF Texas Creek mining district

Gordon mining district

Location: Sect 22-23 T16S R69W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

Grape Creek mining district

Location: Sect 9-11, 14-16 T19-20S R71W; on Grape Creek 8 miles SW of Canon City.

Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps and is also referred to as the Greenhorn district. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc production are recorded for 1943-1945.

References:
- SEE ALSO Greenhorn mining district

Greenhorn mining district

Location: Sect 7-9, 16-21 T19S R71W; may include the area around the head of Newlin Creek; 3 miles S of the coal camp of Radiant.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Grape Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); overlaps the Grape Creek district to the W. Some lead and zinc production is reported.

References:
- SEE ALSO Grape Creek mining district
Guffey-Micanite pegmatite mining district

*Location:* In N Fremont County and SE Park County.

*Description:* Economic deposits of feldspar, mica, beryl and columbite are reported.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Park County – Guffey-Micanite pegmatite mining district

Hardscrabble mining district

*Location:* T20S R71W.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may be related to the Hardscrabble district to the S in Custer County.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Custer County – Hardscrabble mining district

Hayden Creek mining district

*Location:* Sect 3-10 T47N R11E NMPM; in the area of Hayden Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*

Hillside mining district

*Location:* T20S R73W; on Texas Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River.

*Description:* This district may include the town of Hillside near the Custer County border. Gold ore was reported shipped from this district in 1935.

*References:*

Howard mining district

*Location:* T49N R11E NMPM.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); shares a name with the area’s Howard Gulch and the town of Howard.

*References:*

Manoa mining district

*Description:* Used to refer to the Whitehorn district by Hill (1912). The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County). A county boundary dispute touched off by the area’s mineral discoveries may have resulted in the area around the town of Manoa in the Turret district (Chaffee County) being transferred from Chaffee County to Fremont County in 1899.

*References:*
- USE Whitehorn mining district
- SEE ALSO Chaffee County—Turret mining district

McCourt mining district

*Location:* Sect 21-22, 27-28 T17S R69W.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Eightmile district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*
- USE Eightmile mining district

Micanite mining district

*Description:* Used to refer to the Currant Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912). Mardirosian (1976) reports pegmatite and gemstone deposits. The district includes the Climax Mica, Rose Dawn Mica, Whopper and Star Girl mines.
References:

USE Currant Creek mining district

Parkdale mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Currant Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:

USE Currant Creek mining district

Penrose clay mining district
Location: Includes the area along Beaver and Red creeks near the El Paso and Pueblo county borders.
Description: Refractory clays outcrop along Beaver Creek and Red Creek. The area has not been systematically prospected, and only a small amount of clay is reported mined.
References:

Pleasant Valley mining district
Location: Sect 19 T49N R10E, Sect 24 T49N R9E.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Wellsville district.
References:
SEE ALSO Wellsville mining district

Red Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 7-8, 17-18 T49N R12E NMPM; 9 miles N of Cotopaxi.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Active exploration of copper deposits began in 1907; production was limited to a few cars of ore, and nothing was being shipped by the 1940s. The district includes the camp of Red Gulch, and the Red Gulch and Copper Prince mines. (Red Gulch itself is shown as Carroll Creek on some state maps.) Mardirosian (1976) also reports silver deposits.
References:

South Cripple Creek mining district
Location: Sect 12-13 T16S R71W, Sect 7, 18 T16S R70W.
Description: Also appears as "South Cripple district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Bare Hills district.
References:
SEE ALSO Bare Hills mining district

Tallahassee Creek uranium mining district
Location: Centered around T17S R73W, on the SE fringe of the Thirty-nine Mile volcanic field.
Description: Uranium discoveries were made here in 1954. The district includes the Hanson ore body.
Texas Creek mining district

Location: Sect 26-29, 32-34 T20S R73W.

Description: Also used to refer to the Gem district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

USE Gem mining district

Tungsten mining district

Location: Sect 3-4, 9-10 T17S R69W.

Description: Also referred to as the Wilbur district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

USE Wilbur mining district

Wellsville mining district

Location: Sect 13-14, 23-24 T49N R9E NMPM.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); shares a name with the town of Wellsville on the Arkansas River; overlaps the Pleasant Valley district. Mardirosian (1976) reports manganese deposits.

References:


SEE ALSO Pleasant Valley mining district

Whitehorn mining district

Location: T51N R10E NMPM; 26 miles NE of Salida.

Description: Also referred to as the Manoa district; name used in conjunction with the Calumet district (Chaffee County) by Vanderwilt (1947); E of and continuous with the Calumet district. The area of iron occurrences near the Chaffee County-Fremont County border may be variously known as the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Coon Park, and Turret districts (Chaffee County), or the Calumet, Cameron, Cleora, Manoa and Whitehorn districts (Fremont County). A county boundary dispute touched off by the area’s mineral discoveries resulted in Whitehorn being transferred from Chaffee County to Fremont County in 1899. With no new mineral discoveries, Whitehorn was in decline by 1900. Gold and silver mineralization is reported, but no related production is recorded.

References:

UF Calumet mining district

UF Manoa mining district

SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Calumet mining district

Wilbur mining district

Location: Sect 22-26 T16S R70W, Sect 27-34 T16S R69W.

Description: Also used to refer to the Tungsten district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

USE Tungsten mining district

References:
Garfield County

Summary: Most of Garfield County’s mining activity is in coal. The county includes the Book Cliffs, Carbondale and Grand Hogback coal fields of the Uinta coal region. Garfield County’s few mining districts are reported to have produced a little gold and silver, with very minor amounts of copper, lead and zinc.

Book Cliffs coal field
Location: W part of the county on the Utah state line, SW into Mesa County to the Colorado River.
Description: Covers ~300 sq miles; named for the escarpment flanking the N side of Grand Valley. The field is part of the Uinta coal region, and incorporates the producing Carbonera, Palisade, Cameo (Mesa County) and Grand Junction (Mesa County) districts. Mesa County’s part of the coal field was commercially mined by 1888; 15 mines were operating in Mesa County in 1918; in Garfield County the McClane Canyon Mine was operating in 2000.

References:
UF Carbonera coal mining district
UF Palisade coal mining district
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Book Cliffs coal field

Carbonate mining district
Location: Sect 34-36 T3S R89W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The town of Carbonate (Carbonate City) was the site of an 1878 discovery of carbonate ore containing silver. Carbonate was the original county seat in 1883. Reports, some exaggerated, of rich silver ore precipitated a rush to the area in 1882. However, there was a lack of follow-up discoveries and the area was mostly deserted by 1884. Since then, other economic deposits were identified. The Windy Point Mine (Strong Mine) is one of the district’s largest lead-zinc deposits. The Defiance mines are reported to have produced some zinc ore in the early 1940s. The area includes the Carbonate mineral monument.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 63

Carbondale coal field
Location: Crosses the W part of Pitkin County and extends into Garfield County on the N and Gunnison County on the S.
Description: Part of the SE portion of the Uinta coal region. The town of Carbondale (Garfield County) was named for the Pennsylvania hometown of a town founder. The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company operated a number of small mines in the field. In Pitkin County: the town of Placita was established when its coal mines opened in 1899; the mines were operated at least until the early 1900s. A coal seam was located in 1881 on the future site of the company town of Coal Basin; another mine was opened there in 1892. Spring Gulch was a small company coal camp active from the late 1880s to the 1910s. After 30 years of inactivity, the
Pitkin County part of the field was been mined increasingly from 1950 through 1958. In Garfield County: The small coal camp of Marion grew up around the Marion Mine, which was worked from the late 1880s to the 1910s. The town of Sunshine (Sunlight) was established around the time the first mine opened there in 1887; this mine was operated intermittently until 1917.

References:
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Carbondale coal field
SEE ALSO Pitkin County – Carbondale coal field

Carbonera coal mining district
Location: In the W part of the Book Cliffs area.
Description: Along with the Palisade district, included in the Book Cliffs coal field in Garfield County.
References:
USE Book Cliffs coal field

Defiance mining district
Location: T5S R88W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); related to the Glenwood district as either an alternate name or as an overlapping or neighboring district. The town of Defiance, the original name for part or all of the town of Glenwood Springs, was established in 1883. The area includes the Eli mineral monument.
References:
SEE ALSO Glenwood mining district

Elk Creek mining district
Location: Area around T4S R90, 92W; includes the S flank of the White River plateau and the area around East Elk Creek.
Description: Name used in conjunction with the Rifle Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947). The area was previously known for being a coal mining center near the town of Newcastle. Gold ore was discovered in 1909, with some minor production. Mardirosian (1976) reports gold, silver, lead and zinc deposits, and some vanadium and uranium.
References:
UF Newcastle mining district
SEE ALSO Rifle Creek mining district

Glenwood mining district
Location: Sect 2-3, 10-11 T6S R89W; includes the general area of the town of Glenwood Springs.
Description: Also appears as "Glenwood Hot Springs district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); related to the Defiance district as either an alternate name or as an overlapping or neighboring district. The town of Defiance City was established by Leadville settlers in 1883, and later renamed or relocated as Glenwood Springs. The area includes the Murphy mineral monument.
References:
Glenwood Springs coal mining district

Location: Extends SE from Newcastle to the S of Glenwood Springs; mostly in Garfield County, but has mines in both Garfield and Pitkin counties according to Gale (1910).

Description: Possibly a local name; part of the Grand Hogback coal field. This district is commercially important and contains the Pocahontas, Black Diamond and South Canyon mines (Garfield County), and the Coalbasin and Spring Gulch mines (Pitkin County).

References:

Grand Hogback coal field

Location: Lies along the ridge of steeply dipping strata forming the W flank of the White River Plateau; borders the Uinta coal region on the E from Meeker to Newcastle to Glenwood Springs; extends into Rio Blanco County.

Description: Covers ~75 sq miles. This coal field is part of the Uinta coal region and includes the mines of the Glenwood Springs, Pocahontas and Sunlight districts.

References:
Garfield County

Hot Springs mining district

**Location:** Probably in the general area of Glenwood Springs.

**Description:** A variation of “Glenwood district” and probably named for the natural hot springs in the Glenwood Springs area; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

**References:**

USE Glenwood mining district

Newcastle mining district

**Location:** Area near the town of Newcastle.

**Description:** Mentioned in Rooney (1994); may be a local name used to refer to the Elk Creek district.

**References:**
- USE Elk Creek mining district

Palisade coal mining district

**Location:** At the E end of the Book Cliffs area.

**Description:** Along with the Carbonera district, included in the Book Cliffs coal field in Garfield County.

**References:**
- USE Book Cliffs coal field

Parachute mining district

**Location:** Sect 15-17, 20-22 T6S R91W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district shares a name with the town of Parachute established in 1875. The area includes the No. 19837 mineral monument.

References:

Pocahontas coal mining district
Location: The area S of Harvey Gap, according to Collins (1975); however, a Pocahontas Mine, a Sunset Mine and a neighboring town of Sunlight are located W of Carbondale and S of Glenwood Springs along Fourmile Creek and this is possibly a more accurate location for the district.
Description: Also referred to as the Sunlight district; part of the Grand Hogback coal field. The Rocky Mountain Fuel Company operated mines in this area in the early 1900s until the Colorado Midland Railroad went out of business in 1918.
References:
USE Grand Hogback coal field
SEE ALSO Sunlight coal mining district

Rifle Creek mining district
Location: Area around T4S R90, 92W; S flank of the White River plateau.
Description: Name used in conjunction with the Elk Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947). The district shares a name with Rifle Creek to the W. This area was previously known for being a coal mining center near the town of Newcastle. Gold ore was discovered in 1909, with some minor production. The district includes the Sunshine Lode Mine (originally the Grandview Mine), which was operated for zinc from 1925-1932, then reopened and producing intermittently in 1940-1951. Mardirosian (1976) reports gold, silver, lead and zinc deposits, with some vanadium and uranium.
References:
SEE ALSO Elk Creek mining district

Sunlight coal mining district
Location: The area S of Harvey Gap according to Collins (1975); however, a Sunset Mine, a neighboring town of Sunlight, and a Pocahontas Mine are located W of Carbondale and S of Glenwood Springs along Fourmile Creek and this is possibly a more accurate location for the district.
Description: Also referred to as the Pocahontas district; part of the Grand Hogback coal field. The Sunlight coal camp in the E part of the county along Fourmile Creek supported the Sunset Mine in the late 1890s. The Rocky Mountain Fuel Company operated mines in this area in the early 1900s until the Colorado Midland Railroad went out of business in 1918.
References:
USE Grand Hogback coal field
SEE ALSO Pocahontas coal mining district
Gilpin County

Summary: Gilpin County was a major mining area and includes some of Colorado’s earliest mining districts. Some districts are continuous into neighboring Clear Creek County, also a major mining area. The county is included in the Front Range uranium mining district—the first pitchblende discovery in the US was in the Central City district. Placer deposits were worked in the gulches around Central City and along the Fall River, North Clear Creek, South Boulder Creek and their tributaries starting in 1859. Some economic pegmatite deposits are reported. Major districts include those in and around Central City in the southern part of the county, and the Independent and Pine districts to the north. The county produced gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper.

Alice mining district

Location: T2S R74W; ~10 miles NW of Idaho Springs; in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties, but mostly in Clear Creek County.

Description: Also referred to as the Lincoln district in Clear Creek County and the Yankee Hill district in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties; consolidated with the Yankee Hill district to become the Alice-Yankee Hill district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The district probably includes the Silver Lake district. Gold placers near the head of Fall River were discovered, and worked in the early 1880s. Most of the district’s production came from the Alice Mine (Clear Creek County), which was also being worked in the early 1880s. The town of Alice (originally Yorktown) was at about the same time. The small camp of Ninety-Four, named for its ore discoveries in 1894, supported the workings of the Ninety-Four, Princess Alice and Lalla mines. The district was generally inactive after its oxidized ore deposits were worked out, revived briefly from 1935-1942, then continued its decline. The Alice Mine closed, then reopened in 1933. The North Star-Mann Mine, the district’s other major mine, was worked through 1916. Gold, silver and lead production is recorded to 1945, and copper to 1942. The Clear Creek part of the district is included in the Front Range uranium mining district; Sims and Sheridan (1964) also identify this as a uranium-bearing district. The Gold Anchor Mine contains pitchblende but no ore was shipped.

References:
UF Silver Lake mining district
BT Alice-Yankee Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Yankee Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Alice mining district

Alice-Yankee Hill mining district

Location: In both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.

Description: This district is a consolidation of the Alice district (Clear Creek and Gilpin counties) and the Yankee Hill district (Clear Creek County and Gilpin counties).

References:
NT Alice mining district
NT Yankee Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Alice-Yankee Hill mining district
Apex mining district

Location: Area of T2S R73W; 7 miles NW of Blackhawk.

Description: The district was consolidated into the Pine-Kingston-Apex district by Vanderwilt (1947). The area was fairly active in the 1890s. Eberhart (1969) refers to the town of Apex (also known as Pine Creek) as the center of the Pine Creek district. The district includes the Apex, Schultz Wonder, Huberknocker, and Yellow Medicine mines, and probably includes the camp of Nugget which was active in the 1890s, then declined. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Production is reported to 1945.

References:

Bay State mining district

Location: Sect 35 T3S R72W; at the neighboring corners of Jefferson and Clear Creek counties.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

Black Hawk mining district

Description: May also appear as “Black Hawk-Central City district”; mentioned in Rooney (1994). This is possibly a local name used to refer to the area around Black Hawk within the Central City district. The town of Black Hawk was established shortly after the Gregory discoveries in 1859 and was well populated by the early 1860s from nearby gold discoveries. Black Hawk was the site of the Boston-Colorado smelter, an innovative facility that revived the region’s mining industry in the late 1860s. Silver discoveries were made
on Silver Hill to the NE in the 1870s and the town of Hughesville was established near the Hard Money Mine.

References:

USE Central City mining district

Central City-Idaho Springs mining district
Location: In both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.
Description: The district is a consolidation of the Central City district (Gilpin County) and Idaho Springs district (Clear Creek County) as reflecting a single series of ore bodies in the two counties; includes the Freeland-Lamartine district (Clear Creek County) according to Vanderwilt (1947). In addition to its many major lode and placer deposits, the district contains uranium deposits, with some ore shipped shortly after the discovery of radium. Some of the first uranium exploration of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was concentrated in this district in Clear Creek County, which includes the Kirk, Wood-Calhoun, and Cherokee mines.

References:
NT Central City mining district
BT Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Central City-Idaho Springs mining district

Central City mining district
Location: T3S R73W; directly N of the Idaho Springs district in Clear Creek County.
Description: Also appears as “Central district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This is a broadly defined district centered around the area of Central City and Blackhawk and includes the Black Hawk district and much if not all of the earlier established Gregory district. Sims and Sheridan (1964) place the boundary between the Central City and Idaho Springs districts “arbitrarily” at 39° 46’ 25”, with the Central City district covering an area of ~12 sq miles and including the Nevada and Gregory districts and most of the Russell Gulch, Pleasant Valley and Lake districts. Moench
and Drake (1966) and Sims and others (1963) refer respectively to considerable overlap between the two
districts, in both counties. The Central City district was consolidated along with the Idaho Springs district
(Clear Creek County) to form the Central City-Idaho Springs district. This district is the most commercially
important of the districts in the Front Range mineral belt according to Sheridan and others (1967). Lode
gold was discovered in Gregory Gulch between the future locations of the two towns of Central City and
Blackhawk in 1859, starting a rush to the area. The Bates, Gunnell, Kansas and Burroughs lodes were all
discovered in 1859. The camp of Missouri Flats, one of the many camps in the area, was established on
the slopes just SW of Central City in 1860, but declined rapidly as Central City itself became established.
Rich silver veins were discovered on Silver Hill NE of Blackhawk in ~1877. The district’s production
exceeded the combined total of all other districts in Colorado up to the mid 1880s. The Argo Tunnel was
started in Central City in ~1900 to intersect the Central City veins and stimulate further mining activity, but
was not successful in this. District production declined steadily from 1914, peaked again in the 1930s prior
to World War II, and then continued its decline. Most mining activity after World War II has been for base-
metals and uranium. Overall production is recorded from the first discoveries in 1859 through 1955. Most of
the district’s output was in gold, but significant amounts of silver, lead, copper and zinc were also produced.
At its broad definition, the district includes the Bobtail, California, Gregory, Gunnell, Kansas-Burroughs, Old
Town, Prize and Saratoga mines. The district is part of the Front Range uranium mining district. The first
discovery of pitchblende in the US was in 1871 in Central City on the Wood dump on Quartz Hill. Other
mines with uranium occurrences include the Kirk, German, East Calhoun, Carroll, Two Sisters, and
Bonanza mines.

References:
Bastin, E.S., Hill, J.M. 1917. Economic geology of Gilpin County and adjacent parts of Clear Creek and


district, Jefferson County, Colo. USGS Prof Paper 520, 121 p.

Sims, P.K., Drake, A.A., Jr., Tooker, E.W. 1963. Economic geology of the Central City district, Gilpin
County, Colo. USGS Prof Paper 359, 231 p.

1159, 116 p.


UF Black Hawk mining district
NT Eureka mining district
NT Gregory mining district
NT Illinois mining district
NT Lake mining district
NT Nevada mining district
NT Quartz Hill mining district
BT Central City-Idaho Springs mining district
BT South Gilpin County mining district
SEE ALSO Pleasant Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Russell Gulch mining district
Clear Creek pegmatite mining district

Location: Includes NW Jefferson County, SE Gilpin County, NE Clear Creek County; generally from Evergreen to Central City.

Description: Economic deposits of mica, feldspar, and (rarely) beryl are reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Clear Creek pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Clear Creek pegmatite mining district

Deadwood gold placers

Location: On South Boulder Creek near Pactolus.

Description: Gold placer deposits were discovered here by B.F. Langley in 1859.

References:
SEE ALSO Pactolus gold placers

Enterprise mining district

Location: Sect 7-9 T3S R72W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district’s general location indicates that it is unrelated to the Enterprise district in Boulder County. Claims for this district were being recorded by 1860. This district includes the Michigan Central, Wilson, Swift and Greenhorn lodes.

References:
Enterprise district, Gilpin County, 1860-1884 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Eureka mining district

Location: Sect 4, 9 T3S R73W; in the area of Eureka Gulch, a tributary of North Clear Creek W of Central City; originally in the Kansas Territory and bounded on the N by Chase’s Creek, on the E by the Gregory district, on the S by the New Nevada district, and on the W by the Middle Branch of Clear Creek.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Claims for this district were being recorded by 1860. The camp of Eureka was established in Eureka Gulch (camps in the Central City area tended to expand and run together). The district includes the Gold Dirt, Iowa, Discovery, Quartz Mill and Gunnell claims.
Gilpin County

References:
Eureka district, 1859-1861 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
BT Central City mining district

Fairfield mining district
Location: Sect 26-27, 35-36 T2S R73W; includes the area around the mouth of Missouri Gulch and around N Clear Creek.
Description: Also referred to as the Fairview district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Claims for this district were being recorded by 1860 and the Boston Hydraulic Mining Company was exploring placer operations here ~1860.
References:
Fairfield district, 1860-1861 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF Fairview mining district
SEE ALSO South Boulder mining district

Fairview mining district
Description: Also referred to as the Fairfield district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
USE Fairfield mining district

Front Range uranium mining district
Location: Includes areas of pitchblende occurrences in parts of the Front Range mineral belt and in associated metal mining districts, mostly in Jefferson and Boulder counties but also including an area in Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.
Description: Includes many metal mining districts with uranium occurrences, such as the Jamestown, Gold Hill, Caribou-Grand Island, and Eldora districts (Boulder County), the Alice district (Clear Creek County), and the Central City and North Gilpin County districts (Gilpin County). The first pitchblende discovery in the US was made in 1871 from the Wood dump, Central City district. Ore was shipped from the Central City-Idaho Springs district starting shortly after the discovery of radium in 1898. Uranium minerals were identified in the Old Leyden coal mine (Jefferson County) in the early 1870s although not mined there until the 1950s. Most of the large mines are in the E central part of the Front Range; activity and production concentrated on the 1950s discoveries on the Front Range mineral belt’s margins at the Schwartzwalder, Fairday A.M. (Fair Day), and Wright Lease mines.
References:
NT Central City-Idaho Springs mining district
NT North Gilpin County mining district
SEE ALSO Boulder County – Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Front Range uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Front Range uranium mining district

Gamble Gulch mining district
Location: T2S R73W; in the area of Gamble (Gambell) Gulch, a tributary of South Boulder Creek S of Rollinsville.
Description: Included in the Independent district; adjoins or overlaps the Perigo district. The gulch was named for prospector A. D. Gambell, who located placer gold claims here in ~1859. This is the site of the mining town of Gilpin, established by 1897 and named for Gov. William Gilpin; Gilpin was unsuccessful and depopulated by 1910. The district includes the Colorado Tunnel, Happy Hollow, and Gold Basin mines.
References:
Gilpin County mining district

**Description:** Probably an informal designation for the area including the King Solomon, Mary Ann, Little Kate, Conundrum, Midget, New Moon, Red Bird, Gold Hill, Protection, Yellow Bird, Bonanza King, Little King, and Cumberland claims.

**References:**
- Gilpin County mining district, Gilpin County, Colorado. 19?? Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.

Gold Dirt mining district

**Location:** T2S R73W: in the area of Gamble Gulch E of Perigo.

**Description:** Used to refer to and included within the Independent district. The camp of Gold Dirt was established by 1860 and was the site of a large stamp mill that processed ores from nearby mines for a brief time. The district includes the Gold Dirt Mine.

**References:**

Gregory mining district

**Location:** Sect 18 T3S R72W, Sect 13 T3S R73W; originally extended from the mouth of the North Fork of Clear Creek, along the divide between the North Fork and Ralston Creek 7 miles up Ralston Creek to Miners Camp.

**Description:** Also occurs as “Gregory Diggings district,” which may have been an early name; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This is part of the South Gilpin County district; according to some authors most if not all of this district is included in the Central City district; overlaps the Lake Gulch district to the SE. Initially, this district was broadly defined as an area around Central City and Blackhawk and to the NE, comprising a large part of SE Gilpin County. This broad definition pairs the Gregory district with the Independent district to the W. John Gregory discovered the Gregory lode in Gregory Gulch between Blackhawk and Central City in 1859, credited as the start of the 1859 Colorado gold rush. The Gregory district was formed a month later and numerous gold placers were located in the nearby gulches shortly thereafter. Mountain City was established on the site of the gold discoveries by 1859; it was eventually annexed by the growing town of Central City anywhere between 1880 and the early 1900s. The camp of Gregory was established further up Gregory Gulch near the present site of Central City (camps in the Central City area tended to expand and run together). Shortly after the district’s establishment it was split into a number of smaller districts; one of these may have been the poorly documented Spring Gulch district S of Central City. Most of the area’s gold placers were exhausted by 1863, with little activity from the 1880s on. The district includes the Buell, Rialto and O’Neil mines. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Production is recorded to 1945.

**References:**

UF Spring Gulch mining district

BT Central City mining district
Gilpin County

BT South Gilpin County mining district
SEE ALSO Lake Gulch mining district
SEE ALSO Lake mining district

Hawkeye mining district
Location: Sect 23 T2S R73W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). A claim on the Caledonia lode was filed for this district in 1864.
References:
Hawkeye district, Gilpin County, 1864 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Illinois mining district
Location: Sect 9-17 T2S R73W.
Description: Also appears as "Illinois Central district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Independent and Nevada districts. Illinois Gulch and the Illinois Mine are located S of Central City and E of Nevadaville. The camp of Bortonsburg was established in Illinois Gulch in 1861. The district includes the Egyptian and Pikes Peak mines (which may also be included within the Nevada district). The Egyptian mines are located on Quartz Hill in Central City.
References:
BT Central City mining district
SEE ALSO Independent mining district
SEE ALSO Nevada mining district

Independent mining district
Location: Sect 8-11 T2S R73W; in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties, to include the Independent gold placers.
Description: Also appears as "Independence district", which is also referred to as the Perigo district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes at least part of the Independent gold placers (Clear Creek County); includes the Gamble Gulch area; overlaps the Illinois, Pine, Quartz Valley and Union districts. This district is broadly defined or used generally to refer to an area comprising much of the NW part of Gilpin County, overlapping or including most of the districts NW of Central City from Boulder County in the N to Clear Creek County in the S. This broad definition pairs the Independent district with the Gregory district to the E. By 1860 the district was active and competing with the Gregory district for production, but by 1868 it was almost deserted. In 1888 the discovery of the Perigo Mine (Perigo district) revived the district briefly. The area includes the camp of Gold Dirt. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Small intermittent production is reported to 1924, in some sources to 1945.
References:
NT Gamble Gulch mining district
NT Gold Dirt mining district
BT North Gilpin County mining district
SEE ALSO Illinois mining district
SEE ALSO Perigo mining district
SEE ALSO Pine mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Union mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Independent gold placers
Kansas mining district
Location Sect 35-36 T1S R74W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district shares a name with the Kansas Mine WNW of Central City.
References:

Kingston mining district
Location: Area of T2S R73W.
Description: This district was consolidated into the Pine-Kingston-Apex district according to Vanderwilt (1947). The small camp of Kingston, located on a trail between Nugget to the NNE and Alice to the SW, was established in the area of the London Mine. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. There are production records to 1945.
References:
BT Pine-Kingston-Apex mining district
SEE ALSO North Gilpin County mining district

Lake mining district
Location: Sect 18 T3S R72W, Sect 13 T3S R73W; SE of Central City.
Description: Also appears as “Lake Gulch district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Gregory and Pleasant Valley districts; adjoins the Russell Gulch district. The camp of Lake Gulch was established in 1860 but soon lost its residents to nearby Central City. The district includes the Caledonia, Empress, Williams, Unexpected and Clay County mines.
References:
BT Central City mining district
SEE ALSO Gregory mining district
SEE ALSO Pleasant Valley mining district

Mountain House mining district
Location: Sect 19-20, 29-30 T2S R72W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Nevada mining district
Location: Sect 10-12 T3S R73W; centered around Nevada Gulch, a tributary of North Clear Creek; near Gregory Gulch SW of Central City.
Description: Also appears as “New Nevada district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Illinois Central district. The town of Nevadaville (originally Bald Mountain or Nevada City) was settled in ~1860 by prospectors, many exploring nearby Quartz Hill and Bald Mountain, and became for a time one of the area’s major camps. Some gold placering was also being done in the area by 1862. The district includes the Glory Hole, and the California, Hubert, King, Newfoundland, Post Hole and Prize mines. Production records exist to 1945.
References:
North Clear Creek gold placers

**Location:** Along North Clear Creek, with major operations near Blackhawk.

**Description:** North Clear Creek and its nearby tributary placer deposits were worked in the 1890s. There were dry land and plant placer operations near the mouth of Pickle Gulch, with hand placer operations downstream to Blackhawk. Hydraulic mining operations were in place by the 1900s; in the 1920s to 1931 small placer operations were worked near Blackhawk and Rollinsville. Hydraulicking operations were done intermittently from the mid 1930s to 1941. The gravels beneath the flood plain down to Forks Creek have been worked almost continuously by a variety of methods: surface bar mining, drifting, hydraulicking, dredging and dragline operations.

**References:**

North Gilpin County mining district

**Location:** T2S R73W; separated geographically from the South district; covering about half a township.

**Description:** This broadly defined district is composed of a number of smaller districts mostly to the N of Central City. Also appears as “North Gilpin district.” Gold was first discovered in the area in 1859 in Gamble Gulch (Perigo district). By 1868 the easily worked ores were exhausted and the area was mostly deserted. The Perigo Mine was reopened and resumed activity in 1879 to ~1888 before closing. After a brief revival of activity in the 1930s the district continued its decline. Sims and Sheridan (1964) indicate that this district’s mines in the vicinity of Apex bear uranium, but no ore was shipped. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Combined production of gold for the area was significant; production records exist to 1945.

**References:**
- NT Independent mining district
- NT Perigo mining district
- NT Pine-Kingston-Apex mining district
- BT Front Range uranium mining district

Pactolus gold placers

**Location:** Near Pactolus along South Boulder Creek in N Gilpin County.

**Description:** Placers were being worked here in the 1870s-1890s. A large hydraulic operation was set up in 1896. The area was still being promoted in the early 1900s but with little activity. Washing operations were intermittent in the 1930s.

**References:**
- BT South Boulder Creek gold placers
- SEE ALSO Deadwood gold placers

Perigo mining district

**Location:** T2S R73W.

**Description:** Used to refer to the Independence district by Hill (1912); adjoins or overlaps the Gamble Gulch district. The town of Perigo was settled in ~1860 by prospectors at Gamble Gulch following placer gold
discoveries in 1859. The Perigo Mine was established and worked, shut down, then reopened in 1879 and was intermittently active until ~1888. The district includes the Dew Drop, Mountain Chief, Free Gold, Golden Sun and Gold Basin mines. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Production is recorded to 1945. Some placer deposits are reported.

References:
BT North Gilpin County mining district
SEE ALSO Gold Dirt mining district
SEE ALSO Independent mining district

Phoenix mining district
Location: Sect 31-33 T1S R73W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Pine district. The district includes the town of Phoenix and the Star Mine (Lone Star Mine?) located near the Boulder County border.
References:
SEE ALSO Pine mining district

Pine-Kingston-Apex mining district
Location: Area of T2S R73W.
Description: The Pine, Kingston and Apex districts were consolidated into one district according to Vanderwilt (1947). This consolidated district is included in the North Gilpin County district. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported.
References:
NT Apex mining district
NT Kingston mining district
NT Pine mining district
BT North Gilpin County mining district

Pine mining district
Location: Sect 33-34 T1S R73W; area of T2S R73W according to Vanderwilt (1947); generally may refer to an indistinctly defined area around Pine Creek, a tributary of North Clear Creek; bounded by the Continental Divide to the W and the Boulder County Line to the N.
Description: Also referred to as the “Pine Creek district”; consolidated into the Pine-Kingston-Apex district according to Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Independent, Phoenix, Quartz Valley and Vermillion districts. The district may initially have had poorly defined boundaries; McCarn (1896) refers to the district as merging into the Silver Creek district on the E and the Yankee Hill district on the SW. The district includes the Ingram, Side Issue, Nancy Lee, and Grand Union mines. The small camps of Twelve Mile, Pine Creek and Elk Park near Apex are in this district according to Eberhart (1969). Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc is reported. Production is recorded to 1945.
References:

UF Silver Creek mining district
BT North Gilpin County mining district
BT Pine-Kingston-Apex mining district
SEE ALSO Independent mining district
SEE ALSO Phoenix mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Vermillion mining district

Pine Mountain mining district
Location: On Pine Mountain, including the area near the head of Silver Creek.
Description: This may be a local name; although undocumented, it may also be an alternate name for the Pine district. The district includes the Black Bird and Gold Bullion mines. Tungsten exploration is reported.
References:

Pleasant Valley mining district
Location: Sect 17, 19-20 T3S R72W, Sect 24 T3S R73W; S of Central City near the Clear Creek County border.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); in or adjoins the Central City district; overlaps the Russell Gulch and Lake Gulch districts.
References:
SEE ALSO Central City mining district
SEE ALSO Lake mining district
SEE ALSO Russell Gulch mining district

Quartz Hill mining district
Location: T3S R73W; centered around Quartz Hill, between Nevada Gulch and Russell Gulch SW of Central City.
Description: Also appears as "Quartz Mountain district", particularly in Vanderwilt (1947); includes the Nevada district; possibly overlaps the Illinois Central district. Sims and others (1963) include Quartz Hill, Alps Hill and Leavenworth Gulch in this area. The district includes the Egyptian, Barnes, Kent County, Alps, and German mines and the Quartz Hill Tunnel. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Production is reported to 1945.
References:
NT Nevada mining district
BT South Gilpin County mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Valley mining district

Quartz Valley mining district
Location: Sect 3-5 T2S R73W; N of Central City.
Description: May have been used as a local name; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Overlaps the Independent and Pine districts; this relationship places it with the districts of North Gilpin County rather than those of Central City, although Central City is nearby to the S. The district includes the Tucker, Central, Gundy, Hayseed and Gold Cup mines and the Central Tunnel in Central City.
References:
SEE ALSO Central City mining district
SEE ALSO Independent mining district
SEE ALSO Pine mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Hill mining district
Rollinsville gold placers

**Location:** Sect 35-36 T1S R73W; along South Boulder Creek.

**Description:** Most of the gold in this placer originates from nearby Gamble and Moon gulches. The town of Rollinsville was established in the 1860s as a supply and transportation town and named for a prospector from Illinois, John Rollins. The town housed a stamp mill and concentrator. The area was active through the 1880s but declined quickly thereafter. Test shafts were sunk in the 1920s-1930s with little resulting activity.

**References:**

Russell Gulch mining district

**Location:** Sect 14-15, 23-24 T3S R73W; in the area of Russell Gulch SSW of Central City.

**Description:** Also appears as the “Russell district”, the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Nevada and Pleasant Valley districts; adjoins the Lake district. Gold placer deposits were discovered here by William Green Russell in 1859. In months, hundreds of prospectors were in the area, followed quickly by more. The town of Russell Gulch was settled by 1860. The Consolidated Ditch was built in 1860 to bring water from the Fall River to Russell Gulch and nearby gulches for placer operations. By 1863 the area’s gold placer’s were mostly exhausted but still being intermittently worked. In the 1870s Chinese miners worked the placers here, one of the few places Chinese miners were tolerated in Colorado. They efficiently stripped the rest of the recoverable gold from the Gulch’s gravels. There has been little placer activity since the 1880s. The district includes the Saratoga, Notaway, Pittsburgh, Springdale, Old Town, Iron, Pewabic and Gold Rock mines. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Production is recorded to 1945.

**References:**
Silver Creek mining district

Location: Near the Pine Creek district in the area around Silver Creek.

Description: Referred to by McCarn (1896); this may be a local name. (There is a Silver Gulch in the Central City district E of Central City that may be confused with this district.)

References:

USE Pine mining district

Silver Lake mining district

Location: In the area of Sect 21-22 T2S R73 W; with some confusion over whether this district is in either Clear Creek or Gilpin counties.

Description: This district is mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in Gilpin County and also referred to connected with the Lower Fall River district (Clear Creek County). However, the Lower Fall River district is not commonly referred to as extending N into Gilpin County. Eberhart (1969) refers to a Silver Lake near Alice (Clear Creek County).

References:

USE Alice mining district

South Boulder Creek gold placers

Location: Along South Boulder Creek from the mouth of Moon Gulch through Rollinsville and Pactolus N to the Gilpin County border.

Description: Includes the Rollinsville and Pactolus placers. The Deadwood Diggings, discovered in 1859, are located on South Boulder Creek near the mouth of Beaver Creek.

References:
NT Pactolus gold placers
NT Rollinsville gold placers
South Boulder mining district
Location: Sect 35-36 T2S R73W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Perigo district. Claims were being recorded for this district by 1861. The district includes the Tacoma Tunnel and mines, and the Queen, Mineral Hill, Green Mountain, Hawkeye and Buckeye lodes.
References:
Colorado Historical Society. South Boulder district claims, 1860-1861. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
SEE ALSO Fairfield mining district

South Gilpin County mining district
Location: T3S R73W; separated geographically from the North district.
Description: This broadly defined district is composed of a number of smaller districts, including the districts in and around Central City. Gold and silver production, with some copper, lead and zinc, is reported. Production is recorded to 1945.
References:
NT Central City mining district
NT Gregory mining district
NT Nevada mining district
NT Quartz Hill mining district
NT Russell Gulch mining district

Spring Gulch mining district
Location: In the area of Spring Gulch S of Central City; may include an area around nearby Nevada Gulch as well.
Description: Also referred to as “Spring Gulch” in the Gregory district. This district is reported as being organized with claims being filed under the district’s name by 1860. The camp of Springfield was established in Spring Gulch (camps in the Central City area tended to expand and run together). There is also a Spring Gulch district referred to as being in Arapahoe County prior to the formation of the Colorado Territory.
References:
Spring Gulch district, 1859-1864 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Gregory mining district
SEE ALSO Arapahoe County – Spring Gulch mining district

Union mining district
Location: Sect 6 T2S R72W, Sect 1 T2S R73W, Sect 31 T1S R72W.
Description: Overlaps the Independent district.
References:
SEE ALSO Independent mining district

Vermillion mining district
Location: Sect 29-32 T2S R73W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Pine district. The district includes the Gold Dollar, Gold Bullion and Anchor mines. There is an Anchor Mine S of Central City in the area of Russell Gulch; it’s not certain whether this is the mine referred to, and if so, whether the Vermillion district is extends from the area of the Pine district S to overlap the Central City district.
References:
SEE ALSO Pine mining district

Wisconsin mining district

Location: Sect 1-5, 8-17, 21-25 T2S R74W, Sect 7, 18-19 T2S R73W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Yankee Hill mining district

Location: Around Yankee Hill in N Clear Creek County, with some overlap in Gilpin County.
Description: Used to refer to the Alice district by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated with the Alice district to form the Alice-Yankee Hill district.
References:
BT Alice-Yankee Hill mining district
SEE ALSO Alice mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Yankee Hill mining district
Grand County

Summary: There are a number of mining districts in Grand County but none are economically significant. Gold placers were worked along Willow Creek and other creek beds. The county has produced minor amounts of gold, silver, copper and lead. Grand County includes the Middle Park coal field.

Blue Ridge mining district
*Location:* T1S R79W; on Battle Creek ~10 miles SW of Parshall to the W of Blue Ridge.
*Description:* Copper mineralization is reportedly present, but no production is reported for this district.

Buffalo Mountain mining district
*Location:* T4N R78W; extends into Jackson County.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
SEE ALSO Jackson County – Buffalo Mountain mining district

Campbell mining district
*Location:* T5N R76W; includes the area near the Jackson County border.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Lead Mountain district is to the N. The area includes the Balker, Bowen Mountain and Grand Lake mineral monuments.

Copper King mining district
*Location:* T1S R82W.
*Description:* Also referred to as the Red Gorge district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Copper King Mine was shipping ore to 1905.
USE Red Gorge mining district

Corral Creek mining district
*Location:* In the area of the Parshall railroad station of the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railroad according to Hill (1912). Corral Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River, is N of Parshall.
*Description:* Referred to as “Parshall station” by Vanderwilt (1947); may be equivalent to the Parshall mining district mentioned by Henderson (1926).
USE Parshall mining district

Fraser mining district
*Location:* T1-3S R75-77W.
Grand County

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district shares a name with the town of Fraser N of Winter Park.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Granby pegmatite mining district
Location: In the area from Fraser to Grand Lake.
Description: No economic pegmatite deposits are reported.
References:

Grand Lake mining district
Location: Sect 21-22, 27-28 T3N R74W; T1N R74W (Henderson 1926); 7 miles E of Grand Lake; 16 miles NNE of Granby; includes the area around Teller City to the W; in both Boulder and Grand counties, although mostly in Grand County to the Boulder County line.
Description: Also referred to as the Wolverine district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The town of Lulu was established in 1879 after silver was discovered in the area N of Grand Lake, but was deserted shortly thereafter when nearby discoveries proved uneconomic. Teller City was established in 1879 after reports of rich silver discoveries in North Park drew prospectors to the area; it was in decline by 1883. The Wolverine, Ruby and Grand Lake mines were discovered in the early-mid 1880s, creating a short-lived boom and the camp of Gaskill. Other short-lived camps in the area include Crescent City, Fairfax and Tyner. Gold, copper, silver and lead ores are reported. One shipment of gold-silver-lead ore in 1908 is reported by Henderson (1926) and one in 1939; these shipments may be from different geographic localities. The creek beds E of Grand Lake were worked for placer gold.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64, 123.

UF Wolverine mining district
UF Boulder County – Grand Lake mining district

Harmon mining district
Location: Sect 6 T2N R74W according to Henderson (1926): ~12 miles E of Granby.
Description: This is probably an alternate name for the Monarch district; used to refer to the Monarch district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Harmon Mine (Monarch Mine), located near Buchanan Creek, was worked for copper.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

SEE ALSO Monarch mining district

High Lonesome mining district
Location: Sect 1-2, 11-12 T1N R75W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Monarch district is to the NE. The area includes mineral monument No. 18558. Mardirosian (1976) reports copper deposits.
References:
James Peak mining district
Location: Sect 20, 29 T2S R74W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

La Plata mining district
Location: Sect 27-28, 33-34 T3S R76W; at the head of the Williams River, extending a few miles over the Continental Divide to the headwaters of the West Fork of Clear Creek, Clear Creek County; 24 miles SSE of Granby.
Description: Also referred to as the Williams Fork district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district includes the La Plata Mine (Williams Fork Mine), which contains lead, zinc, silver and gold ores. The area includes the La Plata and Wilson mineral monuments. Shipments of small lots of silver-lead ore are reported in 1935, and 1940-1943. The presence of gold, silver and copper ores is reported.
References:
   UF Williams Fork mining district

Lead Mountain mining district
Location: T5-6N R75-76W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The geographic Lead Mountain is in the far N part of Grand County near the Jackson County border. The area includes the Adams, Dewey, Lead and Lulu mineral monuments.
References:

Middle Park coal field
Location: In a triangle with its apex S of the Colorado River just below the center of Grand County, and base E-W across two thirds of the County's N border.
Description: No workable beds or reserves are reported for this coal field.
References:

Monarch mining district
Location: T2N R74W; on Arapahoe Creek, ~10 miles NE of Granby; E of and may include the area around Monarch Lake.
Description: May also refer to the Harmon district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The Monarch Mine (Harmon Mine) is located near Buchanan Creek.
References:
   SEE ALSO Harmon mining district

Parshall mining district
Description: May be an alternate name for the Corral Creek district, which is referred to as “Parshall station” in Vanderwilt (1947). The district is mentioned by Henderson (1926) as producing a little copper in 1910.
References:
   UF Corral Creek mining district
Radium mining district

*Location:* Possibly near the town of Radium.

*Description:* This district is mentioned by Henderson (1926) as having silver and placer gold discoveries in 1909.

*References:*

Red Dirt Creek gold placers

*Location:* At the head of Red Dirt Creek, a tributary of Muddy Creek ~3 miles NW of Kremmling; in the area of Sect 16-17 T3N R82W.

*Description:* The placers are reported as being of little or no economic interest. Very small amounts of gold have been recovered.

*References:*

Red Gorge mining district

*Location:* Sect 29-32 T1S R82W; near the eastern part of the Yarmony district (Routt County); S of Radium; in both Moffat and Routt counties.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Copper King district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district shares a name with the Red Gorge along the Colorado River. References to the nearby Yarmony district (Routt County) refer to copper mineralization and some production in the 1910s. The Oak Creek, Red Gorge and Yarmony districts in Routt County are probably related to this district and its copper mineralization.

*References:*
  UF Copper King mining district
  SEE ALSO Routt County – Red Gorge mining district

Williams Fork mining district

*Description:* Used to refer to the La Plata district by Vanderwilt (1947). This district includes the Williams Fork Mine (La Plata Mine). The production of gold, silver and lead is reported to be intermittent from 1908-1914.

