

## Hinsdale County

### Carson District

There are not many districts in Hinsdale County, but there are numerous names and potential confusion. The Carson District appears in Henderson (1926) and is described by Vanderwilt (1947 as sitting at the head of Wager Gulch (a tributary of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River), approximately 18 miles southwest of Lake City. The area of the district crosses the continental divide into the headwaters of Lost Trail Creek.

Older geologic descriptions of the area can be found in Irving and Bancroft (1911). Based on more recent interpretations, Wilson and Spanski (2004) describe the area as the Carson volcanic center, a 29 Ma plug of monzonite to quartz monzonite composition, intruding intermediate lavas and breccias, and andesites and rhyolites of the Henson and Burns formations.

The rocks contain polymetallic veins in irregular fissures and fractures up to 18 inches wide (Larson, 1911). Ores contain silver and lead with some copper. Enargite, chalcopyrite and galena occur with some gold in a barite gangue. Some bog iron is also known to occur (Harrer and Tesch, 1959).

Eberhart (Ibid) describes the mining camp of Carson, established in 1882, the year after the district. The town sat directly on the continental divide, with water falling on one side of town heading toward the Lake Fork of the Pacific drainage, and water on the other side of town flowing into the Lost Trail Creek, of the Rio Grande system, headed toward the Atlantic Basin. With such a snow-bound location, the town didn't last long.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org; Dunn, 2003; Eberhart, 1969) include:

- Bachelor Mine
- Bonanza King
- Carson
- Chandler
- Cresco
- Dunderberg
- George the Third Mine (Hattie; Marian; St. Peter; Vermont)
- Iron Mask
- Kit Carson
- Legal Tender
- Lost Trail mine
- Maid of Carson
- Mayflower
- St. Jacob Mine (Griggs; Patented Claims: Hamilton; St. Jacob Group; St. Johns; St. Jacobs)
- Thor
- Wager Gulch Limonite Deposit

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org)

Baryte  
Chalcopyrite  
Enargite  
Famatinite

Galena  
'Limonite'  
Marcasite  
Pyrite

Quartz  
Sphalerite  
Tetrahedrite

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- [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), accessed September 2015.