

Saguache County

Embargo Creek District (aka Embargo District; aka Meyers Creek District)

The Embargo Creek District lies at the southwest border of Saguache County, adjacent to Rio Grande County, along (appropriately) Embargo Creek. The district does not appear in Henderson's (1926) list, but is mentioned on page 209 in the section on Saguache County. Dunn (2003) concludes it was one of the three primary districts in the county by 1900.

Eberhart (1969) indicates that prospecting was active as early as 1878, but not until the early 1880s did mining begin and the town of Embargo arise. It didn't last long.

Mineralization occurs as veins in the andesites and latites of the Conejos formation (Vanderwilt, 1947; Cappa and Wallace, 2007). Gold, silver, lead and copper were recovered. The Monon claims produced about 10,000 tons of ore and that the area of the Golden Income Group claims is underlain by an Oligocene granodiorite and had a value of \$28 per ton of silver, gold, and lead ore (McFaul et al., 2000).

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

- Comet Mine
- CY Claims (28-33; 46-55; 66-75; 86-95; 108-115)
- E.C.Y. Claims (E.C.Y. No. 2)
- Golden Income Group (Golden Income No. 2; Accidental; Claims: Golden Income; April Fool No. 2)
- H. H. Claims (H.H. Nos. 1-12)
- Last Relief Mine
- Lulu and Rufus Claims
- Monon Claims (Monon Nos. 1-27)
- On Claims (On Nos. 8-17)
- Penny Bright No. 1; No. 2
- Ray Tunnel
- Seattle Claim
- Silver Dollar Claims (Silver Dollar No. 2)
- Tornado Mining Company Claims (Alva Adams; Black Hawk; Mohawk; Tuff Nut; Black Diamond; U.S.A.; Grey Eagle)
- Washington Gold Mining and Milling Company Claims (Morning Star; Bachelor; Silver Moon; Evening Star No. 2)

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

Alunite
Augite
Galena
Gold

Kaolinite
Muscovite var: Sericite
Pyrite
Pyrophyllite

Sphalerite
Zunyite

References:

Cappa, J.A. and Wallace, C.A. 2007. Geology and Mineral Resources of Saguache County, Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 44.

Dunn, Lisa. 2003. Colorado Mining Districts: A Reference. Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado.

Eberhart, Perry. 1969. *Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Fourth, revised edition. Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.

Henderson, C.W. 1926. Mining in Colorado, a history of discovery, development and production. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 138.

McFaul, E.J., Mason, G.T., Jr., Ferguson, W.B., and Lipin, B.R. 2000. U.S. Geological Survey mineral Databases-MRDS and MAS/MILS. U.S. Geological Survey Digital Data Series DDS-52, two discs.

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

www.mindat.org, accessed September 2015.