*References:*
  USE La Plata mining district

Willow Creek mining district

*Location:* Sect 13-16, 21-24 T4N R77W; N of Granby; Willow Creek is a tributary of the Colorado River.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Willow Creek gold placers; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Placer gold was discovered by 1871 along Willow Creek and its tributaries, with reports of some small production at least through 1880. The small amounts of gold reported recovered in Grand County through 1934 were probably from these placers.

*References:*

Wolverine mining district

*Description:* Used to refer to the Grand Lake district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912). There is a Wolverine Mine near Bowen Gulch in N Grand County; if this mine is included within the district, the district may have been used to refer to a broad area N of Grand Lake from the Jackson County border to the NW to the Clear Creek County border to the SE.

*References:*
  USE Grand Lake mining district
Gunnison County

Summary: There are many mining districts in Gunnison County; the more well-known districts include the Tomichi and Tincup districts in the east, and the Elk Mountain and related districts north of Crested Butte. Gunnison County produced gold, silver, and lead, with some copper. The Cochetopa and Marshall Pass uranium districts produced some uranium into the 1960s. The County also includes a number of coal fields and several pegmatite districts.

Aspen mining district
Description: The area includes Aspen City, later placed within Pitkin County with the redrawing of county boundaries. Refer to the Aspen district in Pitkin County.

References:
USE Pitkin County – Aspen mining district

Augusta mining district
Location: At the head of Poverty Gulch, W of Gothic and NW of Crested Butte.
Description: Probably included within the Poverty district, which is in turn included within the Elk Mountain district. The Augusta Mine as the principal producer and was operated from the 1880s into the early 1900s. The area includes the Saint Elmo, Domingo, and Richmond mines.

References:
USE Poverty mining district

Baldy Mountain mining district
Location: Includes the area from the S slopes of Mount Baldy and the head of Washington Gulch to Elktown.
Description: Probably included in the Elk Mountain district; adjoins the Washington Gulch placer deposits between Poverty Gulch and Gothic; adjoins the Cinnamon district to the W. This district includes the town of Elktown (Elkton) and the Painter Boy Mine to the N. Some prospecting but not much production is reported.

References:
USE Elktown mining district

Beaver Creek mining district
Location: T47N R1W; in both Gunnison and Saguache counties in the area around Beaver Creek, a tributary of Cebolla Creek.
Description: Also referred to as the Midland district in Gunnison County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); associated with the Gunnison mining district.

References:
USE Midland mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison mining district
SEE ALSO Saguache County – Beaver Creek mining district

Box Canyon mining district
Location: T49-50N R4-5E NMPM; 6 miles S of Pitkin; bounded on the N by Quartz Creek, on the S by Tomichi Creek, on the E by the divide between Tomichi and Hot Spring creeks.
Description: Also referred to as the Tomichi district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); appears to adjoin the Tomichi district on the E but may also be included in the Tomichi district by some authors. The district’s mines are located N of Bowerman, and...
include the Independence and Arnold mines. Considerable production is claimed for the early years, and production of gold and silver is reported for 1932 and 1938-1939.

References:

SEE ALSO Tomichi mining district
Carbondale coal field
Location: Crosses the W part of Pitkin County and extends into Garfield County on the N and Gunnison County on the S.
Description: Part of the SE portion of the Uinta coal region. The town of Carbondale (Garfield County) was named for the Pennsylvania hometown of a town founder. The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company operated a number of small mines in the field. In Pitkin County: the town of Placita was established when its coal mines opened in 1899; the mines were operated at least until the early 1900s. A coal seam was located in 1881 on the future site of the company town of Coal Basin; another mine was opened there in 1892. Spring Gulch was a small company coal camp active from the late 1880s to the 1910s. After 30 years of inactivity, the Pitkin County part of the field was being mined increasingly from 1950 through 1958. In Garfield County: The small coal camp of Marion grew up around the Marion Mine, which was worked from the late 1880s to the 1910s. Sunshine (Sunlight) was established around the time the first mine opened there in 1887; this mine was operated intermittently until 1917.

References:
SEE ALSO Garfield County – Carbondale coal field
SEE ALSO Pitkin County – Carbondale coal field

Cebolla mining district
Location: T46-47N R1-2W NMPM; in the area of Cebolla Creek ~15-18 miles S of Iola; possibly includes a large area from Cebolla Creek E to the Saguache County border.
Description: Also referred to as and included within the White Earth district; also referred to as the Domingo or Vulcan district by Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); includes the Vulcan district and Vulcan Mine; probably includes the Powderhorn district. The towns of Elkhorn, Iola, Cebolla and Elk Creek along the Gunnison River to the N were railway stops for the Denver and Rio Grande railroad that served as supply towns for the area’s mining camps. Small shipments of lead, gold-silver, and copper-gold-silver ores are reported prior to 1931; later production is reported in 1932-1934 and 1941. Iron ores are reported.

References:

UF Spencer mining district
NT Domingo mining district
NT Powderhorn mining district
NT Vulcan mining district
BT White Earth mining district

Cinnamon mining district
Location: Area around the Paradise Flat valley and upper Slate River valley, opposite Cinnamon Mountain.
Description: Probably included in the Elk Mountain district; adjoins the Baldy Mountain district to the E. Some prospecting was done in this area, but no production is reported.

References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district

Cochetopa mining district
Location: T48-49N R1-2E NMPM; 3-4 miles S of Parlin, extending from Cochetopa Creek W, possibly as far as Gold Basin Creek; in both Gunnison and Saguache counties.

Description: Referred to as the Cochetopa Creek district where it extends into Saguache County; also referred to as the Green Mountain district in both Gunnison and Saguache counties; also referred to as the Gold Basin district in Gunnison County; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Green Mountain district according to Hill (1909); overlaps or closely related to the Cochetopa uranium mining district; associated with the Gunnison mining district. The district was in existence and being prospected by 1880. Some gold, silver and lead production is reported for 1932-1941.

References:
UF Parlin mining district
NT Green Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Cochetopa uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Gold Basin mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison mining district
SEE ALSO Saguache County – Cochetopa Creek mining district

Cochetopa uranium mining district
Location: In both Gunnison and Saguache counties; mostly in NW Saguache County with the N part of the district extending into S Gunnison County; bisected by Cochetopa Creek.

Description: In a similar area as that of the Cochetopa metal mining district. The significant mineral belt in the district is ~10 miles long and 5 miles wide. A little development was done in the early 1880s. The initial discovery of the Los Ochos claims was made in 1954 by one of a group of eight prospectors (Los Ochos). The Los Ochos Mine produced until 1962 when it was shut down. The district includes the Los Ochos’ Thornburg Mine and the Kathy Jo and La Rue claims. Some gold and silver production, with a little lead is reported for the area.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 44.
SEE ALSO Cochetopa mining district
SEE ALSO Saguache County – Cochetopa uranium mining district

Copper Creek mining district
Location: Probably in the area of Copper Creek, a tributary of the East River NE of Gothic.

Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926) as a producing district; probably included within the Elk Mountain district. By 1881 the Sylvanite Mine was the district’s principal mine.

References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district

Crested Butte coal field
Location: ~T12-14S R85-87W; borders the Floresta and Mt. Carbon fields.

Description: Sometimes referred to as the Slate River field. All producing mines are located close to the town of Crested Butte, which was established by 1879. Crested Butte was first settled from early gold discoveries in the area, then served as a supply, transportation, and finally coal town. The field includes the Bulkley, Porter, Joker and Crested Butte mines. The field is part of the Uinta coal region. Plans for area molybdenum mining by Amax Incorporated in the 1970s were eventually discontinued.
Cross Mountain mining district
Location: T15S R82W; bounded on the S by the divide between Quartz Creek and the Gunnison River, to the E by the divide between Lottis Creek and Willow Creek; generally around the area of and to the E of Cross Mountain.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district's mines are located mostly on the E side of the ridge running N from Fairview Peak beyond Cross Mountain. Silver lead ores, with some gold and copper are reported; very few deposits are developed.
References:

Crystal River mining district
Location: T12S R87W; including the area around Eureka, Meadow, and Galena mountains and Crystal Basin.
Description: Earlier referred to as the Rock Creek district, but known as the Crystal River district by the late 1940s; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may include the Sheep Mountain mining district. The short-lived camp of Holland was established W of Marble when low grade ores were discovered here in the 1880s. The district includes the Eureka, Contact, Lead King, Ajax and Carbonate mines, and the Crystal Mt. and Yule mineral monuments. Some production of gold, silver, lead and copper is reported.
References:
Gunnison County

NT Sheep Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Rock Creek mining district

Domingo mining district
Location: T47N R1-2W NMPM.
Description: Also referred to as the Vulcan or Willow Creek district; used to refer to the Cebolla district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Vulcan and Good Hope mines. Gold and silver, with some copper and lead, are present. Production of silver and copper is reported for the 1920s.
References:
UF Willow Creek mining district
BT Cebolla mining district
SEE ALSO Vulcan mining district

Dorchester mining district
Location: T12S R84W; in Taylor Park near the head of the Taylor River; in the area of Pine and Tellurium creeks.
Description: Used as the preferred name and also referred to as the Taylor River district by Vanderwilt (1947); adjoins and may overlap the Forest Hill district to the W. Some mining was done here at an early date but very little is known for certain; deserted cabins were reported found in the area in 1873. The camp of Bowman NE of Dorchester near the top of Taylor Pass is reported to be the oldest camp in Taylor Park outside of Tin Cup (Eberhart 1969); although it was primarily a way station for Taylor Pass travel, there was some prospecting done in the area in the 1860s and Bowman housed a smelter. The camp of Dorchester was reportedly established in the 1890s. Gold discoveries were made on Italian Mountain in 1900. The area was inactive by the early 1910s, but a little activity was renewed during World War I. The district includes the Enterprise mine group NE of Tellurium Creek near the Chaffee County border, the Bull-Domingo, Doctor and Star mines. Eberhart (1969) places the Forest Hill Mine in this area.
Elk Mountain mining district

*Location:* T12-13S R85W, T11-12S R86-87W; includes much of the area near the border of Gunnison and Pitkin counties.

*Description:* Broadly defined district that may include the smaller districts along the Pitkin County border from the Rock Creek district to the W as far as the Copper Creek district to the E and Crested Butte to the S. Also referred to as the Ruby district by Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Poverty district; may also include part or all of the Cinnamon district; includes the Gothic district according to some; overlaps the Rock Creek and Sheep Mountain districts. The district was in existence and being actively prospected by 1880. It was eventually expanded to include neighboring districts in its definition. Despite initial prospecting in the area, there was very little mining activity in the 1880s. Transportation costs discouraged further prospecting, although some mines were eventually worked. Zinc carbonate production is reported for 1914-1918. The district has a few gold placers, including the Washington Gulch placers. The district includes the towns of Gothic and Crested Butte, the camp of Elk Mountain E of Gothic, and the Daisy, Lake View, Silver Queen and Bald Eagle mines and the Two Brothers Tunnel. More broadly defined, the district also includes the Annie, Baldy Mountain, El Dorado, Elk Mountain, Horace Porter, Lena, Lake, Luona, Meadow Mountain, Slate Creek and Nos. 159, 4569, 5476, 5791, 6063, 6153, 6772 and 18016 mineral monuments. Limited gold, and some silver production is reported to 1945, lead production to 1943, copper production in 1937 and 1939, zinc production in 1939 and 1943. Gold and silver placer production is reported as well.

*References:*
NT Baldy Mountain mining district
NT Cinnamon mining district
NT Copper Creek mining district
NT Gothic mining district
NT Irwin mining district
NT Poverty mining district
NT Ruby mining district
NT Washington Gulch gold placers
NT Whiterock mining district
SEE ALSO Rock Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Sheep Mountain mining district

Floresta coal field

*Location:* ~T13-14S R86-88W; borders the Crested Butte field on the NE, the Mt. Carbon field on the S, and the Coal Creek district on the W; lies on the N slope of the Anthracite Range.

*Description:* Also known as the Ruby or Irwin field. The town of Ruby (not Ruby in the Ruby district) was a shipping point for area mines, and was later renamed Floresta. The Ruby-Anthracite Mine, the field's only producing mine, is located near there. The Ruby-Anthracite Mine was still operating intermittently to 1936. The field is part of the Uinta coal region.

*References:*

**Forest Hill mining district**

*Location:* Sect 10-11, 14-15 T13S R83W; includes the area near Forest Hill NW of the Taylor Park Reservoir.

*Description:* Also referred to as and probably included within the Taylor River district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins and may overlap the Dorchester district to the E. The Forest Hill Mine was located to the NE of Forest Hill towards the Taylor River. The small camp of Forest Hill grew up around a mill nearby.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Dorchester mining district
- BT Taylor River mining district

**Gold Basin mining district**

*Location:* Sect 5-8 T48N R1E; includes the area around Gold Basin Creek.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Cochetopa district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Green Mountain district to the E; associated with the Gunnison mining district. Some gold and silver production, with a little lead, is reported for the area.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Cochetopa mining district
- SEE ALSO Gunnison mining district

**Gold Brick mining district**

*Location:* T51N R3-4E NMPM; T50-51N R83W NMPM (Henderson 1926); 4-6 miles N of Ohio City; within the Ohio (Gold) Creek drainage basin, with the basin's rim as boundaries.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Ohio City district; overlaps the Quartz Creek district. Gold placers were discovered along Gold Creek and its tributary gulches by 1861; at the time the area was included in the Taylor River district. Although gold was discovered here first, it was silver that precipitated a rush to the area. Silver was discovered in 1879 at the mouth of Ohio Creek by Jacob Hess, the first settler of Eagle City (later Ohio City). Ohio City was founded in 1881. The town of Elgin near Ohio City was established at about the same time and reached a peak in the mid 1880s. With the silver discoveries the district was active in the 1880s-1890s. Most shallow ore bodies were worked out by 1898; by that time the Cortland Mine was one of the only working operations. The district was mostly inactive by the 1900s and on except for a brief period of activity from 1934-1942. The Gold Links Mine was a chief producer to 1913. Ohio City was the only incorporated town in the district by 1916. The district includes the Sandy Hook, Carter, Bassick, and Raymond Consolidated mines and the Eby mineral monument. Production of small tonnages of high-grade ore is reported. The district has produced mostly gold, with some silver, lead and copper. Gold, silver, and lead production is reported to 1942, and copper production scattered through the 1930s-1940s.

*References:*

UF Ohio City mining district
UF Pitkin mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Taylor River mining district

Goose Creek mining district

Location: T47-48N R2-3W NMPM; includes the area of Goose Creek, a tributary of Cebolla Creek.

Description: Also referred to as and included within the White Earth district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Hooper (1896) reports that the district was organized in 1893 after the discovery of gold in the area. The camp of Dubois was established in 1894 and the Carpenter mines were shipping ore by then. The district includes the Pride of Denver, Eureka, Dubois, and Old Lot mines and the camps of Toliafero (Nugget City) and Goose Creek. Occasional small shipments of lead-silver and gold-silver-copper ore are reported. Production since 1931 was limited to the years 1939-1940.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

UF Madera mining district
UF Vanguard mining district
BT White Earth mining district

Gothic mining district

Location: Sect 13-14, 23-24 T14S R85W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); eventually included in the Elk Mountain district by some. Gold and silver ores were discovered at the foot of Gothic Mountain in 1879, and the town of Gothic was established almost immediately thereafter. The Sylvanite Mine was located in 1879. Gothic became a supply and transportation center for mining and was the site of Colorado’s chief smelter by 1881. However, the town and district peaked quickly and were almost deserted by 1884. The district includes the camps of Belleview, Minersville and Silver Night, the Eureka, Silver Night, Independent, Native Silver, Rensselaer, and Buckeye mines, and the Galena Mountain mineral monument. Some production is reported in the early 1880s.

References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district

Green Mountain mining district

Location: T48N R1-2W; in both Gunnison and Saguache counties.

Description: Also referred to as the Cochetopa district in both Gunnison and Saguache counties; used to refer to the Cochetopa district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included within the Cochetopa district by Hill (1909); adjoins the Gold Basin district on the W. With activity in the area, the camp of Chance was established in 1894. A mill was built there, but the camp was almost deserted by 1897. The district includes the Chance and Lucky Strike Mine (Gunnison County) and the area around the towns of Iris and the Mineral Hill Mine (Saguache County). Some gold and silver production, with a little lead, is reported for the area.

References:
BT Cochetopa mining district
SEE ALSO Saguache County – Green Mountain mining district

Gunnison mining district
Location: T49N R1E; T48N R1W NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); possibly a generic name for the area in Gunnison County where lode gold was discovered. Hooper (1896) also refers to it as the Gunnison gold belt and includes within it the Cochetopa, Gold Basin, Beaver (Beaver Creek), Powderhorn and Willow Creek districts.
References:
SEE ALSO Beaver Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Cochetopa mining district
SEE ALSO Gold Basin mining district
SEE ALSO Powderhorn mining district
SEE ALSO Willow Creek mining district

Gunnison River pegmatite mining district
Location: Along the Gunnison River and tributaries, in W Gunnison County and E Montrose County.
Description: Economic deposits of feldspar are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Montrose County – Gunnison River pegmatite mining district

Hotchkiss mining district
Location: Sect 4-5, 8-9 T46N R2W NMPM; in both Gunnison and Hinsdale counties, although known as the Lake City district in Hinsdale County.
Description: Also referred to as and included in the White Earth district; also used to refer to the McDonough district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps or included in the Lake City district (Hinsdale County) to the S. The district includes the Hotchkiss Mine (Hinsdale County) and the Powderhorn mineral monument.
References:
BT White Earth mining district
SEE ALSO McDonough mining district
SEE ALSO Hinsdale County – Lake City mining district

Irwin mining district
Location: In the area ~8 miles W of Crested Butte; centralized around the area of the headwaters of Coal Creek and the town of Irwin.
Description: Also referred to as the Ruby Camp district; mentioned by Henderson (1926); appears to be a true alternate name for the Ruby district. The town of Irwin, which was named after prospector Richard Irwin, was established in ~1879 but lasted only through the district’s brief boom, peaking in 1882. Irwin and the district were deserted by 1884. The district later included the camp of Ruby City, and includes the Bullion King, Ruby Chief and Forest Queen mines.
References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Ruby mining district

Kezar Basin mining district
Location: Sect 4-5, 8-9 T48N R2W NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Madera mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Goose Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947).
References:
USE Goose Creek mining district

Marble mining district
Location: In the area of Marble and Yule Creek in N Gunnison County.
Description: Used to refer to the Rock Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947); probably included within the Rock Creek district. The district's gold and silver metal deposits were recognized as early as 1880 but significant production didn't start until ~1908. Marble City (originally two camps, Clarence and Yule Creek, in the early 1880s) was established by 1890 as a supply town for prospectors. However, marble turned out to be a more economic commodity for the district in the long run. The Yule marble quarry was opened in 1886, and the area prospered from marble quarrying in the early 1900s as transportation facilities improved. The famous marble quarries were finally closed by 1941, but re-opened in 1990 and continued operations with few interruptions to 2001. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper ores are reported for the area.
References:
BT Rock Creek mining district

Marshall Pass uranium mining district
**Gunnison County**

**Location:** Near Marshall Pass in the Sawatch Range; most of the district is in Gunnison and Saguache counties, with a small NE area in Chaffee County.

**Description:** Covers ~182 sq km. Uranium was discovered near the mouth of Indian Creek in 1955 and deposits were mined by small operations starting in 1958. Underground leaching and open pit mining were used after 1968. The district includes the Pitch Mine (Pinnacle Mine), the Lookout No. 22 and Marshall Pass No. 5 mines in Saguache County, and the Little Indian No. 36 Mine in Gunnison County.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Marshall Pass uranium mining district
- SEE ALSO Saguache County – Marshall Pass uranium mining district

**McDonough mining district**

**Location:** Sect 33-34 T47N R2W, Sect 2-3 T46N R2W NMMP.

**Description:** Also referred to as the Hotchkiss district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the White Earth district. The area includes the John R. and Kiowa mineral monuments.

**References:**
- BT White Earth mining district
- SEE ALSO Hotchkiss mining district

**Midland mining district**

**Location:** Sect 1-3, 10-12 T47N R1W NMMP.

**Description:** Also known as the Beaver Creek district where that district is in Gunnison County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

**References:**
- USE Beaver Creek mining district

**Monarch Pass pegmatite mining district**

**Location:** On the line between Chaffee and Gunnison counties, in both counties.

**Description:** The district has not been developed. There are no economic pegmatite minerals reported, although feldspar is mentioned as a possibility.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Monarch Pass pegmatite mining district

**Mount Carbon coal field**

**Location:** ~T14-15S R85-88W; borders the Floresta and Crested Butte fields on the N, Coal Creek district on the W.

**Description:** The field was known earlier as the Baldwin field, named after the Baldwin Mine. The coal town of Baldwin was established in 1881. The Baldwin Mine ceased operating by the early 1910s. The field was eventually renamed after the town of Mt. Carbon, a small coal and timber town N of Baldwin. The coal field supplied coal for Irwin during that district’s boom years. The field includes the Alpine, Kubler and Robinson mines. The coal field is part of the Uinta coal region at its extreme SE end.

**References:**

**Ohio City mining district**

**Location:** In the area of T50N R3E.
Gunnison County

Description: Mentioned in Henderson (1926); preferentially known as the Gold Brick district. The district was established by by 1880 after silver was found here in 1879. The town of Ohio City (originally Eagle City, also Ohio, Gold Creek) was established in 1880; it housed several stamp mills and was one of the most prosperous camps in the area. The Roller, Calumet and Eagle lodes were all discovered within the Ohio City limits. After an initial period of activity, Ohio City was almost deserted in 1893. The town was repopulated as a result of gold discoveries a few years later. The district includes the Ohio Revenue, George B. and Revenue claims.

References:

Owens Gulch mining district
Location: The location of Owens Gulch or of the district is not identified.
Description: This district is mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in Gunnison County. There is an Owens Gulch in neighboring Saguache County S of Pitkin and near the Gunnison-Saguache County border, but this area is not near any other identified mining districts. The nearest mining areas include the Cochetopa district far to the W.

References:

Parlin mining district
Description: This district is mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in Gunnison County and related to the Cochetopa district. The district’s location is not identified, although there is a town of Parlin along Tomichi Creek E of its juncture with Cochetopa Creek.

References:

Pearl Pass mining district
Location: Sect 28-33 T12S R84W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Pearl Pass (the geographic feature) is in the Elk Mountains between E and W Birch creeks on the Pitkin County border. The area includes the Granite and No. 6089 mineral monuments.

References:

Pieplant mining district
Location: Area of Pieplant Creek, a tributary of the Taylor River; ~15 miles N of Tincup.
Description: Used to refer to the Tincup district by Hill (1912). The district was reportedly named for the wild rhubarb (pieplant) growing there. The short-lived mining camp of Pieplant was established by 1904 and housed a stamp mill for gold ore. The area and the town declined quickly shortly after being settled. The district includes the Pieplant Mine between Red Mountain and Pieplant creeks. It may also include the camps of Red Mountain and Emma. There was some lead and silver mining in the area.

References:

Pitkin mining district
Gunnison County

Description: Mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in Gunnison County. No location is identified for the district but there is a Pitkin Mine near Boulder Gulch, a tributary of Gold Creek NW of the town of Pitkin. The Pitkin Mine contained gold, lead, silver and zinc ores. Any mines in this area are probably more properly included in the Gold Brick district, but could possibly be in the Quartz Creek district where the town of Pitkin is located.

References:
USE Gold Brick mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Creek district

Poverty mining district

Location: Between the towns of Ruby and Gothic, in the area of Poverty Gulch on the Slate River.

Description: Included within the Elk Mountain district; mentioned by Henderson (1926); probably includes the area of the Augusta district at the head of Poverty Gulch. The district was established by 1883 and includes the camp of Pittsburgh. The Augusta Mine, the area’s main producer, was being operated as late as 1904. The area was almost inaccessible in the winter and was only worked intermittently.

References:
UF Augusta mining district
BT Elk Mountain mining district

Powderhorn mining district

Location: In an area ~20 miles long and 6 miles wide; along Cebolla Creek, from the vicinity of Iron Hill to the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River.

Description: Used to refer to the Cebolla district by Vanderwilt (1947); if treated as a separate district it is probably included within the Cebolla district; associated with the Gunnison mining district. The site of the town of Powderhorn (White Earth) was first settled in 1876. Gold and silver, with some copper and lead, are present. The district’s production is reported as insignificant. Small amounts of vermiculite have been mined and some thorium mineralization is reported.

References:
BT Cebolla mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison mining district

Quartz Creek mining district

Location: T50-51N R4-5E NMPM; T51N R81-82W according to Henderson (1926); 1-4 miles NE of Pitkin; bounded on the N by the ridge between Fairview Peak and the Continental Divide, on the E by the main range, on the S by Quartz Creek, and on the W by the divide between Armstrong Gulch and Ohio Creek.

Description: Also appears as “Quartz district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Gold Brick and Tin Cup districts; adjoins the Tomichi district. This district contains the southern end of a mineralized area including the Tincup district. The Red Jacket Mine was discovered in 1878, the Fairview and Silver Islet mines soon after. These discoveries resulted in a rush to the district by 1879. The camp of Quartzville was quickly established and was renamed Pitkin by 1880. Like many discoveries at the time, it was originally hoped that the district’s silver deposits would make Pitkin a rival of Leadville. The Silent Friend Mine was the largest producer by 1883; many valuable properties were operating in the early 1880s. The district went into decline in 1893, although activity continued intermittently thereafter. The district includes the Little Roy, Maid of Athens, Iron Cap, Silver Age and Terrible mines, the camps of Quartz and Drew located N of Pitkin, and the Badger, Carbonate, Electra, Fair View, Ida, Jo, Quartz Creek, Slaght, Wampum and Nos. 1785, 5065, 5083, 5458, 5892 and 6278 mineral monuments. Intermittent production of silver and lead is reported to 1943, gold to 1941, copper in 1934 and 1938. Some production of molybdenum and tungsten is reported to the N.

References:
SEE ALSO Gold Brick mining district
SEE ALSO Tincup mining district

Quartz Creek pegmatite mining district
Location: T49-51N R3-5E NMPM; SE part of the county on W slope of Sawatch Range ~17 miles E of Gunnison.
Description: Covers ~10 sq miles, or ~29 sq miles according to Staatz and Trites (1955). The district includes the Brown Derby and White Spar mines. Beryl, columbite-tantalite, microlite, topaz, monazite and lepidolite are reported. Production is recorded from 1943-45, suspended, and then resumed in 1948-1950.
References:

Red Mountain mining district
Location: Primarily in Chaffee County, possibly extending into Gunnison and/or Lake counties.
Description: Refer to the Chaffee County entry for the Red Mountain district.
References:
USE Chaffee County – Red Mountain mining district

Rock Creek mining district
Location: Sect 25-26, 35-36 T11S R88W, Sect 31-33 T11S R87W, Sect 1-6 T12S R87W; ~6 miles E of Marble.
Description: ~1.5 miles in radius; also used to refer to the Crystal River district, a name that came later and was established by the late 1940s; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Elk Mountain and Sheep Mountain districts. Adjoining Gunnison and Pitkin counties both have a Rock Creek district but no relationship is apparent. The district was established by 1883. The camp of Crystal City was established in the early 1880s and housed the Crystal Mill. Residents of Crystal City worked the Black Queen and Lead King mines and the Sheep Mountain Tunnel. The district includes the Marble railroad station and Marble City, and the Bon Ton, Lake Valley, Rock Creek, Sterling and No. 5587 mineral monuments. The camps of Rock Creek and Galena are probably included in this district. Intermittent production of silver and lead is reported to 1945, gold to 1944, zinc in 1941, 1944, 1945, and copper in 1944-1945.
References:
NT Marble mining district
SEE ALSO Crystal River mining district
SEE ALSO Elk Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Sheep Mountain mining district
Ruby mining district
Location: T13S R87W, extending N into T12S and S into T14S; W part of the Elk Mountain Range.
Description: Also appears as "Ruby Camp district"; used to refer to the Elk Mountain district according to Hill (1912); also used to refer to and appears to be a true alternate name for the Irwin district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Elk Mountain district. The district was in existence by 1880, named for discoveries of ruby silver in Ruby Gulch in 1879. Although the district was reported to have produced rich ruby silver ore early on, no activity was reported for many years thereafter. The camp of Ruby was established by ~1880; part or all of it was later absorbed by the nearby town of Irwin. The district includes the Floresta Railroad station and the Ruby Mine. The district may also include the Standard, Keystone and Daisy mines. The area includes the camps of Haverly, White Cloud and Silver Gate and the Domingo, Emma, Emmons, Julia, O.B.J., Redwall, Ruby, Silver King, Yankee Blade and Nos. 1 and 8513 mineral monuments.
References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Irwin mining district

Sheep Mountain mining district
Location: Sect 19-21, 28-30 T11S R87W; in the area around Sheep Mountain E of Marble.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may be included in the Crystal River district; overlaps the Elk Mountain and Rock Creek districts. There was reportedly some prospecting in the area as early as the 1860s but because of the lack of transportation there was no real development until the 1880s, when promising silver deposits were discovered. The camp of Crystal was established in the 1880s and was active to the early 1890s. By 1893 mining activity in the district was in decline. The district includes the Black Queen, Lead Queen, Sheep Mountain Tunnel, Inez, and Black Eagle mines and the Gen. Stone, Milwaukee and Valley mineral monuments.
References:
BT Crystal River mining district
SEE ALSO Elk Mountains mining district
SEE ALSO Rock Creek mining district

Silverside mining district
Location: Sect 19-22, 27-28 T13S R81W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Slate River coal field
Description: Also used to refer to the Crested Butte field.
USE Crested Butte coal field

Somerset coal mining district
Location: Area including T13S R90-91W; in Delta and Gunnison counties, possibly extending into Mesa County.
Description: E part of the Grand Mesa coal field; an informal subdivision of the Grand Mesa coal field according to Lee (1912); part of the Uinta coal region in Delta County according to Wray (2001). In Delta County only the Bowie No. 2 Mine was operating in 2000; in Gunnison County only the West Elk and Sanborn Creek
mines were operating in 2000. The town of Somerset (Gunnison County) was named for its counterpart in Pennsylvania.

References:
SEE ALSO Delta County – Somerset coal mining district
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Somerset coal mining district

Spencer mining district
Location: Possibly in the area around Spencer Gulch, a tributary of Cebolla Creek.
Description: This district is mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in Gunnison County and related to the Cebolla district; possibly a local designation for an area within the Cebolla district. The camp of Spencer (originally Cameron) was established in ~1894 but almost deserted by 1898 with the lack of economic discoveries.

References:
USE Cebolla mining district

Spring Creek mining district
Location: Sect 23-26 T14S R83W; in the area of the narrow canyon joining the Taylor River ~7 miles NE of Almont.
Description: Also appears as “Spring Gulch district”; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Silver was discovered in the area in 1881 and the camp of Petersburg was established on the site. The Doctor Mine was discovered in ~1881 and was worked for almost 10 years, followed by intermittent activity through the 1930s producing mostly zinc and lead. The area includes the Spring Creek mineral monument. Production of silver-lead is reported in 1880 and 1890, and zinc in 1917-1918. Later production was mostly from dumps.

References:

Taylor Park mining district
Location: T13S R83W; lacks well-defined boundaries but generally includes the area around the upper reaches of the Taylor River; includes mines on the SE and NE slopes of North Italian Mountain and areas ~5-6 miles W and SE of Dorchester.
Description: Also used to refer to and may be included within the Taylor River district. The area was being prospected by 1875, with scattered workings. The district includes the Star Mine and some placers. Production of gold, silver and lead is reported to 1945, copper and zinc from 1940-1943.

References:
BT Taylor River mining district
Taylor Peak mining district

**Location:** In the Elk Mountains on the county line between Gunnison and Pitkin counties; probably near Taylor Peak.

**Description:** Some iron deposits are reported, but no assays or production is reported as of 1958. Any ores produced were not rich enough to compensate for transportation from this remote area.

**References:**

Taylor River mining district

**Location:** T12S R83-84W, T13S R82W, T14S R82-84W; includes the area of the upper Taylor River and eastward.

**Description:** This is a broadly defined district including or overlapping several other districts. Also referred to as the Forest Hill, Taylor Park or Tin Cup district; used to refer to the Dorchester district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may include the Taylor Park district; probably includes the Forest Hill district. Gold placers were reportedly discovered in Tincup Gulch by James Taylor in 1860, using a "tin cup" to pan for gold. Principal placers are along the Taylor River and Pieplant, Illinois, Willow and Gold creeks, Bertha and Tincup gulches, and in Union Park. In 1878 the Gold Cup Mine was discovered and lode deposits became the dominant type of deposit worked. Placer work fell off by the 1880s but revived in the 1890s with the construction of flumes and ditches, followed by intermittent placer workings through the 1950s.

**References:**
NT Forest Hill mining district
NT Taylor Park mining district
SEE ALSO Dorchester mining district
SEE ALSO Gold Brick mining district
SEE ALSO Tincup mining district

Tincup mining district

**Location:** T15S R81W; T12S R83-84W, T13S R82-83W, T14S R81-83W, T15S R81-83W, and into T51N R82W according to Henderson (1926); at the head of Willow Creek, a tributary of the Taylor River, and on the extreme SE side of Taylor Park; bounded on the E by the Continental Divide, on the S by the Gunnison-Quartz Creek divide, on the W by the Willow-Lottis Creek divide; extending as far as 30 miles N to Pieplant Creek.

**Description:** Also appears as "Tin Cup district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Pieplant district and is also referred to as the Pieplant district by Hill (1912). The Quartz Creek district is the southern end of a mineralized area including the Tincup district. The principal mines in the district lie S of Tincup; the district includes the mines around Taylor Park and Italian Mountain according to Hill (1909). Gold was discovered near the Taylor River in what became Tincup Gulch in 1861 or possibly as early as 1859, resulting in sporadic placer activity from 1861-1879. When the nearby silver lodes were discovered in ~1879, attention turned to them. The camp of Tin Cup (Virginia City) was established by 1879 and was the most active camp in the county by 1881. The nearby camp of Abbeyville grew up around the smelter built on site in 1881. The Gold Cup Mine was discovered in ~1880 and was the area’s largest producer by 1883. Most of the large deposits in the district were discovered between 1872-1882. The district was the biggest silver producer in the area by 1882, with the period of greatest activity from 1882-1893. The area’s big boom was over by 1884 although some discoveries and production continued for years afterward. There was renewed activity in 1908-1912, continuing intermittently thereafter, mostly from the Gold Cup Republic Mine and area gold placers. The district includes the Tincup, Blistered Horn, El Capitan, Jimmy Mack, Bon Ton, and Drew mines, the camp of Hillerton, and the Daly, Jimmy Mack, Manning, Spotted Tail, Wolfe Placer and Nos. 2-440, 5941 and 17779 mineral monuments. Some molybdenum production is reported in 1917-1918, gold, silver, copper, and lead production from 1901-1935. Some production since 1932 is included in Taylor Park district records. Some zinc production is reported.

**References:**
Tomichi mining district

**Location:** Sect 13-16, 21-29, 32-36 T50N R4E, S into T49N R4-5E NMPM; includes the general area of Tomichi Creek in Gunnison County; bounded on the W by the divide between Tomichi and Hot Springs creeks, on the N by the divide between Tomichi and Quartz creeks, on the E by the main Sawatch Range.

**Description:** Covers ~26 sq miles; also used to refer to the Box Canyon district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps or includes the White Pine district; adjoins the Box Canyon district to the W, but may include this district according to some authors; adjoins the Quartz Creek district and the Monarch district (Chaffee County). Ore was first discovered in 1879 and the North Star, Nest Egg and other claims were located. However, the mines weren’t successfully producing until 1883, when high grade ore was shipped from the North Star Mine; the North Star became one of the district’s largest producers. The camp of North Star (originally Lake’s Camp) was established by workers from the North Star and other nearby mines. The camps of Tomichi (originally Argenta) and Pitkin (originally Quartzville) were established by ~1880. The district was fairly prosperous from 1885-1893, but then started to decline. The camp of Bowerman (Nugget City) was established in 1903 with over-inflated reports of rich ore discoveries but, although ore was shipped from the area’s mines, production was disappointing and the town was deserted by 1911. The towns of White Pine (Whitepine) and North Star were the only inhabited settlements by 1913. Little production is reported until 1913 when activity picked up. The district includes the Magna Charta, Parole, Spar Copper, Silver Trowel, Eureka, Tenderfoot, Victor, West Point and Morning Star mines, the camps of Sherrard, Woodstock, Camp Sterling, Omega, and Lorraine, and the Iron Rock, Lamar and Nos. 2094 and 4508 mineral monuments. Lead, silver and zinc were the important deposits, with localized gold deposits. Some production of gold, silver, lead, copper, and zinc is reported to 1945; small amounts of iron were mined for flux.

**References:**


NT White Pine mining district
SEE ALSO Box Canyon mining district
Tongue Mesa coal field
Location: In the common corner of Gunnison, Montrose and Ouray counties; occupies a long narrow strip on the ridge between the Cimarron and Uncompahgre rivers.
Description: Covers ~40 sq miles. Production as of the early 1900s was limited to local consumption by the lack of railroad facilities. Most output was consumed by the town of Montrose.
References:
SEE ALSO Montrose County – Tongue Mesa coal field
SEE ALSO Ouray County – Tongue Mesa coal field

Vanguard mining district
Location: Includes an area around the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River S of Sapinero.
Description: Overlaps or included in the Goose Creek district to the S; no other information available.
References:
USE Goose Creek mining district

Vulcan mining district
Location: Probably in the area of the town of Vulcan near the Saguache County border.
Description: Used to refer to the Domingo district by Henderson (1926) and the Cebolla district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); probably included within the Cebolla district. The district includes the Vulcan and Mammoth Chimney mines, located in 1895. The town of Vulcan (originally Camp Creek) was active in the late 1890s and supported work in the Vulcan, Mammoth Chimney, and St. Patrick mines. The area includes the Good Hope and Lincoln mines. Gold and other metals were produced in the district’s mines initially; the Vulcan Mines Company later acquired the area’s properties, reopened the big mines, and worked them for copper and non-metals. Gold and silver, with some copper and lead, are present. Mardirosian (1976) reports zinc as well.
References:
BT Cebolla mining district
SEE ALSO Domingo mining district

Washington Gulch gold placers
Location: T13S R86W; along Washington Gulch, a tributary of the Slate River; extending from 1 mile below the ghost town of Elkton downstream for 1.5 miles; Washington Gulch is N of the area between Gothic to the E and Poverty Gulch to the W.
Description: Part of the Elk Mountain district; adjoins the Baldy Mountain district. Placers were discovered in ~1860; the deposits were reported to be very rich but no related production is recorded. The area was abandoned by the 1880s, but some prospecting was still being done as late as 1958.
References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district

White Earth mining district
Location: T46-47N R1-2W NMPM.
Description: Broadly defined district that includes many of the districts within the area bordered by the Saguache County border to the E and the Gunnison River to the N and W. The district includes and is used to refer to
the Goose Creek and Hotchkiss districts; used to refer to the Cebolla district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Cebolla and McDonough districts. The area includes the Deldorita mineral monument. Gold and silver, with some copper and lead, are present.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64, 68.

White Pine mining district
Location: On W slope of Sawatch Range along Tomichi Creek.
Description: Also appears commonly as "Whitepine district"; used to refer to the Tomichi district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); overlaps or is included within the Tomichi district. The first recorded strikes were made in the area in ~1878. The town of White Pine was established by 1879 with the discovery of the Iron Duke, Parole and Alwilda mines. The town and district peaked in the mid 1880s. The district was the early site of a lead-carbonate camp, with the Eureka Nest Egg the principal mine. Activity in the district was in decline by the early 1890s and the town of White Pine was almost deserted by 1901. The district had a brief revival after that and mines were worked intermittently. Some iron deposits were reported, and several carloads of iron ore and cuprite were shipped from the Iron King Mine in the early 1900s. The district includes the Morning Star, North Star, Copper Queen, Copper Bottom and Black Warrior mines. No production of iron was reported as of 1958 and the deposits are considered of little economic value. Lead, silver and zinc were the important deposits for the area, with localized gold deposits and a little copper.

References:

Whiterock Mountain mining district
Location: Includes the area around Whiterock (White Rock) Mountain and the N side of Copper Creek.
Description: Overlaps or adjoins the Copper Creek district. The district includes the Sylvanite Mine. Some prospecting was done in ~1887.

References:
BT Elk Mountain mining district

Willow Creek mining district
Location: Sect 11-14 T47N R2W; includes the area along Willow Creek.
Description: Also used to refer to the Domingo district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); associated with the Gunnison mining district.

References:
USE Domingo mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison mining district
Hinsdale County

Summary: Lode gold was discovered in Hinsdale County in the 1870s; the area also produced silver, with some lead and copper. The Galena and Lake districts are the County’s two major districts. The districts in the Lake Fork area have indistinct boundaries and varying usage, resulting in overlapping descriptions. For example, the Ute and Ulay mines are referred to as being in the Galena, Henson Creek, Lake City, Lake Fork and Lake districts.

Adams mining district
Description: Also referred to as the Park district; mentioned by Henderson (1926).

References:

USE Park mining district

Burrows Park mining district
Location: T43N R5W NMPM; W of Lake San Cristobal.
Description: Also referred to as the Whitecross district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); may have originally been known as the Park district; included by some authors in the Lake district. The district’s mineralized veins are in part continuous with the veins of the Silverton center of mineralization. The district includes the town of Burrows Park which was established by 1880. The Burrows Park Group mines contain gold and zinc ores. Mardirosian (1976) also reports copper, lead and silver deposits.

References:

BT Lake mining district
SEE ALSO Park mining district
SEE ALSO Whitecross mining district

Carson mining district
Location: T41-42N, R4-5W NMPM; at head of Wagner Gulch, a tributary of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, ~18 miles SW of Lake City, and just south of the Lake district.
Description: Also appears as "Carson Camp district"; overlaps the Sherman district. According to Morse and Bielser (2000), Hinsdale County was divided into six main districts, the Carson, Cimarron, Galena, Lake, Park and Sherman districts, by legislative act in 1893. Some early production is claimed for the area. The camp of Carson (Carson City) was established on the Continental Divide in ~1881 with the first ore discoveries in the district, and reached its peak population in 1889. Some of the area’s mines were closed by 1893, but others may have continued to operate into the early 1900s. The district includes the Mayflower, Bonanza King, George III, Maid of Carson, St. Jacob group, Lost Trail, and Batchelor mines, and the Jumbo mineral monument. Silver and lead, with copper, some gold and a little zinc are reported. Mardirosian (1976) reports iron bog deposits as well.

References:
Irving, J.D., Bancroft, H. 1911. Geology and ore deposits near Lake City, Colorado. USGS Bull 478, p. 17


SEE ALSO Sherman mining district

Cimarron mining district

Location: T45N R5W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). According to Morse and Bielser (2000), Hinsdale County was divided into six main districts, the Carson, Cimarron, Galena, Lake, Park and Sherman districts, by legislative act in 1893. This district was fairly inactive, with few claims. It does include the Silver Jack and Roscoe Conkling claims and the Bennie mineral monument.

References:

Galena mining district

Location: T43-44N R4-6E NMPM; along Henson Creek, which flows into the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, ~5 miles W of Lake City; W of the Lake district.

Description: Also referred to as the Henson Creek district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). According to Morse and Bielser (2000), Hinsdale County was divided into six main districts, the Carson, Cimarron, Galena, Lake, Park and Sherman districts, by legislative act in 1893. The district’s mineralized veins are in part continuous with the veins of the Silverton center of mineralization. The silver-lead ores of the Ute and Ulay veins were discovered in 1871; Morse and Bielser (2000) place the Ute and Ulay within this district. Galena City (later Capital City) was established in 1877. The Galena and Lake districts became the two principal producers in the county. By the early 1900s, though, district activity had fallen off. The district includes the Highland Chief, St. Louis, Capital, Silver Chord and Red Rover mines. The area includes the Blue, Bog, Boss, Galena, Gunnison Mountain, Horseshoe Basin, Incas, Inez and No. 2 mineral monuments. Rich gold, silver and lead production is recorded by 1895, but production was reduced by 1903. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc production are reported to 1944.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

UF Henson Creek mining district

Henson Creek mining district

Location: In the area along Henson Creek.

