

Saguache County

Blake District (aka **Mirage District**, aka **Cotton Creek District**)

The Blake District is described by Dunn (2003) as lying at the head of Cotton Creek, 10 miles northeast of Mirage and the area of Mirage Creek. The district is listed by Henderson (1926) and by Vanderwilt (1947), and the latter lists the district with synonyms Mirage and Cotton Creek.

Cappa and Wallace (2007) discusses the Blake District along with the **Steel Canyon** and **Hayden Pass Districts** as all being similar. The Steel Canyon and Hayden Pass areas lie north along the west slope of the Sangre de Cristo Range on the opposite (north) side of the Orient Mine iron ore district (**Orient District**) from the Blake. These districts appear to be very similar, as part of a belt of Precambrian rocks.

According to Ellis and others (1983), production from these districts was 5 oz. of gold, 7,000 oz. of silver, 70,000 pounds of lead, and 8,000 pounds of copper. Mineralized structures in the Copper King and Victor mines in Steel Canyon consist of veins in fractured carbonate rock (possibly the Leadville Limestone). The veins pinch and swell to 3 feet in thickness; they consist of silver-bearing galena and minor chalcopyrite in a gangue of quartz, calcite, and minor fluorite and barite (Lindsey et al., 1985). Samples taken from the Copper King Mine during a wilderness assessment assayed from 0.006 to 0.043 oz. per ton gold and 0.3 to 34.2 oz. per ton silver and contained anomalous amounts of copper and lead (Lindsey et al., Ibid). Samples taken from the Victor Mine during the same wilderness assessment assayed from 0.3 to 10.3 oz. per ton silver and contained anomalous amounts of copper and lead (Lindsey et al., Ibid).

The listing of the district on mindat.org is interesting in the wide variety of minerals and range of mineralization it includes. Of the list of mines, claims and prospects below, eight contain base and/or precious metals, two contain manganese, three contain uranium and/or vanadium, one contains fluorspar, and one some rare earth element bearing minerals.

Clearly the district was never a big producer and is not well understood.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

- [Adelaide Claim](#)
- [Beginner's Luck Claim](#)
- [Beryl Deposit](#)
- [Copper Head Claim](#)
- [Copper King Mine¹](#)
- [Iron King Prospect](#)
- [Millie Luna Prospect \(Iron\)](#)
- [Mountain Lion Mining; Milling and Power Company Claims \(Side Line 1 and 2; Cascade; Home Mill Site; Mountain Lion; Hallie; Little Rule; Cora; Lioness\)](#)
- [North Star Claim](#)
- [Old Bennett Ore Body Occurrence \(Major Creek Limonite Mine; Moffat Iron Mine No. 1\)](#)
- [Ram Lode and Pam Lode \(Ramdohrite lode\)](#)

- [Rio Oro Mine](#)
- [San Isabel Mining and Milling Company Claims](#)
- [Steele Canyon Mining; Milling; and Investment Company Claims \(Independence; Victor; Princess\)](#)
- [Triple T. Mine](#)
- [Victor Mine¹](#)

Note: ¹ indicates from Lindsey et al. (1985).

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

Autunite	'Garnet'	Pyrite
Chalcopyrite	Gold	Quartz
Coffinite	Hausmannite	Samarskite-(Y)
Euxenite-(Y)	'Limonite'	Uraninite
Fluorite	Monazite-(Ce)	Xenotime-(Y)
Galena	'Psilomelane'	

References:

Not all directly referenced above, but are used in mindat.org or Cappa and Wallace (2007)

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Lindsey, D.A., Hassemer, J.R., Abrams, G.A., Taylor, R.B., and Hannigan, B.J. 1985. Mineral Resources of the Black Canyon and South Piney Creek Wilderness Study Areas, Saguache County, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1716-A. Map Scale 1:24,000.

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Vanderwilt, John W. 1947. Mineral Resources of Colorado. Colorado Mineral Resources Board, Denver, Colorado.

www.mindat.org, accessed September 2015.