

## Chaffee County

### Cleora District

The Cleora District is a small district along the Arkansas River, 1-3 miles southeast of Salida. Named for the original railroad stop at the town of Cleora, the name remained after the main station was moved to Salida and the town disappeared (Aldrich, 1992).

While Cleora is a small district not much more than five square miles in area, its geology has drawn attention to a degree disproportionate to its size and production. The geologic interpretation of the Cleora District has evolved through the years. Belser (1956) simply discussed veins in "crushed quartz and schist." Tweto (1960) identified the host rocks as metasedimentary and metaigneous but made no assertion about the paragenesis of the mineralization. He noted possible association with nearby quartz monzonite intrusives.

Boardman in 1971 found the evidence ambiguous on the origin of the deposits but seems to lean toward the injection of veins carrying late sulfides. He did point out in Sheridan and Raymond (1977) first put forth the hypothesis that the deposits are Cleora (and other similar Precambrian deposits) are of exhalative origin. Heinrich (1981) didn't discuss origin specifically but described the Cleora deposits as consisting of fracture-controlled quartz veins in micaceous gneisses and amphibolites.

Sheridan and Raymond (1984) went into more detail on the Cleora and other similar Precambrian deposits (including the nearby Sedalia and Cotopaxi Mines) as metamorphosed seafloor exhalites, has studied extensively in Australia. Wallace et al (1997) mapped the host units at Cleora broadly as metagabbro.

Vanderwilt (1947) described the mineralization at Cleora succinctly as chalcopyrite in schist. Heinrich noted veins up to 3 feet wide and 200 feet long in gneisses and amphibolites.. Tweto's described scheelite at Cleora as disseminated in "dark schists and amphibolites," accompanied by copper. Belser (1956) was more specific, noting occurrences at each mine he visited. Sheridan and Raymond (1977) reported distinctive volcanic textures including flattened pumice fragments and clasts of porphyritic basalt in breccias. Clearly, reading the range of descriptions shows the great variety - and ambiguity - of rocks present in this suite of small mines.

Very little ore was produced in the district. Visits of Cleora show that none of the mines is large and most are, in fact, quite small. Belser's (1956) detailed descriptions document production at only the Stockton Mine (2 tons of ore ... unfortunately the Stockton Mine is now the site of a residence) and the Grand View Mine, which was worked for copper from 1890 to 1905.

The mines and prospects in the district are the Stockton, Cleora #2, Mute, Grand View, Hub Tunnel, Uncle Andy Prospects, North Star, Saddle, and Tiger Lode.

Minerals identified in the Cleora district are

<a href="#">actinolite</a>	<a href="#">cuprite</a>	<a href="#">scapolite</a>
<a href="#">biotite</a>	<a href="#">diopside</a>	<a href="#">scheelite</a>
<a href="#">bornite</a>	<a href="#">grossularite</a>	<a href="#">vesuvianite</a>
<a href="#">chalcopyrite</a>	<a href="#">hornblende</a>	
<a href="#">chlorite</a>	<a href="#">plagioclase</a>	
<a href="#">chrysocolla</a>	<a href="#">quartz</a>	

References:

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data – Cleora District](#)

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