Description: Used to refer to the Galena district by Vanderwilt (1947); may overlap or be included in the Lake Fork district. Henry Henson was a discoverer of the Ute and Ulay silver-lead veins. The small camp of Henson was established by 1877 but eventually lost most of its population to Lake City to the E. The district may include the Pride of America, Big Casino, Lellie (Red Rover), and Vermont mines, as well as the Ute & Ulay and Hidden Treasure mines (Irving and Bancroft 1911).
Lake City mining district
Location: Includes the area around Lake City and the Lake Fork River; extends to the border with Gunnison County; possibly in both Gunnison and Hinsdale counties.
Description: Alternate name for the Lake Fork district; included in the Lake district; overlaps or includes the Hotchkiss district (Gunnison County). The district is closely related to the Lake Fork district but extends much further N. The area's Ute and Ulay silver-lead veins were discovered in 1871. Lake City was established in 1874. The district was most productive from 1891-1902, from the Ute, Ulay, Hidden Treasure, Golden Fleece and Czar mines. The district includes the small camp of Lake Shore near the Golden Fleece Mine. Intermittent production and some low grade ore has been reported since the early 1900s.

References:
BT Lake mining district
SEE ALSO Lake Fork mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Hotchkiss mining district

Lake Fork mining district
Location: T43N R4W NMPM; centered in the area of the N end of Lake San Cristobal, ~5 miles S of Lake City.
Description: Included in and/or alternate name for the Lake district; also known as the Lake San Cristobal district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); may include or overlap the Henson Creek district to the W. The district is closely related to the Lake City district but is extended further S. The Ute and Ulay silver-lead veins were discovered in 1871. Gold ore was discovered in 1874 with the Golden Fleece Mine (originally Hotchkiss Mine), which became one of the earliest and best developed mines in the county. The town of Henson was established just above the site of the Ute and Ulay mines and was the site of a smelter and concentrator. The district includes the Ocean Wave, Hidden Treasure and Palmetto mines. Rich gold, silver and lead production was reported by 1895, but production had declined by 1903. Gold, silver and copper production is reported to 1945, lead to 1941, zinc in 1940.

References:
Irving, J.D. 1905. Ore deposits in the vicinity of Lake City, Colo. USGS Bull 260, p. 78-84.
BT Lake mining district
SEE ALSO Henson Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Lake City mining district

Lake mining district
Location: T43-44N R4W NMPM; along the main fork of the Gunnison River SW to Burrows Park at the stream headwaters, ~6 miles S of Lake City.
Description: Includes and/or is an alternate name for the Lake Fork district; also referred to as the San Cristobal district by Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); the Burrows Park district is included by some authors in this district. According to Morse and Bielsler (2000), Hinsdale County was divided into six main districts, the Carson, Cimarron, Galena, Lake, Park and Sherman districts, by legislative act in 1893. The Lake district was originally broadly defined to include all mine locations in the county except for those in Burrows Park, which were categorized as in the Park or Adams districts according to Henderson (1926). Lake City is in the central part of the Lake district. The Ute and Ulay silver-lead veins were discovered in 1871. With this and other discoveries, the Galena and Lake districts became the two principal producers in the county. The district includes the Belle of the West
and Mountain Chief mines. The area includes the Gold, Governor Pitkin, Hinsdale Peak, Iron Mountain and Nos. 1, 211, 11097, 13478, 14793 and 15910 mineral monuments. Silver, gold, lead, copper and zinc ores are reported.

References:

UF San Cristobal mining district
NT Burrows Park mining district
NT Lake City mining district
NT Lake Fork mining district

Park mining district
Description: Overlaps and is sometimes referred to as the Sherman district; is sometimes referred to as the Adams district; may have been an early name for the Burrows Park district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). According to Morse and Bielser (2000), Hinsdale County was divided into six main districts, the Carson, Cimarron, Galena, Lake, Park and Sherman districts, by legislative act in 1893. The district includes the Illinois Boy, Champion and Grand Republic mines, and the A. No. 1, Burrows Park, Fannie, Gem, Prescott, Quail and No. 1 mineral monuments. Gold and silver were the main deposits in the area.

References:

UF Adams mining district
SEE ALSO Burrows Park mining district
SEE ALSO Sherman mining district

San Cristobal mining district
Description: Also appears as "Lake San Cristobal district," which Vanderwilt (1947) uses to refer to the Lake Fork district; used to refer to the Lake district by Hill (1912). The district may include the Monte Queen, Golden Wonder, Mayflower-Contention, and Golden Fleece mines (Irving 1911).

References:
USE Lake mining district

Sherman mining district
Location: T42N R5-6W; in the area of the town of Sherman on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Park district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); overlaps the Park and Carson districts. According to Morse and Bielser (2000), Hinsdale County was divided into six main districts, the Carson, Cimarron, Galena, Lake, Park and Sherman districts, by legislative act in 1893. There were discoveries in the area by the late 1870s. The camp of Sherman was established by the ~1880s. Mining activity in the area continued to the early 1900s, then intermittently until ~1925. The district includes the Black Wonder, George...
Washington and Vermont mines, and the G, I.X.L., Minnie Lee, Sherman, Sun, Sunshine and No. 6267 mineral monuments. Gold and silver were the main deposits in this area.

References:

SEE ALSO Carson mining district
SEE ALSO Park mining district

Whitecross mining district

Description: Used to refer to the Burrows Park district by Vanderwilt (1947). The camp of Burroughs Park was established by ~1880 with prospecting activity in the area. The camp’s name was changed to Whitecross in 1882 but because of its relatively inaccessible location remained small. The district includes the camps of Telluride and Sterling, and the Tobasco and Champion mines. Copper, lead-zinc, gold and silver ores are reported for the area.

References:

SEE ALSO Burrows Park mining district
Huerfano County

Summary: Huerfano County is primarily known for its coal deposits in the Trinidad coal field. Minor amounts of metal mining have produced gold, silver, copper and lead. Some small placer deposits were worked here.

Blanca mining district

Location: T28S R72W; localized in the SW tip of Huerfano County near Blanca Peak; in both Alamosa and Huerfano counties.

Description: Included within and also referred to as the Sierra Blanca district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Part of the Blanca district in neighboring Costilla County became included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County was created in 1913.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 63
BT Sierra Blanca mining district
SEE ALSO Alamosa County – Blanca mining district

Camp San Diego mining district

Location: T27S R72W.

Description: Also referred to as the Sierra Blanca district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
SEE ALSO Sierra Blanca mining district

Huerfano mining district (A)

Location: Sect 33-36 T30S R68W; Sect 1-4 T31S R68W; in both Huerfano and Las Animas counties according to Henderson (1926).

Description: Differentiated from Huerfano district (B) by a different location and the district names associated with it; also referred to as the Spanish Peaks district in Las Animas County and the West Spanish Peaks district in Huerfano County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
UF West Spanish Peaks mining district
SEE ALSO Las Animas County – Huerfano mining district

Huerfano mining district (B)

Location: Sect 29-32 T27S R70W; 32 miles WNW of Walsenburg.

Description: Differentiated from Huerfano district (A) by a different location and the district names associated with it; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Malachite district by Vanderwilt (1947). Copper and silver ores are reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Malachite mining district

La Veta coal mining district

Location: Extends from the flanks of Veta Mountain S to the Huerfano-Las Animas county line.
Huerfano County

Description: Comprises the NW margin of the Trinidad coal field. Coal has been mined in the area since 1891. The greatest period of mining activity was 1910-1930, after which mining declined gradually. The district includes the Occidental, Oakdale, and Lone Pine mines NE of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains, and the Tioga, Kebler, Black Hills and Butte Valley mines E of the Black Hills and Little Black Hills. Colorado Fuel & Iron Company's Kebler No. 2 Mine was closed in 1953 and no other large mines were operating at that time.

References:

BT Trinidad coal field

La Veta mining district
Location: T30S R68W; in the area on the N side of West Spanish Peak (Hills 1901), possibly including Monarch Basin and Wahatoya Creek; although primarily in Huerfano County, may extend S into Las Animas County.

Description: There are production records of lode gold, silver, copper, and lead for the district prior to 1908. placer gold occurs in tributaries of the Apishapa River S in Las Animas County. A little production of placer gold in 1932 and 1934 is reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Las Animas County – La Veta mining district

Malachite mining district
Location: T26S R70W; in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the Huerfano River ~5 miles SW of Gardner.

Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); used to refer to the Huerfano district by Hill (1912). Copper and silver ores are reported, but no production is recorded.

References:
SEE ALSO Huerfano County – Malachite mining district

Sierra Blanca mining district
Location: T27-28S R72-73W; in both Huerfano and Costilla counties.

Description: Also refers to the Camp San Diego district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the West Blanca and Blanca districts in Huerfano County. The part of the district in Costilla County was later included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County was created in 1913.

References:
NT Blanca mining district
NT West Blanca mining district
SEE ALSO Camp San Diego mining district
SEE ALSO Costilla County – Sierra Blanca mining district

Trinidad coal field
Location: In both Huerfano and Las Animas counties; made up of the Trinidad (Las Animas County) and Walsenburg (Huerfano County) districts on the E, the Stonewall (Las Animas County), Tercio (Las Animas County) and La Veta (Huerfano County) districts on the W, the Morley and Purgatory districts (Las Animas County) on the S.

Description: Covers ~1,035 sq miles. The coal field is part of the Raton Mesa coal region, which extends into New Mexico. Between 1887-1893 many new mines opened in this field. Production peaked in 1910 and has dropped considerably since, especially in Huerfano County. By 1958 there were 36 active mines. The coal field includes the Engle and Starkville mines (the oldest and largest two mines in the Trinidad field), and the Bloom, Cokedale, Bowen, Berwind and Tabasco mines.

References:
Walsenburg coal mining district

**Location:** Extends to the NW, W and SW of Walsenburg.

**Description:** Makes up the E and N margins of the Trinidad coal field; a northern extension of the Raton Mesa coal region. Coal was being mined here by 1870. The settlement of La Plaza de los Leones was renamed Walsenburg after Fred Walsen, general store owner and mayor, as coal production in the area increased and the town became known as a coal town in the 1870s. The district includes the Santa Clara (New Rouse), Midway, Pryor, Hezron and Ravonwood mines.

**References:**
- BT Trinidad coal field

West Blanca mining district

**Location:** In both Alamosa and Huerfano counties but mostly in Alamosa County.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Sierra Blanca district in Huerfano County. The part of the West Blanca district originally in Costilla County was included in Alamosa County when Alamosa County was created in 1913.

**References:**
- BT Sierra Blanca mining district
- SEE ALSO Alamosa County – West Blanca mining district

West Spanish Peaks mining district

**Location:** Sect 33-36 T30S R68W.

**Description:** Also used to refer to the Huerfano district (A) in Huerfano County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

**References:**
- USE Huerfano mining district (A)
Jackson County

Summary: None of Jackson County’s metal mining districts were economically significant, although copper and a little silver and gold are reported. However, the Northgate district is one of Colorado’s major fluorspar districts. Jackson County also has coal mining operations from districts in the North Park coal field.

Big Creek mining district  
**Location:** Sect 6 T11N R81W.  
**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Big Horn district is to the W. The area includes mineral monument No. 16334.  
**References:**  

Big Horn mining district  
**Location:** Sect 1-3, 10-12 T11N R82W.  
**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The North Park district is to the S; the Big Creek district to the E. The area includes the mineral monument No. 16280.  
**References:**  

Buffalo Mountain mining district  
**Location:** T4N R78W; extends into Grand County.  
**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).  
**References:**  
SEE ALSO Grand County – Buffalo Mountain mining district

Coalmont coal mining district  
**Location:** Mostly in the area between the forks of Grizzly Creek N and NW of Pole Mountain; centered around the coal outcrops near the town of Coalmont.  
**Description:** Occupies the central part of the SW quarter of the North Park coal field. The Riach coal bed was first worked at the Riach Brothers Ranch in Coalmont. Commercial production was reported for the Coalmont Mine in 1911, but the Mine was eventually abandoned in 1925. Other mines were producing into the 1930s, but several mine fires hindered operations. The district includes the Taylor, Moore (Rabbit Ear) and Spicer mines.  
**Reference:**  
BT North Park coal field

Copper Ridge mining district  
**Location:** T11N R78W (this reported location from Henderson (1926) overlaps into neighboring Larimer County).  
**Description:** May also appear as the “Copper Range district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Steven (1960) mentions that the general region of the Northgate fluorspar district was known as the Copper Ridge district because of the widespread copper
showings. The area was widely prospected for copper in the early 1900s, and includes the Kings Canyon, Badger and Village Belle copper mines.

References:
SEE ALSO Northgate mining district

Independence Mountain mining district
Location: T11N R81W; along Threemile Creek, a tributary of the North Platte River.
Description: Gold placers are reported 6-8 miles NW of Northgate, but were not successfully worked. Despite construction of the Independence Ditch, the placer operations remained relatively unprofitable as of 1915.

References:

McCallum Anticline coal mining district
Location: E of Walden, including most of the NW-SE region between the Michigan and Canadian River valleys.
Description: ~16 miles long and 4-5 miles wide; included in the North Park coal field. This is the major coal district in the region, and includes the Sudduth, McCallum, Marr, Capron, Winscom, and Hill mines.

References:
BT North Park coal field

North Park coal field
Location: Bordered on the E by the Medicine Bow Range, on the W by the Park Range, and the S by the Rabbit Ears Mountains.
Description: Covers ~500 sq miles. The field includes the McCallum Anticline and Coalmont districts. Coal was discovered in the area by the 1880s and mined for domestic use. The field was opened up in 1909 and made economically feasible by the arrival of the railroad in 1912. Moderate production to 1953 is reported, after which the field became inactive except for mining for local consumption. In 1958 a new strip mine was opened.

References:
NT Coalmont coal mining district
NT McCallum Anticline coal mining district

North Park mining district
Location: Sect 13-14, 23-24 T11N R82W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the mineral monument No. 16281.

References:

Northgate mining district
Location: T11N R79W, on the SW flank of the Medicine Bow Range on Pinkham Mountain, ~13 miles N of Walden.
Description: One of Colorado’s four main fluorspar districts, along with the Jamestown district (Boulder County), Salida district (Chaffee County), and Wagon Wheel Gap district (Mineral County) according to Cox (1945), and one of the largest fluorspar deposits in the western US. Warne (1947) places the deposits within the Copper Range (Copper Ridge?) district; Steven (1960) mentions that the general region was known as the Copper Ridge district because of widespread copper showings. Copper prospectors had noted a mineral in ~1900 which they failed to identify as fluorite. When fluorspar was finally identified, the first claim (the Feldspar claim) was located in 1918. As later claims were made in the vicinity, their collective name was
changed to “Fluorspar” and the claims were sold to the Colorado Fluorspar Corporation in 1922. Process facilities were built in the district starting in 1923. After an early period of activity the mines were inactive from 1927-1941. Mining activity was renewed with World War II and the district’s claims were worked by other companies. The district includes the Fluorine-Camp Creek and Baker claims, and the Northgate No. Two Mine N of Pinkham Creek. Large scale mining was begun in 1951 and production is recorded through the 1950s.

References:

SEE ALSO Copper Ridge mining district

Pearl mining district
Location: T12N R81-82W; ~18 miles NW of Cowdrey, near the Wyoming border.
Description: This was not thought of as a mining area until the late 1890s. The district includes the town of Pearl, referred to by Beekly (1915) as an abandoned copper camp. A number of properties were in the development stage by 1902. No production is recorded according to Vanderwilt (1947), but Henderson (1926) reports some production in 1906, 1916-1917. The district includes the Big Creek, Sierra Madre, Mount Zirkel, Copper Queen, Big Horn and Grand Republic workings. Copper, with a little silver and gold ore, is reported.
References:

Rand mining district
Location: T6N R78W.
Description: Very little is known about this district. It is listed in Vanderwilt (1947) based on a mention in Henderson (1926). The town of Rand is located between Willow Creek and the Illinois River.
Teller mining district

Location: T5N R77W; on Jack Creek 9 miles SE of Rand.

Description: This district was active in the early 1880s. The camp of Teller reportedly had a population of 1,500 during the district’s active period. Ore rich in silver and copper is reported, but in small amounts; no production records are available.

References:
Jefferson County

Summary: Jefferson County's gold placers along the South Platte River, Clear Creek and Ralston Creek were among the earliest reported gold discoveries in Colorado, although its metal mining districts are not significant. The Front Range uranium mining district includes Jefferson County's Ralston Butte mines. The Denver coal region and the South Platte pegmatite mining district extend into Jefferson County.

Bear Creek mining district
Location: T5S R71W.
Description: Also referred to as the Jefferson district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Jefferson mining district

Bergen Park mining district
Description: Deposits of copper, silver, lead and some gold were discovered by 1875 and were being worked, although no production is reported.
References:

Clear Creek gold placers
Location: T3S R69-70W.
Description: Placers are located along Clear Creek in Clear Creek Canyon, down to the junction with Ralston Creek. These placers include the Golden placers and the Arapahoe Bar 2 miles E of Golden. Clear Creek was the scene of some of the first mining in Colorado; in 1859 discoveries along what was then known as the Vasquez Fork of the South Platte River led to the establishment of the town of Arapahoe E of Golden. The Arapahoe Bar was worked with hydraulic operations in 1885-1886. Some production is recorded; recovery of gold and silver is reported starting in 1922 as a byproduct of sand and gravel processing from the plants along Clear Creek below Golden. This recovery method comprises the bulk of placer production for the state since 1951.
References:
NT Golden gold placers
Clear Creek pegmatite mining district
*Location:* Includes NW Jefferson County, SE Gilpin County, NE Clear Creek County; generally from Evergreen to Central City.
*Description:* Economic deposits of mica, feldspar, and (rarely) beryl are reported.
*References:*
  - SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Clear Creek pegmatite mining district
  - SEE ALSO Gilpin County – Clear Creek pegmatite mining district

Copperdale mining district
*Location:* Sect 8-10, 15-17 T2S R71W.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
*References:*

Creswell mining district
*Location:* Sect 27 T4S R71W.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Deposits of silver, lead and copper were being worked in the area by the early 1880s. The district includes the North Star and Argentine lodes.
*References:*

Crosson mining district
*Location:* Sect 30-31 T7S R71W, Sect 25-26 T7S R72W; in both Jefferson and Park counties.
*Description:* Overlaps with and is sometimes referred to as the Princeton district (Jefferson and Park counties); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
*References:*
  - SEE ALSO Princeton mining district
  - SEE ALSO Park County – Crosson mining district
Deer Creek mining district
*Location:* T6S R70W.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Orphan Boy, Young Sampson and Qualla mines. Shipments of ore are reported for 1876.
*References:

Evergreen mining district
*Location:* T5S R71W; 11 miles W of Mt. Morrison.
*Description:* Associated with the Malachite district by Hill (1912). This district may include the town of Evergreen and the Evergreen Fluorite Deposit Mine to the S; the Evergreen Mine contains fluorite and lead, copper, silver and gold ores. Deposits were being worked by the early 1880s. District production was intermittent. Minor fluor spar production in early 1900s is recorded. Shipments of copper and silver ore from the Augusta lode at Cub Creek are reported for 1943. Nickel ores are reported and Mardirosian (1976) also reports zinc deposits.
*References:
SEE ALSO Malachite mining district

Foothills coal mining district
*Location:* Part of the Denver coal region.
*Description:* Covers ~78 sq miles; may include or be an alternate name for the Jefferson County coal district. This district was a source for local (including Denver) market domestic coal use and sale until the 1950s.
*References:
SEE ALSO Jefferson County coal mining district

Front Range uranium mining district
*Location:* Includes areas of pitchblende occurrences in parts of the Front Range mineral belt and in associated metal mining districts, mostly in Jefferson and Boulder counties but also including an area in Clear Creek County and Gilpin County.
*Description:* Includes many metal mining districts with uranium occurrences, including the Jamestown, Gold Hill, Caribou-Grand Island, and Eldora districts (Boulder County), the Alice district (Clear Creek County), and the Central City and North Gilpin County districts (Gilpin County). The first pitchblende discovery in the US was made in 1871 from the Wood dump, Central City district. Ore was shipped from the Central City-Idaho Springs district starting shortly after the discovery of radium in 1898. Uranium minerals were identified in the Old Leyden coal mine (Jefferson County) in the early 1870s although not mined there until the 1950s. Most of the large mines are in the E central part of the Front Range. Activity and production concentrated on the 1950s discoveries on the Front Range mineral belt’s margins at the Schwartzwalder, Fairday A.M. (Fair Day), and Wright Lease mines. The Schwartzwalder Mine, which was last active from 1995-2000, was the last operating uranium mine in the district and in Colorado.
*References:
Golden City clay mining district

Location: Sect 3-4, T4S-10 T4S R70W.

Description: Also appears as “Golden district” used by Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Although referred to by Henderson (1926) as a mining district, there is no record of metal mining or production. Clays have been mined in the Golden area since shortly after the establishment of the town. The Parfet clay mine in Golden was shut down in 2001; other local deposits were still being mined.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Golden gold placers

Location: T3S R69-70W.

Description: These placers occur along Clear Creek in Clear Creek Canyon and are included in the Clear Creek placers. Clear Creek was the scene of some of the first mining in Colorado. The Roscoe placer on Clear Creek in the W part of Jefferson County was being worked by the 1890s. A dry-land dredge operated from 1935-1937; some production is recorded.

References:
Jefferson County


BT Clear Creek gold placers

Idledale mining district
Location: Along Bear Creek near the town of Idledale.
Description: Covers ~1 sq mile; may be a local name for an area included in the Front Range uranium mining district. This district includes the Foothills Mine (Wright Lease), the principal mine in the area, and the Grapevine Mine.
References:
    BT Front Range uranium mining district

Jefferson County coal mining district
Description: Part of the Denver coal region. Coal was mined for domestic use, and shipped to neighboring areas including Black Hawk and Central City. The White Ash Mine in Golden was being worked by 1877, and was the site of a mine flood that killed 10 men in 1889. The Mine closed in ~1895. This area includes the New Castle, Nicholls, and Golden Star mines.
References:
    SEE ALSO Foothills coal mining district

Jefferson mining district
Location: Sect 18 T4S R71W, Sect 10 T5S R71W.
Description: Also referred to as the Bear Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
    SEE ALSO Bear Creek mining district.

Little Deer Creek mining district
Location: Sect 5-6, T7S R69W.
Description: Also referred to as the North Bear Gulch district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
    SEE ALSO North Bear Gulch mining district.

Malachite mining district
Location: T4S R70W; in the area including the divide between Bear Creek and Mount Vernon Canyon.
Description: Also referred to as the Evergreen district by Hill (1912); also referred to as the Pipe district by Heyl (1960). The Malachite lode was discovered and being worked by 1875. This district includes the F.M.D. and Augusta mines. Silver and copper production for 1940-1941, 1943 is reported. Mardirosian (1976) also reports zinc deposits.
References:

UF Pipe mining district
SEE ALSO Evergreen mining district

North Bear Gulch mining district
*Description:* Also referred to as the Little Dear Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*
SEE ALSO Little Deer Creek mining district

Oro Fino mining district
*Location:* Sect 1-2 T10S R71W.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*

Pipe mining district
*Location:* In T4-5S R71W; 4-5 miles NE of Evergreen.
*Description:* Also referred to as the Malachite district.

*References:*
USE Malachite mining district

Princeton mining district
*Location:* Sect 25-26, 35-36 T7S R72W; in both Jefferson and Park counties.
*Description:* Overlaps with and is sometimes used to refer to the Crosson district (Jefferson and Park counties); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*
SEE ALSO Crosson mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Princeton mining district

Ralston Buttes mining district
*Location:* On the E flank of the Front Range, in the area around Ralston Buttes N of Golden.
*Description:* Part of the Front Range uranium mining district. This district is the main producer of uranium in the Front Range and one of the leading sources of uranium in Colorado. Pitchblende may have been discovered in the area as early as 1884. The Schwartzwalder Mine, the principal producer in the district, was discovered by Fred Schwartzwalder in 1949. Additional deposits were discovered in 1951-1952, and the first ore was shipped from the Schwartzwalder Mine in 1953. Production is reported through 1960, then intermittently thereafter. The district includes the Ascension, Aubrey, Ohman, and Mena mines. The Schwartzwalder Mine, which was last active from 1995-2000, was the last operating uranium mine in the area and in Colorado.

*References:*
BT Front Range uranium mining district

Ralston gold placers
*Location:* Along Ralston Creek from T2S R70W to its junction with Clear Creek.
*Description:* Prospectors found gold in tributaries of the South Platte River, Cherry Creek and Ralston Creek in 1849-1852. There was prospecting activity in the area but little to no production.

*References:*
**South Platte mining district**

*Location:* ESE edge of Jefferson County (may actually be in Douglas County).
*Description:* Minor fluorspar production starting in the early 1930s is reported.
*References:*

**South Platte pegmatite mining district**

*Location:* From Evergreen in Jefferson County to Dekkers in Douglas County; bounded by the South Platte R. and its North Fork; in both Douglas and Jefferson counties.
*Description:* The district’s pegmatites were first prospected for feldspar in the 1920s. These deposits have since been quarried for quartz, terrazzo stone, feldspar, rare-earth minerals and fluorite. The district includes the Oregon, Luster, Dazie Bell, Big Bear and Little Patsy claims. In addition to the above, economic deposits of mica are reported.
*References:*

SEE ALSO Douglas County – South Platte pegmatite mining district
La Plata County

Summary: La Plata County's major mining areas are the La Plata district NW of Durango and the Needle Mountain district to the NE and their associated districts. Gold, silver, lead and copper were produced. Some gold placers along the Las Animas River were worked. The county includes the Durango and Red Mesa coal fields.

Animas River gold placers
Location: T36-37N R9W NMMPM.
Description: Gold placers were discovered here along the Animas River by the 1870s. A ditch built in 1874 N of the townsite of Parrot City to work the placer deposits yielded little gold. Some sluicing was done, but the only production recorded is in 1938 from the Baker's Bridge placers ~16 miles from Durango.
References:

Bayfield-Yellow Jacket Pass coal mining district
Location: NE of Durango; includes the San Juan River region from the drainage divide between the Piedra River and Cat Creek W to the W line of R7W, including the S part of T34N R8W; in both Archuleta and La Plata counties.
Description: Landis (1960) reports coal beds of mineable thickness and reserves.
References:
SEE ALSO Archuleta County – Bayfield-Yellow Jacket Pass coal mining district

Bear Creek mining district
Location: T40N R6W NMMPM; on the Continental Divide at the head of Vallecito Creek, a tributary of Los Pinos River to the S and the head of Bear Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande River to the NE; in both La Plata and San Juan counties.
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); possibly extends W to overlap with the La Plata district; included in the Needles Mountain district by Irving and Emmons (1905). The area was being prospected by 1878, but some of the district’s major mines weren’t located until the 1890s. The Gold Bug and Little May mines were located in 1892; by then the Good Hope Mine was in operation. The Golden Shear group was located in 1893. Bear Creek’s major properties were idle by 1905, although smaller properties were still being worked. The district includes the mining camp of Bear Creek in La Plata County, the camp of Sylvanite, and the Sylvanite and Century mines. Production of telluride ore pre-1905 is reported.
References:
BT Needle Mountains mining district
SEE ALSO La Plata mining district
SEE ALSO San Juan County – Bear Creek mining district

Bowman mining district
Location: T38N R8W.
Description: Also referred to as the Needle Mountain district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
USE Needle Mountain mining district

California mining district
Location: T36-37N R10-12W NMPM; in both La Plata and Montezuma counties, but mostly in La Plata County; consists of the area around La Plata on the La Plata River and the area at the head of Junction Creek E across the divide of Eagle Pass, ~14 miles NW of Durango.

Description: May be broadly defined to include several neighboring districts; also referred to as the La Plata district in both La Plata and Montezuma counties; also referred to as the Junction Creek district or the May Day district in La Plata County; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); the district’s eastern part includes the Oro Fino district. Gold and silver ore was discovered in 1873 and many small mines operated at low production to 1900. Other more productive discoveries were made through the 1930s. The district includes the May Day mines; the area includes the Ashland, Bedrock Gulch, Comstock Lode, E Pluribus Unum, Eureka, Lewiston, Martha, Morovoratz Mt., St. John and Nos. 6058, 7186, 8964 and 8969 mineral monuments. Gold, silver and lead production to 1945 is reported, and copper production intermittent to 1923.

References:
NT Junction Creek mining district
NT Oro Fino mining district
SEE ALSO La Plata mining district
SEE ALSO May Day mining district
SEE ALSO Montezuma County – California mining district

Cascade mining district
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926) as being developed by 1883. The district shares a name with the town of Cascade on the Animas River NE of Electra Lake and N of Crazy Woman Gulch.

References:

Cave Basin mining district
Location: T37N R6W NMPM; at the head of Cave Basin Creek near the La Plata-Hinsdale County border (Cave Basin Creek is a tributary of the Los Pinos River in Hinsdale County).

Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold and silver ores have been reported for the area. Some small production (unknown) was reported in 1913.

References:
UF Mount Runlett mining district

Chicago mining district
Location: Includes the area around Chicago Basin near the head of Needle Creek in the Needle Mountains.

Description: Possibly a local district name; comprises the main part of the Needle Mountains district.

References:
BT Needle Mountains mining district

Durango coal field
Location: From SE of Durango to the Bayfield-Yellow Jacket Pass coal district, and SW of Durango to the Montezuma County border. Landis (1960) extends the field into Montezuma County.
**La Plata County**

**Description:** The field is part of the San Juan coal region. The area’s coal mines were opened by the early 1880s and the coal town of Hesperus was established near the Hesperus Mine. Coal mining and production is reported at Carbon Junction, Hesperus, Durango, Porter, Perrine Peak, and in the vicinity of Mancos. Only the King Coal Mine was operating in 2000.

**References:**

UF Hesperus mining district

**Florida River mining district**

**Location:** T38N R7W; centered around the area of the headwaters of the Florida River.

**Description:** Also appears as “Florida district,” which Hill (1912) also refers to as the Needle Mountain district; used to refer to the Needle Mountains district by Vanderwilt (1947); as “Florida district,” used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the Cornucopia, Lincoln and Tempest mineral monuments. Gold, silver and copper are present. Gold and silver production for the area is reported for the mid 1930s.

**References:**

BT Needle Mountains mining district

Hesperus mining district

**Location:** In the area W of Durango, probably in the area of the town of Hesperus on the La Plata River.

**Description:** Mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in La Plata County, and may be a local name. This is probably a coal mining district and part of the Durango coal field. The town of Hesperus was established to support the Hesperus coal mine opened in 1882.

**References:**

USE Durango coal field

Junction Creek mining district

**Location:** Sect 24-26 T37N R11W, Sect 19-20, 29-30 T37N R10W NMPM.

**Description:** Also referred to as the California district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the La Plata Basin, Major D.L., St. John and No. 5513 mineral monuments.

**References:**

BT California mining district

La Plata mining district

**Location:** In the La Plata Mountains, NW of Durango; in both La Plata and Montezuma counties but mostly in La Plata County, covering the center and E portions of the La Plata quadrangle.

**Description:** Broadly defined area that includes the regional districts; at its broader definition may extend E as far as to overlap the Bear Creek district near the Needle Mountains; used to refer to the California district by Vanderwilt (1947); used as the preferred name for the California district by Eckel (1949); includes the local McQuiety Hill district. Placer gold was originally found in the Animas River near the future site of Durango.
and along the La Plata River. The camp of Parrot City was established by 1877 and may have been one of the first settlements in La Plata County. In 1878 the gold and silver lodes of the Comstock Mine and the Snowstorm and Cumberland properties were located. The Tippecanoe, Belle Hamilton, and Ashland mines were discovered by 1882 and the town of La Plata was established. However, there were no follow-up rich discoveries after 1883; Parrot City was almost deserted by 1883 and the town of La Plata was on the decline by 1895. The Neglected Mine was eventually located in 1902, followed by other rich discoveries that revived the district. Output peaked in 1907. In the 1920s mines like the Gold King began large scale production of tellurides. The district includes the town of Mayday and the Gold King, Red Arrow, May Day-Idaho, and Honey Dew mines (Eckel 1936). Production from 1878 through 1934 is recorded. Mardirosian (1976) also reports lead and copper deposits. Alluvial gold are widely distributed but not concentrated in economic quantities, so little to no production is recorded.

References:
UF McQuiety Hill mining district
NT May Day mining district
SEE ALSO Bear Creek mining district
SEE ALSO California mining district
SEE ALSO Montezuma County – La Plata mining district

May Day mining district
Description: Also appears as "Mayday district"; used to refer to the California district by Vanderwilt (1947); may be included in the La Plata district. The district's name is probably taken from the May Day mines and/or the town of Mayday S of La Plata on the La Plata River. Gold was discovered in this area, and prospectors were drawn here as late as the 1930s by reports of rich strikes.
McQuiety Hill mining district

Location: In the area of North and South Lightner creeks near La Plata.

Description: Some exploration work was done in this area and a camp established. Properties of lode gold were worked some time in the 1870s-1890s.

References:

Mount Runlett mining district

Description: Used to refer to the Cave Basin district by Vanderwilt (1947).

References:

Needle Mountains mining district

Location: T38-39N R7W, T37N R8W NMPM; the main part of the district is in the area of Chicago Basin at the head of Needle Creek, 6 miles E of Needleton.

Description: Also appears as "Needle Mountain district"; may be broadly defined to include other districts in the area; also used to refer to the Bowman and Florida River districts; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Chicago district, possibly a local name, is located within the main part of the Needle Mountains district (Irving 1905). Some activity in this area was reported in 1881, but little production has been recorded for that time. Gold and silver ore veins are reported to be numerous but low grade. The district includes the Elkora claims at the head of the N fork of Elk Creek and the Black Horse, Black Monster, Grizzley, Needle Placer and No. 20132 mineral monuments. Gold, silver and copper are present. Gold and silver production for the area is reported for the mid 1930s.

References:
- UF Bowman mining district
- UF Tacoma mining district
- UF Vallecito mining district
- NT Chicago mining district
- NT Florida River mining district

Oro Fino mining district

Location: W part of the Durango quadrangle; ~15 miles from Durango; includes the area of the headwaters of Clear Creek to the N and Elk and Castle creeks to the S.

Description: Used to refer to the California district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); included in the E part of the California district. The Neglected Mine was located by the 1890s but was not in production until 1902 when a large ore body was struck; from then on the Mine was operated for at least several years. The Durango Girl Mine was located in 1893 and worked on a small scale into at least the early 1900s. This district includes the Jenny Lind and Ruby mines. The Ruby Mine’s ore contained native mercury.

References:
Red Mesa coal field
Location: S of the W part of the Durango coal field, stretching W to Montezuma County and S to New Mexico, in the area of Red Mesa. Landis (1960) extends the field into Montezuma County.
Description: Some mining and production took place in this field, and Landis (1960) reports coal reserves. The field includes the Spencer, Mancos Hill and Ft. Lewis mines.
References:
Barnes, H., Baltz, H.B., Jr., Hayes, P.T. 1954. Geology and fuel resources of the Red Mesa area, La Plata and Montezuma counties, Colorado. USGS Oil and Gas Investigations Map OM-149.

Tacoma mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Needle Mountains district by Vanderwilt (1947). The district shares a name with the town of Tacoma on the Animas River N of its juncture with Canyon Creek.
References:

Vallecito mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Needle Mountains district by Vanderwilt (1947). The Vallecito Group Mine near Johnson Creek W of Echo Mountain contains silver ores. Some activity was reported in 1881, but little production over time. Gold, silver and copper are present. Gold and silver production is recorded for 1935-1936.
References:
Lake County

Summary: The greatest mining activity in Lake County took place in the area of Leadville and its associated districts, from their gold placer origins in 1859 to the discovery of silver in 1875, through zinc production to the 1940s. The county produced gold, silver, lead and zinc. Other placer operations include the area around Twin Lakes to the south. The Climax Mine is one of the largest molybdenum producers in the US.

Adams mining district
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); also referred to as the Iowa district. The Adams Mine, containing gold, lead and zinc ores, is located E of Leadville between Evans and California gulches.
References:
USE Iowa mining district

Alicante mining district
Location: Sect 13-16, 21-27 T8S R79W, Sect 18-19, 30 T8S R78W; in the Arkansas River Valley 10-12 miles N of Leadville.
Description: Also referred to as the Arkansas district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Birdseye and California districts. Deposits of gold and lead-silver ores were discovered in the area, although production was not significant. The camp of Tabor (Tabor City, Taylor City) was established by ~1879, but with no rich ore discoveries was deserted by 1882. The camp of Alicante (Summit) was established by 1881 but the inaccessibility of the site contributed to its quick decline and the camp was deserted by 1888. The district includes the Hoosier Boy, John Reed, Alicante, and Olive Branch claims. The area includes the Alicante No. 1, Ark, Dow, Eden and Navajo mineral monuments. Some small production of high-grade gold ore was reported early on; some gold-silver-lead ore was shipped in 1935. Mardirosian (1976) also reports zinc deposits.
References:
Coyne, T. 1936. Alicante mining district mining claims, Sec. 13, T.8S., R.79W., Lake County, Colorado [manuscript map]. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
UF Arkansas mining district
SEE ALSO Birdseye mining district
SEE ALSO California Gulch mining district

Arkansas Independent mining district
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); a precursor to and later included in the California Gulch district. This district was established in ~1861. The area was divided by Hollister (1867) into the Arkansas Independent, California and Sacramento districts, but by 1867 these districts were almost deserted. See the California Gulch district entry for additional information.
References:
Lake County

Records of the Arkansas Independent mining district, California Gulch, Colorado Territory Book B, 1861-1862 [manuscript]. 1864. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

USE California Gulch mining district

Arkansas mining district

Description: Used to refer to the Alicante district by Henderson (1926); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

USE Alicante mining district

Big English Gulch mining district

Description: Probably a variation on “English Gulch district”, which is itself probably a local name; mentioned by Henderson (1926).

References:

USE English Gulch mining district

Big Evans Gulch mining district

Location: In the area around Big and Little Evans gulches near downtown Leadville and to the E.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably included in the Evans district; overlaps the California mining district. This district includes the Great Western, Monitor, Omega, Paragon and Evans claims. The area includes the Big Evans, Rogers, S.E. No. 1, XII, No. 5 and No. 17 mineral monuments.

References:
- Map of Big Evans Gulch mining district. 19--. Leadville CO: Herald Democrat. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.

BT Evans mining district

SEE ALSO California mining district

Birdseye mining district

Location: Sect 25-27, 34-35 T8S R79W; Birdseye Gulch is E of Leadville between Evans Gulch to the S and English Gulch to the N.

Description: Used to refer to the Alicante district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Alicante district to the N and the California district to the S. The Gulch and district were reportedly named for the outcrops of “bird’s eye-like” monzananite porphyry in the area. The camps of Birdseye and Howland were established with discoveries of the Gold Metal, Little Doty, and other lodes in 1879; Howland was mostly deserted by 1882. Gold, silver, lead and zinc ores are reported for the area.

References:

SEE ALSO Alicante mining district

SEE ALSO California mining district

Box Creek mining district

Location: T10S R80W; Sect 4-6 T11S R80W according to Henderson (1926); on Box Creek, a tributary of Herrington Creek.

Description: Gold placers are reported in this district. Bucket dredges were used in placer operations in 1916-1924; land dredge operations ran intermittently to 1945.

References:
Breece Hill mining district

Location: In the area around Breece Hill E of Leadville between Evans and California gulches.

Description: A local name for a district included in the California district. The camp of Ibex was established with the nearby discoveries on Breece Hill. The Little Jonny Mine (Little Johnny, Ibex) was one of the area's leading gold producers from 1893-1923, and sustained the area through the Silver Panic in 1893. The district includes the Breece Hill iron mine and the St. Louis Mine. This area is the site of Ibex Mining Company operations.

References:
BT California Gulch mining district

Buckeye Gulch mining district

Location: Sect 29, 32 T8S R79W; on Buckeye Gulch, a tributary on the W of the Arkansas River ~6 miles N of Leadville.

Description: No lode production is reported for this district, although some gold mineralization is reported. Gold placers were reportedly discovered in 1880, and small sluice operations have worked the placers here to 1945.

References:

California Gulch mining district

Location: T8-9S R79-80W; at California Gulch and its intersection with the Arkansas River.

Description: Also appears as "California district"; may be broadly defined to overlap or include a number of districts in the area and is itself included in the broadly defined Leadville district, which was established later; referred to locally as the Iron Hill district; also refers to the Empire district; this area was divided by Hollister (1867) into the Arkansas Independent, California and Sacramento districts, overlaps and is used to refer to the Little Evans Gulch district; at its broad definition overlaps the Alicante, Birdseye and Big Evans Gulch districts to the N and the Iowa Gulch district to the S. Placer gold was discovered in 1859-1860 at the junction of California Gulch with the Arkansas River by a group of prospectors including H. Tabor. The upper California Gulch placers were some of the richest deposits in Colorado. By July 1860 there were 10,000 people in the almost continuous chain of placer camps lining the Gulch, which included California Gulch camp, Oro City, Boughtown and Sacramento City. The area was divided into the Arkansas Independent, California and Sacramento districts according to Hollister (1867). However, this early activity was short-lived and the camps were mostly deserted by 1867. The Printer Boy, Pilot and Five-Twenty lodes were discovered in the late 1860s, reviving activity further up California Gulch for a time. Sluices for the placer operations in the upper reaches of the Gulch had been clogged with cerusite for many years before the material was identified as having value, resulting in a silver boom and the Leadville rush of 1876-77. The district includes the Discovery claim. The area includes the Alpha, Arkansas Valley No. 1, Iowa, Lincoln, Sherman, Tennessee, Theta, Tramp, Vidette and Waite mineral monuments—their large number a measure of the lack of reliable township and section surveys. Silver-lead-copper production is reported to 1875, with gold and lead carbonate deposits after 1876. Small scale placering continued through the 1930s.

References:
UF Arkansas Independent mining district
UF California mining district
NT Breece Hill mining district
NT Iron Hill mining district
NT Rock Hill mining district
Oro City, California Gulch district, Lake County CO. 1873. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, JWH00419.

California mining district
Location: Bounded on the N by the divide between Evans and Birdseye gulches, on the W by the Arkansas River, on the S by the Empire Gulch divide, and on the E by the top of the mountain range E of the Arkansas River.
Description: Early name for the area around California Gulch and later included within the California Gulch district; possibly originally referred to as the River district; used to refer to the Leadville district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Records of the California mining district, California Gulch, Colorado Territory, Lake County, 1867-1876 [manuscript]. 1878. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF River mining district
USE California Gulch mining district
SEE ALSO Leadville mining district

Carbonate Hill mining district
Location: In the area of Carbonate Hill E of Leadville and just N of California Gulch.
Description: Possibly a local name; included in the Leadville district. This district includes the Maid of Erin, Crescent, Carbonate, Little Giant, Yankee Doodle, Aetna, Evening Star and Big Chief mines. Some manganese production in the 1890s is reported.
References:
Emmons, S.F. 1886. Geology and mining industry of Leadville, Colo., with atlas. USGS Mon 12, 770 p., atlas.
BT Leadville mining district
Clear Creek mining district

Description: This district may be related to the Clear Creek district (Lake County). The district is poorly documented but there are records that claims in the district in Lake County were being recorded by 1864.

References:
Clear Creek district, Lake County claim records [manuscript]. 1864. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Clear Creek mining district

Climax mining district

Location: NE corner of the county at Fremont Pass near the crest of the Park Range, 13 miles N of Leadville.

Early reports placed the district in Summit County.

Description: Based on a single mine and ore deposit, this area is probably not properly referred to as a district but the terminology is appearsused in the literature. The district was named for the Denver South Park & Pacific railroad station located at the top of Fremont Pass on the line to Leadville. The district, located between Kokomo and Leadville, was prospected in the 1800s but its molybdenum deposits went unnoticed or were mistaken for other minerals as late as 1890. The small camp of Climax was located here during the Leadville boom, but quickly abandoned. Initial identification of molybdenum minerals in 1895 and a formal identification in 1900 by the Colorado School of Mines maintained interest in the area. However, there was little production in the early 1900s until pre-World War I demand caused a small production record in 1914. The Climax Mine is the only operation; it is a primary molybdenum producer and a major mineral producer in Colorado. Economical operations started in the 1920s; the Mine has been in operation through the 1990s.

References:

UF Fremont Pass mining district

Colorado Creek mining district

Location: T9S R81W; forms the S boundary of the Sugarloaf district; intersects the Arkansas River across from the mouth of California Gulch; ~5 miles long.
**Lake County**

*Description:* Also appears as “Colorado Creek Gulch district” or “Colorado Gulch district”; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold placers are reported in the area as early as 1862-1863. Placer operations were reported for 1867-1886, followed by intermittent operations in the early 1900s.

*References:*

**Derry Ranch gold placers**

*Location:* Sect 31-33 T10S R80W, Sect 4-6 T11S R80W; S part of Lake County; large area that includes the valleys of Box and Corske creeks, tributaries of the Arkansas River, from the bluffs on the W bank of the Arkansas River to Mt. Elbert in the W.

*Description:* Probably overlaps the Twin Lakes district; adjoins the Hayden Ranch placers. Activity in 1915 is reported with the building of an electric dredge, and these placer operations continued intermittently through 1926. Other mining operations took place in 1934-1942, 1947-1951.

*References:*

SEE ALSO Twin Lakes mining district

**Dewey mining district**

*Location:* Sect 29-30 T11S R79W.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Granite or Hope district, both of which extend into Chaffee County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 4 mineral monument.

*References:*

SEE ALSO Granite mining district
SEE ALSO Hope mining district

**Downtown mining district**

*Location:* Area of “downtown” Leadville and along the E edge of the town, with workings beneath Leadville’s streets.

*Description:* Local name, included in the Leadville district; mentioned by Henderson (1926). This district includes the Hussey, Orion, Crescent, Grey Eagle and Pocahontas mines.

*References:*

BT Leadville mining district

**East Tennessee mining district**

*Location:* T8S R80W; ~9 miles NW of Leadville; S of Tennessee Pass, includes the area of East Tennessee Creek that flows SW and joins Tennessee Pass Creek ~2 miles SW of Crane Park; borders the Tennessee Pass district (N of Tennessee Pass) in Eagle County.

*Description:* Used as an alternate name for the Tennessee Pass district (in both Eagle and Lake counties) by Vanderwilt (1947); according to Vanderwilt (1947), however, the name “East Tennessee district” is the preferred name for the Tennessee Pass district in Lake County alone. Gold and silver ores are reported for the area. This area was intermittently productive to 1931, with the last recorded production in 1935. A little placer gold ~5 miles N of Leadville was reported in 1865; small intermittent placer operations took place in the early 1900s with the latest reported production in 1938.

*References:*

NT Missouri mining district
BT Tennessee Pass mining district
Empire mining district
Location: T10S R79W; Empire Gulch is a tributary of the Arkansas River S of Iowa Gulch.
Description: This small district S of the Leadville district also appears as "Empire Gulch district"; also referred to as the California district but is centered around English Gulch, an area separate and distinct from California Gulch to the N; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Leadville district by Vanderwilt (1947). Gold placer deposits are reported in Empire Gulch and shallow prospect holes are evident, but no workings have been developed. The area includes the Empire No. 1 mineral monument. Production of gold, silver, lead and zinc, with some copper, is reported for the area.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO California Gulch mining district
SEE ALSO Leadville mining district

English Gulch mining district
Location: Small area NE of Leadville; English Gulch is a tributary of the East Fork of the Arkansas River near the Park County border.
Description: Possibly a local district name for the area in and around English Gulch in Leadville; also mentioned by Henderson (1926) as the Big English Gulch district.
References:
UF Big English Gulch mining district

Evans mining district
Location: The area around Big and Little Evans gulches in the Leadville district.
Description: Alternate name for the Big Evans Gulch and Little Evans Gulch districts; used to refer to the Leadville district by Vanderwilt (1947); included within the Leadville district. The camp of Evansville was located near the head of Big Evans Gulch in 1879, but was almost deserted by 1898. The district includes the camp of Stumptown (Stumpftown) and the Boulder, St. Louis and Little Bob mines. Production of gold, silver, lead and zinc, with some copper, is reported for the area.
References:
NT Big Evans Gulch mining district
NT Little Evans Gulch mining district
BT Leadville mining district

Fremont Pass mining district
Location: In the N part of the county in the area of Fremont Pass.
Description: Mentioned in Rooney (1994) as being in Lake County; possibly includes or overlaps the Climax district; possibly adjacent to the Tenmile district (Summit County).
References:
USE Climax mining district

Frying Pan mining district
Location: Sect 29-32 T9S R80W; in and around the area of Frying Pan (Fryingpan) Creek.
Description: Possibly a local name for an area within the St. Kevin-Sugarloaf mining district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Adjoining Eagle, Lake and Pitkin counties each contain a Frying Pan district in the area of Frying Pan Creek. Little Fryingpan Gulch, a
tributary of Colorado Gulch flowing off the S slope of Sugarloaf Mountain, was worked for gold placer deposits around the 1860s, about the same time that Colorado Gulch was worked (Parker 1974).

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
BT St. Kevin-Sugarloaf mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle County – Frying Pan mining district
SEE ALSO Pitkin County – Frying Pan mining district

Granite mining district
Location: Sect 19-22, 28-29 T11S R79W; in both Chaffee and Lake counties, but mostly in Chaffee County with small parts extending into Lake County.
Description: Also used to refer to the Dewey district (Lake County); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Hope district (Chaffee and Lake counties). The area was being prospected as early as 1859; several gold discoveries were made and the camp of Granite was established at about the same time. See the Granite district record for Chaffee County for more information.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Dewey mining district
SEE ALSO Hope mining district
SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Granite mining district

Half Moon mining district
Location: Sect 26-35 T10S R81W, Sect 25-27, 33-36 T10S R82W.
Description: Also referred to as and may overlap the Lackawanna district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). A mill was built in Half Moon Gulch to handle low grade ores from the mines in the mountains to the W. The area includes the Nos. 8576-B and 19770 mineral monuments.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Lackawanna Gulch mining district

Harrington mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Tennessee Pass district by Vanderwilt (1947).

References:
USE Tennessee Pass mining district

Homestake mining district
Location: T9S R81W; Sect 14-15, 22-23, 26-27 T8S R81W according to Henderson (1926); at the head of the west branch of the Tennessee fork of the Arkansas River near Homestake Peak, ~12 miles W of Leadville; this district possibly extends into Eagle County and includes the area around Gold Park.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Adjoining Eagle, Lake and Pitkin counties each contain a Homestake district, possibly related. The camps of Homestake and Lake City were established on Homestake Mountain NW of Leadville with ore discoveries in the early 1870s; this ore was shipped S to Malta for processing in the area’s first smelter. The district includes the Homestake, Silver King and Wisconsin Badger claims, and the McAleer, No. 10 and No. 124 mineral monuments. Production of high-grade lead-silver ore from the Homestake Mine at an early date is reported. Gold, silver and lead deposits are reported.

References:
Hope mining district

Location: Sect 30 T11S R79W, Sect 25-27, 31-36 T11S R80W; in both Chaffee and Lake counties.

Description: Also referred to as the Dewey or Granite district; also used to refer to the Dewey district (Lake County); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Granite district (Chaffee and Lake counties) in both counties. The district includes Lost Canyon Gulch in the Willis (Lost Canyon) district, where placer gold was produced in 1861.

References:
UF Lost Canyon mining district
UF Willis mining district
SEE ALSO Dewey mining district
SEE ALSO Granite mining district
SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Hope mining district

Independent mining district

Location: Sect 7-23 T9S R81W, Sect 5-8 T9S R80W; includes the area from St. Kevin Gulch S to Sugarloaf Mountain.

Description: Also appears as “Independence district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); reported to overlap the St. Kevin district to the N; the St. Kevin and Sugarloaf districts combined have also been referred to as the Independent district. The district includes the Fanchon placer claim, and the Kentuckian, Michigan Boy, Dinero, New Discovery and Yellow Jacket claims. The area includes the Lake Park and No. 19017 mineral monuments.

References:
Platt & Kleff Mining Engineers. 1918. Map of mining claims on north slope of Sugarloaf Mountain, Independent [sic] mining district, Lake County, Colorado. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
SEE ALSO St. Kevin mining district
SEE ALSO St. Kevin-Sugarloaf mining district

Iowa mining district

Location: T9S R79W; in the area around Iowa Gulch SSE of Leadville.

Description: Also appears as “Iowa Gulch district”, under which name it is sometimes used to refer to the California district and appears in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Leadville district by Vanderwilt (1947). Discovery of placer gold deposits in 1860 led to a rush to the area in 1861. Placer deposits were worked intermittently thereafter, but little production or activity is reported past the early 1860s. The district includes the Helena and Continental Chief veins. The area includes the Nos. 13 and 18 mineral monuments. Production of gold, silver, lead and zinc, with some copper is reported for the area.

References:
UF Adams mining district
SEE ALSO California mining district
SEE ALSO Leadville mining district
Iron Hill mining district
Location: In the area around Iron Hill in Leadville.
Description: Local name for part or all of the California mining district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The AY (A.Y.) Mine was located in 1876. The district was producing by 1878 and was one of Leadville’s most productive areas. It includes the Silver Wave, Eagle, Rock, Dome, La Plata, Stone, Lime, Smuggler, and Iron mines.
References:
Emmons, S.F. 1886. Geology and mining industry of Leadville, Colo., with atlas. USGS Mon 12, 770 p., atlas.
BT California Gulch mining district

Lackawanna Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 29-32 T11S R81W (or T10S R81W?), Sect 1-4, 9-12 T11S R82W; area around Lackawanna Gulch, a short tributary near the head of the Lake Creek drainage E of Independence Pass.
Description: Also appears as “Lackawanna district,” under which name it is used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); used to refer to the Twin Lakes district by Vanderwilt (1947); also used to refer to the Half Moon district, which it adjoins or overlaps to the NE; included in the Twin Lakes district. The Red Mountain district is to the S. The district is reported active to 1923. The area includes the Delta and Hunters mineral monuments. Gold, lead, silver and zinc ores are present in the area. Some gold and silver production is reported in 1935.
References:
BT Twin Lakes mining district
SEE ALSO Half Moon mining district

Lake mining district
Location: T11-12S R80-81W; in the area of Twin Lakes; includes the area of Lake Creek and Echo Canyon; as the Lake Creek district is referred to as being in both Chaffee and Lake counties.
Description: Also appears as “Lake Falls district” or “Lake Creek district”; also referred to as the Twin Lakes district; used to refer to the Twin Lakes district in both Chaffee and Lake counties; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Hattie Jane lode, a rich discovery, is reported by Hollister (1867) to have been located in the area in 1866, prompting the formation of the Lake Falls district. The district includes the Barry, Thistle and Goldsmith claims.
References:
USE Twin Lakes mining district
SEE ALSO Chaffee County—Lake Creek mining district
Leadville mining district

Location: T9S R79W; centered around the town of Leadville.

Description: The Leadville district had one of the largest carbonate ore deposits in the US in terms of output, characterized by high grade, the large number of ore bodies in a small area, and the variety of ores. Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); may be broadly defined to include the districts in and around Leadville and as far S as Empire Gulch; includes the California Gulch and Evans districts and many smaller and/or locally recognized districts. Placer operations in California Gulch and tributaries started in 1859, with discoveries by multiple parties including those of Samuel Kellogg and H. Tabor. These discoveries precipitated a gold rush, swelling the population of the camps lining California Gulch. Oro City, established on the S end of present-day Leadville, had a population of 10,000 by 1860. The first gold from these placers was shipped in 1860, continuing to ~1886 and intermittently to 1942. However, the rich placer deposits were depleted by the mid 1860s. Placers in other areas were worked on a small scale, but were much less significant than the California Gulch placers, and most of the gold prospectors left the area. The Printer Boy gold lode was discovered in 1868 by Charles Mullen and Cooper Smith, slowing but not stopping the decline of the district and gold camp. Cerrusite, which had been clogging the gold placer equipment for years, was finally recognized as a rich source of silver in ~1875, this was followed by several lode discoveries. Lead-silver mining defined the most productive period of the district, from the first lead carbonate shipment in 1876 to the collapse of the silver market in 1893, and finally to the district’s decline by 1902. The district’s mines and their related supply business made the fortunes of H. Tabor, the Guggenheims, Charles Boettcher, and David May, among others. The Adelaide Mine was discovered in 1876 and the camp of Adelaide grew up around it. The name Leadville was chosen for the post office in 1877 from among many names, including Cerrusite, Carbonate and Agassiz. Oro City was eventually incorporated into Leadville. The town of Malta (Swilltown) to the SW of Leadville was established by 1875 as the site of the area’s first smelter but this town declined quickly as other smelters were built in the area. The Carbonate and Shamrock mines were the first to produce quantities of lead-silver ore. By 1880 production was high and there were at least twelve smelters in operation in the Leadville area. Production declined by the late 1880s as most of the mines exhausted their easily processed ores and produced more sulfide ores. In 1893 gold ores were discovered in the Breece Hill area. Zinc production, which had been growing by 1900, dominated the district from 1903 to the 1920s. With its rich deposits and steady production the district ranked 6th in the US in total value of nonferrous metals produced by 1927. The richest zinc ores were produced in ~1910, with declining production thereafter. The Western Zinc Oxide Company plant closed permanently in 1926. The Resurrection Mining Company was organized in 1935 and operated until 1957; this closure interrupted mining operations in Leadville for the first time in almost a century. The American Smelting and Refining Company reopened the Irene Mine in 1965. The Black Cloud Mine, which finally closed in 1999, was the last base metal mine operating in Colorado. The district includes the Little Pittsburgh, A.Y. Minnie, Crescent, Evening Star, Matchless, Union and Highland Chief and Chrysolite mines, and the camps of Poverty Flats.
and Kelly's Diggings. Production of large amounts of gold, silver, lead and zinc, with some copper, is
reported. Manganese production was significant to the 1930s.

References:
Survey Info Series 63, 51 p.
ed.
Emmons, S.F. 1886. Geology and mining industry of Leadville, Colo., with atlas. USGS Mon 12, 770 p.,
atlas.
Emmons, S.F., Irving, J.D., Loughlin, G.F. 1927. Geology and ore deposits of the Leadville mining district,
Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 148, 368 p.
C98.
Koeschmann, A.H., Bergendahl, M.H. 1968. Principal gold bearing districts of the United States. USGS Prof
NY: AIME, p. 681-705.
128.
NT California Gulch mining district
NT Carbonate Hill mining district
NT Downtown mining district
NT Evans mining district
SEE ALSO California mining district
SEE ALSO Empire mining district
SEE ALSO Iowa mining district
SEE ALSO Mosquito Range district

Militiaman at the Emmett Mine during labor disputes, Leadville district, Lake County CO. Circa 1890.
Courtesy of National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville CO, Colorado School of Mines Image
Database, NMHFM-452.
Little Evans Gulch mining district

**Location:** Sect. 17-20, T9S R79W; N of Evans (Big Evans) Gulch.

**Description:** Overlaps with and also referred to as the California district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably included in the Evans district.

**References:**
- BT Evans mining district
- SEE ALSO California Gulch mining district

Lost Canyon mining district

**Description:** Alternate name for the Willis district in Lake County; included in the Hope district.

- USE Hope mining district
- SEE ALSO Willis mining district

Missouri mining district

**Location:** Sect 13-14 T8S R80W; Missouri Hill is directly S of Tennessee Pass.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 1 mineral monument.

**References:**
- BT East Tennessee mining district

Mosquito Range mining district

**Location:** Occupies the highest slopes E of the Leadville district, towards and into the Mosquito Range.

**Description:** Considerable prospecting is said to have been done in this area during Leadville’s active period. However, few mines were established and these mines were small, reflecting smaller deposits and higher operational costs. The district includes the London Mine near Mosquito Pass, the Peerless Mine at the head of Horseshoe Gulch just S of Peerless Mountain, the London Extension Mine and the Pennsylvania Tunnel. Larger mines included the Continental Chief, Dyer, Liddia and Hellena mines, which produced mostly zinc ores.

**References:**
SEE ALSO Leadville mining district

Mount Zion mining district
*Location:* Sect 10 T9S R80W; Mount Zion (Zion Mount) is N of Leadville.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
*References:*

Red Mountain mining district
*Location:* Sect 13-17, 20-29 T11S R82W, Sect 1-24 T12S R82W; reported to be a belt of lodes ~3 miles wide, crossing the range from NE to SW; mostly in Chaffee County with minor extensions into Gunnison and Lake counties.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Lake County part of the district includes the Everett and Plato mineral monuments. The town of Everett (Lake County) was established by 1882 and was a mill site for area mines. The Red Mountain (Anchor) mines are referred to as being in the Twin Lakes district in Lake County.
*References:*
USE Chaffee County – Red Mountain mining district
SA Twin Lakes mining district

River mining district
*Description:* Poorly documented reference; this may have been an original name for the California district.
*References:*
Records of the California mining district, California Gulch, Colorado Territory, Lake County, 1867-1876 [manuscript]. 1878. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE California mining district

Rock Hill mining district
*Location:* In the area around Rock Hill, Leadville.
*Description:* Probably a local name for an area around Rock Hill included in the California district. The district was in development by 1878 and was considered one of Leadville’s most productive areas. The district includes the La Plata, Gilt-Edge and Florence mines.
*References:*
BT California Gulch mining district

Sacramento mining district
*Location:* Includes an area around Sacramento Flats and at least some of the area around California Gulch.
*Description:* An earlier name for an area later included in the California Gulch district. Claims were being recorded for this district by 1860 and the camp of Sacramento City was established in California Gulch along with a number of other camps. The area was divided into the Arkansas Independent, California and Sacramento districts according to Hollister (1967), and by 1867 was almost deserted. See the California Gulch entry for additional information on this area.
*References:*
Sacramento district record book, Lake County, 1860 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
BT California Gulch mining district
St. Kevin mining district
Location: Sect 1-3, 10-12 T8S R81W (Henderson 1926); within the area of T9S R80-81W; N of Turquoise Lake NW of Leadville; includes the area of St. Kevin Gulch.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); consolidated with the Sugarloaf district to the S to form the St. Kevin-Sugarloaf district; sometimes combined with the Sugarloaf district and together have also been known as the Independent district; overlaps the Independent district. Most of the district’s productive veins of silver were discovered in the 1880s. The camp of St. Kevins was active in the 1880s-1890s, and housed a stamp mill. Although the late 1800s were the most active period of production for the district, some mines continued in production up to World War I and beyond. The district includes the St. Kevin, Griffin, President and Lakewood mines. Silver was the district’s main product, but production of gold, silver and lead from both the St. Kevin and Sugarloaf districts continued until ~1945. Minor gold placer production in the early 1900s is reported.

References:
BT St. Kevin-Sugarloaf mining district
SEE ALSO Independent mining district

St. Kevin-Sugarloaf mining district
Location: T9S R80-81W; the St. Kevin district lies N of Turquoise Lake on Lake Fork, the Sugarloaf district lies S.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); consolidated from the St. Kevin and Sugarloaf districts; the St. Kevin and Sugarloaf districts are sometimes treated as one district, and together have also been known as the Independent district. Little Fryingpan Gulch, a tributary of Colorado Gulch flowing off the S slope of Sugarloaf Mountain, was worked for gold placer deposits around the 1860s, about the same time that Colorado Gulch was worked (Parker 1974). Continued placer mining in the 1870s was followed by silver lode discoveries which were worked until the Silver Panic of 1893. Some production of gold, silver and lead from both districts continued until ~1945. Although the district is credited with significant production over its history, no records reflecting the district’s early production are available.

References:
NT Frying Pan mining district
NT St. Kevin mining district
NT Sugarloaf mining district
SEE ALSO Independent mining district

Sentinel mining district
Location: On the N slope of Mt. Sneffels.
Description: This is probably a local name. The district includes the Sunset Lode claims. Lead and silver are reported but no production is recorded.
References:

Sterling mining district
Description: Possibly a later and poorly documented name for the Willis district.
USE Willis mining district

Sugarloaf mining district
Location: On the E slope of the Sawatch Range ~W of Leadville district and S of Turquoise Lake.
Lake County

Description: Also appears as "Sugar Loaf district"; consolidated with the St. Kevin district to the N to form the St. Kevin-Sugarloaf district; the Sugarloaf and St. Kevin districts are sometimes treated as one district, and together have also been known as the Independent district. Most of the district's productive silver veins were discovered in the 1880s. The camp of Clifton was established ~1880 and housed a stamp mill that processed ore from mines on Sugarloaf Mountain and from Frying Pan Gulch. Although the late 1800s were the most active period of production, some mines continued in production up to World War I and beyond. The district includes the Dinero, Gunnison, Buckeye State, Tiger and Orincoco mines. Silver was the district's main product, but production of gold, silver and lead from both the St. Kevin and Sugarloaf districts continued until ~1945, intermittently in the Sugarloaf district's case.

References:
BT St. Kevin-Sugarloaf mining district

Tenmile mining district
Location: T7S R78-79W; just N of the Continental Divide near the headwaters of Tenmile Creek and extending N to Dillon where Tenmile Creek joins the Blue River; "ten miles" from Breckenridge; according to Bergendahl and Koschmann (1971) this district is mostly in Summit County but small portions extend over the Continental Divide and into Eagle, Lake and Park counties, including the area of the Climax Mine.
Description: Refer to the entry for the Tenmile district in Summit County.
References:
USE Summit County – Tenmile mining district

Tennessee Pass mining district
Location: In the area around the Lake County side of Tennessee Pass.
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); may refer to the East Tennessee district and the Tennessee Pass district (Eagle County) together; used to refer to the Harrington district by Hill (1912); according to Vanderwilt (1947), however, the name "East Tennessee district" is the preferred name for the Tennessee Pass district in Lake County alone. The area was being prospected by the 1880s, and includes the short-lived camps of Harrington and Tennessee Pass in Lake County. Gold and silver ores are present, and a little gold and silver production is reported in the early 1930s. A small amount of placer gold production is reported.
References:
UF Harrington mining district
SEE ALSO East Tennessee mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle County – Tennessee Pass mining district

Twin Lakes mining district
Location: Sect 7-30 T11S R81W; T11S R81-82W; on the E slope of the Sawatch Range SW of Leadville; considered to include all of the Lake Creek drainage W of Twin Lakes; reported by Howell (1919) to be in both Chaffee and Lake counties.
Description: Covers ~85 sq miles at its broad definition; also referred to as the Lake Creek district; also used to refer to the Lake district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Lackawanna Gulch district; may include the Two Bit district; borders the Red Mountain district to the SW. Gold was discovered in the Cache Creek gravels (Chaffee County) in 1860. By 1865 the town of Dayton was established. The town of Twin Lakes was established in 1879 (and may have absorbed the earlier town of Dayton) and was active during the Leadville boom. Placer deposits were found along the Arkansas River near its junction with Lake Creek, at Ritchey's Patch near Long Creek, and at the Derry Ranch placers along Box and Corske Creeks. The
Hayden Ranch placer at the mouth of Box and Corske creeks, was reported in 1898. Some placers were producing to 1890; many were intermittently productive. There were gold placer dredging operations in the area at one time but no significant placer mining since 1951. Lode mines were also operated, but many of them produced only low grade ores. The Gordon Mine was located in 1880. The district includes the following mine groups: Twin Lakes (Gordon Mine, Fidelity Mine), Lackawanna Gulch (Eureka Mine), Bull Hill and Red Mountain (Anchor) mines. The area includes the Lull, Omega, Sigma, and No. 10 mineral monuments. Gold, lead, silver and zinc ores are present. Production of gold, silver and lead to 1935 is recorded.

References:

UF Lake mining district
NT Lackawanna Gulch mining district
NT Two Bit mining district
SEE ALSO Derry Ranch gold placers
SEE ALSO Red Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Twin Lakes mining district

Two Bit mining district
Location: Sect 1-2, 11-12 T11S R81W.
Description: name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may be included in the Twin Lakes district.
References:

BT Twin Lakes mining district

Union Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 19, 21-23 T10S R79W; small district S of the Leadville district; Union Gulch is S of Empire Gulch.
Description: Also appears as "Union Park district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was reportedly organized in 1862. This area includes the Union Gulch mineral monument.
References:

Union Park district, Lake County, book of records, 1862-1866 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

Upper Arkansas mining district
Location: Consists of about a dozen gulches at the headwaters of the Arkansas River; in both Lake and Park counties.
Description: Large, loosely defined district. Both gold and silver veins are reported, with some production as of 1874.
References:
SEE ALSO Park County – Upper Arkansas mining district

Washoe mining district
Location: In the area between McNulty’s Gulch and the Arkansas River.
Description: This district was reportedly established in 1860, probably solely on the basis of the discovery of the Justine silver lode. McNulty Creek is in present-day Summit County, but district records place the Washoe district in neighboring Lake County in 1860.
Lake County

References:
Record of the Washoe silver mining district on the Justine Silver lode, Lake County, Colorado Territory, 1860. Washoe district, Lake County record book 1860-1869 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
SEE ALSO Summit County – Washoe mining district

Weston Pass mining district
Location: T10-11S R79W; specifically Sect 35-36 T10S R79W, Sect 1-3 T11S R79W according to Henderson (1926); at the crest of the Mosquito Range and the boundary between Lake and Park counties; in both Lake and Park counties.
Description: This was a small district; mining was confined to within a mile on either side of the Weston Pass. Discoveries might have been made in the area as early as 1890, but the district was in general not very active. Activity peaked in 1900-1905. There was some renewed activity in 1912-1916 when zinc ore was shipped from the Ruby, Cincinnati and Colin Campbell mines. Lead-zinc ores, with some silver-lead are reported. Moderate production is reported but none for the 1940s.
References:
SEE ALSO Park County – Weston Pass mining district

Westphalian mining district
Location: In the area at the head of Cottonwood Creek; originally in both Chaffee and Lake counties.
Description: Some lodes were discovered starting around 1866 but none were worked profitably. The Chaffee County part of the district was later divided into the North, Middle and South Cottonwood districts; these districts are located in Chaffee County considerably S of the Lake County border.
References:
SEE ALSO Chaffee County—Westphalian mining district

Willis mining district
Location: In the Kansas Territory prior to the formation of the Colorado Territory; by 1861 was probably located in what was then defined as Lake County in the Colorado Territory; in the area of Lost Canyon in present-day Chaffee County, although it may have extended into present-day Lake County as part of the Hope (Granite) district.
Description: Also referred to as “Lost Canyon (Canon) Willis district”; probably related to the Lost Canyon district (Chaffee County). The district was named for W. J. Willis, a local prospector and one of the district’s founders. Claims (apparently mostly placer claims) for this district were being recorded in 1860. In 1862 the gulch being worked for placer deposits was renamed Rebel Gulch and the district reportedly renamed the Sterling district.
References:
Willis district Lost Canyon Kansas Territory (Lake County) [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF Sterling mining district
USE Hope mining district
SEE ALSO Lost Canyon mining district
SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Lost Canyon mining district
Larimer County

Summary: Larimer County’s metal mining districts were not economically significant. Most had little or no reported production from the gold, copper and silver ores. The Crystal Mountain pegmatite mining district was active in the early 1900s.

Buckhorn mining district
Location: T7S R71W; Buckhorn Creek, a tributary of the Big Thompson River, is W of Ft. Collins.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
- See also Crystal Mountain pegmatite mining district

Carter mining district
Location: T6-SR70W.
Description: Overlaps or included within the Masonville district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Carter Tunnel Mine, located between Buckhorn and Redstone creeks N of Masonville, reportedly contained tungsten and gold ores.
References:
- USE Masonville mining district

Crystal Mountain pegmatite mining district
Location: T6-7N R71-72W; ~6 miles W of Fort Collins; N of the Big Thompson River and S of Buckhorn Creek.
Description: The Buckhorn Mica Mine (Buckhorn Mine, Emerald Crystal Mine) was developed in 1884. The Crystal Silica Mine opened prior to 1900. Several other prospects were opened by the 1930s. The Hyatt, Buckhorn Mica, Big Boulder and Crystal Silica mines were the district’s producers. Only the Hyatt Mine was producing after 1945. No deposits were mined in the 1950s. Pegmatite beryl, potash spar, scrap and sheet mica deposits are reported. Signs of prospecting in the area are common.
References:
- See also Buckhorn mining district

Drake mining district
Location: T3S R71W; ~15 miles W of Loveland; the town of Drake is at the junction of the North Fork and Big Thompson River.
Description: Copper-gold ore is reported, but there is no recorded production.
References:

Empire mining district
Location: T7N R70W; ~3 miles SW of Bellvue; 8 miles W of Ft. Collins.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). This district is the site of the Empire Mine. Small ore shipments and the presence of copper and gold ores are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Howes Gulch mining district

Fall City mining district
Location: Sect 11-14, T8N R75W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Farnsworth mining district
Location: Sect 26-27, 34-35 T7N R71W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Gray Rock mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Steamboat Rock district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912).
References:
USE Steamboat Rock mining district

Home mining district
Location: T8N R74W; on the La Poudre River E of Kinikinik.
Description: Mardirosian (1976) associates this area with the Gray Rock and Steamboat Rock districts. There was considerable prospecting in this area but no significant development or production is reported. Gold and copper mineralization is reported.
 References:
SEE ALSO Steamboat Rock mining district

Howes Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 9-12 T7N R70W.
Description: May also be referred to as the Empire district; used to refer to the Empire district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Copper and gold ores are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Empire mining district

Larimer County mining district
Location: T11N R71W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Long Gulch mining district
Location: T8N R70W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Manhattan mining district
Location: Sect 24-25 T9N R80W, Sect 19, 30 T9N R79W; ~45 miles W of Ft. Collins (this reported location puts the district near Walden in Jackson County to the W).
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The town of Manhattan was established in the mid 1880s with discoveries near the Cache le Poudre River, but the gold-silver deposits were never active producers. Small placer production from this district is reported, and gold-silver ore were shipped intermittently to 1941.
References:

Masonville mining district
Location: T6N R70W; on Buckhorn Creek, a tributary of the Big Thompson River, includes the area around the town of Masonville; ~6 miles W of Loveland.
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); overlaps or includes the Carter district. Gold and silver ores are present. Gold and silver production intermittent to 1943 is reported.
References:

Maysville mining district
Location: Sect 4-9 T8N R73W.
Description: May also appear as "Mayesville district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

State Line mining district
Location: On the Colorado-Wyoming border near Kelsey Lake.
Description: This area is the site of the Kelsey Lake Mine, North America’s first large-scale commercial diamond mine. The Kelsey Lake Mine is the only mine in the area and was operated from 1996-2000.
References:

Steamboat Rock mining district
Location: Described vaguely as NW of Ft. Collins; probably in the area of Steamboat Rock E of Stonewall Creek.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Mardirosian (1976) associates this area with the Home district. Copper and gold ores are present, but no production is reported.
References:
UF Gray Rock mining district
SEE ALSO Home mining district
Las Animas County

Summary: Coal is the major product in Las Animas County. The Trinidad coal field in this county is composed of a number of coal mining districts and contains the county's oldest coal mines. Las Animas County's few metal mining districts are not economically significant.

Chloride mining district
Location: T30S R64W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Huerfano mining district
Location: Sect 33-36 T30S R68W, Sect 1-4 T31S R68W; in both Huerfano and Las Animas counties according to Henderson (1926).
Description: Also referred to as the Spanish Peaks district in Las Animas County and as the West Spanish Peaks district in Huerfano County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Lead-silver ore production is reported from West Spanish Peak for the mid 1930s.
References:
UF Spanish Peaks mining district
SEE ALSO La Veta mining district
SEE ALSO Huerfano County – Huerfano mining district (A)

La Veta mining district
Location: T30S R68W; in the area on the N side of West Spanish Peak (Hills 1901); includes Monarch Basin and Wahatoya Creek in Huerfano County; although primarily in Huerfano County, may extend S into Las Animas County.
Description: The part of this district in Las Animas County may be included in or used to refer to the Huerfano district. Production of gold, silver, copper, and lead prior to 1908 is reported. Placer gold is found in tributaries of the Apishapa River S in Las Animas County; a little production of placer gold in 1932 and 1934 is reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Huerfano mining district
SEE ALSO Huerfano County – La Veta mining district

Morley coal mining district
Location: S part of the Trinidad coal field; in the vicinity of the towns of Morley and Wooton, S to near the New Mexico state line.
Description: The Morley Mine, named for the coal camp of Morley, opened in ~1905. The district includes the Red Robin Mine.
References:
BT Trinidad coal field
Purgatory coal mining district

Location: In the area along the Purgatory River valley.

Description: Part of the Trinidad coal field. The Frederick Mine opened in the district in 1908. The district has coal mines in and near the towns of Primero, Sexto, Frederick and Quinto, including the Primero and Quinto mines.

References:

BT Trinidad coal field

Spanish Peaks mining district

Location: Sect 1-3 T31S R68W.

Description: Also used to refer to the Huerfano district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
- USE Huerfano mining district

Stonewall coal mining district

Location: Extends from the NW margin of the Trinidad region S of the Huerfano-Las Animas County line to the South Fork of the Purgatoire River.

Description: Part of the Trinidad coal field. Some prospecting was done in the area but no development had taken place as of 1910. Little production was reported as of 1950.

References:
- SEE ALSO Trinidad coal field

Tercio coal mining district

Location: Adjoins Tercio Park on the South Fork of the Purgatoire River, SW to the Colorado-New Mexico border.

Description: Part of the Trinidad coal field. The coal town of Tercio, along with the towns of Primero and Segundo, were settled on the Maxwell Grant. Some development was done by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company but with poor results. The district includes the Tercio Mine, the Las Vega Mine which produced some coal from 1902-1915, and the Cornell Mine near Tercio which produced from 1919-1920.

References:
- SEE ALSO Trinidad coal field

Trinidad coal field

Location: In both Huerfano and Las Animas counties; made up of the Trinidad (Las Animas County) and Walsenburg (Huerfano County) districts on the E, the Stonewall (Las Animas County), Tercio (Las Animas County) and La Veta (Huerfano County) districts on the W, and the Morley and Purgatory districts (Las Animas County) on the S.

Description: Covers ~1,035 sq miles. The coal field is part of the Raton Mesa coal region, which extends into New Mexico. Between 1887-1893 many new mines opened in this field. Production peaked in 1910 and has dropped considerably since, especially in Huerfano County. By 1958 there were 36 active mines. The coal field includes the Engle and Starkville mines (the oldest and largest two mines in the Trinidad field), and the Bloom, Cokedale, Bowen, Berwind and Tabasco mines.

References:
Trinidad coal mining district

*Location:* From the border of Huerfano County SE beyond Trinidad to the New Mexico state line.

*Description:* This district, with the Walsenburg district (Huerfano County), makes up the E border of the Trinidad coal field. The district includes the town of Trinidad, and the Engle and Starkville mines operated by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company.

*References:*

BT Trinidad coal field
Mesa County

Summary: Mesa County produced some copper and silver and a little lead and placer gold from its metal mining districts, primarily from the Unaweep district. Coal production from the fields of the Uinta coal region, and uranium and vanadium from the area around Gateway and the Dolores River was more significant in the county.

Book Cliffs coal field
Location: W part of Mesa County on the Utah state line, SW to the Colorado River.
Description: Covers ~300 sq miles; part of the Uinta coal region. This field is named for the escarpment flanking the N side of Grand Valley. It incorporates the producing Carbonera (Garfield County), Palisade (Garfield County), Cameo and Grand Junction districts. Mesa County’s part of the coal field was being commercially mined by 1888; 15 mines operating in Mesa County in 1918. The field includes the Book Cliffs Mine.
References:
UF Cameo coal mining district
UF Grand Junction coal mining district
SEE ALSO Garfield County – Book Cliffs coal field

Calamity mining district
Location: In the area of Calamity Creek, between the Dolores River and Blue Creek.
Description: Used to refer to the Gateway district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Gateway district. This district is a uranium and vanadium mining area and includes the Calamity Group of claims and other uranium/vanadium deposits. Copper and silver mineralization is present in the area.
References:
BT Gateway mining district

Cameo coal mining district
Location: At the E end of the Book Cliffs area.
Description: Included in the Grand Junction district, which is part of the Book Cliffs coal field in Mesa County. The district includes the Cameo Mine, the largest producer in the area, and the town of Cameo.
References:
USE Cameo coal mining district

Copper Creek mining district
Location: T12S R101W: S central part of the county.
Description: Better known as the Unaweep district according to Henderson (1926); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district was one of three local divisions of Mesa County into broad districts in the 1880s, along with the Elk Basin and Plateau districts.
References:
USE Unaweep mining district
Elk Basin mining district
Location: NE corner of the county.
Description: This district was one of three local divisions of Mesa County into broad districts in the 1880s, along with the Copper Creek and Plateau districts.
References:

Gateway mining district
Location: T51N R19W NMPM; has indefinite boundaries but may extend into Utah; includes the area around the town of Gateway and the nearby Dolores River, and probably much of the Dolores River drainage basin to the E.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); includes the Calamity and Maverick districts; may overlap the Uravan uranium district to the S. Some copper shipments were reported from this district in early years, but no copper or silver production was reported in the 1940s. The district contains uranium-vanadium deposits as carnotite, and the Neglected, Outlaw Mesa, Queen of the Hills, and Calamity claims. Carnotite production began in 1914 and continued intermittently through 1944.
References:
NT Calamity mining district
NT Maverick mining district
SEE ALSO Uravan uranium mining district

Grand Junction coal mining district
Location: Along the cliffs of Salt Wash E to the old Book Cliffs Mine.
Description: With the Cameo district, this district is included in the Book Cliffs coal field in Mesa County.
References:
USE Book Cliffs coal field

Grand Mesa coal field
Location: Extends from Palisade on the Colorado River to the West Elk Mountains, S from Mesa County into the N half of Delta County; primarily in both Delta and Mesa counties; the Delta County portion covers ~86 sq miles; a portion of the field is stated to extend into Montrose County; may also extend as far as Gunnison County.
Description: Informally subdivided (from W to E) into the Gunnison, Palisades, Rollins (Mesa County), Somerset (multiple counties) and Coal Creek (Delta County) districts. The coal field is part of the Uinta coal region. The field was being worked by the early 1900s but by 1918 there were only 13 mines from this field operating in Delta County and 2 in Montrose County. The coal field includes the Wells Gulch, Bailey, Hall, Patterson, Kuhnley, Rollins, Winton, Conine, and King mines.
References:
NT Gunnison coal mining district
NT Palisades coal mining district
NT Rollins coal mining district
NT Somerset coal mining district
SEE ALSO Delta County – Grand Mesa coal field
SEE ALSO Montrose County – Grand Mesa coal field

Grand River mining district
Location: Sect 17-20 T10S R103W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 5200 mineral monument.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Gunnison coal mining district
*Description:* Westernmost and informal division of the Grand Mesa coal field.
*References:*
  - BT Grand Mesa coal field

Maverick mining district
*Location:* In the area of Maverick Canyon.
*Description:* Used to refer to the Gateway district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Gateway district. Copper and silver mineralization is present in the area. The district includes the Maverick uranium/vanadium mines.
*References:*
  - BT Gateway mining district

Palisades coal mining district
*Description:* W part of the Grand Mesa coal field; informal subdivision of the Grand Mesa coal field.
*References:*
  - BT Grand Mesa coal field

Plateau mining district
*Location:* SE corner of Mesa County.
*Description:* This district was one of three local divisions of Mesa County into broad mining districts in the 1880s, along with the Copper Creek and Elk Basin districts.
*References:*

Rollins coal mining district
*Description:* Centrally located in the Grand Mesa coal field; informal subdivision of the Grand Mesa coal field.
*References:*
  - BT Grand Mesa coal field

Sinbad mining district
*Location:* Sect 5-8, 17-18 T49N R19W NMPM; 12-15 miles S of Gateway in the area of the Sinbad Valley; in both Mesa and Montrose counties.
*Description:* Also appears as "Sinbad Valley district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Copper minerals were found near the sites of the Pyramid and Copper Rivet mines, but no ore was shipped as of 1920. Mardirosian (1976) also reports silver deposits. Silver and copper production for this district is reported to 1942. Intermittent placer gold and lead production in the Mesa County part of the district is reported.
*References:*
  - SEE ALSO Montrose County – Sinbad mining district

Somerset coal mining district
*Location:* In Delta and Gunnison counties, possibly extending into Mesa County.
*Description:* E part of the Grand Mesa coal field; an informal subdivision of the Grand Mesa coal field according to Lee (1912); part of the Uinta coal region in Delta County according to Wray (2001). In Delta County only the Bowie No. 2 Mine was operating in 2000; in Gunnison County only the West Elk and Sanborn Creek mines were operating in 2000. The town of Somerset (Gunnison County) was named for its counterpart in Pennsylvania.
Unaweep mining district

**Location:** Sect 7-9, 16-18 T14S R100W; T13S R101W; on East Creek in Unaweep Canyon 15 miles SW of Whitewater.

**Description:** Preferred name for the Copper Creek district by Henderson (1926); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Copper is the primary metal in the district, but gold and silver ores are present. Active prospecting and some development took place in the district, but no production is reported. Several carloads of copper ore were shipped in ~1900 and a smelter built in the district according to Butler (1914). The district includes the McKinley, Nancy and Chance mines, and the Tabuarka and Unaweep mineral monuments.

**References:**
- UF Copper Creek mining district

Uravan uranium mining district

**Location:** Area centered around the junction of the San Miguel and Dolores rivers; in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties.

**Description:** Encompassed by the Uravan mineral belt; includes the Rock (Roc) Creek district (Montrose County) and the McIntyre district (San Miguel County); may overlap the Gateway district to the N. Most of the uranium produced in Colorado comes from this district. "Uravan" is a combination of the words uranium and vanadium, extracted from the carnotite ores. The area was unsuccessfully prospected for other minerals before carnotite ore was shipped from the Rock Creek claim in 1898. The Joe Junior Camp was developed by the US Vanadium Corporation and renamed Uravan. The General Vanadium Company and others became active in the district starting in ~1910, expanding carnotite mining. Production activity was expanded further with World War II. The district includes the Yellow Bird, Thunderbold, and Long Park claims.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Gateway mining district
- SEE ALSO Montrose County – Uravan uranium mining district
- SEE ALSO San Miguel County – Uravan uranium mining district
Mineral County

Summary: The Creede district and associated districts were the source of almost all of Mineral County’s mining activity—Creede became one of the West’s greatest silver producers. Gold, copper, lead and zinc were also produced. The Wagon Wheel Gap district was one of Colorado’s major fluorspar producers.

Argenta mining district

Location: In the area near Creede.
Description: Poorly documented; mentioned in conjunction with the Sunnyside district.
References:
- Map of mining claims in Mineral County, Colorado, showing underground workings of Happy Thought and Argenta mines. 19?? Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.

USE Sunnyside mining district

Crater mining district

Location: T37N R2E NMPM; Crater Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the San Juan River, is in the extreme SE corner of the county.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Creede mining district

Location: T42N R1E W NMPM; includes the area bounded by MacKenzie Mountain to the W, Mammoth Mountain to the E, the Equity Mine to the N, the Silver Horde Mine SW of Creede along Sunnyside Creek, and the Iowa Tunnel near Dry Gulch SE of Creede.
Description: Covers an area ~4.5 miles E-W by 5.75 miles N-S; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); used to refer to the Sunnyside district by Hill (1912). The district was one of the most productive silver camps in the West, and produced most of Mineral County’s silver, lead, gold and zinc. The Bachelor claim was located in this area in 1884. This and other discoveries led to a rush of prospectors to the region. The district was named after 1890 for the booming town of Creede; the town of Creede itself was named for N.C. Creede, prospector and co-owner of the Holy Moses and Amethyst claims. The camps of Weaver and Willow were settled as satellite camps near Creede in ~1890. In 1891 rich discoveries were made in the Amethyst, New York and Last Chance mines. By 1892 there were about 10,000 people in Creede. The camp of Bachelor was one of the large satellite camps of Creede by 1893. The district’s greatest production was in 1893, primarily in silver, with some lead and gold. Production began to decline shortly thereafter but the district maintained a fairly steady output through 1910. It reached a low in production around 1922 but activity then increased somewhat through the rest of the 1920s. The district includes the camps of Jimtown, Creedemore, South Creede and North Creede (Upper Creede) and the Commodore Mine. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc production through the 1950s is recorded.
References:
UF Rio Grande mining district
NT King Solomon mining district
NT Sunnyside mining district

Equity fault, Creede district, Mineral County CO. McGregor and Abston (1994), LES0076.

Creede district, Mineral County CO. McGregor and Abston (1994), CMR0496.

Looking down West Willow Terrace road, Amethyst and Last Chance mines, Creede district, Mineral County CO. 1912. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, LES00059.
King Solomon mining district
Location: In T42N R1E-W NMPM; the area E of West Willow Creek.
Description: Used to refer to the Creede district by Vanderwilt (1947); sometimes used to refer to the Sunnyside district, which is W of the King Solomon district and nearly continuous with it; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included within the Creede district. The district was named for the Solomon Mine, located in 1890. It includes the Mexico, Wandering Jew, Bobtail and Hummingbird claims. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper ores are reported for the area.
References:
Rice, E.S. 1892. Creede camp & vicinity [Mineral County, Colorado]. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
BT Creede mining district
SEE ALSO Sunnyside mining district

Rio Grande mining district
Location: In T42N R1E&W; the area near Creede S of the Rio Grande River.
Description: Probably a local name for that part of the Creede district S of the Rio Grande River. This district includes the Creede placer claims.
References:
Rice, E.S. 1892. Creede camp & vicinity [Mineral County, Colorado]. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
USE Creede mining district

Royal Arch mining district
Location: Sect 21-23, 26-28 T40N R1W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 7795 mineral monument.
References:

Spar City mining district
Location: Along the S flank of the Creede caldera.
Description: Also appears as the “Spar district.” This district was prospected intermittently starting in the early 1900s. The area shows mineralization and there was some development but no production is reported. Spar City (originally Fisher City) was established near Creede in 1892 but was deserted by 1905. The Spar City area includes the Big Spar and Headlight mines according to Eberhart (1969). The district includes the Bird Creek Mine according to Heyl (1960).
References:

Sunnyside mining district
Location: T42N R1W, and SW into T41N R2W; the area W of Willow Creek near Creede.
Description: Also referred to as the King Solomon district; used to refer to the Argenta district; used to refer to the Creede district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included at least in part within the Creede district. Discoveries were made in the area by 1883, including the Alpha Mine. The small camp of Sunnyside was established ~2 miles W of Creede in the mid 1880s. Some prospecting was done through the mid 1880s but with little success in the immediate Sunnyside area. Prospectors were more successful in what became the King Solomon/Creede district. This district includes the Little Bear, Silver King and Pueblo Chief claims. The area includes the Nos. 7333, 8290 and 1935 mineral monuments. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper ores are reported for the area.
**References:**


Rice, E.S. 1892. Creede camp & vicinity [Mineral County, Colorado]. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.


UF Argenta mining district

BT Creede mining district

SEE ALSO King Solomon mining district

**Wagon Wheel Gap mining district**

**Location:** SE corner of T41N R1E; ~1 mile S of the Wagon Wheel Gap station of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, on the E side of Goose Creek, directly across the valley from Mineral Hot Springs.

**Description:** One of Colorado’s four main fluorspar districts, along with the Jamestown district (Boulder County), Salida district (Chaffee County), and Northgate district (Jackson County) according to Cox (1945). Fluorspar in the area was identified by the American Fluorspar Mining Company and production began in 1911. Production continued intermittently to 1936, and on to 1946-1950.

**References:**


**Moffat County**

Summary: Moffat County recorded some production of gold, copper and silver from its few mining districts and placer operations, but coal from the Danforth Hills coal field and other locations was economically more significant. Some uranium and vanadium was produced.

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**Blue Mountain mining district**

*Location:* T5N R102W.

*Description:* May be referred to in conjunction with the Skull Creek district to the E because of the Skull Creek district's proximity. The district has uranium/vanadium ores and includes the Blue Mountain Number 4 Mine.

*References:*


UF Routt County – Blue Mountain mining district

SEE ALSO Skull Creek mining district

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**Boxelder coal mining district**

*Location:* In the area of Boxelder Gulch, a tributary of the Yampa River SW of Axial.

*Description:* Possibly a local name; part of the Danforth Hills coal field. Any production was probably for local domestic use.

*References:*


USE Danforth Hills coal field

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**Danforth Hills coal field**

*Location:* E of the Lower White River coal field; includes the area of Danforth Hills; in both Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

*Description:* Covers ~300 sq miles; part of the Uinta coal region. The field contains the locally named Spring Creek, Morgan Gulch, and Boxelder (Moffat County) and Coal Creek and Meeker (Rio Blanco) coal mining districts. The district had a number of principal mines but only the Colowyo Mine was operating in 2000.

*References:*


UF Boxelder coal mining district

UF Morgan Gulch coal mining district

UF Spring Creek coal mining district

SEE ALSO Rio Blanco County – Danforth Hills coal field
Douglas Mountain mining district

**Location:** T7N R100-102W; ~10 miles SW of Greystone.

**Description:** Also referred to as the Escalante Hills district; Heyl (1964) also refers to this area as the Massadona-Youghall district for its zinc deposits; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Douglas Mountain Mine, which contained copper and silver ores. The area includes the Nos. 17302, 17303 and 17254 mineral monuments. Copper and silver production in 1933, 1935 and 1937 is recorded; some small zinc production is reported.

**References:**

UF Escalante Hills mining district
UF Massadona-Youghall mining district

Escalante Hills mining district

**Description:** Used to refer to the Douglas Mountain district.

USE Douglas Mountain mining district

Fourmile Creek mining district

**Location:** T10-12N R91-92W; on the N side of the Iron Springs Divide; broadly defined, the district may include much of the Little Snake River’s S drainage to the Iron Springs Divide, and at least as far W as Bighole Gulch.

**Description:** May also appear as “Fourmile district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may include the Timberlake Creek district; bounded on the S by the Lay district. Gold placers occur in the dry plain along the W base of the Elk Mountains from the Little Snake River to the Yampa River. Placers were discovered in 1891 in Fourmile Gulch by Hugh Morrison, who built the first cabin there in 1892. Some sluicing operations were set up, and hydraulic operations were established by 1893. Placer production to 1933-1940 is reported. Small amounts of placer silver have also been recovered. The Fourmile Creek Mine, a lode gold mine, is located between Bighole and Scandinavia gulches.
Moffat County

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

UF Fourmile mining district
NT Timberlake Creek mining district

Jackrabbit mining district
Location: In the area of T8N R93W; Jackrabbit Spring lies along Lay Creek.
Description: Used to refer to the Lay district by Hill (1912).
References:

USE Lay mining district

Gold dredge, Jack Rabbit Springs, Lay district, Moffat County CO. 1912. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, HET0113.

Lay mining district
Location: T8-10N R92-93W; on the S side of the Iron Springs divide; E of the lower course of the Little Snake River; broadly defined, the district includes the N drainage of Lay Creek to the Iron Springs divide.
Description: Gold placers occur NW of Craig around the divide separating the drainage of the Little Snake River to the N and the Yampa River to the S. Gold dredging operations were established in 1905 along Lay Creek near Jackrabbit Springs. Drift mines were worked near Iron Springs. The Lay Mine is located NNW of Craig. Moderate production at an early date is reported, with more recent activity from 1933-1936; intermittent drift workings are reported through the 1950s.
References:

UF Jackrabbit mining district
Lower White River coal field

*Location:* In the central S part of Moffat County along the White River and Douglas Creek; in both Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

*Description:* Part of the Uinta coal region. Limited production of coal is reported, mostly to meet local demand.

*References:*

SEE ALSO Rio Blanco County – Lower White River coal field

Massadona–Youghall mining district

*Location:* In T6N R101-102W.

*Description:* Also referred to as the Douglas Mountain district; used to refer to the area as a zinc mining district. The Mantle Mine, the district's principal zinc mine, was discovered E of Johnson Draw in the 1870s. The county's small zinc production is probably credited to the Mantle Mine and nearby zinc properties.

*References:*

USE Douglas Mountain mining district

Maybell uranium mining district

*Location:* Near Maybell, with most prospects located between Lay and Maybell N of US 40, but a few as far E as Craig.

*Description:* Uranium was discovered in the area in 1954 by aerial geophysical prospecting. Low grade ore was mined by Union Carbide through the 1970s.

*References:*

Meeker uranium mining district

*Location:* Centered around Coal Creek ~15 miles NE of Meeker in Rio Blanco County; extending into SW Moffat County around the Skull Creek area; in both Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

*Description:* Small production of uranium is reported, mostly from stripping operations and underground workings.

*References:*
Moffat County

SEE ALSO Rio Blanco County – Meeker uranium mining district

Morgan Gulch coal mining district
Location: In the area along Morgan Creek W of the town of Axial.
Description: Possibly a local name; part of the Danforth Hills coal field. This area is named after a local rancher who operated the Morgan Mine for local domestic coal use.
References:
USE Danforth Hills coal field

Round Bottom mining district
Location: T6N R92W; on the N side of the Yampa River ~12 miles SW of Craig; includes the area of Bell Rock Gulch.
Description: The district includes the Round Bottom gold mine. Small placer operations in 1932-1934 are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Yampa River gold placers

Skull Creek mining district
Location: T4N R102W; Skull Creek is a tributary of the White River E of Dinosaur.
Description: May be referred to in conjunction with the Blue Mountain district to the W because of the Blue Mountain district’s proximity. Vanadium, uranium and copper ores are present but no production is reported.
References:
USE Routt County – Skull Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Blue Mountain mining district

Spring Creek coal mining district
Location: In the Spring Creek valley S of the town of Axial.
Description: A local name; part of the Danforth Hills coal field. This district includes the Collom and James mines, worked for local domestic coal consumption.
References:
USE Danforth Hills coal field

Timberlake Creek mining district
Location: Includes the area around Timberlake Creek, W of Fourmile Creek.
Description: May also appear as “Timberlake Gulch district”; may be included in the Fourmile Creek district. This district includes the Gooldy placers. Small amounts of placer silver have also been recovered from the Fourmile Creek-Timberlake Creek area.
References:
BT Fourmile Creek mining district

Twenty-Mile Park coal mining district
Location: In the area centered around Milner (Routt County), between Steamboat Springs and Craig; in both Moffat and Routt counties.
Description: Part of the Yampa coal field, in the Green River coal region. The oldest mines in this district were located on Oak Creek after 1906 with the arrival of the railroad. Other mines later opened near Mount Harris, Bear River and McGregor. This district includes the Wadge, Allen, Routt-Pinnacle, and McCrosky mines.
References:
BT Yampa coal field
SEE ALSO Routt County – Twenty-Mile Park coal mining district

Yampa coal field
*Location:* N of the Danforth Hills coal field, in the SE extremity of the Green River coal region; in both Moffat and Routt counties.
*Description:* Includes the Twenty-Mile Park district. The most extensive development in the field was around Lay, but little coal was actually mined. Only the Trapper Mine was producing in 2000.
*References:*
NT Twenty-Mile Park coal mining district
SEE ALSO Routt County – Yampa coal field

Yampa River gold placers
*Location:* T6N R91-92W; along the Yampa River downstream from Craig.
*Description:* Minor placer activity in 1932-1934 at Round Bottom and Big Bottom is reported.
*References:*
SEE ALSO Round Bottom mining district
Montezuma County

Summary: The few productive districts in Montezuma County are extensions of districts in neighboring La Plata County to the east, including the East Mancos River district and the Red Arrow Mine. Gold, silver, lead and copper production and some gold placer operations are reported.

Bear Creek mining district

Location: T38N R12W NMPM; a few miles up Bear Creek from its junction with the Dolores River.

Description: Adjoins the Pioneer district in Dolores County. Copper mineralization is present in the area but there is no reported production for this district.

References:

California mining district

Location: Consists of the area around La Plata on the La Plata River and the area at the head of Junction Creek E across the divide of Eagle Pass, about 14 miles NW of Durango; in both La Plata and Montezuma counties, but mostly in La Plata County.

Description: Also known as the La Plata district; also known as the Junction Creek district in La Plata County; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The most productive workings in this district were in La Plata County. Gold and silver ore was discovered in 1873 and many small mines operated at low production to 1900; other more productive discoveries were made through the 1930s. The area includes the Century and No. 8010 mineral monuments. Gold, silver and lead production to 1945 is reported, with copper production intermittent to 1923.

References:
SEE ALSO La Plata mining district
SEE ALSO La Plata County – California mining district

East Mancos River mining district

Location: T36N R11-12W NMPM; includes the area of the East Mancos River; 8-14 miles E of the town of Mancos.

Description: Also appears as “East Mancos district”, which is the name preferred by Hill (1912); considered by some to be the westernmost extension of the La Plata district (La Plata and Montezuma counties) and described in some reports as part of the La Plata district. Gold placers were discovered along the East Mancos River. In addition to the resulting small scale operations, hydraulic operations were started at the Marshall placer by 1897. The Red Arrow Mine, a principle producer for the area, was discovered in 1933 by prospectors Charles and Raymond Starr who were tracing a high-grade placer source up Gold Run Draw, a tributary of the East Mancos River. Red Arrow production started in 1933 and continued to 1942.
Mardirosian (1976) also reports silver deposits. The district includes the Lucky Moon Mine at Parrott Peak 2 miles E of the Red Arrow Mine. Gold and silver in localized rich pockets, with some lead and zinc and small amounts of copper, are present.
References:


La Plata mining district

Location: In the La Plata Mountains, NW of Durango, N of Hesperus; in both La Plata and Montezuma counties but mostly in La Plata County, covering the center and E portions of the La Plata quadrangle.

Description: Used to refer to the California district; used as the preferred name for the California district by Eckel (1936); may include the East Mancos district. Gold and silver were discovered in 1878; that same year the Comstock Mine was opened and the Snowstorm and Cumberland properties were located. The Tippecanoe, Belle Hamilton, and Ashland mines were discovered by 1882. There was little major activity after 1883, but the Neglected Mine was located in 1902, followed by other rich discoveries. Output peaked in 1907. Mines like the Gold King began large scale production of tellurides in the 1920s. The district includes the Red Arrow, May Day-Idaho, and Honey Dew mines. Production from 1878 through 1934 is recorded. Alluvial gold is reported to be widely distributed but not concentrated in economic quantities, and little to no placer production is recorded.

References:


SEE ALSO California mining district
SEE ALSO East Mancos mining district
SEE ALSO La Plata County – La Plata mining district

Mancos mining district

Location: T37N R11-12W NMPM. Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district may include the W Mancos River area and its sparse gold placer deposits. The area includes the No. 9217 mineral monument.

References:


Red Arrow mining district

Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994). This name may refer to the area around the Red Arrow Mine, which is included in the East Mancos River/La Plata district. The Red Arrow Mine produced gold and silver, with some copper, intermittently to the early 1940s.

References:


USE East Mancos River mining district

Stoner mining district

Location: T39N R13W NMPM; Stoner is located along the Dolores River 15 miles NE of Dolores, near the Dolores County border.
Description: Mentioned in Henderson (1926) according to Vanderwilt (1947). The area was prospected but no production is reported.

References:
Summary: Gold placers were worked with some success along the San Miguel, Dolores and Uncompahgre rivers. Production of gold, silver and copper from the county’s metal mining districts was limited. Montrose County includes the Uravan and other districts with deposits of uranium and vanadium, and several coal fields.

Chipeta mining district
Location: T47, 49N R16W, T46N R15W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
Some copper sulfides bearing gold were developed up to the late 1890s but little else is reported. The area includes the Bryant, Came, Highley and Nos. 8611, 19380, 19731, 20180 and 20468 mineral monuments.
References:

Cimarron mining district
Location: On the border of Montrose and San Miguel counties.
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926) as having undergone some development to the late 1890s. However, this development may refer instead to the Upper San Miguel (Telluride) district (San Miguel County) since that is the reported location of the Cimarron Mine and activities of the Cimarron Mining Corporation.
References:
USE San Miguel County – Upper San Miguel mining district

Grand Mesa coal field
Location: Extends from Palisade on the Colorado River to the West Elk Mountains, S from Mesa County into the N half of Delta County; in both Delta and Mesa counties; the Delta County portion covers ~86 sq miles; a portion of the field is stated to extend into Montrose County; may also extend as far as Gunnison County.
Description: Informally subdivided (from W to E) into the Gunnison, Palisades, Rollins (Mesa County), Somerset (multiple counties) and Coal Creek (Delta County) districts. The coal field is part of the Uinta coal region. By 1918 there were only 13 mines from this field operating in Delta County and 2 in Montrose County. The coal field includes the Wells Gulch, Bailey, Hall, Patterson, Kuhnley, Rollins, Winton, Conine, and King mines.
References:
SEE ALSO Delta County – Grand Mesa coal field
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Grand Mesa coal field

Gunnison River pegmatite mining district
Location: Along the Gunnison River and tributaries, in W Gunnison County and E Montrose County.
Description: Economic deposits of feldspar are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Gunnison River pegmatite mining district

Hydraulic mining district
Location: Sect 7-8, 17-22, 27-28 T48N R17W NMPM, possibly extending as far W as the Utah border.
Montrose County

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Disseminated uranium and vanadium deposits and carnotite ores are reported as having been explored or worked in ~1908 in this area along the Colorado-Utah border. The area includes the Davis and Nos. 19606 and 20263 mineral monuments.

References:

La Sal Creek mining district
Location: T47N R19W NMPM; includes the area of La Sal Creek, a tributary of the Dolores River.
Description: Also appears as "La Sal district"; also referred to as the Paradox Valley district; adjoins and probably overlaps the Paradox Valley district, if not in fact its equivalent; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district's developed mines are the Cashin and Cliff Dweller mines, and it is reported to be the largest producer in the county, primarily in copper and silver. A La Salle Mine located on the E side of the Paradox Valley just WSW of Uravan appear to be too far E to be contained within this district's borders. Placer gold is reported on La Sal Creek. A little vanadium and uranium ore are reported to be present.

References:
SEE ALSO Paradox Valley mining district

Naturita mining district
Location: T46N R15W NMPM; in the area of the San Miguel River near Naturita.
Description: Gold placers occur along the San Miguel River downstream from Cottonwood Creek, along the Uncompahgre River, and along the Dolores River below its junction with the San Miguel River. Some sluicing on a small scale has been done, with larger company operations in place by the mid 1880s. Placer operations were suspended by 1893 but extravagant, unfounded and somewhat notorious promotional claims for the area's placer deposits were being made by placer mining companies. Gold recovery to 1945 is reported, and silver placer deposit production to 1942. Some vanadium and uranium ores are present.

References:
SEE ALSO Vixen mining district

Nucla-Naturita coal field
Location: Located between the towns of Nucla to the N and Naturita to the S.
Description: Northern part of the San Juan River coal region. Landis (1960) reports that this area has been extensively prospected and mined. Only the New Horizon Mine was open in 2000.

References:

Oro mining district
Location T46N R14W NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

Paradox Valley mining district
Location: T47N R19W NMPM; includes the area of the Paradox Valley.
Description: Also appears as "Paradox district"; also used to refer to the La Sal district; adjoins and probably overlaps the La Sal Creek district to the W, if not in fact its equivalent; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area was being developed to the late 1890s, with limited success. Later there was renewed activity to exploit uranium and vanadium ores. The district includes the Payday group of uranium mines.

References:
Barton Uranium, Inc. 1954. Payday Group, Paradox district, Montrose Co., Colo. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
UF Paradox mining district
SEE ALSO La Sal Creek mining district

Rock Creek mining district
Location: Sect 1, 12 T48N R19W, Sect 6-7 T48N R18W NMPM; in the area of Roc Creek.
Description: Also appears as "Roc Creek district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is part of the larger Uravan district. The district includes disseminated uranium and vanadium ores, although the area was prospected for other minerals earlier. Carnotite ore was shipped from the Rock Creek (Roc Creek) claim in 1898.

References:
BT Uravan mining district

Sinbad mining district
Location: 12-15 miles S of Gateway in the area of the Sinbad Valley; in both Mesa and Montrose counties.
Description: Also appears as "Sinbad Valley district". Copper minerals are reported found near the Pyramid and Copper Rivet mines, but there is some confusion over whether any ore was shipped from these mines. Silver and copper production to 1942 is reported, and intermittent placer gold and lead production in the Mesa County part of the district.

References:
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Sinbad mining district

Tabequeache Basin mining district
Location: T48N R13W; ~18 miles up Tabequeache (Tabequeache) Creek from its juncture with the San Miguel River, well up on the Uncompahgre Plateau.
Description: Also appears as "Tabequeache district." The district includes the Copper King prospect. There was some prospecting activity in the area, but no production is reported. Copper mineralization is reported.

References:

Tongue Mesa coal field
Location: In the common corner of Gunnison, Montrose and Ouray counties; occupies a long narrow strip on the ridge between the Cimarron and Uncompahgre rivers.
Description: Covers ~40 sq miles. Production as of the early 1900s was limited to local consumption by the lack of transportation (railroad) facilities. Most of the field’s output was consumed by the town of Montrose.

References:
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Tongue Mesa coal field
SEE ALSO Ouray County – Tongue Mesa coal field
Uravan uranium mining district

Location: Area centered around the junction of the San Miguel and Dolores rivers; in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties.

Description: Encompassed by the Uravan mineral belt; includes the Rock (Roc) Creek district (Montrose County) and the McIntyre district (San Miguel County); may overlap the Gateway district to the N. Most of the uranium produced in Colorado comes from this district. "Uravan" is a combination of the words uranium and vanadium, extracted from the carnotite ores. The area was unsuccessfully prospected for other minerals before carnotite ore was shipped from the Rock Creek claim in 1898. The Joe Junior Camp was developed by the US Vanadium Corporation and renamed Uravan. The General Vanadium Company and others became active in the district starting in ~1910, expanding carnotite mining. Production activity was expanded further with World War II. The district includes the Yellow Bird, Thunderbold, and Long Park claims.

References:

NT Rock Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Mesa County – Uravan uranium mining district
SEE ALSO San Miguel County – Uravan uranium mining district

Vixen mining district

Location: Sect 22-24 T49N R18W; possibly extends S across the Hydraulic district.

Description: Used to refer to the Naturita district by Hill (1912); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 20199 mineral monument.

References:
SEE ALSO Naturita mining district
Summary: Ouray County was a major center for mining activity despite transportation obstacles. Its mining districts are located in the area of the town of Ouray and to the south extending into San Juan County. Significant districts include the Red Mountain, Sneffels and Uncompahgre districts. The county’s mines produced gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Some gold placers along the Uncompahgre River were worked. The Tongue Mesa coal field extends into the NE part of Ouray County.

Camp Bird mining district

*Location:* In the W San Juan Mountains on the NW side of the Silverton caldera; includes an area around Canyon and Imogene creeks.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Imogene Basin district by Hill (1912). Fisher (1990) discusses the Sneffels-Telluride and Camp Bird districts as one district. The district was supposedly named for the Canada jay bird, or “camp bird.” The district was being prospected by the 1870s. The Camp Bird Mine was discovered in 1877 and the company town of Camp Bird grew up around it. Claims in the area were consolidated by Thomas Walsh by ~1900, and the Camp Bird Mine became one of the most productive gold mines in Colorado. The Mine was operated by lessees through the mid 1950s. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc production is reported through ~1950.

*References:*

BT Sneffels mining district
SEE ALSO Imogene Basin mining district

Imogene Basin mining district

*Location:* 8 miles SW of Ouray; in the area of Imogene Basin.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Sneffels district by Vanderwilt (1947). The district originally included the Camp Bird Mine. Gold and silver ores are reported.

*References:*

SEE ALSO Camp Bird mining district
SEE ALSO Sneffels mining district

Lower Uncompahgre mining district

*Location:* T46N R8W NMMP.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); originally included in the Uncompahgre district.

*References:*

BT Uncompahgre mining district
Mineral Point mining district

*Location:* In the area of T42-43N R7W; at the headwaters of the Animas and Uncompahgre Rivers; in both Ouray and San Juan counties.

*Description:* Adjoins the Poughkeepsie and Upper Uncompahgre districts. There was some prospecting activity in the area by 1870, despite Ute treaty prohibitions, as reports of gold brought people to the San Juan region. A renegotiated treaty in 1873 allowed more extensive prospecting activity. The first official claim was made by Bill Young in 1873; by 1874 there were over 70 lode claims in the district. The town of Mineral Point (San Juan County) was established by ~1874. The camp of Engineer City (American Flats) in Ouray County was well established by 1875 after silver was discovered on Engineer Mountain. The district was in decline by 1880 and the town of Mineral Point was almost deserted by the 1890s. The district includes the Oyama, Palmyra, Polar Star and Bill Young mines. Production was intermittent from 1893-1900. Many of the area’s mines show development but no production records for them exist. Silver, lead, copper, and a little gold production is reported.

*References:*


Hazen, S.W., Jr. 1949. Lead-zinc-silver in the Poughkeepsie district and part of the Upper Uncompahgre and Mineral Point districts, Ouray and San Juan counties, Colo. USBM Report of Investigations RI-4508, 110 p.


SEE ALSO Poughkeepsie mining district
SEE ALSO Upper Uncompahgre mining district
SEE ALSO San Juan County – Mineral Point mining district

Ouray mining district

*Location:* In the area (10-15 miles) of the town of Ouray.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Uncompahgre district by Vanderwilt (1947). This name has been broadly used to refer to all of the districts in the Ouray area. These individual districts are then defined by characteristic geographic localities. Ouray, originally Uncompahgre City, was settled in ~1875 with the discovery of pay dirt at the Mineral Farm claim. Ore was being shipped from the area by 1876. The mines suffered from ore transport problems until the construction of toll roads by Otto Mears. Most of the important mines in the area were discovered by 1907.

*References:*


NT Red Mountain mining district
NT Sneffels mining district
NT Uncompahgre mining district

Paquin mining district

*Location:* Sect 16-21 T44N R7W NMPM.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Uncompahgre district. The area includes the No. 6375 mineral monument.

*References:*


BT Uncompahgre mining district

Poughkeepsie mining district

*Location:* In the area of T42-43N R7W; at the headwaters of the Animas and Uncompahgre Rivers; including the areas from near the Ouray County line S and the Poughkeepsie Gulch branch of the Uncompahgre River; in both Ouray and San Juan counties but mostly in San Juan County.

*Description:* Adjoins the Mineral Point and Upper Uncompahgre districts. There was some prospecting activity in the area by 1870, despite Ute treaty prohibitions, as reports of gold brought people to the San Juan region.
A renegotiated treaty in 1873 allowed more extensive prospecting activity. The district was originally located in Ouray County in the area around Poughkeepsie Gulch, and included the Poughkeepsie Mine, located in 1874. The Old Lou Mine was located in 1876. Part of the area was later located in San Juan County with redefined county boundaries. The district includes the White Crow, Brooklyn, and Alaska mines. Production in the area was intermittent from 1893-1900; some mines show development but no production records are available. The Poughkeepsie Mine was still shipping small amounts of ore as of 1914. Silver, lead, copper, and some gold production is reported.

References:

Red Mountain mining district

Location: T43N R7-8W NMPM; ~12 miles S of Ouray in the valley of Red Mountain Creek, except for a small part reported to be located at the head of Mineral Creek to the SE; mostly in Ouray County, with a small area in San Juan County; may include an area E of Red Mountain Ridge in the Cement Creek drainage in San Juan County; occupies the basin at the headwaters of Red Creek from Ironton Park to the Divide according to Schwartz (1888).

Description: Also appears as “Red Mountain Creek district”; included in the Ouray district; originally included in the Uncompahgre district; overlaps the Mount Sneffels and Uncompahgre districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is one of six original districts in Ouray County as defined in 1882, along with the Sneffels and Uncompahgre districts (the other three are now in San Miguel County). The Red Mountain and Sneffels (Ouray County) districts’ and the Telluride (San Miguel County) district’s ore bodies are related. The Red Mountain area was being thoroughly explored by the 1870s. Early significant discoveries were made in 1881 in the San Juan County part of the district, including the Congress, Senate and Salem mines. The discovery of the Yankee Girl in ~1881 precipitated a rush to the region and a reexamination of existing discoveries which showed profitable amounts of silver, gold, lead and copper. The National Belle Mine was discovered in 1883 and the town of Red Mountain was established nearby. These successful discoveries and others created a period of active mining that managed to sustain itself for a time despite the high cost of mining in the district that hampered more extensive development. A series of camps lined the trail on both sides of Red Mountain Pass, including Red Mountain City, Congress, Red Mountain Town, Ironton and Guston. Ironton (Copper Glen) was established in 1883 with the discovery of the Yankee Girl lode. Guston was established in 1882 after the discovery of the Guston Mine in 1881. Activity started to decline in the 1890s, especially after the Silver Panic of 1893. Ironton was in decline by 1890. Red Mountain by 1896, and Guston by 1899. By 1898 the major mines were closed. There was a brief revival of activity in the district in 1915-1918, then intermittent mining of lead and zinc to 1944. The Ida-Rado Mining Company consolidated several of the older producers starting in the 1940s using the Treasury Tunnel, a major development in the region. Although the Treasury Tunnel’s portal is in the Red Mountain district, production is credited to the interconnected Black Bear Mine in the Upper San Miguel district (San Miguel County). The district includes the camp of Paymaster at the Paymaster Mine, and the Red Mountain, Robinson, Orphan Boy and Genessee-Vanderbilt mines. Copper, silver and gold ores are present. Fluorite production from the Barstow mine in 1917-1918 is reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Mineral Point mining district
SEE ALSO Upper Uncompahgre mining district
SEE ALSO San Juan County – Poughkeepsie mining district
Ouray County


BT Ouray mining district
SEE ALSO Sneffels mining district
SEE ALSO Uncompahgre mining district
SEE ALSO San Juan County – Red Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO San Miguel County – Upper San Miguel mining district

Looking south on the Robinson Mine, with nearby Guston and Yankee Girl mines, Red Mountain district, Ouray County CO. 1900. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, CCW00471.

Ridgway mining district
*Location:* T45N R8W NMPM; ~13 miles N of Ouray; on the Uncompahgre River extending from ~2 miles downstream of Ridgeway on for nearly 6 miles; S of the mouths of Dallas and Crow creeks.
*Description:* The district deposits consist primarily of the Dallas placers. Claims were located in the area by 1878 by prospectors from Lake City. The Dallas Placer Mining Company was organized in 1883 to develop the placers. In the late 1890s the placers near Dallas Creek were worked by Chinese miners. Gold and silver placer production is reported intermittently for 1932-1939.
*References:*

Sentinel mining district
*Location:* Sect 10-12 T43N R9W.
Ouray County

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Mount Sneffels district. The area includes the Dallas and Sentinel mineral monuments.

**References:**

SEE ALSO Sneffels mining district

**Sneffels mining district**

**Location:** T43N R8W NMPL; also includes Sect 1-2 T42N R8W according to Henderson (1926); 8 miles SW of Ouray.

**Description:** Also appears as “Mount Sneffels district”; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); both “Mount Sneffels” and “Sneffels” are used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); as the Mount Sneffels district, overlaps the Red Mountain and Sentinel districts and originally included the area drained by the Rio San Miguel according to Henderson (1926); adjoins the Telluride district (San Miguel County) which is across the divide separating the upper San Miguel and Uncompahgre drainages. This is one of six original districts in Ouray County as defined by 1882, along with the Red Mountain and Uncompahgre districts (the other three are now in San Miguel County). The Red Mountain and Sneffels (Ouray County) districts’ and the Telluride (San Miguel County) district’s ore bodies are related. Fisher (1990) discusses the Sneffels-Telluride and Camp Bird districts as one district. According to Koeschmann and Bergendahl (1968), the Sneffels-Red Mountain “district” is the principal gold producer in the county. The area was settled in 1875 by prospectors. The town of Sneffels (originally Mt. Sneffels) was established by 1879 and supported workers of the Revenue Tunnel, Virginius, Wheel of Fortune and Yankee Boy mines during the district’s boom years of 1881-1919. The camp of Ruby City was established in 1880. The Camp Bird Mine, the principal mine in the district, was operated from 1896-1916, and reopened from 1926-1956. The district includes the Hidden Treasure, Governor and Ruby Trust mines. The area includes the A, B, Buell, Glen, Imogene, Mt. Sneffels Nos. 1 and 2, Ney and No. 3 mineral monuments. Gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc ores are present, and production is recorded through the 1950s.

**References:**

NT Camp Bird mining district
BT Ouray mining district
SEE ALSO Imogene Basin mining district
SEE ALSO Red Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Sentinel mining district
Tongue Mesa coal field

*Location:* In the common corner of Gunnison, Montrose and Ouray counties; occupies a long narrow strip on the ridge between the Cimarron and Uncompahgre rivers.

*Description:* Covers ~40 sq miles. Production as of the early 1900s was limited to local consumption by lack of railroad facilities for transportation. Most of the field’s output was consumed by the town of Montrose.

*References:*


SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Tongue Mesa coal field

SEE ALSO Montrose County – Tongue Mesa coal field

Uncompahgre mining district

*Location:* T44N R7-8W, T43N R7W NMPM; includes the E side of the valley immediately N of Ouray; originally included all of the area drained by the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries as far N as the Ute Reservation, and the area of both the Lower and Upper Uncompahgre districts.

*Description:* Covers ~15 sq miles; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Paquin district; probably once included an adjoining area in San Juan County; overlaps the Red Mountain district and may have included it at one time. This is one of six original districts in Ouray County as defined by 1882, along with the Sneffels and Red Mountain districts (the other three are now in San Miguel County). The headwaters of the Uncompahgre River were being prospected by 1874. Gold-bearing lodes were discovered in 1875, and silver-lead deposits a little later. Although there was some development in 1884, little ore was shipped until 1889 when rich gold deposits were discovered in the American Nettie Mine. The American Nettie and related mines accounted for most of the district’s gold production. The Bachelor Mine, the district’s major silver producer, were discovered in 1892. The district includes the Silver Link and Silver Paint mines and other mines around Ouray, the Bachelor, Wedge and Calliope mines along Dexter Creek, and the Newsboy and Black Girl mines N of Ouray. The area includes the Abram (No. 4), Bear Creek, Climax, Dan, E, Hope, Nevada, Pierce and Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 146 mineral monuments. Lead-silver-zinc, gold and copper ore production into the 1940s is reported.

*References:*


UF San Juan County – Uncompahgre mining district  
NT Lower Uncompahgre mining district  
NT Paquin mining district  
NT Upper Uncompahgre mining district  
BT Ouray mining district  
SEE ALSO Red Mountain mining district

Upper Uncompahgre mining district

Location: At the headwaters of the Animas and Uncompahgre Rivers; in both Ouray and San Juan counties.

Description: Used as an alternate name for the Uncompahgre district by Vanderwilt (1947); the area in this district was probably originally included in the Uncompahgre district; adjoins the Mineral Point and Poughkeepsie districts. There was some prospecting activity in the area by 1870, despite Ute treaty prohibitions, as reports of gold brought people to the San Juan region. A renegotiated treaty in 1873 allowed more extensive prospecting activity. Many of the area's mines show development but lack production records for the time prior to 1900. The Guadaloupe Mine was still shipping ore in 1921. The district includes the Sutton, Daniel Bonanza, Natalia, Dunmore, Chrysolite, North Star, Silver Link and Michael Breen (Mickey Breen) mines. Silver, lead, copper and some gold production is reported.

References:

Hazen, S.W., Jr. 1949. Lead-zinc-silver in the Poughkeepsie district and part of the Upper Uncompahgre and Mineral Point districts, Ouray and San Juan counties, Colo. USBM Report of Investigations RI-4508, 110 p.


BT Uncompahgre mining district  
SEE ALSO Mineral Point mining district  
SEE ALSO Poughkeepsie mining district  
SEE ALSO San Juan County – Upper Uncompahgre mining district
Park County

Summary: Park County has a number of mining districts but is most well known for its extensive gold placer operations along the Middle Fork of the South Platte in the areas of Alma and Fairplay and along Tarryall Creek. In addition to these placers, the county produced lode gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Park County also produced some coal, fluorspar, and beryl.

Alma gold placers

Location: T9S R77-78W; ¼-½ mile NE of Alma on the E side of the South Platte River.
Description: Drift mining was done initially on the placers in this area; hydraulic operations on the placers were started in 1869. Placer deposits were worked almost continuously from their discovery until 1903. The area includes the Mills and Hodges placer. Gold, with a little silver placer production to 1948 is reported.
References:

BT Alma mining district

Alma-Horseshoe mining district

Location: Includes the area around T9-10S R77-79W.
Description: Consolidated from the Alma district to the N and the Horseshoe district to the S; name used by Singewald and Butler (1941); includes the Sacramento district. The London Mine was opened in 1875. The district includes the London Extension, North London, South London, American, Mosher and London-Butte mines near the head of Mosquito Gulch on London Mountain, properties in South Mosquito Guich, and the Sacramento, Mudsill, and Sherwood mines S of Pennsylvania Mountain.
References:

NT Alma mining district
NT Horseshoe mining district
NT Sacramento mining district

Alma mining district

Location: Extends from the Continental Divide S to Sacramento Creek; includes the region drained by the South Platte and its tributaries N and W of Alma; bounded on the W by the Mosquito Range, on the S by an E-W line running ~2 miles S of Alma, on the E by a N-S line running just E of the Alma railroad station, and on the N by an E-W line from the N edge of the larger of the two Wheeler Lakes according to Patton (1912).
Description: Covers ~50 sq miles; the name refers collectively to the Consolidated Montgomery, Buckskin and Mosquito districts; consolidated with the Horseshoe district to form the Alma-Horseshoe district; includes the Pennsylvania district; adjoins or overlaps the Beaver Creek district to the E; overlaps the Sacramento district to the S. The district was a major source of gold and silver. The Phillips gold lode in Buckskin Gulch and other deposits were discovered in 1860. The easy ores were exhausted, and the mines were closed around 1867. Silver ore was discovered NW of Alma on Mt. Lincoln and Mt. Bross in 1871. The town of Alma, for which the district is named, was established in 1872 to support the mining activity around Mt. Bross and Mt. Lincoln. The town of Dudley (Dudleyville) to the N of Alma was the site of a mill that processed ores from the Moose Mine, which produced from 1871-1893. The London vein was discovered in 1873; the London Mine opened in 1875 and became the district’s largest producer, operating almost continuously until 1942. Silver was the district’s major commodity through 1885 and production remained high until the fall in silver prices in 1893. Gold placers along the South Platte River E of Alma were being worked by the 1870s, with the greatest production between 1904-1942. Some form of mining activity has continued intermittently in this district through the 1980s. Production of gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc is reported.
References:
NT Alma gold placers
NT Buckskin mining district
NT Consolidated Montgomery mining district
NT Pennsylvania mining district
NT Mosquito mining district
BT Alma-Horseshoe mining district
SEE ALSO Beaver Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Sacramento mining district

Bath mining district
Location: T13S R76W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Beaver Creek mining district
Location: T8-9S R77W; ~1 mile from the town of Fairplay; along Beaver Creek and possibly extending W towards the South Platte River to include placer deposits in the South Platte watershed between the South Platte River and Beaver Creek.
Description: Also appears as "Beaver district"; also referred to as the Fair Play district; used to refer to the Columbia district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); consolidated with the Tarryall district to form the Beaver-Tarryall district; adjoins or overlaps the
Alma district to the W; adjoins the Tarryall district to the N and E. The district’s greatest placer prospecting activity took place prior to 1874. The Beaver Creek and Poorman Gulch placers were discovered by 1862. Gulch mining and hydraulic mining were practiced at various locations along Beaver Creek by 1867 as smaller claims were already being consolidated. The Snowstorm Gulch placers were discovered by 1874. Hydraulic operations worked the Snowstorm placer from 1905-1916. A washing plant was built on the Timberline placer in 1941, stopped in 1942 by government order, then resumed 1945-1947. The district includes the MacConnell placer deposits. Gold and silver placer production to 1947 is reported.

References:

BT Beaver-Tarryall mining district
SEE ALSO Alma mining district
SEE ALSO Columbia mining district
SEE ALSO Fairplay mining district

Beaver-Tarryall mining district
Location: ~6 miles wide, extending from the Continental Divide nearly to South Park, immediately S of the South Platte River; includes Tarryall Creek and its tributaries, Crooked Creek, Trout Creek, and Beaver Creek.
Description: Incorporates the Beaver Creek district to the W and the Tarryall district to the E. Placers were worked extensively in this area starting in the 1860s, and on until the 1940s. Lode production of the district was very small. The district includes the Iron Mine properties on Little French Gulch, which may have shipped a small amount of iron ore, the Ute, Link, and Oxide mines, and the Almaden Tunnel. Singewald (1942) includes the towns of Como and Alma in the district.
References:

NT Beaver Creek mining district
NT Tarryall mining district

Black Mountain mining district
Location: T15S R73-74W; in both Fremont and Park counties.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Black Mountain district in Fremont County overlaps the Carbonate district.
References:
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Black Mountain mining district

Buckskin mining district
Location: T9S R78W; along Buckskin Creek about 2-6 miles NW of Alma.
Description: Also appears as "Buckskin Joe district", where it is also used to refer to the Columbia district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was named for a prospector, Joseph Higgenbottem (Higgenbothon), also known as Buckskin Joe. The camp of Buckskin (originally Buckskin Joe’s Diggings) was established in 1859 as a center for both lode mining and placer mining. The gold lode of the Phillips Mine was discovered in Buckskin Gulch in 1860. Activity in the area declined when the Phillips deposit was exhausted by 1864. The camp of Buckskin was deserted by 1867. The area includes the Nos. 1 and 2 mineral monuments. Gold, gold-silver and lead-silver ore deposits, and gold placers along Buckskin Creek are reported. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc to 1945 is reported.
References:
UF Buckskin Joe mining district
BT Alma mining district
SEE ALSO Columbia mining district

Buffalo Peaks mining district
Location: T12S R78W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the McConville and Ov. mineral monuments.
References:

Cincinnati gold placer
Description: Earlier name for the Fairplay gold placer.
References:
USE Fairplay gold placer

Columbia mining district
Description: Also referred to as the Beaver Creek, Buckskin Joe or Consolidated Montgomery districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Beaver Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Buckskin mining district
SEE ALSO Consolidated Montgomery mining district

Como coal field
Location: In the area of the town of Como and the Tarryall Creek drainage.
Description: Consists of a strip ~21 miles long and ~3-5 miles wide; may overlap the South Park coal field to the E. The town of Como (originally Stubbs Ranch) was established in 1879 to support coal mining for the nearby railroad line. The Como mines are located generally between Como and Milligan Lakes to the E. The field is characterized as one of the least valuable fields in Colorado by Storr (1901). Most production was used for the Colorado Southern Railroad.
References:
SEE ALSO South Park coal field

Consolidated Montgomery mining district
Location: T8S R78W; at the head of the Platte River 5-10 miles N of Alma.
Description: Also appears as "Montgomery Consolidated district" or Montgomery district"; also used to refer to the Columbia district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This is one of the earliest districts formed in the state. The "consolidated" districts are reported to refer to those districts all located within the small valley at the head of the S fork of the South Platte River at the foot of Hoosier Pass: the Independent, Montgomery, Quartzville and Snowblind districts. (Gundy (2003) also mentions a Jackson district in this locale as well.) Gold discoveries in the area led to the establishment of the camp of Montgomery at the foot of Hoosier Pass in ~1859 and the growing town became a center for both lode and placer mining. However, the short-lived boom peaked by 1861; the area was nearly deserted by 1868. The district underwent a brief revitalization in 1883 when discoveries in Leadville encouraged renewed prospecting and some silver discoveries were made in the area. There was intermittent activity to the 1940s. The district includes the Pendleton, Magnolia and Montgomery mines. The area includes the Morse, N.E. Spur Mt. Bross, No. 6 Top Mt. Lincoln, Quartzville, S.E. Spur Mt. Bross, Top...
of Mt. Bross, Traver and No. 3 mineral monuments. The Divide mineral monument is on the Lake County border in this area. Gold was the primary ore mined. Production of gold, silver, copper and lead is reported to 1944, and zinc in 1943-1944.

References:
Montgomery mining district, 1861-1863 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
UF Independent mining district
UF Montgomery mining district
UF Quartzville mining district
UF Snowblind mining district
BT Alma mining district
SEE ALSO Columbia mining district

Crosson mining district
Location: Sect 30-31 T7S R71W, Sect 25-26 T7S R72W; in the area of the North Fork of the South Platte River; in both Jefferson and Park counties.
Description: Overlaps and is sometimes referred to as the Princeton district (Jefferson and Park counties); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Princeton mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Crosson mining district

Fairmount mining district
Location: Sect 13-14, 23-24 T10S R78W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Fairplay gold placer
Location: Along the Platte River just W of Fairplay.
Description: Also referred to as the Cincinnati placer, as it was originally known. The Cincinnati placer was a major producer in the Fairplay district and employed hundreds of men, including Chinese immigrant miners.
References:
UF Cincinnati gold placer
BT Fairplay mining district

Fairplay mining district
Location: T9-10S R77W; centered in the area of the town of Fairplay.
Description: Also appears as "Fair Play district"; also used to refer to the Beaver Creek district to the N. Gold placers were discovered here in 1859. The area was reportedly named by latecomers unable to find claims at Tarryall, who wanted to emphasize that their claims in this new area allowed later arrivals to prospect in "fair play." Small scale operations continued from the discovery of the Cincinnati (Fairplay) placer to at least 1869. Claims were consolidated in the 1870s. From ~1872 through the 1890s the area's placers were only intermittently being worked. The Cincinnati Placer Company ran hydraulic operations in 1901-1902. The South Park Dredging Company installed a dredge at the placers in 1922 and maintained operations until 1925. There was renewed activity starting in 1939—another dredge went into operation in 1941.
1941 until work was stopped by government order in 1942, then resumed 1945-1952. Gold and silver placer production was intermittent to the 1950s and on. Some lode deposits in the area were worked for gold, silver, copper and lead in the late 1930s. Gold, silver, copper and lead production was reported for the district in 1939.

References:
Patton, H.B. and others. 1912. Geology and ore deposits of the Alma district, Park County, Colorado.
Colorado Geological Survey Bull 3, p. 188.

NT Fairplay gold placer
SEE ALSO Beaver Creek mining district

Ferrari mining district
Location: Sect 13-14 T5S R72W (this location puts the district in Jefferson county).
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Fish Creek mining district
Location: Sect 8-12, 20-21 T13S R71W; Fish Creek is SE of the Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir near the Teller County border.
Description: Also referred to as the Florissant district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Florissant mining district

Florissant mining district
Location: T13S R71W; near the Teller County border W of Florissant; may be in both Park and Teller counties.
Description: Also used to refer to the Fish Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Fish Creek mining district
Fourmile mining district
Location: T15S R72W; Fourmile Creek, a tributary of the South Platte River, runs SSE of Alma and Fairplay.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably adjoins or overlaps the Horseshoe district to the W.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Horseshoe mining district

Freshwater mining district
Location: T14-15S R72-73W according to Henderson (1926), the exact location is unknown but thought to be in the vicinity of the Guffey district according to Vanderwilt (1947); Freshwater Creek is a tributary of Currant Creek; may be in both Fremont and Park counties.
Description: Also referred to as the Red Ruth and Guffey districts (Park County) and the Alhambra district (Fremont County); used to refer to the Guffey district by Vanderwilt (1947). The mining town of Guffey, which was active in the 1890s, was known as Freshwater in the early 1900s during its decline. Some production of silver, copper, lead, zinc and a little gold is recorded.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF Red Ruth mining district
SEE ALSO Guffey mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Alhambra mining district

Guffey mining district
Location: T15S R73W; in the area along Currant Creek; the town of Guffey is located on Freshwater Creek, a tributary of Currant Creek.
Description: Also referred to as the Freshwater or Red Ruth district; also used to refer to the Alhambra district (Fremont County); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Very little is known about this area; the mineralization is probably an extension of the Currant Creek district in Fremont County. The camp of Idaville was renamed Guffey after Pennsylvania oil baron and mine investor James Guffey. Guffey/Freshwater was active in the 1890s but in decline by the early 1900s. No production figures are reported, although the literature mentions that the Freshwater district produced silver, copper, lead, zinc and a little gold. Mardirosian (1976) also reports tungsten deposits.
References:
SEE ALSO Freshwater mining district
SEE ALSO Red Ruth mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Alhambra mining district

Guffey-Micanite pegmatite mining district
Location: N Fremont County and SE Park County.
Description: Economic deposits of feldspar, mica, beryl and columbite are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Guffey-Micanite pegmatite mining district

Hall Valley mining district
Location: T6S R75-76W; in Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties according to Henderson (1926), but if so the extension into Clear Creek County does not appear to be significant; Halls Gulch flows E into the North Fork of the South Platte River in the area of the Clear Creek, Park and Summit county borders.
Description: Also appears as "Halls Valley district", "Hall Gulch district" or "Halls Gulch district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Platte district;
borders the Middle Swan, Montezuma and Snake River districts (Summit County) on the Park-Summit County line, and overlaps with them according Henderson (1926). The Missouri mines were discovered here in the late 1870s. The camp of Hall Valley (Hall ville, Hall City) was established with activity in the area and reached a peak in the 1870s. The district includes the Morning Star mines and the Bullion, M. 123, Rosalie, Titania and W.L. mineral monuments. Gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc ores are reported. Production of silver-lead with a little gold and copper to 1941 is reported.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

UF Clear Creek County – Hall Valley mining district
NT Platte mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Hall Valley mining district

Hartsell mining district
Location: T12-14S R74-75W; the town of Hartsell is in the area of the junction of the Middle and South Forks of the South Platte River.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Some gold ore is present.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Horseshoe mining district
Location: Sect 26-28, 30, 32-33 T10S R78-79W; at the head of Fourmile Creek ~12 miles WSW of Fairplay; extends S from Sacramento Creek to Sheep Mountain.
Description: Consolidated with the Alma district into the Alma-Horseshoe district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins or overlaps the Fourmile district to the E; overlaps the Sacramento district to the N. The Hilltop Mine was discovered in ~1875 and was worked for silver-lead in 1883-1892, 1900-1916, and 1920-1923; zinc ores were produced from this Mine from 1907-1916. The camp of Horseshoe (East Leadville) was established in 1879. The Mudsill Mine was in operation by 1879-1880 and supported by the small camp of Mudsill. The town of Leavick was the site of a mill that processed ores from the Hilltop and Last Chance mines in the 1870s-1880s. The district was in decline by the late 1880s and the town of Horseshoe was almost deserted by 1893. The district includes the camp of Hilltop and the Sherwood, Wagner, and Barcoe Tunnel mines. Lead and silver were the main ores mined in the district, with minor amounts of gold, copper and zinc. Silver and lead production is reported to 1940 and gold in 1932.
References:
BT Alma-Horseshoe mining district
SEE ALSO Fourmile mining district
SEE ALSO Sacramento mining district

Independent mining district
Location: An area in the small valley at the head of the S fork of the South Platte River at the foot of Hoosier Pass.
Description: Very poorly documented district; referred to as being one of the districts consolidated to form the Consolidated Montgomery district.

References:
Montgomery mining district, 1861-1863 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Consolidated Montgomery mining district

Iron Hill mining district
Location: Sect 29-32 T10S R78W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Jefferson mining district
Location: NNW part of Park County.
Description: Minor fluorspar production in 1913-1914 is reported.
References:

Lake George mining district
Location: T12-13S R72W; includes part of the South Platte River drainage SW of Lake George and the Tarryall Creek drainage directly NW of Lake George.
Description: Also referred to as the Springer district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes and is sometimes used to refer to the Pulver district; used to refer to the Rocky district; overlaps the Reynolds Switch district. The district includes the Lake George fluorspar mine. Minor fluorspar production is recorded.
References:
UF Rocky mining district
UF Springer mining district
NT Pulver mining district
SEE ALSO Reynolds Switch mining district

Lake George pegmatite mining district
Location: In the area of T11S R72W; ~8 miles NW of Lake George; between the Tarryall Mountains to the N and Badger Flats to the SW.
Description: Covers ~6 sq miles. This district was mined for beryl up to or during the 1950s. The Boomer lode was the area’s biggest producer. The district includes the Mary Lee, Redskin and Black Prince mines.
References:

Lower Tarryall mining district
Location: T12S R72W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
USE Tarryall Springs mining district

Montgomery mining district
Location: An area in the small valley at the head of the S fork of the South Platte River at the foot of Hoosier Pass.
Description: Also appears as “Montgomery Gulch district”; this district may have originally been known as or been otherwise related to the Snowblind district (poorly documented); also used to refer to the Consolidated Montgomery district; referred to as being one of the districts consolidated to form the Consolidated Montgomery district. Claims for this district were being recorded by 1861. It includes the Allen, Summit, and Kingston lodes.
Park County

References:
Montgomery mining district, 1861-1863 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Consolidated Montgomery mining district

Mosquito mining district
Location: Sect 1, 12-13, 24 T9S R79W, Sect 6-7, 18-19 T9S R78W; includes an area that covers Mosquito Creek and its tributaries, as far E as 2 miles W of Alma.
Description: The district was supposedly named in 1861 for a mosquito smashed in the space allocated for the district name in the miners organization record book (Benson 1994). The town of Mosquito (Sterling City) was established in 1861 and was a center for both lode mining and placer mining. The Orphan Boy and Dyer placers were worked but neither placer deposit was profitable. The district includes the Moose, Hiawatha, Dolly Varden, Butte and London mines and the Pennsylvania and Maumee tunnels according to Patton (1912). The area includes the Little Corinne, Revenue and No. 37 mineral monuments. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc through 1945 is reported, with some gold and silver placer production in the late 1930s.
References:
BT Alma mining district

Mountaingdale mining district
Location: Sect 20-22 T11S R72W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Tarryall Springs district.
References:

Pennsylvania mining district
Location: Sect 15-16, 21-22 T9S R78W; Pennsylvania Gulch is SW of Alma.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Sacramento district to the S. Gold placers in upper Pennsylvania Gulch and on Pennsylvania Mountain were discovered by 1886. Placers were worked intermittently by small scale operations through 1950.
References:
BT Alma mining district

Peru mining district
Location: T5-6S R75W; in Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Argentine (Clear Creek and Summit counties) and Snake River (Summit County) districts. See the Summit County entry for a fuller description.
References:
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Peru mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Peru mining district
Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district

Location: Includes parts of NW El Paso, N Teller, SW Douglas, and NE Park counties.

Description: Economic (minor) deposits of gem topaz, quartz and amazonite are reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Douglas County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO El Paso County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Teller County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district

Platte mining district

Location: Sect 14-15 T6S R76W; in both Park and Summit counties.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Hall Valley district.

References:
BT Hall Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Summit County – Platte mining district

Princeton mining district

Location: Sect 25-26, 35-36 T7S R72W; in both Jefferson and Park counties

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps and is sometimes used to refer to the Crosson district (Jefferson and Park counties).

References:
SEE ALSO Crosson mining district
SEE ALSO Jefferson County – Princeton mining district

Pulver mining district

Location: T12S R73W; 10 miles W of Lake George; Pulver Gulch is a tributary of Tarryall Creek.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in and sometimes referred to as the Lake George district. The only recorded production for this district is of zinc and copper with minor quantities of lead and gold shipped from one mine in 1943-1945.

References:
BT Lake George mining district

Puma mining district

Location: Sect 34-35 T10S R74W; the Puma Hills are bordered by Tarryall Creek to the NE and South Park to the SW.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

Quartzville mining district

Location: An area in the small valley at the head of the S fork of the South Platte River at the foot of Hoosier Pass.

Description: Very poorly documented district; referred to as being one of the districts consolidated to form the Consolidated Montgomery district. The camp of Quartzville was established in the early 1870s at a site S of Montgomery, and grew quite large (~2,000 residents) before declining in the 1880s. The Russia and Moose mines are located in this area.

References:
Montgomery mining district, 1861-1863 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
USE Consolidated Montgomery mining district
Red Ruth mining district
*Description:* Used to refer to the Freshwater district; used to refer to the neighboring Alhambra district (Fremont County); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
*References:*
- USE Freshwater mining district
- SEE ALSO Fremont County – Alhambra mining district

**Reynolds Switch mining district**
*Location:* Sect 11-15 T13S R72W.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Lake George district.
*References:*
- USE Lake George mining district
- SEE ALSO Lake George mining district

Rocky mining district
*Location:* Rocky Gulch is a tributary of the South Platte River SW of Lake George.
*Description:* Refers to the Lake George district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
*References:*
- USE Lake George mining district

**Sacramento mining district**
*Location:* Sect 29-32 T9S R78W, Sect 2-4, 8, 10-11, 14-16 T10S R78W; S of Mosquito Creek and N of Fourmile Creek.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Alma-Horseshoe district; overlaps the Alma district to the N and the Horseshoe district to the S. The Sacramento Mine was discovered in 1878. The camp of Sacramento was established at about the same time and was populated until the early 1880s. The area includes the Toby and LeDuc mines. Early production was moderate and none was reported in the 1940s. Gold, silver, lead and a little copper ore are present.
*References:*
- BT Alma-Horseshoe mining district
- SEE ALSO Alma mining district
- SEE ALSO Horseshoe mining district

**Snowblind mining district**
*Location:* An area in the small valley at the head of the S fork of the South Platte River at the foot of Hoosier Pass.
*Description:* Very poorly documented district; referred to as being one of the districts consolidated to form the Consolidated Montgomery district. This district may have been the original name for or be otherwise related to the Montgomery district.
*References:*
- Montgomery mining district, 1861–1863 [manuscript]. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.
- USE Consolidated Montgomery mining district

**South Park coal field**
*Location:* E part of South Park.
*Description:* May overlap the Como coal field to the W. The King mines near Como were worked on a large scale from 1875–1893 but overall, there was some small production reported for the field from 1880–1897 and none since. The Como Mine was abandoned in 1883, and the King mines were abandoned in 1893.
References:
SEE ALSO Como coal field

Springer mining district
Location: Springer Gulch is a tributary of the South Platte River SW of Lake George.
Description: Used to refer to the Lake George district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
USE Lake George mining district

Tarryall Creek mining district
Location: T8S R76-77W; follows Tarryall Creek, on the E slope of Silverheels Mountain W of Como, flowing SE across South Park.
Description: Also appears as “Tarryall district”, although the term “Tarryall Creek district” appears to include the Tarryall Creek watershed further SE through South Park, and may overlap the Tarryall Springs district. Placers were worked here starting in 1860. The Tarryall and Peabody placers were worked on a small scale mostly by Chinese miners. The Wilson placer in Park Gulch below Hamilton was worked regularly from 1860-1867. Little to no placering on Tarryall Creek was done from ~1902 to the 1930s, after which numerous small operations resumed and continued through the 1940s. The district includes the Cline Bench, Fortune, Ironwood, Hausclaus and Deadwood placers. Minor gold and silver lode production is reported for this district intermittently in the 1930s and 1940s.

References:
USE Tarryall mining district
SEE ALSO Tarryall Springs mining district

Tarryall mining district
Location: Sect 23-27, 34-36 T7S R77W, Sect 1-4, 9-17, 21-22 T8S R77W; bounded on the S by Mt. Silverheels, on the W by the Continental Divide N to Breckenridge Pass, on the NE by the hills between Michigan and Tarryall creeks, and on the E by the plains of South Park.
Description: Covers ~35 sq miles; also referred to as the Tarryall Creek district, by which name it appears to extend somewhat further SE through South Park; consolidated with the Beaver district to the W and S to form the Beaver-Tarryall district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Placer gold was discovered along Tarryall Creek in 1859 by miners from Wisconsin who adopted district rules allowing larger claims than were normal in Colorado. This resulted in late-comers being turned away; some of these miners then formed their own camp, Fair Play. Mining activities were well begun by 1860. The camp of Tarryall was established by ~1859 but was almost deserted by 1875 as the rich placers were worked out. The camp of Hamilton was established across the creek from Tarryall at about the same time. There were reports of lode gold discoveries on Silverheels Mountain in the 1890s and the camp of Silverheels was established NW of Tarryall by 1896. Gold, tellurium and iron were reported from these mines by 1897 but no further reports were made after that. Intermittent placer activities continued to 1917, when area ranchers got an injunction against the largest placer operation (Fortune placers) because of its effects on irrigation works, stopping reported placer operations for a time. Activity resumed briefly in 1941-1942, and in 1947, but the district has been inactive since. Almost all of the district’s gold production came from the placer deposits along the upper part of Tarryall Creek and its tributaries. The most productive placers were the Fortune, Roberts and Peabody claims in Tarryall Gulch and the Mineral Ranch Hill and Liebelt placers on Little French Creek. The area includes the Deadwood, Peabody and Nos. 90, 92 and 541 mineral monuments. Gold and silver placer production to 1942 is reported.

References:
UF Tarryall Creek mining district
BT Beaver-Tarryall mining district

**Tarryall Springs mining district**

*Location:* T12S R72W; ~8 miles NW of Lake George.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Gold and silver ore is present; minor fluor spar production is reported. Tungsten mineralization is also reported.

*References:*

UF Lower Tarryall mining district
SEE ALSO Tarryall Creek mining district

**Tenmile mining district**

*Location:* T7S R78-79W; just N of the Continental Divide near the headwaters of Tenmile Creek and extending N to Dillon where Tenmile Creek joins the Blue River; “ten miles” from Breckenridge; according to Bergendahl and Koschmann (1971) this district is mostly in Summit County but small portions extend over the Continental Divide and into Eagle, Lake and Park counties, including the Climax Mine.

*Description:* Refer to the Tenmile district in Summit County.

*References:*
- USE Summit County – Tenmile mining district

**Twelvemile mining district**

*Location:* Sect 13, 24 T10S R79W, Sect 17-20 T10S R78W; Twelvemile Creek is S of Sheep Mountain.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The Horseshoe and Fourmile districts are to the N.

*References:*

**Upper Arkansas mining district**

*Location:* In the area around some dozen gulches at the headwaters drainage of the Arkansas River; in both Lake and Park counties.

*Description:* This is a broad name for the mining operations in the area’s gulches in NW Park County. Both gold and silver veins were developed, and some small production to 1924 is reported.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Lake County – Upper Arkansas mining district

**Webster mining district**

*Location:* Webster Pass is NW of the Hall Valley.

*Description:* Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Park County, possibly included in the nearby Hall Valley district.

*References:*
- USE Hall Valley mining district
Weston Pass mining district

**Location:** T10-11S R79W; specifically Sect 35-36 T10S R79W, Sect 1-3 T11S R79W according to Henderson (1926); ~10 miles SSE of Leadville; at the crest of the Mosquito Range and the boundary between Lake and Park counties; in both Lake and Park counties.

**Description:** Mining in this district was confined to within a mile on either side of the Pass. The district includes the Ruby, Collin Campbell, and Cincinnati mines. The town of Weston was a major supply town for Leadville over the Pass. Moderate production is reported but none for the 1940s. Lead-zinc ores, with some silver-lead ores, are reported.

**References:**

SEE ALSO Lake County – Weston Pass mining district
Pitkin County

Summary: The area around Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley includes the most economically significant districts in Pitkin County. The Aspen district’s Smuggler Mine produced one of the largest silver nuggets ever found. Districts in other areas of Pitkin County were generally not economical. The county produced silver and lead, with some gold, copper and zinc. Some placer gold has been produced as well. The Carbondale coal field has been mined intermittently.

Ashcroft mining district
Location: T11S R84W; in the area of the junction of Express and Cooper creeks and the town of Ashcroft.
Description: Also referred to as the Columbia district; used to refer to the Columbia district by Hill (1912); one of three principal districts in the county by 1880, along with the Aspen and Independence districts. The town of Ashcroft was established in 1880 and, while originally more important than the town of Aspen, was relocated bodily to the Aspen townsite with the discoveries of rich ore near that town in 1884. The district includes the Tam O’ Shanter mines. Small production of gold in the late 1890s and intermittent production to 1915 is reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Aspen mining district
SEE ALSO Columbia mining district

Aspen mining district
Location: Includes the area around the town of Aspen, along the Roaring Fork River.
Description: Used to refer to the Roaring Fork district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); included in the Roaring Fork district. The district is generally considered to include the Lenado district to the NE and the Richmond Hill district to the S. It was one of three principal districts in the county by 1880, along with the Ashcroft and Independence districts. In 1879 in what was then Gunnison County, prospectors discovered silver-lead deposits in the area and located the Durant, Monarch, Late Acquisition, and Smuggler claims. The Smuggler Mine was the site of the largest silver nugget (2,060 lbs) ever discovered. Camps sprang up—Ute City, West Aspen, Smuggler, Roaring Fork, Aspen City. As the area’s population grew, Aspen absorbed the surrounding camps and was well established by 1880. The town of Ashcroft was relocated bodily to the Aspen townsite in response to further discoveries in 1884, including the Emma and Aspen mines. The population of Aspen peaked in the late 1800s. The district was hit hard by the Silver Panic of 1893, but overall it became the largest producer in the county and one of the state’s most productive silver-lead districts up to the 1920s. By the 1920s production had fallen off significantly. The district includes the Spar, Camp Bird and Mollie Gibson mines. In addition to silver and lead, some zinc and a little gold production is also reported.

References:

UF Gunnison County – Aspen mining district
NT Lenado mining district
NT Richmond Hill mining district
BT Roaring Fork mining district
SEE ALSO Ashcroft mining district

Avalanche mining district

**Location:** T10S R87-88W; includes the area on the N side of Mount Sopris, several miles down Avalanche Creek from its junction with the Crystal River, possibly as far S as Avalanche Lake.

**Description:** May also appear as "Avalanche Creek district"; possibly related to the Carbondale district (Rooney 1994). The Avalanche Mine is NW of Avalanche Lake near the headwaters of Avalanche Creek. The camp of Janeway (Mobley’s Camp) was established at the mouth of Avalanche Creek to support area small gold mining operations in the 1880s-1890s. Production, if any, has been small, and none has been reported since 1936. The area includes the Silver Queen Mine. Lead and silver, with some gold is reported. Mardirosian (1976) also reports iron deposits.

**References:**

UF Carbondale mining district

Carbondale coal field

**Location:** Crosses the W part of Pitkin County and extends into Garfield County on the N and Gunnison County on the S; in both Garfield, Gunnison and Pitkin counties.

**Description:** Part of the SE portion of the Uinta coal region. The town of Carbondale (Garfield County) was named for the Pennsylvania hometown of a town founder. The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company operated a number of small mines in the field. In Pitkin County: the town of Placita was established when its coal mines opened in 1899; the mines were operated until at least the early 1900s. A coal seam was located in 1881 on the future site of the company town of Coal Basin; another mine was opened there in 1892. Spring Gulch was a small company coal camp active from the late 1880s to the 1910s. After 30 years of inactivity, the Pitkin County part of the field was been mined increasingly from 1950 through 1958. In Garfield County: The small coal camp of Marion grew up around the Marion Mine, which was worked from the late 1880s to the 1910s. Sunshine (Sunlight) was established around the time the first mine opened there in 1887; this mine was operated intermittently until 1917.

**References:**
SEE ALSO Garfield County – Carbondale coal field
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Carbondale coal field

Carbondale mining district

Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Pitkin County; possibly related to the Avalanche district.

**References:**

USE Avalanche mining district

Castle Creek mining district

**Location:** T10, 12S R85W; appears to be two distinct areas to the N and S separated by the Columbia district.

**Description:** Also referred to as the Columbia district, which overlaps or includes most of the S part of the Castle Creek district; probably related to the West Castle Creek district; overlaps the Roaring Fork district, by which
name it is also known, in the N; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The N area of this district includes the Red Rock and Queen's Gulch No. 1 mineral monuments. The S area includes the Pine Creek, Porter and Waterfall mineral monuments.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 63
SEE ALSO Columbia mining district
SEE ALSO Roaring Fork mining district
SEE ALSO West Castle Creek mining district

Chipeta mining district
Description: Name used to refer to the Independence district around the 1880s.
References:
USE Independence mining district

Columbia mining district
Location: In T11-12S R84-85W; 12 miles S of Aspen.
Description: Also referred to as the Castle Creek or West Castle district, which it overlaps or includes; sometimes referred to as the Ashcroft district in the early 1880s; considered by some to overlap the Roaring Fork district, by which name it is also known, to the N; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The small settlement of Cooper's Camp S of Ashcroft supported the area's iron mines which were active to the late 1880s, when the railroads arrived at Aspen. The area includes the Ashcroft, Castle, Columbia, Concord, Gemini, Hayden's Peak, Iron Hill, King, Leona, Pearl, Pue, Sandey's Gulch, Silver Mt. and Nos. 4689, 5811 and 6417 mineral monuments. Lead, silver, copper and iron ores are present.
References:
SEE ALSO Ashcroft mining district
SEE ALSO Castle Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Roaring Fork mining district
SEE ALSO West Castle Creek mining district

Difficult mining district
Location: Sect 25-27, 34-36 T11S R84W.
Description: Also appears as "Difficult Creek district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the No. 7437 mineral monument.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Dry Pine mining district
Location: T95 R84W.
Description: Also referred to as the Frying Pan district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the Dude and No. 5364 mineral monuments.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
USE Frying Pan mining district
Frying Pan mining district

*Location:* T8S-9S R82-84W; located at the Nast station along the abandoned Colorado Midland Railroad on Frying Pan Creek; adjacent to the Homestake district in Eagle County to the N.

*Description:* Also refers to the Dry Pine district; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Homestake district in Eagle County to the N. Adjoining Eagle, Lake and Pitkin counties each contain a Frying Pan district in the area of Frying Pan Creek. Prospectors, including many from Leadville, rushed to the area with the report of discoveries in 1879-1880. Plans were made for establishing Massive City on the site of the Massive claim. When the claims were found to be not worth developing, the camp went into a quick decline and was almost deserted by the early 1880s. No production is reported. The small settlement of Thomasville grew up around the St. Louis and Colorado smelter and the Bessie Mine further down Frying Pan Creek in the early 1890s; the smelter was closed by 1892. The district includes the Nast railroad station and the Nos. 4832, 5230 and 9707 mineral monuments. The Fryingpan Group Mine, developed for its uranium/vanadium deposits, is located to the W near the headwaters of Miller Creek, a tributary of Frying Pan Creek. Gold and silver are the principal ores in the district, but copper and uranium/vanadium ores are present.

*References:*

UF Homestake mining district
UF Dry Pine mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle County – Frying Pan mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Frying Pan mining district

Glenwood Springs coal mining district

*Location:* Extends SE from Newcastle to the S of Glenwood Springs; mostly in Garfield County, but has mines in both Garfield and Pitkin counties according to Gale (1910).

*Description:* Possibly a local name; part of the Grand Hogback coal field in Garfield County. This district is commercially important and contains the Pocahontas, Black Diamond and South Canyon mines (Garfield County), and the Coalbasin and Spring Gulch mines (Pitkin County).

*References:*
SEE ALSO Garfield County – Glenwood Springs coal mining district

Spring Gulch mining camp, Glenwood Springs field, Pitkin County CO. 1909. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, BAL00051.
Highland mining district

Location: Sect 35-36 T10S R85W, Sect 1-2 T11S R85W; S of Aspen.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may be included in the Roaring Fork district. The Aspen district is to the N; the Ashcroft district to the S. Prospectors from Aspen made some discoveries here in 1879 and established the camp of Highland. Activity in the area peaked in ~1881, although mining is reported to have continued intermittently to 1890. This district includes the Mountain Elk, Calumet and Baltimore claims, and the Copper Mt. No. 1 mineral monument. The Highland Tunnel Mine is E of the junction of Castle and Conundrum creeks.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

BT Roaring Fork mining district

Homestake mining district

Description: Used to refer to the Frying Pan district by Vanderwilt (1947). Adjoining Eagle, Lake and Pitkin counties each contain a Homestake district, possibly related.

References:
USE Frying Pan mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle County – Homestake mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Homestake mining district

Hunter Creek mining district

Location: Sect 4-8 T10S R84W.

Description: Also referred to as the Woody district to the N, which it adjoins or overlaps; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Roaring Fork district. The area includes the Parker mineral monument.

References:
SEE ALSO Hunter Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Woody mining district

Independence mining district

Location: T11S R83W; includes the area of the headwaters of the Roaring Fork River near the Chaffee and Lake county borders.

Description: Also occurs as “Independence Pass district”; sometimes referred to as the Chipeta or Sparkill district. This was one of three principal districts in the county by 1880, along with the Ashcroft and Aspen districts. Gold was discovered on West Aspen Mountain in 1879 by miners from Leadville. Mining of the area’s gold veins was sporadic up to 1900. Production records are incomplete but much of Pitkin County’s gold production during this time probably came from this district. The town of Independence was a supply center for the district’s mines. The area settlements were commonly referred to by the same name “Independence” after the nearby Independence Mine; these included the camps of Sparkill (Sparkell), Chipeta, and Farwell. The small camp of Eagle Sampler was established around a mill near Independence. The town of Independence peaked in activity in the 1880s before starting its decline, but was still populated in the early 1900s. The district includes the Farwell Mine. The area includes the Fugo, Independence No. 1 and Lookout mineral monuments. Intermittent and small scale mining activity continued from 1932 through the 1950s. Gold and some silver production is reported.

References:


UF Chipeta mining district
UF South Independence mining district
UF Sparkill mining district

Lenado mining district

Location: T9S R84W; on Woody Creek 6 miles NE of Aspen.

Description: Used to refer to the Roaring Fork district by Vanderwilt (1947); generally considered part of the Aspen district, which is in turn included in the Roaring Fork district. The small camp of Lenado (Woody) was established by the 1880s with nearby discoveries of lead-silver ore but was in decline by the end of that decade; it revived briefly with lead and zinc activity stimulated by the metal markets during World War I. The Aspen Contact Mine was actively producing zinc-lead ore with a little silver as late as 1926, but by the 1950s both of the district's large producers, the Aspen Contact and the Leadville mines, were long abandoned.

References:

BT Aspen mining district
BT Roaring Fork mining district

Lincoln Gulch mining district

Location: T11-12S R82-83W; more specifically as Sect 1-3, 10-14 T12S R83W according to Henderson (1926); Lincoln Gulch joins the Roaring Fork 15 miles SE of Aspen, the mineralized area being at the head of the Gulch.

Description: Also appears as the “Lincoln district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); the Red Mountain district (Chaffee County) lies to the E. The town of Ruby and the Ruby Mine are located near the headwaters of Lincoln Creek. Ruby was established in the 1890s but its isolated location inhibited development. The district includes the Boston, Hillside, Mammoth and Highland claims. The area includes the Martha and No. 5093 mineral monuments. Some production of lead, silver and a little gold in 1938-1939 is reported.

References:
Lincoln mining district, southeast corner of Pitkin Co., Colorado. 19??, Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.

Maroon mining district

Location: T11S R85-86W, T12S R85W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably overlaps or includes the West Maroon district. The area includes the St. Elmo and No. 5873 mineral monuments.

References:
Redstone coal mining district

**Location:** Unknown, however the town of Redstone is located near the junction of Coal Creek and the Crystal River.

**Description:** Reported to be part of the Uinta coal region.

**References:**

Richmond Hill mining district

**Location:** 4 miles S of Aspen.

**Description:** Generally considered part of the Aspen district, which is included in the Roaring Fork district; used to refer to the Roaring Fork district by Vanderwilt (1947). The district includes the Debuque, Midnight, and Little Annie mines. The area produced primarily silver and lead.

**References:**

Roaring Fork mining district

**Location:** Sect 11-14, 23-24 T10S R85W, Sect 7-8, 17-20, 29-30 T10S R84W.

**Description:** Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Aspen district, the area’s main producer; overlaps the Castle Creek and Hunter Creek districts; may overlap the Highland district S of Aspen; considered by some to overlap the Columbia district to the S. The district’s principal mines are located within a mile of Aspen in the Roaring Fork valley. The Aspen district is generally considered to include the Richmond Hill district to the S and the Lenado district to the NE. Prospectors from Leadville discovered ore in the region in 1879. Ore was being shipped by 1884. The area includes the Aspen No. 5, Hunter, Ute No. 4 and No. 6304 mineral monuments. The district was known primarily for its silver and lead production. Silver, lead and zinc production through 1945 is reported, copper to 1944, minor gold lode and placer production in the early 1930s and early 1940s.

**References:**

Rock Creek mining district

**Location:** Sect 32-33 T9S R87W.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Adjoining Gunnison and Pitkin counties both have a Rock Creek district but no relationship is apparent.

**References:**
**Snowmass mining district**

Location: Sect 4-5, 8-9 T10S R86W, T10-11S R86W; includes areas of mineralization at the head of Snowmass Creek, which flows N from Snowmass Mountain to join the Roaring Fork 15 miles NW of Aspen.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

Lead, zinc and copper mineralization is present but no production is reported.

References:

**South Independence mining district**

Location: Sect 35-36 T11S R83W, Sect 31 T11S R82W, Sect 1-2 T12S R83W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
- USE Independence mining district

**Sparkill mining district**

Description: A name sometimes used to refer to the Independence district.

References:
- USE Independence mining district

**Spring Butte mining district**

Location: Sect 34-36 T9S R88W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:

**West Castle Creek mining district**

Location: Sect 15-17, 20-22, 28-29 T11S R85W.

Description: Also appears as "West Castle district"; both names are used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); the name "West Castle" may also be used to refer to the Columbia district. The area includes the Emmet and No. 4928 mineral monuments.

References:
- SEE ALSO Castle Creek mining district
- SEE ALSO Columbia mining district

**West Maroon mining district**

Location: Sect 25-28, 33-36 T11S R86W.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably overlaps or included within the Maroon district.

References:
- BT Maroon mining district

**Woody mining district**

Location: Sect 19-30 T9S R84W, S into T10S R84W; in the area of Woody Creek.

Description: Also used to refer to the Hunter Creek district to the S, which it adjoins and may overlap; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Silver City, Last Chance, Tenderfoot, Daisy and River claims and the No. 5244 mineral monument.

References:
- Map of mining claims between Miller and Woody Creeks, near Aspen, Pitkin County. 19??.. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
- SEE ALSO Hunter Creek mining district
Pueblo County

Summary: Pueblo County contains no economically significant metal mining districts. The county is better known for its large smelter operations. Clay was produced from the areas of Rock and Turkey creeks.

Beulah clay mining district
Location: SW part of the county, including an area around Rock Creek.
Description: Production of flint and plastic clays is reported. The general region is also referred to as a metal mining district, although no production is reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Beulah mining district

Beulah mining district
Location: T22S R68W; the town of Beulah is SW of Pueblo near the Custer County border.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The general area is also referred to as a clay mining district. No production or other significant mining activity is reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Beulah clay mining district.

Turkey Creek clay mining district
Location: NW corner of the county, with Stone City to the SW and Turkey Creek to the E.
Description: Flint and plastic clay production is reported. Clay was actively mined around the town of Stone City and at Hell Canyon N of Stone City along Turkey Creek in the E side of the district. Stone City served as a support center for clay mining activities. Mardirosian (1976) also reports uranium deposits.

References:
Rio Blanco County

Summary: There are no metal mining districts in Rio County; mining activity is defined mostly by coal operations. The county’s coal fields are part of the Uinta coal region. There are also some small uranium and vanadium operations.

Coal Creek coal mining district
Description: Included in the Danforth Hills coal field, although not much other information is available for district operations in Rio Blanco County. The area is also referred to as the “Coal Creek mining district” related to carnotite occurrences.
USE Coal Creek mining district

Coal Creek mining district
Location: In the area of the Coal Creek valley.
Description: This district may be related to the Meeker uranium district. The district has disseminated deposits of vanadium and uranium as carnotite, and includes the Caywood claims. No carnotite production has been reported. Gale (1910) also refers to this as a coal mining district, part of the Danforth Hills coal field.
Mardirosian (1976) also reports copper deposits.
References:
UF Coal Creek coal mining district
SEE ALSO Meeker uranium mining district

Danforth Hills coal field
Location: E of the Lower White River coal field; in both Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.
Description: Covers ~300 sq miles; part of the Uinta coal region. The field contains the locally named Spring Creek, Morgan Gulch, and Boxelder (Moffat County) and Coal Creek and Meeker (Rio Blanco) coal mining districts. The field had a number of principal mines but only the Colowyo Mine was operating in 2000.
References:
NT Coal Creek coal mining district
NT Meeker coal mining district
SEE ALSO Moffat County – Danforth Hills coal field

Douglas Creek coal mining district
Location: Along Douglas Creek and its tributaries.
Description: Possibly a local name; part of the Lower White River coal field. Coals were worked for local domestic use.
References:
USE Lower White River coal field
Grand Hogback coal field

Location: Lies along the ridge of steeply dipping strata forming the W flank of the White River Plateau; borders the Uinta Region on the E from Meeker to Newcastle to Glenwood Springs; extends into Garfield County.

Description: Covers ~7 sq miles; part of the Uinta coal region.

References:

SEE ALSO Garfield County – Grand Hogback coal field

Lower White River coal field

Location: In the central S part of Rio Blanco County along the White River and Douglas Creek; in both Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

Description: Part of the Uinta coal region. This field includes the locally named Douglas Creek district (Rio Blanco County). There was limited production of coal from this field, mostly to meet local demand. Only the Deserado Mine in the Williams Fork Formation was open in 2000.

References:
- UF Douglas River coal mining district

SEE ALSO Moffat County – Lower White River coal field

Meeker coal mining district

Location: In T1N R94W; this district may extend N into Moffat County.

Description: Part of the Danforth Hills coal field; possibly a local name. This district contains the principal mines developed in the Danforth Hills field in the early 1900s.

References:
- USE Danforth Hills coal field

Meeker uranium mining district

Location: Centered around Coal Creek ~15 miles NE of Meeker in Rio Blanco County, extending into SW Moffat County around the Skull Creek area; in both Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.

Description: May be related to the Coal Creek district. Small production, mostly from stripping operations and underground workings, is reported.

References:
- SEE ALSO Coal Creek mining district
- SEE ALSO Moffat County – Meeker uranium mining district

White River mining district

Location: Central part of Rio Blanco County.

Description: This area is the site of nahcolite (sodium bicarbonate) solution mining at the White River Mine. The American Soda Mine was under development in the early 2000s.

References:
Rio Grande County

Summary: There are few mining districts in Rio Grande County; only the Summitville district in the south was economically significant. The county produced gold, silver, copper and lead, primarily from Summitville.

Decatur mining district
Location: T36S R3E NMPM; in both Conejos and Rio Grande counties; may include the areas of Iron and Prospect creeks, northern tributaries of the Alamosa River in Conejos County. 
Description: Also referred to as the Summit district; used to refer to the Jasper district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was established by 1874. Gold and silver ores are present.

References:
SEE ALSO Jasper mining district
SEE ALSO Summit mining district
SEE ALSO Conejos County – Decatur mining district

Embargo mining district
Location: T41N R4E NMPM; includes areas of mineralization along Embargo Creek that extend a few miles on either side of the Saguache–Rio Grande County line; the district may extend as far E as to include the Del Norte railroad station in Rio Grande County; in both Rio Grande and Saguache counties.
Description: Gold, silver, lead and copper ores are present. There was some development and production for this district, but no production in the 1940s and beyond is reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Saguache County – Embargo Creek mining district

Jasper mining district
Location: T37N R5E NMPM; includes the area of the town of Jasper along the Animas River and its tributaries in Rio Grande County.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). The district's prospects and mines are ~1/2 mile W of Jasper. The camp of Jasper (originally Cornwall) was established in 1874 or 1875 when the first ore prospects opened there. With the discovery of the Gilmore Mine to the SW in Conejos County, some of the more promising mines in the area were opened around 1912 or 1913, but little production is credited to them. The district includes the Perry, Gaudaloupe, and Miser mines. Gold, silver-lead, and lead-zinc ores are reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Decatur mining district
South Mountain mining district  
**Location:** South Mountain is just SW of Summitville.  
**Description:** Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Rio Grande County. This name probably refers to and may have been the original name for the Summitville district since that district’s mines are located on South Mountain. The South Mountain mineral monument is included in the Summit district.  
**References:**  
USE Summitville mining district

Summer Coon mining district  
**Location:** Sect 17-20 T41N R6E (this reported location puts the district in Saguache County).  
**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).  
**References:**  

Summit mining district  
**Location:** Sect 25-29, 32-36 T37N R3E, Sect 19-21, 28-33 T37N R4E.  
**Description:** Alternate or earlier name for the Summitville district; also used to refer to the Decatur district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes the South Mountain mineral monument.  
**References:**  
USE Summitville mining district  
SEE ALSO Decatur mining district

Summitville mining district  
**Location:** T37N R4E NMPM; at the head of Wightman Fork, a tributary of the Alamosa River.  
**Description:** Originally referred to as the Summit district. All mines in the district are located on South Mountain. Most of the district’s early discoveries were of placer gold. Gold was discovered at Wightmans Gulch in 1870 but no production records are available for the placers. The first lodes were discovered by 1871; the Esmond (Aztec) and Summit lodes were located in 1873, then the Little Annie, Del Norte, Margarretta, Golden Queen, Golden Star and others. The district was established by 1874 and large scale mining started in 1875. The area had a population of ~250 by 1877. This was the only district in the county as of 1881. The town of Summitville was well established by 1880 and was the richest camp in the district at the time; it went through several booms over the years. The Little Annie Mine was the primary producer, mostly gold with a little silver. The district had significant activity to 1887 by which time the easy ores were exhausted. Little ore was produced after 1895 although there was a small yearly production to 1917. Another deposit was discovered in the Little Annie mines in 1926 but was mined out by 1930. By 1934 most of the district’s properties were consolidated, and from 1934-1947 the district experienced its most productive period, mostly in gold production. There has been little production since the late 1940s but some development activity took place in the area in the 1970s. The district includes the short-lived camp of Bowerton. Gold is the principal metal mined in this district; there are occurrences of large quantities of free gold in places. Production of silver and copper to 1944, and lead intermittently to 1944, is also reported.  
**References:**  
UF South Mountain mining district
UF Summit mining district
Routt County

Summary: Gold placers were discovered in Routt County in the area of Hahns Peak by 1865. The Hahns Peak district accounts for most of the county’s production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Mineralization, particularly copper, in other areas resulted in very little production. The county includes the Yampa coal field.

Blue Mountain mining district
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Routt County; may be related to the Skull Creek district.

References:
USE Moffat County – Blue Mountain mining district

Clark mining district
Location: The town of Clark, which may be related to the district, is located on Greenville Creek, a tributary of the Elk River.

Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Routt County. There is a Greenville Mine near the town of Clark, but little other activity is recorded.

References:

Columbine mining district
Location: NE of Hahns Peak Lake and W of Hahns Peak.

Description: Used to refer to the Hahns Peak district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912).

References:
USE Hahns Peak mining district

Copper Ridge mining district
Location: T7N R84W; 4-7 miles N of Steamboat Springs.

Description: The area includes the Copper Ridge Mine near the headwaters of Slate Creek, a tributary of the Yampa River. Copper and gold ores are present but there is no reported production.

References:

Elkhorn mining district
Location: In the area of Elkhorn Mountain and the Whiskey Creek drainage to the W.

Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Routt County; also referred to as the Slater or Three Forks district. The district includes the Elkhorn Mine.

References:
USE Slater mining district
SEE ALSO Three Forks mining district
Gold Blossom mining district  
*Location:* T11N R87W; Gold Blossom Creek is a tributary of Willow Creek in the NW part of the county.  
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes mineral monument No. 17554.  
*References:*  
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.  

Gore Range mining district  
*Description:* Used to refer to the Rock Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947).  
*References:*  

Hahns Peak mining district  
*Location:* T10N R85W; T9-11N R85W according to Henderson (1926).  
*Description:* Also appears as "Hahn’s district"; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This is a broadly defined district, possibly extending as far N as the Wyoming border. Gold placers, generally occurring along tributaries of Willow Creek, were the initial draw to this area. The earliest and richest placer workings were the Ways Gulch placers, reportedly discovered in 1864. Joseph Hahn made placer discoveries in the area in ~1865, returned with other prospectors, and established the district. These prospectors worked the placers intermittently. Other prospectors moved into the area, and the camps of Poverty Bar and Bugtown (National City, International) were established by 1868. Poverty Bar was later renamed Hahn's Peak. The Poverty Bar placers were worked by the Hahns Peak Gold and Silver Mining Company, which proposed (unsuccessfully) to introduce Chinese employees to the operations in 1874. Gold lodes were also discovered in the district but were developed with little initial result. The placer deposits continued to be worked to the 1900s, then only intermittently thereafter. The town of Hahns Peak was on the decline by 1912. Placer activity revived to some extent in the 1930s but the placer operations remained mostly inactive through the 1950s. There was some lode mining; gold production was important to offset the high costs of operation in the area, but silver, copper, lead and zinc were produced as well. The district includes the Tom Thumb and Minnie D mines, and the short-lived camps of Royal Flush, Columbine, Whiskey Park and Clark. The area includes the Nos. 508, 509, 510 and 17536 mineral monuments. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc intermittent through 1945 is reported, and gold and silver placer production to 1939.  
*References:*  
UF Columbine mining district

Mount Harris coal mining district  
*Description:* Part of the Green River coal region.  
*References:*  

Oak Creek coal mining district  
*Description:* Part of the Green River coal region.
Routt County

References:

Oak Creek mining district
Location: T4N R85W; in the area of the town of Oak Creek SW of Steamboat Springs.
Description: Copper is reported but no production is recorded. The Oak Creek, Red Gorge and Yarmony districts are probably related.
References:
SEE ALSO Red Gorge mining district
SEE ALSO Yarmony mining district

Red Gorge mining district
Location: In both Grand and Routt counties.
Description: Used to refer to the Oak Creek district by Hill (1912). The district probably extends into Grand County to the E near Radium. The Oak Creek, Red Gorge and Yarmony districts are probably related.
References:
SEE ALSO Oak Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Yarmony mining district
SEE ALSO Grand County – Red Gorge mining district

Rock Creek mining district
Location: T1-2N R82-83W; 16 miles E of Yampa, at the head of Rock Creek in the Gore Range; the town of Rock Creek is near the Grand County border.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). There are reports of lead and zinc occurrences, but none confirmed. Copper ores are present, but no production is recorded.
References:
Skull Creek mining district

*Description:* Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Routt County; also referred to as the Blue Mountain district. Refer to the record for the Skull Creek district in Moffat County.

*References:*

USE Moffat County – Skull Creek mining district

Slater mining district

*Location:* T12N R86W; near the junction of the South Fork, Independence Creek, and the Little Snake River, near the Colorado-Wyoming state line NW of Steamboat Springs.

*Description:* Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Lead and silver, with some copper and gold, are reported. There is no reported production.

*References:*

Slavonia mining district

*Location:* T10N R83W; at the head of the Elk River in the Park Range E of Hahns Peak; the town of Slavonia is located near the junction of the Middle Fork of the Elk River and Gold Creek.

*Description:* The Hahn’s Peak district is to the W. Lead, some gold and silver, and minor amounts of copper ore are present. There was some development of discoveries but production was limited to trial shipments, with no ore bodies of commercial size opened. The district includes the Slavonia Mine and the camp of Slavonia. Copper, lead and zinc mineralization, with some silver and gold, are present.

*References:*

Spring Creek mining district

*Location:* T6N R84W; in the vicinity of Steamboat Springs.

*Description:* Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Copper and gold ores are present, but there is no reported production.

*References:*
Routt County

References:

USE Slater mining district
SEE ALSO Elk horn mining district

Twenty-Mile Park coal mining district
Location: In the area around Milner, between Steamboat Springs and Craig; in both Moffat and Routt counties.
Description: Part of the Yampa coal field, in the Green River coal region. The district’s oldest mines were located on Oak Creek after 1906 with the arrival of the railroad. Other mines later opened near Mount Harris, Bear River and McGregor. The district includes the Wadge, Allen, Routt-Pinnacle, and McCrosky mines.
References:

BT Yampa coal field
SEE ALSO Moffat County – Twenty-Mile Park coal mining district

Yampa coal field
Location: N of the Danforth Hills coal field; in the SE extremity of the Green River coal region; in both Moffat and Routt counties.
Description: In 1918 there were 19 operating mines in this field in Routt County. In Routt County only the Twentymile (Foidel Creek) Mine and the Seneca II-W Yoast Mine were open in 2000. In Moffat County only the Trapper Mine was open in 2000.
References:

NT Twenty-Mile Park coal mining district
SEE ALSO Moffat County – Yampa coal field

Yarmony mining district
Location: T1S R83W; 3-5 miles N of State Bridge; Yarmony Mountain is located in Eagle and Routt counties near the Grand County border.
Description: Copper mineralization is present in this area, and may be related to the copper mineralization of the Red Gorge district and its extension into Grand County to the E near Radium. The Oak Creek, Red Gorge and Yarmony districts are probably related. Some copper production is credited to an area that supplied ore to a local copper refinery operating from about 1915-1920.
References:

SEE ALSO Red Gorge mining district
SEE ALSO Oak Creek mining district
Saguache County

Summary: There were many mining districts in Saguache County, but few were economically viable. Most of the production came from the Bonanza/Kerber Creek area. The county produced gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. The Cochetopa and Marshall Pass uranium mining districts ran operations in the 1950s.

Alder Creek mining district
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Saguache County. Mardirosian reports iron deposits in limonite bog in Alder, whether the name of a deposit or district is unclear.
References:

Baca Grant mining district
Location: In the area of Crestone, 13 miles E of Moffat.
Description: Used to refer to the Crestone district by Vanderwilt (1947); named for the Baca Grant. Gold and silver ores are present.
References:

Beaver Creek mining district
Location: T47N R1W; Beaver Creek is a tributary of Cebolla Creek; extends into Gunnison County, where it is also known as the Midland district; in both Gunnison and Saguache counties.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Beaver Creek mining district

Bidell mining district
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Saguache County.
References:

Blake mining district
Location: T45N R11E NMPM; T44-47N R10-11E according to Henderson (1926); includes the area at the head of Cotton Creek 10 miles NE of Mirage and the area of Mirage Creek.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps and may include the Smiths Gulch district. The area includes the Rock Cliff mineral monument. Production of gold, silver and copper is reported to 1939, lead to 1934.
References:
UF Cotton Creek mining district
UF Mirage mining district
SEE ALSO Smiths Gulch mining district

Bonanza mining district
Location: T47-48N R7-8E; mostly E of the N branch of Kerber Creek; the district’s E boundary follows the ridge running N from Hayden's Peak and connecting with the Cochetopa Hills to the N-NW of Kerber Creek Valley.
Description: Covers 17-18 sq miles; also referred to as the Kerber Creek district; used to refer to the Kerber Creek district by Vanderwilt (1947); used as the preferred name by Burbank (Vanderwilt 1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may overlap or include the Clover Creek and Silver Creek districts to the N. Miners were prospecting along Kerber Creek during the 1879-1880 rush to the Gunnison River area. Large silver-lead veins were discovered there in 1880, precipitating a surge in prospecting activity. The town of Bonanza was well established by the end of 1880. The nearby small camps of Kerber City and Sedgewick were absorbed by Bonanza. Most of the operations remained small, though, and Bonanza town was starting to decline by 1882. Still, the district was one of three main districts in the county by 1900, along with the Crestone and Embargo Creek districts. The Rawley drainage tunnel, started in 1911, allowed further development of silver-lead-copper-zinc ore deposits, increasing production to 1930. The district is reported to have produced over 99% of the county’s metals from 1880-1929, mostly in silver and base metals. Production dropped abruptly in 1931 but was revived from the late 1930s to early 1940s. The district was mostly inactive going into the 1950s. The district includes the camps of Exchequerville, Parkville (Amity) and Claytonia, and the Rawley, Empress Josephine, Bonanza, Antoro, and Elizabeth mines. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is reported. A "manganese belt" at the S end of the district contains uneconomic amounts of manganese.

References:
UF Clover Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Kerber Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Silver Creek mining district

Clove Creek mining district
Location: Sect 5-6, 31-32 T47-48N R8E; in the area of Clover Creek, a tributary of Luis Creek.
Description: This is probably a local name for the claims in the Clover Creek area; the district may overlap or be included in the Bonanza district to the S. The district includes the Pride of the Gulch, Cumberland Boy, Milwaukee and Robinson claims. No production is reported.

References:
Eisenberg, H.S. 1936. Map of Clover Creek mining district, Saguache County, Colorado. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
USE Bonanza mining district

Cochetopa Creek mining district
Location: T48-49N R1-2E NMPM; 3-4 miles S of Parlin in Gunnison County to ~8 miles into Saguache County, extending from Cochetopa Creek W 2-4 miles; in both Gunnison and Saguache counties.
Description: Also appears as "Cochetopa district"; also referred to as the Green Mountain district (Gunnison and Saguache Counties); includes the Green Mountain district (Gunnison and Saguache counties) according to Hill (1909); overlaps or closely related to the Cochetopa uranium mining district. The camp of Cochetopa (originally Kimbrellville) was established to support mining in the district in 1880. The district includes the camp of Willard. Mineralization in the area is primarily gold and some small gold production is reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Cochetopa uranium mining district
SEE ALSO Green Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Cochetopa mining district

Cochetopa uranium mining district
Location: In both Gunnison and Saguache counties; mostly in NW Saguache County with the N part of the district extending into S Gunnison County; bisected by Cochetopa Creek.
Description: Shares roughly the same area with the Cochetopa Creek district. The significant mineral belt in the district is ~10 miles long and 5 miles wide. A little development was done here in the early 1880s. The initial discovery of the Los Ochos claims was made in 1954 by one of a group of eight prospectors (Los Ochos). The Los Ochos Mine produced until 1962 when it was shut down. The district includes the Los Ochos’ Thornburg Mine and the Kathy Jo and La Rue claims. Mardirosian (1976) also reports tungsten deposits.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 44.
SEE ALSO Cochetopa Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Cochetopa uranium mining district

Cotton Creek mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Blake district by Vanderwilt (1947).

References:
USE Blake mining district

Crestone mining district
Location: T43N R12E NMPM; ~15 miles E of Moffat.
Description: Also referred to as the Eldorado district; used to refer to the Baca Grant district by Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Prospectors were in the area by the 1870s. The town of Crestone, originally an agricultural town, supplied prospectors when ore was discovered in the area in ~1875. Gold discoveries in 1890 brought a rush of prospectors to the area. There was considerable mining activity pre-1900 but it was eventually interrupted when the Supreme Court upheld the provisions of the Luis Baca Grant and the Grant holders evicted the miners from their territory. Crestone was on the N part of the Grant and many of its productive mines were located within the Grant. Still, this was one of three main districts in the county by 1900, along with the Bonanza and Embargo Creek districts. The district includes the short-lived camp of Wilcox, and the Cleveland and Independence (Independence) mines. Camps within the Baca Grant that were abandoned by evicted miners include Cottonwood, Julia City, Duncan, Spanish, Teton, Lucky and Pole Creek. There was some placer mining along Spanish Creek. Gold and silver production to 1939 is reported, copper in 1935-1936, lead in 1936.

References:
UF Baca Grant mining district
UF El Dorado mining district
SEE ALSO Music mining district
Crystal Hill mining district
Location: T42-43N R6E NMPM; on Carnero Creek ~2 miles W of La Garita.
Description: Gold was discovered by Mark Biedell and the camp of Biedell was well established by 1883. The camp of Carnero was established at about the same time. However, activity in this area was short-lived through the 1880s. The district includes camp of Crystal Hill and the Crystal Hill Mine. Although there was considerable development in the area, only minor production of gold is reported. Some silver ore is present.
References:

El Dorado mining district
Location: T43-44N R12E NMPM.
Description: Also appears as "Eldorado district"; also used (rarely) to refer to the Crestone district.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
USE Crestone mining district

Embargo Creek mining district
Location: T41N R4E NMPM; Embargo Creek is a tributary of the Rio Grande River; in both Rio Grande and Saguache counties.
Description: This was one of three main districts in the county by 1900, along with the Bonanza and Crestone districts. The mineralization along Embargo Creek extends a few miles on either side of the Saguache-Rio Grande County line. The area was being prospected by 1878 and the camp of Embargo was established some time in the late 1870s-early 1880s. The district includes the Tornado and Golden Income mines. Gold, silver, lead and copper ores are reported. There is no reported production in the 1940s.
References:
SEE ALSO Rio Grande County – Embargo mining district

Findley Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 34-35 T47N R7E NMPM; Findley Gulch is a tributary of Saguache Creek.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); SW of the Kerber Creek district.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.

Ford Creek mining district
Location: Sect 15-17, 20-22 T46N R7E NMPM; Ford Creek is a tributary of Saguache Creek.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); possibly overlaps or included within the Kerber Creek district to the E. The Spook City and Lost Dickey lodes were discovered in ~1894 and reportedly produced a little gold and silver. The area includes the camps of Bonita and Spook City.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Kerber Creek mining district

Green Mountain mining district
Location: T48N R1-2W; includes the area around the town of Iris (Saguache County); in both Gunnison and Saguache counties.
Description: Also referred to as the Cochetopa district (Gunnison and Saguache counties); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Cochetopa
The camp of Iris was established in 1894 but was in decline by 1897; after another brief boom in 1901-1902, it was deserted. The neighboring camp of Schistos (Shisto) lost its residents to Iris in the late 1980s. The district includes the Mineral Hill Mine (Saguache County) and the Chance and Lucky Strike mines (Gunnison County).

References:

Hull mining district
Location: T48N R9E (this location puts the district in Fremont County).
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Indian Creek mining district
Location: T47-48N R6-7E NMPM; Indian Creek is a tributary of Middle Creek.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Kerber Creek district. The area includes the Nos. 19539 and 19681 mineral monuments.
References:

Iron Mountain mining district
Location: Sect 32 T45N R8E NMPM (this location puts the district considerably to the W of the Orient Mine.)
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The camp of Orient (Oriental, Oriental City) was established by the late 1870s to supply the area's iron mines. Orient was still active in 1900.
References:

Kerber Creek mining district
Location: T46-47N R7-8E NMPM; on Kerber Creek in the Cochetopa Hills; extends W to the Saguache Creek drainage.
Description: Also referred to as the Bonanza district; used to refer to the Bonanza district by Burbank (Vanderwilt 1949) and Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Indian Creek and Tuttle (Turtle?) Creek districts to the W; overlaps the Manitou and Stowes Gulch districts. Gold and silver veins were discovered in 1880 and the camp of Bonanza was established shortly thereafter. The small camp of Kerber City was eventually absorbed by Bonanza. The district's lead-silver deposits were of primary importance in the 1880s, but most operations were small until the driving of the Rawley drainage tunnel in 1911-1912. The district includes the Rawley Mine, a principal producer, and the Antoro, Bonanza and Cora mines. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc to 1946 is reported. Some uranium production is also reported.
References:
- Burbank, W.S. 1932; Geology and ore deposits of the Bonanza mining district, Colo., with a section on history and production by C.W. Henderson. USGS Prof Paper 169, p. 31-42.
Liberty mining district

**Location:** The town of Liberty is located SE of Crestone between Short and Sand creeks.

**Description:** Used to refer to the Music district by Vanderwilt (1947). The camp of Duncan was established within the Baca Grant with gold discoveries in the area, but didn’t really develop until 1890 when richer discoveries were made. When the miners of Duncan were evicted in 1900 they founded the town of Liberty just E of the Baca Grant boundaries.

**References:**

*USE Music mining district*

Manitou mining district

**Location:** Sect 28-33 T48N R8E, Sect 4-9 T47N R8E NMPM; Mount Manitou is located NNE of the town of Bonanza.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Kerber Creek district to the SW. The district includes the Manitou Sunlight Mine.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Kerber Creek district

**Marshall Pass uranium mining district**

**Location:** Near Marshall Pass in the Sawatch Range; most of the district is in Gunnison and Saguache counties, with a small NE area in Chaffee County.

**Description:** Covers ~182 sq km. Uranium was discovered near the mouth of Indian Creek in 1955 and deposits were mined by small operations starting in 1958. Underground leaching and open pit mining were used after 1968. The district includes the Pitch Mine (Pinnacle Mine), the Lookout No. 22 and Marshall Pass No. 5 mines (Saguache County), and the Little Indian No. 36 Mine (Gunnison County).

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Chaffee County – Marshall Pass uranium mining district
- SEE ALSO Gunnison County – Marshall Pass uranium mining district

**Mirage mining district**

**Description:** Used to refer to the Blake district by Vanderwilt (1947).

**References:**
- USE Blake mining district

**Music mining district**

**Location:** Sect 17-20 T25S R73W; on Arena Creek; Music Mountain is SE of Crestone near the Custer County border.

**Description:** Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This district is a SE continuation of or included within the Crestone district to the NW. With a little mining activity in the area, the small short-lived camp of Music City (Music Pass, Sand Creek) was established at the foot of Music Pass. Gold and silver, with a little lead and copper, are reported in the related Crestone area. Mardirosian (1976) reports gold and silver deposits.
References:
UF Liberty mining district
SEE ALSO Crestone mining district

Myers Creek mining district
Location: Sect 10-15 T41N R4E NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Orient mining district
Location: Area around the site of Orient City, ESE of Villa Grove.
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Saguache County but probably doesn’t merit the label “district.” The camp of Orient was established in the late 1870s with iron ore produced from area mines. Lignite coal was discovered in the area around Iron Mountain in ~1880 and Orient developed into a company coal town. The Orient Mine operated from then to the 1930s before being abandoned.
References:

Saguache Big Park mining district
Location: Sect 4-9 T43N R3E.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:

Silver Creek mining district
Location: Sect 2-4 T47N R7E NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); possibly overlaps or is included within the Bonanza district to the S.
References:
SEE ALSO Bonanza mining district

Smiths Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 23-26, 35-36 T46N R10E NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps and may be included within the Blake district.
References:
SEE ALSO Blake mining district

Stowes Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 20 T46N R8E NMPM.
Description: Also occurs as “Stowe district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Kerber Creek district.
References:
SEE ALSO Kerber Creek mining district

Tuttle Creek mining district
Location: Sect 4-9 T47N R7E; Tuttle (Turtle) Creek is just N of Ford Creek.
Description: Current maps refer to Tuttle Creek as “Turtle Creek”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Kerber Creek district to the E.

References:
  BT Kerber Creek mining district
San Juan County

Summary: San Juan County’s major mining districts are located in the northern part of the county, extending north into Ouray County. This area was heavily prospected despite Ute treaty prohibitions. Important districts include the Animas, Eureka and Poughkeepsie districts. This area produced gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. A little placer gold was also produced.

Animas Fork mining district

Location: In the area N of Eureka and S of Mineral Point.

Description: Used to refer to the Eureka district by Vanderwilt (1947). The district possibly includes the town of Animas Fork, the incorporated town at the highest elevation in Colorado at the time. Discoveries were made in the area of Animas Fork in 1875 and the town was established shortly thereafter. A mill was built here in the 1870s to process ore from the Red Cloud Mine in Mineral Point. The area was active in the 1880s but started to decline in the 1890s. Animas Fork was mostly deserted by 1920. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper ores are reported.

References:

SEE ALSO Eureka mining district
San Juan County

Animas mining district

Location: T41N R6-7W; T40-42N R6-8W according to Henderson (1926); covers both sides of the Animas River valley immediately NE of Silverton to 2 miles above Howardsville, where it meets the Eureka district.

Description: Also appears as "Las Animas district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Putnam district; includes the Silverton railroad station and may also be referred to as the Silverton district (Rooney 1994). The Animas and Eureka districts were the principal producers in the county. The discovery of gold in Arrastra Gulch brought miners into this area by the early 1870s, but silver discoveries were what established Silverton as a major mining camp.

Prospectors flooded the area after the signing of the Brunot Treaty with the Indians in 1874. By the end of the year the town of Silverton had been established and had thousands of residents. The town of Howardsville (originally Bullion City) was established by prospectors by 1874 to supply the Animas and Eureka district mines. By 1875 the Highland Mary, Aspen, Prospector and Little Giant mines had been located. The railroad reached Silverton in 1882 and a number of smelters were built there. By 1890 the richer deposits had been discovered and mined, and the larger low-grade ore bodies such as the Silver Lake mines were being worked. The district boomed in the 1880s-1890s. The Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company was established in 1929 and became one of the main operators in the area. The district includes the camps of Arastra, Silver Lake, Highland Mary, Niegoldtown and Titusville and the North Star, Mayflower, Little Dora, Pride of the West and Slide mines. The area includes the American Lode, Animas Forks, Animas River, Artois, Aspen Lode, Belcher Lode, Buckeye, Bullion, Burns Gulch, Cashier Lode, Cleveland, Cunningham Gulch, Deadwood Gulch, Deer Park, Garibaldi, Green Mountain, Hanks, Interocoean Mt., King Solomon, Little Abbie, Lulu Lode, Melville, Molas, P.L., Peerless Lode, Royal Tiger, Seymour, Silver Wing, Stony Gulch, Swansea, Terrible, Veta Madre, Whitehead Gulch and Nos. 9959 and 20389 mineral monuments; their number reflects a lack of reliable surveys. Gold and silver mineralization, and some lead-silver-copper ores with minor amounts of gold, are present. Production is reported through the 1950s, and intermittent gold and silver placer production in the 1930s.

References:

UF Silverton mining district
NT Putnam mining district
Bear Creek mining district

Location: T40N R6W NM3; in the area of the Continental Divide at the head of Vallecito Creek, a tributary of the Los Pinos River to the S and the head of Bear Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande River to the NE; 19 miles E of Silverton; in both La Plata and San Juan counties.

Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); possibly overlaps or is included within the La Plata district (La Plata County) to the W; included in the Needles Mountain district (La Plata County) by Irving and Emmons (1905). The area was being prospected by 1878. The Gold Bug and Little May mines were located in 1892 and the Good Hope Mine was operating by that same year. The Golden Shear mines were located in 1893. The camp of Bear Creek (Beartown, Gold Run) was established by ~1893 with the rich strikes in the area. Bear Creek’s major properties were idle by 1905, although smaller properties were being worked. The district includes the Sylvanite, Silver Bug and Century mines, and the camp of Sylvanite. Gold and silver telluride were the principal ores in the district. Production of telluride ore is reported prior to 1905.

References:

SEE ALSO La Plata County – Bear Creek mining district

Cement Creek mining district

Location: A few miles N and NW of the town of Silverton within the Silverton caldera.

Description: Used to refer to the Eureka district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Eureka district. The district includes the Gold King Mine (Sampson and American mines) and the Iolanthe, No. 1 Cement Creek and Rob the Ranter mineral monuments. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper ores are reported for the area.

References:

BT Eureka mining district
Eureka mining district

Location: T41-43N R6-7W NMPM; the district’s W border extends up Mineral Creek to the town of Chattanooga.

Description: May also be referred to as the Silverton district (Rooney 1994); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes part of the Red Mountain district; includes the Cement Creek and Mineral Creek districts; adjoins the Animas district to the S and E. The Animas and Eureka districts were the principal producers in the county. Gold placers were discovered in 1860 near the site of Eureka by a party led by C. Baker, leading to a short-lived and unsuccessful rush of prospectors to the area in 1861. The area was again being prospected in the early 1870s and lode discoveries led to the formation of the district by 1874. The Sunnyside Mine, located in 1873 and worked steadily into the 1930s by the Sunnyside Mining and Milling Company, was a major producer. The Eureka and Silver Wing mines were being worked by 1875. The Gold King vein was discovered in ~1887 and became the district’s other major producer. Rich artificial placers in Cement Creek created by the inefficient workings of the Gold King mill upstream were being worked in 1899. The town of Gladstone was settled in the 1870s and supported the nearby Gold King, Grand Mogul, and Pride of the West mines. The district includes the camp of Chattanooga (Sheridan Junction) and the Mastoden, Golden Fleece and Sound Democrat mines. The area includes the A, Animas Forks, Ben Franklin, Burns Gulch, Excelsior, Giant, Green Meadow, Hanks, Interocean Mt., Little Abbie, Lulu Lode, Maid of the Mist, Magnus, Moultrie Lode, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 P.G., Placer Gulch, R, Silver B, Silver Wing and Nos. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 mineral monuments; their numbers reflect a lack of reliable surveys. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc through the 1950s is reported, as well as a little placer gold and silver in 1935-1936. Low grade tungsten mineralization occurs in the Cement Creek-Mineral Creek parts of the district.

References:
UF Hansen Peak mining district
NT Cement Creek mining district
NT Mineral Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Animas Fork mining district
SEE ALSO Red Mountain mining district

Hansen Peak mining district

Location: In the immediate area of Hansen Peak NW of the town of Eureka.

Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in San Juan County; possibly a local name for this area within the Eureka district.

References:
USE Eureka mining district
Ice Lake Basin mining district

Location: Sect 18-19, 30 T41N R8W, Sect 13, 23-26 T41N R9W NMPM; at the head of the South Fork of Mineral Creek ~7 miles W of Silverton.

Description: Also occurs as "Ice Lake district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the camp of Bandora, the Esmerelda and Bandora mines, and the Island Lake, Wall Street and Nos. 4772, 7416 and 11694 mineral monuments. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc through 1945 is reported.

References:

Mineral Creek mining district

Location: In the area around the Mineral Creek drainage to the W of Cement Creek.

Description: Used to refer to the Eureka district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Eureka district. This district includes the town of Chattanooga. Gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper ores are reported for the area.

References:

BT Eureka mining district

Mineral Point mining district

Location: In the area of T42-43N R7W; at the headwaters of the Animas and Uncompahgre Rivers; in both Ouray and San Juan counties.

Description: Adjoins the Poughkeepsie and Upper Uncompahgre districts. There was some prospecting activity in the area by 1870 despite Ute treaty prohibitions, as reports of gold brought people to the San Juan region. A renegotiated treaty in 1873 allowed more extensive prospecting activity. The first official claim was made by Bill Young in 1873; by 1874 there were over 70 lodes located in the district. The town of Mineral Point (San Juan County) was established by ~1874. The camp of Engineer City (American Flats) in Ouray County was well established by 1875 after silver was discovered on Engineer Mountain. The district was in decline by 1880 and the town of Mineral Point was almost deserted by the 1890s. The district includes the Oyaoma, Palmyra, Polar Star and Bill Young mines. Many of the area’s mines show development but no production records for them exist. Reported production was intermittent from 1893-1900. Silver, lead, copper, and a little gold production is reported.

References:
Hazen, S.W., Jr. 1949. Lead-zinc-silver in the Poughkeepsie district and part of the Upper Uncompahgre and Mineral Point districts, Ouray and San Juan counties, Colo. USBM Report of Investigations RI-4508, 110 p.
SEE ALSO Poughkeepsie mining district
SEE ALSO Ouray County – Mineral Point mining district

Poughkeepsie mining district

Location: In the area of T42-43N R7W; at the headwaters of the Animas and Uncompahgre Rivers; includes the area from near the Ouray County line S and the Poughkeepsie Gulch branch of the Uncompahgre River; in both Ouray and San Juan counties, but mostly in San Juan County.

Description: Adjoins the Mineral Point and Upper Uncompahgre districts. There was some prospecting activity in the area by 1870, despite Ute treaty prohibitions, as reports of gold brought people to the San Juan region. A renegotiated treaty in 1873 allowed more extensive prospecting activity. The district was originally located in Ouray County in the area around Poughkeepsie Gulch, and included the Poughkeepsie Mine, located in 1874. The Old Lou Mine was located in 1876. Much of the area was later located in San Juan County with redefined county boundaries. The district was active in the late 1870s-early 1880s but its remote location...
hindered development. The district includes the White Crow, Brooklyn, and Alaska mines. Production in the area was intermittent from 1893-1900; some mines show development but no production records are available. The Poughkeepsie Mine was still shipping small amounts of ore as of 1914. Silver, lead, copper, and a little gold production is reported.

References:
Hazen, S.W., Jr. 1949. Lead-zinc-silver in the Poughkeepsie district and part of the Upper Uncompahgre and Mineral Point districts, Ouray and San Juan counties, Colo. USBM Report of Investigations RI-4506, 110 p.
SEE ALSO Mineral Point mining district
SEE ALSO Ouray County – Poughkeepsie mining district

Putnam mining district
Location: Sect 27-28, 33-35 T41N R8W NMPM.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Animas district.
References:
BT Animas mining district

Red Mountain mining district
Location: Sect 14-15, 22-28, 32-36 T42N R8W, Sect 16-21, 28-32 T42N R7W; mostly in Ouray County, with a small area in San Juan County.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Eureka district. The San Juan County part of the district includes the San Antonio Mine. The area includes the Carbon Lake, Grassy Gulch, Halcyon, Hurricane, Ohio Gulch, Porphyry Basin, Rex and Silver Cloud mineral monuments. See the Ouray County entry for a fuller description of this district.
References:
Red Mountain district [map]: Ouray & San Juan counties, Colorado. Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
SEE ALSO Eureka mining district
SEE ALSO Ouray County – Red Mountain mining district

San Juan mining district
Location: In the area of N San Juan County, possibly extending into San Miguel County around Ophir.
Description: Probably a general name for the mining districts of N San Juan County as far N as the Animas Forks district and extending to those districts in NE San Miguel County around the town of Ophir. A specific area identified as the San Juan district includes the Guston, Joker, Yankee Girl, Genesee, Iron Chest, Buckeye Boy, Ouray Girl, Florida, Tuesday and A.O. Day mines. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is reported.
References:
San Juan mining district, San Juan County, Colorado [map]. 19??, Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.
SEE ALSO San Miguel County – San Juan mining district

Silverton mining district
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in San Juan County; may be used to refer to the Animas and Eureka districts or generally to the area around the town of Silverton.
References:
USE Animas mining district
SEE ALSO Eureka mining district

Uncompahgre mining district
Location: In the area of T43N R7W; in both Ouray and San Juan counties, primarily in Ouray County.
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926); appears to refer mostly to the Uncompahgre district in Ouray County. This area is also known as the Eureka district in San Juan County.
References:
USE Ouray County – Uncompahgre mining district
SEE ALSO Eureka mining district

Upper Uncompahgre mining district
Location: In the area of T42-43N R7W; at the headwaters of the Animas and Uncompahgre Rivers; in both Ouray and San Juan counties.
Description: Used as an alternate name for the Uncompahgre district by Vanderwilt (1947); the area in this district was probably originally included in the Uncompahgre district; adjoins the Mineral Point and Poughkeepsie districts. There was some prospecting activity in the area by 1870, despite Ute treaty prohibitions, as reports of gold brought people to the San Juan region. A renegotiated treaty in 1873 allowed more extensive prospecting activity. Many of the area's mines show development but lack production records for the time prior to 1900. The Guadaloupe Mine was still shipping ore in 1921. The district includes the Sutton, Daniel Bonanza, Natalia, Dunmore, Chrysolite, North Star, Silver Link and Michael Breen (Mickey Breen) mines. Silver, lead, copper and some gold production is reported.
References:
Hazen, S.W., Jr. 1949. Lead-zinc-silver in the Poughkeepsie district and part of the Upper Uncompahgre and Mineral Point districts, Ouray and San Juan counties, Colo. USBM Report of Investigations RI-4508, 110 p.
SEE ALSO Ouray County – Upper Uncompahgre mining district
San Miguel County

Summary: The upper San Miguel River area includes one of San Miguel County’s most important districts, the Telluride district and its Smuggler-Union Mine. This area adjoins major mining districts in Ouray County to the east. The lower San Miguel River area includes placer deposits as well as mines. The county produced gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. San Miguel County also has uranium/vanadium deposits and is part of the Uravan uranium mining district.

Alta Basin mining district
Location: In the area of the Alta Basin near Silver Mountain just N of the town of Ophir.
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in San Miguel County; probably included in the Ophir district. The area includes the Gold King and Dixie mines.
References:
USE Ophir mining district

Ames mining district
Location: Includes the area of the junction of the South Fork and Howard Fork of the San Miguel River W of the town of Ophir
Description: Used to refer to the Ophir district by Vanderwilt (1947). The camp of Ames was established below the Gold King Mine. The Gold King was the site of the first use of commercial electricity from a hydroelectrical power plant in Colorado.
References:
USE Ophir mining district

Cedar mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Snyderville district by Hill (1912).
References:
USE Snyderville mining district

Disappointment uranium mining district
Location: In an area along the Gypsum Valley; the Disappointment Valley is to the S of Big Gypsum Valley.
Description: Possibly a local name; just as often referred to as an “area.” Carnotite is reported and a few claims were located in this area.
References:

Iron Springs mining district
Location: Sect 25-36 T42N R9W, Sect 1-4, 9-12 T41N R9W NMPM.
Description: Used to refer to the Ophir district by Vanderwilt (1947); used as the preferred name by Varnes (Vanderwilt 1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). This was originally one of six main districts in Ouray county of which three, including the Lower San Miguel and Upper San Miguel districts, were later positioned in San Miguel County. By 1898 this was one of four main districts in the county, along with the Lower San Miguel, Mount Wilson and Upper San Miguel
districts. The small town of Iron Springs was located E of Old Ophir. The Iron Springs Group Mine near Ophir produced gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Little prospecting or activity took place by the late 1950s. The district includes the Silver Pick Mine. The area includes the Alta, Butler, Commanche, Iron Springs, Nevada Gulch, San Bernardo, Seven Thirty, Silver Hill No. 1, Staatsburg, Sulphurets, and Waterfall mineral monuments. Gold, silver, lead and copper ores are reported.

References:
SEE ALSO Ophir mining district

Klondyke mining district
Location: T43N R16W NMPM; at the head of the Gypsum Valley N of Cedar.
Description: There was some prospecting of surface workings in the district. Copper with some silver is reported. Trial shipment of copper-silver ore were sent out in 1939, but there was no resulting production.
References:

Lower San Miguel mining district
Location: T43-44N R10-11W NMPM; along the San Miguel River valley through Placerville, Sawpit and Newmire.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Newmire, Placerville and Sawpit districts. This was originally one of six main districts in Ouray County of which three, including the Iron Springs and Upper San Miguel districts, were later positioned in San Miguel County. By 1898 this district was one of four main districts in the county, along with the Iron Springs, Mount Wilson and Upper San Miguel districts. Placers were discovered in the area in ~1875. Intermittent placer operations were maintained through the 1880s and small scale operations through the 1930s. Extravagant, unfounded and notorious promotional claims were made for this area’s placers by placer mining companies during this time. Some small gold and silver placer sluicing operations took place along the San Miguel River, with production reported to 1941. The district includes the towns of Sawpit and Newmire. The area includes the Nos. 2, 3 and 19937 mineral monuments. Silver and lead, with some gold, are the primary metals in the area. Some gold, silver, and lead production is reported in 1935-1937.
References:
NT Newmire mining district
NT Placerville mining district
NT Sawpit mining district
SEE ALSO San Miguel mining district

McIntyre uranium mining district
Location: In the area of T44N R19W; includes the upper part of the Dolores River and Summit Canyon to the W; McIntyre Canyon is a tributary of the Dolores River.
Description: Includes the local Summit district; includes or overlaps with the local Slick Rock district; included within the Uravan district. Carnotite mining was carried on intermittently in this area from 1901-1904, and then through the 1920s. A mill for the ore was built at the mouth of Summit Creek. The district includes Stevens Camp.
Mount Wilson mining district

Location: T42N R10W NMPM; centered around the headwaters of Big Bear Creek near Wilson Peak (Mount Wilson); 12 miles S of Newmire.

Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). By 1898 this was one of four main districts in the county, along with the Iron Springs, Lower San Miguel and Upper San Miguel districts. The more important mines of the district are on the W slope of Wilson Peak at the head of Big Bear Creek. The Silver Pick Mine, the district’s major mine, was located in 1882 and worked until 1909, producing mostly gold, with some silver and lead. The Silver Pick and most of the district’s smaller mines were mostly inactive from 1909 through 1959. The district includes the Tam O’ Shanter and Special Session mines. Production of gold and silver to 1941 is reported, copper and lead to 1939, and a little placer gold and silver in 1934. Mardirosian (1976) also reports zinc deposits.

References:

Newmire mining district

Description: Used to refer to the Lower San Miguel district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Lower San Miguel district. Silver and lead, with some gold, are the primary metals in the area.

References:
BT Lower San Miguel mining district

Ophir mining district

Location: T41-42N R9W NMPM; in the Ophir Valley on the Howard Fork, a tributary of the San Miguel River, extending from Ames E for 6 miles to Iron Springs; originally in Ouray County, from which San Miguel County was created in 1883.

Description: Used to refer to the Iron Springs district by Varnes (Vanderwilt 1949) and Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); probably includes or overlaps the Trout Lake district to the SW. Claims were being made in the area by the mid 1870s and the town of Howard’s Fork (later Ophir, New Ophir) was established. Mines were operating in the valley and silver ore was being shipped by 1878. Several mines, including the Alta Mine, the districts’ largest producer, were being developed by 1881. An (unsuccessful) smelter was built in Ames in 1883. Although most of the district’s mines operated intermittently, a few of the larger mines were steady producers. Silver prices drove the level of activity of many of the mines, as it did in many other districts. The district was mostly inactive from 1930-1936, very active from 1937-1948, and inactive since. The district includes the camps of Old Ophir and Alta, the Butterfly-Terrible mines, and the Keystone gold placers along the San Miguel River. In addition it may have included the Gold King Mine and the town of Alta on the slopes above Ophir. Gold production to 1945 is reported, silver, copper and lead to 1942, zinc to 1940, and a little placer gold and silver in the late 1930s. Mardirosian (1976) reports bog iron deposits.

References:

UF Alta Basin mining district
UF Ames mining district
NT Trout Lake mining district
SEE ALSO Iron Springs mining district

**Placerville mining district**

*Location:* On the San Miguel River, in the general area of the River’s junction with Leopard Creek; ~17 miles NW of Telluride.

*Description:* Used to refer to the Lower San Miguel district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Lower San Miguel district. The town of Placerville was established in ~1876 by prospectors who found float on the San Miguel River in 1875. Numerous operations were planned by the late 1870s and hydraulic works operated in the early 1880s. Most of the workings were abandoned as the placers played out quickly. Placerville was later moved upstream a mile to the new railroad depot and became a supply town for nearby lode mining operations. The Belle Champion Mine produced gold and silver ore. The district includes the camp of Omega. Silver and lead, with some gold, are the primary lode metals in the area. Some carnotite is present, and the district includes the Canary carnotite claim.

*References:*


BT Lower San Miguel mining district
San Juan mining district

**Location:** In the area of N San Juan County, possibly extending into San Miguel County around Ophir.

**Description:** Probably a general name for the mining districts of N San Juan County as far N as the Animas Forks district and extending to those districts in NE San Miguel County around the town of Ophir. A specific area identified as the San Juan district includes the Guston, Joker, Yankee Girl, Genessee, Iron Chest, Buckeye Boy, Ouray Girl, Florida, Tuesday and A.O. Day mines. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc is reported.

**References:**
- San Juan mining district, San Juan County, Colorado [map]. 19??, Colorado School of Mines Library map collection, Golden CO.

SEE ALSO San Juan County – San Juan mining district

San Miguel mining district

**Location:** Sect 28-33 T42N R10W.

**Description:** Possibly an informal or earlier name for the areas comprising the Lower San Miguel and Upper San Miguel districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Smuggler, Mendota and Cimarron mines developed in ~1881.

**References:**

SEE ALSO Lower San Miguel mining district
SEE ALSO Upper San Miguel mining district

Sawpit mining district

**Location:** Includes the area around the town of Sawpit in the Telluride quadrangle on the San Miguel River NW of Newmire.

**Description:** Used to refer to the Lower San Miguel district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Lower San Miguel district. The camp of Seymore (Silver Pick, Fall Creek) to the NW supported placer diggings along Fall Creek and shipped ore for the Silver Pick Mine in the 1880s. The Champion Belle Mine was located in 1895 and the Commercial Mine in 1896. The town of Sawpit was established in 1895. The district and area peaked in the late 1890s. Silver and lead, with some gold, are the primary metals in the area. Mardirosian (1976) also reports zinc deposits.

**References:**
- BT Lower San Miguel mining district

Slick Rock uranium mining district

**Location:** In the area of T43-44N R18-19W; the town of Slick Rock is located on the Dolores River W of the head of Disappointment Valley.

**Description:** Also occurs as “Slickrock district”; possibly a local or industry district name; included in or overlaps the McIntyre district. The district includes the Goldenrod, Legin, Mercantile and Michael Bray claims. Production of uranium and vanadium is recorded through the 1960s.

**References:**
- USE McIntyre uranium mining district

Snyderville mining district

**Location:** Unknown; there is a Snyder Mine located W of Egmar in the SW corner of San Miguel County.

**Description:** The district contains disseminated deposits of vanadium and uranium ore as carnotite, reported in 1906 and 1908.
San Miguel County

References:
UF Cedar mining district

South Telluride mining district
Location: In the area S of the Telluride district and NW of Ophir.
Description: Used by Burbank and Luedke (1968) to refer, along with the Ophir district, to an area between the Upper San Miguel district and the Ice Lake Basin district.
References:
USE Telluride mining district

Summit uranium mining district
Location: Centered around Summit Canyon, a tributary of the Dolores River.
Description: Probably a local name for the Summit Canyon claims in the McIntyre district. This district includes the Snyder, Jamestown, Yellow Jacket and Tramel groups of claims for carnotite ores.
References:
USE McIntyre uranium mining district

Sunday uranium mining district
Location: WNW part of Dolores County to the San Miguel County border (Colorado Geological Survey 2003); an alternate location is listed as being primarily in San Miguel County to the N.
Description: Informal name for the area around the Sunday Group mines and generally referred to just as the Sunday Group mines; part of the "Colorado Plateau uranium mining districts" as depicted by the Colorado Geological Survey. Although this area is described as being in NW Dolores County, a Sunday mine group is located near Big Gypsum Creek NE of Slick Rock in WNW San Miguel County. This area is described as a prolific uranium and vanadium producer starting in 1898, when carnotite ore was shipped to Marie and Pierre Curie.
References:
SEE ALSO Dolores County – Sunday uranium mining district

Telluride mining district
Location: According to Purington (1898) this district originally included all of the Telluride quadrangle being mapped at the time, which included the greater part of San Miguel County and parts of Ouray, San Juan, and Dolores counties; later considered to be much smaller in extent, the other portions of the Telluride quadrangle being covered by other mining districts.
Description: Used to refer to the Upper San Miguel district by Vanderwilt (1947); adjoins the Sneffels district (Ouray County) across the divide separating the upper San Miguel and Uncompahgre drainages. The Red Mountain and Sneffels (Ouray County) and Telluride districts' ore bodies are related. Fisher (1990) discusses the Sneffels-Telluride and Camp Bird districts as one district. Prospecting in this district by 1875 resulted in the gold discoveries of the Sheridan and Smuggler veins. The town of Telluride (originally Columbia) was established in 1878. The town of San Miguel City was established to the W of Telluride after promising gold and silver discoveries in the area in the mid 1870s; most of its inhabitants then moved to Telluride in the early 1880s. The district's principal mines are the Liberty Bell Mine discovered in 1876, the Smuggler (of Smuggler Union) in 1875, and the Tomboy in 1886; these three mines produced much of the district's silver and gold, making it one of the 25 leading gold producers in the US. Some of the larger mines, including the Tomboy and the Smuggler, supported their own camps that housed hundreds of miners. The lack of transportation slowed the district's growth in the 1880s, but there was a boom following the arrival of the railroad in 1890. The Columbia and Japan lodes were discovered near the Tomboy Mine in 1894. The Liberty Bell Mine finally closed in 1921; the Tomboy mines closed in 1927; the Smuggler-Union mines closed in 1928. In 1940 the Tomboy and Smuggler-Union mines were consolidated and actively worked through the 1950s. The district includes the camp of Savage Basin, and the Cimmaron, Argentine, Cleveland and Bullion mines. Significant production of gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper is reported.
References:
Trout Lake mining district
Location: Sect 4-9 T41N R9W NMPM; SW of Ophir.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); probably included within or overlaps the Ophir district to the NE.
References:
BT Ophir mining district

Upper San Miguel mining district
Location: T43N R9W, Sect 29-33 T43N R8W, Sect 1-18 T42N R9W, Sect 3-10, 16-21, 29-30 T42N R8W NMPM; in the San Miguel River valley, including the mines 2-6 miles E and SE and above the valley floor.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Sneffels district across the divide in Ouray County. The district also reportedly includes the Cimarron Mine and so may overlap the Cimarron district (Montrose County). This was originally one of six main districts in Ouray county of which three, including the Iron Springs and Lower San Miguel districts, were later positioned in San Miguel County. By 1898 it was one of four main districts in the county, along with the Iron Springs, Lower San Miguel and Mount Wilson districts. The district's first discoveries were in ~1875 with the location and opening of the Mendota, Sheridan and Smuggler mines. The Smuggler (Smuggler-Union) Mine was the most prolific producer in the county. The town of Pandora, named for the Pandora Mine, was established in about the mid-1870s; it was the site of the mill that processed the Smuggler-Union's ores. The Idarado Mining Company consolidated several of the area’s older producers starting in the 1940s through a tunnel near Telluride, a major development in the region. The Smuggler-Union, renamed the Idarado, was finally closed by Newmont Mining in the 1970s. The district includes the Treasury Tunnel with its entrance in the Red Mountain district.
San Miguel County

(Ouray County), the Black Bear, Tomboy, and Liberty Bell mines, and the town of Telluride. The area includes the Bear Creek, Boston, Cressent, Delta, Epsilon, Eta, Fries, Gamma, Lewis, Newport, Pulaski, San Miguel, Union, Zeta and Nos. 1, 3 and 4 mineral monuments. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc through 1945 is reported. Placer gold and silver to 1939 and in 1945 are also reported.

References:
Bastin, E.S. 1923. Silver enrichment in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado. USGS Bull 735, p. 65-129.

Uravan uranium mining district

Location: Area centered around the junction of the San Miguel and Dolores rivers; in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties.
Description: Encompassed by the Uravan mineral belt; includes the Rock (Roc) Creek district (Montrose County) and the McIntyre district (San Miguel County); may overlap the Gateway district to the N. Most of the uranium produced in Colorado comes from this district. "Uravan" is a combination of the words uranium and vanadium, extracted from the carnotite ores. The area was unsuccessfully prospected for other minerals before carnotite ore was shipped from the Rock Creek claim in 1898. The Joe Junior Camp was developed by the US Vanadium Corporation and renamed Uravan. The General Vanadium Company and others became active in the district starting in ~1910, expanding carnotite mining. Production activity was expanded further with World War II. The district includes the Yellow Bird, Thunderbold, and Long Park claims.

References:

Vanadium mining district

Location: Unknown; the town of Vanadium is located at the junction of Big Bear Creek and the San Miguel River.
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in San Miguel County; may be related to or included within the Lower San Miguel district but is more likely to be included in the Uravan uranium district. The town of Vanadium grew up around a large mill operated by the U.S. Vanadium Corporation.

References:

Vanadium mining district

Location: Unknown; the town of Vanadium is located at the junction of Big Bear Creek and the San Miguel River.
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in San Miguel County; may be related to or included within the Lower San Miguel district but is more likely to be included in the Uravan uranium district. The town of Vanadium grew up around a large mill operated by the U.S. Vanadium Corporation.

References:

USE Uravan uranium mining district
Summit County

Summary: Summit County was an active mining area. Important districts include the Argentine, Montezuma and Peru districts that extend E into neighboring Clear Creek County, and the Kokomo district to the west. Gold placers were discovered in 1859 and there were extensive placer operations along the Blue and Swan rivers and Tenmile Creek, with activity centered around Breckenridge. Colorado's largest gold nugget, "Tom's Baby," was found near Breckenridge.

Arazonia mining district
Location: Reported to be established in the Utah Territory in ~1860, possibly placing it in the NW corner of the state and in what later became Summit County, Colorado.
Description: May also appear as “Arazonia district.” This is a very poorly documented district with little information available. The district is placed within Summit County because in 1861 Summit County’s boundaries matched the area of the Utah Territory prior to the formation of the Colorado Territory. Silver mineralization is reported.
References:
Arazonia silver mining district [manuscript]. 1860. Colorado Historical Society Library mining district manuscript collection, Denver CO.

Argentine mining district
Location: T4-SR74-75W; T5S R75W according to Henderson (1926); includes mines along Leavenworth Creek, the SE side of Leavenworth Mountain 2 miles S of Silver Plume and Georgetown (Clear Creek County) and continuing SW to SE side of McClellan Mountain; straddles the Continental Divide to stretch from the Silver Plume-Georgetown district (Clear Creek County) to the Montezuma district (Summit County) according to Del Rio (1960); in both Clear Creek and Summit counties.
Description: Also referred to as and may incorporate the East Argentine (Clear Creek County) and West Argentine (Summit County) districts; overlaps and is also referred to as the Queens district in Clear Creek County; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Griffith district in Clear Creek County and borders it to the N; included in the Peru district (Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties). The district’s mineralized area is continuous with the Montezuma district (Summit County) to the W and it is sometimes referred to as the Montezuma district in Summit County, but the first discoveries and most of the mines identified with the Argentine district are in Clear Creek County. In 1864 the Belmont lode, Colorado’s first important silver lode, was discovered on McClellan Mountain (Clear Creek County). The Baker Mine on nearby Kelso Mountain was discovered in 1865, and the camp of Bakerville grew up around it. There was a rush to the newly formed district with these discoveries. The Baker and Belmont mines became the district’s most important producers during the 1860s. Encouraged by the rich discoveries, there was much active development in the area by 1867. The Stevens Mine (Clear Creek County) was located in 1866. The camp of Decatur (Rathbone) was established in 1868 but the low grade ores in the immediate area didn’t support much activity until the discovery of the Pennsylvania Mine in 1879. Decatur was renamed Argentine. Silver placer (talus) workings were established on Leavenworth Mountain in the early 1870s. Additional discoveries were made, but district activity started to decline by 1880. The Baker Mine, which had been one of the Argentine-Silver Plume’s major producers in the 1870s, was intermittently inactive by ~1885. The Pennsylvania, Delaware, Peruvian, Santiago and Independence (East Argentine district) veins eventually became the bulk producers in the area. The Colorado Central Mine in Leavenworth Gulch SW of Georgetown was discovered in 1872 and was worked almost continuously through 1908. The Stevens Mine was worked almost continuously up to about 1895. However, district silver and lead production continued to fall and many mines were worked only intermittently after 1888. The district includes the towns of Sydneyville and Waldorf. The area includes the Argentine, Josephine, Bertha, Sidney, Mint and Grizzly (Kelso) mines and the Bakerville, Hamill, Ida, Ira, Kelso Mt., Turck, and 4582 mineral monuments. Gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc production is recorded to 1945.
References:


UF West Argentine mining district

UF Rathbone mining district

NT Chihuahua mining district

BT Peru mining district

SEE ALSO Montezuma mining district

SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Argentine mining district

Avalanche mining district

Location: T6-S R77-W.

Description: Also referred to as the Bald Mountain, Carpenter and Swan River districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps and is sometimes referred to as the Lincoln district which is centered to the N. The area includes the Nos. 65-69, 83 and 84 mineral monuments.

References:


UF Bald Mountain mining district

SEE ALSO Carpenter mining district

SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district

SEE ALSO Swan River mining district

Bald Mountain mining district

Location: Unknown, but Bald Mountain is located in the area of the headwaters of French and Illinois gulches SE of Breckenridge.

Description: Also referred to as the Avalanche district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:


USE Avalanche mining district

Battle Mountain mining district

Location: T6S R76 W.

Description: This district was originally part of Summit County when the district was organized in 1879-1880. It became part of Eagle County in 1883; refer to the Battle Mountain district record under Eagle County for more information on this district.

USE Eagle County – Battle Mountain mining district

Beaver Dam mining district

Location: T5S R76-77W.

Description: Also known as the Snake River or Montezuma district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The area includes mineral monument No. 5687.

References:


SEE ALSO Montezuma mining district

SEE ALSO Snake River mining district
Bevan mining district
Location: T6-S R77W.
Description: Also referred to as the Utah, Miners, Minnesota, McBarnes and Breckenridge districts; used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Breckenridge district by Ransome (1911). The district includes the Wellington, Dunkin, Sallie Barber and Little Sally Barber mines and the No. 1 mineral monument.
References:
SEE ALSO Breckenridge mining district
SEE ALSO McBarnes mining district
SEE ALSO Miners mining district
SEE ALSO Minnesota mining district
SEE ALSO Utah mining district

Blue River mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947). The district’s placer deposits are included in Breckenridge district.
References:
USE Breckenridge mining district

Breckenridge mining district
Location: T6-S R77W; referred to very broadly as all the territory drained by the Blue River and its tributaries above its confluence with the Snake River and Tenmile Creek near Dillon by Ransome (1911).
Description: This district encompasses and has been used very broadly to refer to most of the districts along the Blue River from Hoosier Pass to N of Dillon and beyond and along most of the Swan River, as well as generally including most placers in the region. Used to refer to the Bevan and McBarnes districts; used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1949); includes (broadly) the Bevan, California, Minnesota and Union districts according to Ransome (1911); includes the Conger district. Gold placers were discovered in 1859 in Georgia Gulch on the Swan River, followed by other discoveries along the Blue River and in tributary gulches. The town of Breckinridge was established and named after US Vice President John Breckinridge. The townspeople later changed the town’s spelling to “Breckenridge” in protest after the Vice President declared his support for the Confederacy. Additional placer discoveries were made along the Swan River, including those in Gold Run, Galena, American and Humbug gulches and the Delaware Flats placers. Placer discoveries along the Blue River included those in French, Gibson, Nigger, Corkscrew, Illinois and Hoosier gulches. There were also placer discoveries in Iowa Gulch and Buffalo Flats. Most of the rich and easy placers (“pound diggings”, referring to the amount of gold that could hopefully be produced daily) were worked out after 2-3 years. The camp of Parkville, which had been established in ~1860 with the Georgia Gulch discoveries, had declined by 1866 and was eventually buried under mining debris. However, placers continued to be worked steadily through the 1870s and 1880s for a profit. Many of the accepted techniques for placer sampling, including drilling techniques, were developed in this district. Silver-lead ore was discovered in the area by 1864 and the Old Reliable vein was producing by 1869. Other mines were developed from these discoveries, and lode gold was discovered in 1880. However, by 1909 only the Wellington and Country Boy mines were in operation. Placer operations continued through this period. The Reliance dredge was put into operation at the mouth of Nigger Gulch in 1906, the beginning of a 30-year history of dredging the Breckenridge placers. The Wellington Mine remained an active lead and zinc producer to 1929, and there was some district ore production to World War II. Placer operations during World War II were insignificant. The district includes the Cincinnati, Lucky and Iron Mask lode mines, and the camps of Wapiti, Nigger Gulch, Laurim and Rexford. Gold, copper, and silver-lead-zinc production through 1945 is reported.
References:
Lovering, T.S. 1934. Geology and ore deposits of the Breckenridge mining district, Colo. USGS Prof Paper 176, 64 p.

UF Blue River mining district
UF California mining district
UF Independent mining district
NT Buffalo gold placers
NT Congers mining district
NT Delaware Flats mining district
NT French Gulch mining district
NT Illinois Gulch mining district
NT Jo Davis mining district
NT Lincoln mining district
SEE ALSO Bevan mining district
SEE ALSO McBarnes mining district
SEE ALSO Minnesota mining district
SEE ALSO Swan River mining district
SEE ALSO Union mining district

Jessie Mine, with hydraulic workings in the foreground, Breckenridge district, Summit County CO. 1909. USGS Professional Paper 75, 1911. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive.

**Buffalo gold placers**

*Location:* In the area of Salt Lick Gulch and Ryan Gulch N of Frisco (Buffalo Mountain is to the W).
Summit County

Description: Included in the Breckenridge district. The placers were probably discovered and worked in the 1860s but the first reported operations were in 1871. Hydraulic operations were started by 1881. The placers were worked intermittently by the Buffalo Placer Mining and Milling Company until 1934.

References:

California mining district
Location: In the area around Farncomb Hill E of Breckenridge.
Description: Included broadly in the Breckenridge district by Ransome (1911). The area includes the Humbug mineral monument.

References:

Carpenter mining district
Location: Sect 5-6 T7S R76W, Sect 1, 12 T7S R77W.
Description: Overlaps the Lincoln and Georgia Pass districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
SEE ALSO Avalanche mining district
SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district
SEE ALSO Georgia Pass mining district

Chalk Mountain mining district
Location: Near Chalk Mountain on the S side of the Tenmile Valley.
Description: Reported to have been organized by a small group of prospectors who discovered gold at the Jackson lode near Chalk Mountain in 1865. No development or production is reported.

References:

Chihuahua mining district
Location: Includes the area around the town of Chihuahua and Chihuahua Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Snake River NE of Montezuma.
Description: Possibly included in the Union district; included in the W part of the Argentine district or in the NE part of the Montezuma district depending on the author. This district was the site of one of the first silver discoveries in the region in the early 1860s. The camp of Chihuahua was established by prospectors in 1880 but both the district and the camp were in decline by the late 1880s. The district includes the Pickwick, Eliza Jane and Maid of Orleans mines and the Chihuahua mineral monument.

References:

Congers mining district
Location: Sect 17-18 T7S R77W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Breckenridge district; overlaps the McBarnes district. The camp of Conger (Conger’s Camp) was established by 1879 following strikes of silver, copper and gold in the area, but was in decline after just
a few years as the nearby properties were not developed further. The area includes the Diantha mineral monument.

References:
BT Breckenridge mining district
SEE ALSO McBarnes mining district

Consolidated Tenmile mining district
Location: T5S R78W, T7-8S R78-79W.
Description: Also occurs as “Tenmile district” or “Tenmile Consolidated district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
USE Tenmile mining district

Consolidated Union mining district
Location: T6S R77-78W.
Description: Also occurs as “Union Consolidated district”; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
USE Union mining district

Delaware Flats mining district
Location: In the area of Delaware Gulch between Breckenridge to the S and the juncture of the Blue and Swan rivers to the N; near the area of Gold Run Gulch.
Description: Considered part of the Breckenridge district. Placers were discovered and worked here by ~1860. The town of Delaware Flats (Delaware City), later renamed Preston, then Braddock, was established by 1861. Hydraulic operations were run in the early 1870s. Mines in the area are reported to have produced gold, silver, lead and copper, and include the Discovery Belt, Intermediate and Adelia mines.
References:
BT Breckenridge mining district
SEE ALSO Jo Davis mining district

Eagle River mining district
Location: This district may include the general area of the Eagle River.
Description: This was the original name for the Red Cliff district when silver-lead ores were first discovered in 1879 in Summit County. For most of this district’s history it is referred to by the later name “Red Cliff” (Eagle County). After the creation of Eagle County and its annexation of the Red Cliff district, this mineralized area has sometimes been referred to as two separate and distinct districts; these differences merit a separate entry for the Eagle River district in both Eagle and Summit counties.
References:
USE Eagle County – Red Cliff mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle County – Eagle River mining district

French Gulch mining district
Location: In the area of French Gulch, a tributary of the Blue River E of Breckenridge.
Description: Used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947); part of the Breckenridge district along the Blue River. The area’s placers were being worked by 1860. Drift mining was performed here by the mid-late 1860s. Colorado’s largest gold nugget, “Tom’s Baby”, was found here in 1887. The camp of Lincoln City (Paige City) was established on French Gulch in the 1860s.
References:
Frisco mining district

**Location:** T5S R78W; Sect 16-17, 20-21 T6S R78 W according to Henderson (1926); 4 miles SW of Dillon; mineralization occurs where Tenmile Creek emerges from a narrow canyon 1-2 miles W of Frisco.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Tenmile district. The first cabin was built here in 1873 on the future site of the town of Frisco. Frisco was a supply center for area mining and was very active by 1880 but in decline just a few years later. The area revived briefly with new discoveries in the late 1890s. Gold and silver ores, with a little lead and zinc, are present. The production reported is small but relatively consistent through ~1899.

**References:**

BT Tenmile mining district

Geneva Creek mining district

**Location:** T5S R75-77W; Sect 29-32 T5S R75W. Sect 25-26, 35-36 T5S R76W according to Henderson (1926); lies between the Breckenridge district to the W and the Argentine district to the NE; extends into Clear Creek County; in both Clear Creek and Summit counties.

**Description:** Also appears as "Geneva district"; although the Geneva and Geneva Creek districts are basically the same district, they are represented by two separate records in Clear Creek County to help clarify their
relationships with other districts; also referred to as the Snake River district and Montezuma district; closely related to the Montezuma district.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF Geneva mining district
SEE ALSO Montezuma mining district
SEE ALSO Snake River mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Geneva Creek mining district

Georgia Pass mining district
Location: Sect 7, 12-13 T7S R76W; Georgia Pass is in the area of the headwaters of the South Fork of the Swan River.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Carpenter district.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Carpenter mining district

Green Mountain mining district
Location: T2S R80W; in the Blue River valley with the Green Mountain dam immediately to the W.
Description: Used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947). Ore deposits were discovered here in ~1935. Almost continuous small production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc from that time through 1945 is reported.
References:
SEE ALSO Wilkinson mining district

Hall Valley mining district
Location: Lies between the Breckenridge district 5 miles SW of Montezuma, and the Argentine district ~4 miles to the NE; in both Park and Summit counties; also extends into Clear Creek County according to Henderson (1926).
Description: Closely related to the Montezuma district; probably contiguous with the Hall Valley districts in Clear Creek and Park counties; is overlapped by the Middle Swan River district and by the Montezuma and Snake River districts in Clear Creek and Park counties according to Henderson (1926).
References:
SEE ALSO Middle Swan River mining district
SEE ALSO Montezuma mining district
SEE ALSO Snake River mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Hall Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Park County – Hall Valley mining district

Hoosier Gulch mining district
Location: Sect 6-7 T8S R77W, Sect 1, 12 T8S R78W; in the area around Hoosier Gulch, at the head of the Blue River N of Hoosier Pass.
Description: Also appears as "Hoosier Pass district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); broadly considered to be part of the Breckenridge district; overlaps the Pollack district. Gold placers were discovered in this area and were being worked by ~1860. The Bemrose and Bostwick placers were worked intermittently through the 1870s as sufficient water was lacking for continuous production. The area includes the Hoosier Pass mineral monument. Small and intermittent operations took place here through the 1950s.
References:
Illinois Gulch mining district

Location: In the area of Illinois Gulch, a tributary of the Blue River S of French Gulch.
Description: Used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Breckenridge district along the Blue River. The area's placers were discovered and being worked by ~1860. Silver-lead ore from lode discoveries was reportedly shipped from this area in ~1869.

References:

BT Breckenridge mining district

Independent mining district

Location: In the area of the town of Breckenridge.
Description: The Independent, Pollard and Spaulding districts were reportedly the first districts established along the Blue River by 1859 (Fiester 1995).

References:

USE Breckenridge mining district

Jo Davis mining district

Location: T6S R77W; near Delaware Flats N of Breckenridge.
Description: Included within and used to refer to the Breckenridge district; used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); Parker (1974) refers to a "Jeff Davis Patch" which may refer to gold placer deposits in the same area, or which may have given this area its name. The area includes the Delaware Flats mineral monument.

References:

BT Breckenridge mining district

Kokomo mining district

Location: In the area of the town of Kokomo along Tenmile Creek.
Description: Used to refer to the Tenmile district by Vanderwilt (1947) and Hill (1912); used as the preferred name by Koschmann (1947); included in the Tenmile district. This district was an important producer in the region. The Quail Mine and Quail group near the SE end of Elk Ridge just N of Kokomo Gulch were discovered by 1879. The town of Kokomo was established at about the same time and supposedly named for prospector-promoter Amos Smith's home town in Indiana. The Queen of the West Mine was discovered on the SE spur of Jacque Mountain overlooking Kokomo. After a period of activity, the district was in decline by the 1880s. The Kokomo Metals Mine was still producing zinc as of 1911. The district includes the town of Recen, named for the Recen brothers, Swedish immigrants who prospected in the area. Much of the Tenmile Creek Valley was acquired by the AMAX mining company for tailings storage; the area, including the townsites of Kokomo and Recen, has been progressively buried by tailings from AMAX's nearby Climax Mine (Lake County) starting in the 1960s. Lead, zinc, silver and gold production has been reported.

References:
Lake mining district

**Location:** In the area of T5S R78W.

**Description:** Probably overlaps or is included within the Wilkinson district.

**References:**
- USE Wilkinson mining district

Lincoln mining district

**Location:** Sect 1-2 T7S R77W.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Breckenridge district; overlaps and is sometimes used to refer to the Avalanche district; overlaps the Carpenter, Minnesota and South Swan River districts. The town of Lincoln was settled in ~1861 by miners on Farncomb Hill and later housed workers from the Wellington Mine and French Gulch dredges. The area includes the Fox mineral monument.

**References:**
- BT Breckenridge mining district
- SEE ALSO Avalanche mining district
- SEE ALSO Carpenter mining district
- SEE ALSO Minnesota mining district
- SEE ALSO South Swan River mining district

Wellington Mine, French Creek, Lincoln (Breckenridge) district, Summit County CO. Circa 1926. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, LTS0057.
McBarnes mining district
Location: Sect 8-9, 16-17 T7S R77W.
Description: Also appears as "McBannes district"; also referred to as the Miners or Breckenridge district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Congers district. The area includes the Homer and Loomis mineral monuments.
References:
UF Miners mining district
SEE ALSO Bevan mining district
SEE ALSO Breckenridge mining district
SEE ALSO Congers mining district

McKay mining district
Location: Sect 18-19 T6S R77W.
Description: Also referred to as the Union district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district includes the Naperville Tunnel and Eureka workings.
References:
BT Union mining district

McNulty mining district
Location: In the area of McNulty Gulch.
Description: Placer miners are reported to have organized the McNulty district to support their placer claims by ~1860 (Dempsey and Fell 1986).
References:
USE Tenmile mining district

Middle Swan River mining district
Location: Sect 20-21, 28-29 T6S R76W; includes the area of the Middle Fork of the Swan River NE of Breckenridge.
Description: Also appears as "Middle Swan district"; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); also referred to as the Rexford or Missouri district; borders on the Clear Creek and Park County line and, according to Henderson (1926), overlaps the Hall Valley district. The town of Swandyke was established by 1888 as a supply camp for nearby mines including the Cashier, Michigan Belle and Three Kings mines. The area includes the Byron mineral monument.
References:
UF Rexford mining district
SEE ALSO Hall Valley mining district
SEE ALSO Missouri mining district

Miners mining district
Location: In the area of Sect 5-8 T7S R77W; Miners Gulch is located S of Frisco but the district is reportedly located further S, just S of Breckenridge.
Description: Also referred to as the McBarnes district; also used to refer to the Bevan district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
USE McBarnes mining district
SEE ALSO Bevan mining district
Minnesotta mining district

Description: Also referred to as the Bevan or Utah district; used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included broadly in the Breckenridge district by Ransome (1911); overlaps the Lincoln district. The district includes the Laurium Mine (Blue Flag Mine), the Dewey, Cliff, and Little Tom lodes, and the Laurium mineral monument.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 66
SEE ALSO Bevan mining district
SEE ALSO Breckenridge mining district
SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district
SEE ALSO Utah mining district

Missouri mining district

Location: Missouri Gulch is a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Swan River.

Description: Also referred to as the Middle Swan district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
SEE ALSO Middle Swan River mining district

Montezuma mining district

Location: T5S R76W, Sect 1-6 T6S R76W; includes the mineralized area at the headwaters of the Snake River, extending 2-5 miles from Montezuma E to the Continental Divide and the boundary of Summit and Clear Creek counties to the E-NE and Summit and Park counties to the SE; borders on the Clear Creek and Park County lines; 12 miles E of Dillon.

Description: Also used to refer to the Beaver Dam, Geneva and Argentine (Summit County) districts and the Geneva district (Clear Creek County); included in and also referred to as the Snake River district; includes the area around Chihuahua (Chihuahua district) according to Patton (1909); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); adjoins the Argentine district (Clear Creek County); according to Henderson (1926), overlaps the Hall Valley district (Clear Creek and Park counties); was originally part of the early Snake River district established in the early 1860s. The gold placers in the Swan River Basin to the SW are contiguous with those of the Breckenridge district. The first silver discoveries were made in the early 1860s but development was slowed by transportation problems. The town of Montezuma was settled ~ 1863 and reached a peak of activity around 1880. It became a supply center for several large silver producers in the area including the Silver King and Kokomo's Queen of the West mines. The Comstock Mine was the main producer by 1870. The company town of Sts. Johns (Coleyville) was the site of a smelter and mill works in the 1870s. The district was hit hard by the Silver Panic in 1893. The district includes the Silver Wave and California mines, and the company (Montezuma Silver Mining Company) town of Franklin. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc through 1945 and placer gold after 1905 is reported.

References:
NT Chihuahua mining district
BT Snake River mining district
SEE ALSO Argentine mining district
North Swan mining district

*Location:* Sect 7-8, 17-18 T6S R76W.
*Description:* Also referred to as the Snake River district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The camps of Rexford and Swanville were located in the area.

*References:*

Peak Eight mining district

*Description:* Used to describe the area around the Tillie Ann properties in Summit County. No production is reported.

*References:*

Peru mining district

*Location:* T5-6S R75W; 8 miles E of Dillon; in Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties.
*Description:* Includes and is sometimes used to refer to the Argentine (Clear Creek and Summit counties) district; used to refer to the Montezuma district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Snake River district. The Peru (Peruvian) Mine was located W of Argentine Pass in 1874. The district includes the Comstock, Coaley, Sukey, Silver Wing and other lodes, and the Decatur, Gray and Peru mineral monuments. Silver, lead and gold ores are present.

*References:*
- NT Argentine mining district
- NT Snake River mining district
- SEE ALSO Montezuma mining district
- SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Peru mining district
- SEE ALSO Park County – Peru mining district

Platte mining district

*Location:* Sect 14-15 T6S R76W; in both Park and Summit counties.
*Description:* Included in the Hall Valley district (Park County); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Park County – Platte mining district

Pleasant Park mining district

*Location:* Sect 7-9, 16-17 T6S R77W.
*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Union district.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Union mining district
Pollack mining district

**Location:** Sect 21-29, 32-36 T7S R78W, Sect 19, 30-31 T7S R77W, Sect 1-2 T8S R78W; includes an area S of Breckenridge.

**Description:** Also appears as “Pollock district”; Fiester (1995) also refers to a “Pollard district” as well; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Hoosier Gulch and Tenmile Consolidated districts. The Independent, Pollard and Spaulding districts were reportedly the first districts established along the Blue River by 1859 (Fiester 1995). It is not certain that Pollack and Pollard are two interchangeable names for the same district, but this district’s name may have become associated with the name of a miner and district recorder in the 1860s, W.P. Pollock. The area includes the Antarctic, Freedonia, Monte Christo, Pilot, Ross, Storm and Nos. 335 and 5297 mineral monuments.

**References:**
- USE Pollack mining district
- SEE ALSO Hoosier Gulch mining district
- SEE ALSO Tenmile mining district

Pollard mining district

**Location:** In the area N of the town of Breckenridge.

**Description:** The Independent, Pollard and Spaulding districts were reportedly the first districts established along the Blue River by 1859 (Fiester 1995). Fiester (1995) refers to Pollard and Pollack as interchangeable names for the same district.

**References:**
- USE Pollack mining district

Quartz Mountain mining district

**Location:** Sect 23-26 T6S R78W.

**Description:** Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Spaulding and Union districts.

**References:**
- SEE ALSO Spaulding mining district
- SEE ALSO Union mining district

Rathbone mining district

**Location:** Probably in the area of the camp of Rathbone (later Argentine) near Argentine Pass.

**Description:** Mentioned by Henderson (1926). Some development as of 1899 is reported.

**References:**
- USE Argentine mining district

Rexford mining district

**Location:** Unknown; the town of Rexford is located on the North Fork of the Swan River, with the Middle Swan River just to the S.

**Description:** Used to refer to the Middle Swan district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

**References:**
- USE Middle Swan River mining district.

Robinson mining district

**Location:** In the area W of Clinton Creek, a tributary of Tenmile Creek.

**Description:** Used to refer to the Tenmile district by Vanderwilt (1947); included in the Tenmile district. The Robinson Mine was located in 1878 by prospectors employed by Governor Robinson, who was later shot by one of his own mine guards during a property dispute. The district includes the town of Robinson S of Kokomo, which was the largest camp in the Tenmile district by ~1880 but was almost deserted by 1890. Much of the Tenmile Creek Valley was acquired by the AMAX mining company for tailings storage; the area, including the townsites, has been progressively buried by tailings from the nearby Climax Mine (Lake
Summit County (starting in the 1960s. At least part of the Robinson district is now covered by AMAX’s Robinson Tailings Pond. Silver, lead and zinc, with some gold and copper is present in the area.

References:

BT Tenmile mining district

Slide Mountain mining district
Location: Sect 9-10 T6S R78W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Tenmile and Wilkinson districts.

References:
- SEE ALSO Tenmile mining district
- SEE ALSO Wilkinson mining district

Smoke River mining district
Description: Mentioned by Henderson (1926). Some development as of 1899 is reported.

References:

Snake River mining district
Location: T5S R76W, Sect 1-6 T6S R76W.
Description: Used to refer to the Montezuma district by Vanderwilt (1947); also used to refer to the Beaver Dam, Geneva and North Swan River districts, and the Geneva district (Clear Creek County); includes the Montezuma district, to which it sometimes refers; included in the Peru district (Clear Creek, Park and Summit counties); borders on the Clear Creek and Park county lines and (according to Henderson 1926) overlaps the Hall Valley district (Clear Creek and Park counties). By ~1864 the district’s Cooley lode near Chihuahua was one of the first silver producers in the Territory. Some development from 1870-1875 is reported but there was little economically successful development until the 1890s. The district includes the Montezuma and Sts. John lodes, the camps of Peru and Montezuma, and the Adrian and Lenawee mineral monuments. Lead and silver, with some gold, copper and zinc are present in the area. Intermittent production to 1924 is reported.

References:
- NT Montezuma mining district
- BT Peru mining district
- SEE ALSO Beaver Dam mining district
- SEE ALSO Geneva mining district
- SEE ALSO Hall Valley mining district
- SEE ALSO North Swan River mining district
- SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – Geneva mining district

South Swan River mining district
Location: Sect 31-33 T6S R76W.
Description: Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Lincoln district. The camp of Parkville (Park City) on the S fork of the Swan River was established by 1860 following the first strikes in the area in 1859. Parkville was the supply center for the Georgia Gulch operations; hydraulic operations eventually buried the town.

References:
SEE ALSO Lincoln mining district

**Spaulding mining district**

**Location:** Sect 36 T6S R78W, Sect 31 T6S R77W; centered around the area N of Breckenridge; Spaulding Gulch is a tributary of Tenmile Creek.

**Description:** Also appears as “Spaulding district” or “Spaulding’s Diggings”; also referred to as the Stillson Patch district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); overlaps the Quartz Mountain district. The Independent, Pollard and Spaulding districts were reportedly the first districts established along the Blue River by 1859 (Fiester 1995). Ruben Spalding made some of the first gold discoveries along the Blue River. The area includes the Sta. 23 mineral monument.

**References:**
UF Stillson Patch mining district
SEE ALSO Quartz Mountain mining district

**Stillson Patch mining district**

**Description:** Also occurs as “Stillson Patch district”; used to refer to the Spaulding district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Placers were discovered in the area and worked by 1860. By 1860-1861 the placers supported one hundred men reworking ground already washed and was one of the most profitable area placers in its day.

**References:**
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 67
USE Spaulding district

**Sullivan’s mining district**

**Location:** In the area around Gilpin and McNulty gulches.

**Description:** The district is reported to have been organized, along with the neighboring Washoe district, shortly after the discovery of the gold placers at McNulty Gulch, based on the reported discovery of silver outcrops in the area. The district overlaps the Washoe district.

**References:**
USE Tenmile mining district

**Swan River mining district**

**Location:** Sect 13-15, 22-24 T6S R77W; 12 miles NE of Breckenridge.

**Description:** Also used to refer to the Avalanche district; used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947): name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included in the Breckenridge district. Gold placer deposits were worked in this area. The camp of Swan City was established in ~1880, but declined in the 1890s. The town of Tiger on the Swan River supported the operations of the Tiger Mine (Royal Tiger mines). The area includes the Rock Island mineral monument.

**References:**
USE Breckenridge mining district
SEE ALSO Avalanche mining district
Tenmile mining district

Location: T6-S R78-79W; just N of the Continental Divide near the headwaters of Tenmile Creek and extending N to Dillon where Tenmile Creek joins the Blue River; “ten miles” from Breckenridge; according to Bergendahl and Koschmann (1971), the district is mostly in Summit County but small portions extend over the Continental Divide and into Eagle, Lake and Park counties.

Description: Also appears as “Ten Mile”, “Tenmile Consolidated” or “Consolidated Tenmile” district; used to refer to the Kokomo district by Koschmann (1946); used as the preferred name by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); includes the Frisco, Kokomo and Robinson districts; overlaps the Wilkinson, Pollack and Slide Mountain districts. This district as formed consolidated a number of neighboring districts. A rush of prospectors into the upper part of the Tenmile Valley led to early discoveries of gold placers in McNulty Gulch in 1860-1861 and the formation of the McNulty district (Dempsey and Fell 1986). The McNulty Gulch placers and other small placers downstream from Kokomo, including the Follette placers, have been worked intermittently from that time on through the 1930s. Shortly after the discovery of the gold placers, the resident miners are reported to have organized the Washoe and Sullivan’s districts based on the reported discovery nearby of silver outcrops (Dempsey and Fell 1986). Gold lode deposits were soon discovered in the Tenmile Range, and the Chalk Mountain district was organized in 1865. However, neither gold nor silver lodes were successfully worked from these discoveries and Summit County was almost unpopulated by 1870. In 1875 the area’s placer holdings were consolidated and several districts combined to form the Consolidated Tenmile district, defined as the Tenmile Creek drainage. The district became more active in 1878 with the discovery of rich lode silver deposits in the Tenmile Valley. The Robinson Mine was discovered in 1878; the Quail group was discovered by 1879. By 1881 most of what would become the largest silver producers were discovered and Tenmile was the main district in the county by 1882. The principal mines were located W of Kokomo, but mineralization was found along the Tenmile Creek valley 2-3 miles NE of Kokomo and SW towards Robinson. Activity was initially intermittent after the easy ores were exhausted by 1890. The development of the Wilfley table improved ore processing and helped maintain a level of economic activity in the district. The district’s greatest period of activity was prior to 1902, although it maintained production until 1923. With the closure of the Michigan-Snowbank-Uthoff Tunnel mines in 1923, steady production ceased. With renewed activity during World War II through 1949, the district again became one of the most productive in Colorado. By 1950 most of the district’s mines were closed and the district was inactive through the 1950s. Much of the Tenmile Creek Valley was acquired by the AMAX mining company for tailings storage; the area, including the townsites, has been progressively buried by tailings from the nearby Climax Mine (Lake County) starting in the 1960s. The district includes the camps of Robinson, Ten Mile City, Edmundville, Carbonateville, Summit City, Junction City and Sheldon City, some of which may have been different names for the same...
camp. The area includes the Bartlett, Chalk Mountain, Chief, Dillon, Elk Mountain, Fletcher, Follett, Gilpin, Gold Hill, Ingleside, Iota, K.S.S.M, Nona, Park, Phi, Robinson, Saw Mill Gulch, Summit, Theta, Union, Vixen, West Ten Mile, Wheel, and Nos. 16 and 19019 mineral monuments. The district produced mostly silver, lead and zinc, with gold as a byproduct or a result of placer operations. Production of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc through 1945 is reported, and placer gold and silver to 1939.

References:
UF Chalk Mountain mining district
UF Consolidated Tenmile mining district
UF McNulty mining district
UF Sullivan's mining district
UF Tenmile Consolidated mining district
UF Washoe mining district
UF Eagle County – Tenmile mining district
UF Lake County – Tenmile mining district
UF Park County – Tenmile mining district
NT Frisco mining district
NT Kokomo mining district
NT Robinson mining district
SEE ALSO Pollack mining district
SEE ALSO Slide Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Wilkinson mining district

Union mining district
Location: In the general area of Breckenridge.
Description: General name for an area around Breckenridge and used to refer to the Breckenridge district by Vanderwilt (1947); in its broad form also appears as "Consolidated Union district", the preferred term by Henderson (1926); also used to refer to the McKay district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included generally in the Breckenridge district by Ransome (1911); overlaps the Quartz Mountain district. The district includes the Gold Run basin and adjacent slopes NE of Breckenridge, and the Montezuma, Breckenridge and Blue rivers. Placers were discovered in the area and were being worked by ~1860. This was one of the main districts in the county by 1883. The district includes the Country Boy, Jessie, Gold Dust and Puzzle mines and rich Buffalo Flats placer.
References:
UF Consolidated Union mining district
NT McKay mining district
Upper Blue River mining district

*Location:* T7-8S R77-78W; includes the upper reaches of the Blue River and its tributaries, beginning a few miles S of Breckenridge and less than 2 miles E of Kokomo; includes the ~4-5 miles centered at the common corner of the four townships and the W and S outskirts of the Breckenridge district; scattered veins continue N along the Mosquito Range to the E side of the valley as far as Breckenridge and the Frisco district.

*Description:* Covers ~85 sq miles. This area is not always referred to as a district, but often referred to as a region or as part of a district. Overlaps the Breckenridge district; adjoins the Montgomery district in Park County to the S; adjoins and partly surrounded by the Breckenridge, Kokomo, Climax, Alma, and Beaver-Tarryall districts. Most of the area’s mines were discovered between 1870-1900. The district includes the Brooks-Snider, Iron Mask, Warrior’s Mark, Ling and Vanderbilt mines. Gold, silver and lead deposits are reported. Significant production is inferred for the district’s early years from incomplete records, but no production has been reported in the 1940s.

*References:*
Singewald, Q.D. 1951. Geology and ore deposits of the upper Blue River area, Summit County, Colo. USGS Bull 970, 73 p.
Singewald, Q.D. 1947. Preliminary geologic map and sections of the upper Blue River area, Summit County, Colorado, with text. Washington DC: USGS.

Utah mining district

*Description:* Also referred to as the Bevan district; used to refer to the Minnesota district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*
SEE ALSO Bevan mining district
SEE ALSO Minnesota mining district

Washoe mining district

*Location:* In the area around Gilpin and McNulty gulches; McNulty Creek is in present-day Summit County, but district records place the district in Lake County in 1860.
Description: The district is reported to have been organized, along with the neighboring Sullivan’s district, shortly after the discovery of the gold placers at McNulty Gulch, and based on the reported discovery of silver outcrops in the area. The district overlapped the newly formed Sullivan’s district.

References:
USE Tenmile mining district
SEE ALSO Lake County – Washoe mining district

West Argentine mining district
Location: According to some authors, that portion of the Argentine district that lies mostly to the W of the Continental Divide, with a narrow mineralized belt trending NNE; given that location, the district is more commonly known as the Argentine district (Summit County). Ellis and Ellis (1983) identify the district as the area to the W of the long ridge of McClellan Mountain in Clear Creek County; probably in both Clear Creek and Summit counties.
Description: In Clear Creek County, used as an alternate name for the Argentine district by Vanderwilt (1947); probably included within the Argentine district. This district was part of the Argentine district and covered the entire upper Clear Creek region according to Ellis and Ellis (1983), with a note that the area S of upper Clear Creek was often referred to specifically as the West Argentine district in newspaper articles.
References:
USE Argentine mining district
SEE ALSO Clear Creek County – West Argentine mining district

Wilkinson mining district
Location: T4-5S R79W, T5S R78W, extending S into T6S R78W; in both Eagle and Summit counties.
Description: Used to refer to the Green Mountain district by Vanderwilt (1947); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); included by Henderson (1926) in the Tenmile district; overlaps the Slide Mountain district. The Eagle County part of the district includes the Santa Eulalia, Valley Lode, Combination and Rosa Lee mines, and the Deluge, Pitkin, No. 6192 and No. 17258 mineral monuments. The Summit County part of the district includes the Excelsior Mine, and the Ady, Josie, Reed, Red Peak, Willow Creek and No. 6362 mineral monuments. Small amounts of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc are present in the area.
References:
USE Lake mining district
SEE ALSO Green Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Slide Mountain mining district
SEE ALSO Tenmile mining district
SEE ALSO Eagle County – Wilkinson mining district
Teller County

Summary: The area of Teller County was prospected starting in the 1870s but the first successful strikes occurred in the 1890s in the Cripple Creek area. Teller County was formed in 1899 from parts of El Paso and Fremont counties, precipitated by the success of mining in the Cripple Creek and associated districts. By 1960 Cripple Creek led the state in total gold production value. The county produced gold and silver, mostly from this area. Some placer gold was also produced. Minor economic deposits of pegmatites are present.

Barnard Creek mining district
Location: T15S R70W; Barnard Creek runs NW of Cripple Creek.
Description: Also known as the North Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
SEE ALSO North Cripple Creek mining district

Cripple Creek mining district
Location: T15S R69-70W; T14-16S R68-70W according to Henderson (1926).
Description: Covers an area ~6 miles long by 5.5 miles wide; also referred to as the Womack district; also used to refer to the Mount Rosa and Wilson Creek districts; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). Early gold ore discoveries in the area led to the formation of the Mount Pisgah district in 1874, but this district was never successful. Robert Womack discovered gold on the El Paso claim in Poverty Gulch in 1890. The opening of the Gold King Mine on that site and the discoveries of the Washington and Independence claims by William Stratton after his recognition of the ores as gold telluride in 1891 started a much more successful rush of prospectors to the region. In 1892 the area was renamed the Cripple Creek district and the town of Cripple Creek was founded. By 1893 many of the district’s major mines, including the Portland, Granite and Strong mines, were in production. Changing labor needs in the increasingly industrialized mines are reflected in the proliferation of nearby towns. Some of these towns started as two or more camps that were eventually consolidated; many had mineral processing facilities. The town of Fremont was established around 1892. The camp of Anaconda (originally Barry) was established in ~1892 and supplied the Mary MacKinney and Anaconda mines. The town of Victor was established by 1894 and supplied the Battle Mountain mines; the Portland, Independence, and Gold Cup mines were discovered within the town itself. Victor absorbed the nearby camps of Lawrence, Dutchtown, Hollywood, Portland Station and Strong’s Camp. Goldfield was established in 1895 to support the nearby Portland Mine. The town of Midway was an ore shipping center. Elkton grew up around the Elkton and Cresson mines. The camp of Gillett was established by 1894 as a supply and recreation center, and hosted Cripple Creek’s only race track. Independence, named for Stratton’s Independence Mine, was established by 1899 between Altman and Goldfield; Independence and Goldfield eventually merged. The short-lived town of Winfield was established by Stratton in 1900 as a company town to support further exploration in the district. Labor troubles in 1894 interrupted development, but new mines were opened in the following years. The district became the county’s primary producer; production finally peaked in 1900. The success of the area encouraged its annexation from existing El Paso and Fremont counties to form Teller County. A second round of labor troubles in 1903 finally led to the Colorado National Guard being called in and union leaders were driven out of the district. The district’s decline after 1900 was interrupted by increased activity caused by the 1934 increase in gold prices, and again by the construction of the Carlton drainage tunnel in 1941. Output continued but the district was mostly inactive by 1959. However, as of 1960 the district led the State for total cumulative gold production value, and became the second most productive gold-mining district in the US. By 2000, the Cresson Mine was the only precious metals mine operating in the district and in Colorado; the Mine was still operating as of 2003. The district includes the camps of Hull City, Cameron, Hoosier, Los Angeles, Jackpot, Economic Junction and Altman, and the Vindicator, Golden Cycle, Victor, Isabella and Eagles mines. Gold and silver production to 2000 is recorded, and placer gold and silver to 1939.
References:
UF Mount Pisgah mining district
UF Womack mining district
UF El Paso County – Cripple Creek mining district
UF Fremont County – Cripple Creek mining district
NT Mount Rosa mining district
SEE ALSO Wilson Creek mining district

Altman and Last Dollar mine from Battle Mountain, Cripple Creek district, Teller County CO. 1903. USGS Earth Science Photographic Archive, RFL00528.
Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district

*Location:* Includes areas of S Teller, NE Fremont and W El Paso counties.

*Description:* This area is sometimes referred to as more of a province than a district. Economic deposits of mica and feldspar are reported.
References:
SEE ALSO El Paso County – Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – Cripple Creek pegmatite mining district

East Beaver Creek mining district
Location: T16S R68W; in both Fremont and Teller Counties; 8 miles S of Rosemont.
Description: Also occurs as "East Beaver district"; also referred to as East Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). There is limited information about this district other than that copper, gold and silver mineralization is present.

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
UF East Beaver mining district
UF East Cripple Creek mining district
SEE ALSO Fremont County – East Beaver Creek mining district

East Cripple Creek mining district
Description: Used to refer to the East Beaver Creek district.
References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
USE East Beaver Creek mining district

Fountain Creek mining district
Location: Sect 13, 18, 19, 24 T13S R69W.
Description: Also referred to as the Pikes Peak district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado. USGS Prof Paper 138, p. 64.
SEE ALSO Pikes Peak mining district

High Park mining district
Location: T15S R71W.
Description: Also referred to as the West Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

References:
SEE ALSO West Cripple Creek mining district

Mount Pisgah mining district
Location: W of the present town of Cripple Creek, including the area around Mount Pisgah and Poverty Gulch.
Description: Early name for the Cripple Creek district. Gold ore was discovered here prior to 1874 by H.T. Wood, drawing prospectors to the area. Further prospecting was unsuccessful and the district was gradually deserted. In 1884 S.J. "Chicken Bill" Bradley started another rush by salting his Teller placer with gold, precipitating another round of unsuccessful prospecting. The area was renamed the Cripple Creek district in ~1892 with rich new lode discoveries around Poverty Gulch and nearby areas and the incorporation of the town of Cripple Creek in 1892.

References:
USE Cripple Creek mining district

Mount Rosa mining district
Location: Sect 1-2, 11, 14, 23, 24 T15S R68W; Mount Rosa is E of Cripple Creek near the El Paso County border.
Description: Also appears as "Mount Rose district"; also referred to as the Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
North Cripple Creek mining district

*Location:* Sect 1-3 T11S, R69W.

*Description:* Also used to refer to the Barnard Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may have originally overlapped or been included in the West Creek district.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Barnard Creek mining district
- SEE ALSO West Creek mining district

Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district

*Location:* Includes parts of NW El Paso, N Teller, SW Douglas, and NE Park Counties.

*Description:* Economic (minor) deposits of gem topaz, quartz and amazonstone are reported.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Douglas County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
- SEE ALSO El Paso County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district
- SEE ALSO Park County – Pikes Peak-Florissant pegmatite mining district

Platte Canon mining district

*Location:* In the area of Sect 3 T11S R71W; possibly extends into Douglas County.

*Description:* No information is available.

*References:*
- SEE ALSO Douglas County – Platte Canyon mining district

Round Mountain mining district

*Location:* Sect 14-15, 22-23 T11S R70W.

*Description:* Name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).

*References:*

West Creek mining district

*Location:* Sect 1-12 T11S R70W, Sect 3-10 T11S R69W; West Creek is in the NE part of the county; possibly in both Douglas and Teller counties.

*Description:* A broad area that covers ~300 sq miles according to Hooper (1896); name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926); may have originally included or overlapped other districts including the North Cripple Creek district. This district is probably an extension of the West Creek district (Douglas County). The town of West Creek (West Creek) is located in S Douglas County. By 1895 the area was being actively prospected with the encouragement of rich discoveries in the Cripple Creek district (Teller County). The area supported numerous small mining camps, including North Cripple Creek, Manchester (Teller County), and Pemberton, Ackerman, Given, North West Creek, Dunaway, Trumbull, Tyler and Stanley Camp (Douglas County). The camp of Night Hawk (Douglas County) served as the terminus of a railroad spur that served the West Creek camps to the S. Despite the large numbers of prospectors in the district, little had been found by 1896.
References:
   SEE ALSO North Cripple Creek mining district
   SEE ALSO Douglas County – West Creek mining district

West Cripple Creek mining district
Description: Used to refer to the High Park district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
   SEE ALSO High Park mining district

Wilson Creek mining district
Location: Sect 3-10 T16S R69W.
Description: Also referred to as the Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926).
References:
   SEE ALSO Cripple Creek mining district

Womack mining district
Description: Used to refer to the Cripple Creek district; name used in the records of the US Surveyor General in Denver up to 1924 (Henderson 1926). The district was named for Robert Womack, who discovered the deposits of Poverty Gulch in 1890.
References:
   USE Cripple Creek mining district

Woodland Park mining district
Location: Unknown; the town of Woodland Park is in the NE part of Teller County near the El Paso County border.
Description: Mentioned by Rooney (1994) as being in Teller County.
References:
Weld County

Summary: There are no metal mining districts in Weld County, but the county includes part the Boulder-Weld coal field.

Boulder-Weld coal field

Location: In the area of the SW part of Weld County; in both Boulder and Weld counties.

Description: Also referred to as the Boulder coal field; part of the Denver coal region. The field includes mines near Lafayette, Louisville, Superior and Broomfield (Boulder County).

References:


NT Weld County coal mining district
SEE ALSO Boulder County – Boulder-Weld coal field

Weld County coal mining district

Description: Possibly includes that part of the Boulder-Weld coal field in Weld County; part of the Denver coal region.

References:


BT Boulder-Weld coal field
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