

Hinsdale County

Galena District (aka Henson Creek District)

The Galena District was one of the six districts into which the Colorado legislature divided Hinsdale County in 1893. (The others were the **Carson, Cimarron, Lake, Whitecross** and **Sherman Districts**.) The district occupies the Lake City, Uncompahgre Peak and Redcloud Peak quadrangles.

Henderson (1926) recognized the Galena District in his compilation for Colorado, and Vanderwilt (1947) placed it along Henson Creek, west of Lake City and considered the Henson Creek District an alternate name. He noted that all the productive mines were located near the creek.

The Galena District overlaps (or blends into) the major district to the east, known variously as the **Lake, Lake City**, and/or **Lake Fork District**. Mindat.org separates these into two districts. The seminal work on the area - Irving and Bancroft (1911) does not distinguish the different districts, but rather discusses mines in the vicinity of Lake City.

Further confusing the situation, the Galena/Henson Creek District is described by the name of the creek. Irving and Bancroft list the group of mines among the most famous and productive in the area (the Hidden Treasure, Ute and Ulay) among the "Henson Creek Mines" which implies Henson Creek (Galena) District; mindat.org lists these in the Lake City District, as does Dunn (Ibid). Vanderwilt (Ibid) places these mines in the Galena (Henson Creek) District also, and provides a structural distinction between the two districts, noting that a down-faulted block lies between Henson Creek and Lake Fork. We have chosen to make the distinction as mindat.org does, so that referencing the mines will be easier for the reader.

The geology and mineralization of the district is typical of the western San Juan Mountains. The district sits within the caldera fill on the northeast margin of the Lake City Caldera (Steven and Lipman, 1976; Wilson and Spanski, 2004). Units include Oligocene quartz latite and andesitic flows and breccias of significant lateral extent, plus more localized flows; the Bachelor Mountain and Carpenter Ridge tuffs, the Fish Canyon tuff, the La Garita tuff, the Henson and Burns formations, the Sapinero Mesa, Eureka and Dillion Mesa tuffs along with silicic lavas (Day et al., 1999). Generalized descriptions are also available in Sanford et al. (1987).

Mineralization was described generally by Vanderwilt (Ibid) as vein mineralization continuous with that of the Silverton area. Bove et al. (2000) distinguish 23 Ma precious metal-bearing barite veins and older base-metal veins. Irving (1905) and Irving and Bancroft (1911) provide a detailed descriptions of the rocks and mineralization.

The town of Henson was the main settlement in the district. It was the site of a major miners strike in 1899 centered on the Ute-Ulay and Hidden Treasure Mines (mines which we have placed in the Lake City District, further demonstrating the overlapping of the districts in this area). The Colorado governor sent six companies of troops to keep order and the strike was finally settled with the involvement of the Italian consul. (Eberhart, 1969).

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org; Irving and Bancroft) include:

- Ajax No. 2
- Bess
- Big Casino Mine (Big Casino No. 2 Mill Site; Big Casino No. 2; Patented Claims: Big Casino No. 2)¹
- California mine
- Capitol City Mine (Panhandle; Old Glory; Laddie Boy; Sunny Chief)¹
- Chord
- Copper Mountain
 - Big Horn prospect
 - John J. Crooke prospect
- Czar Mine (Broker; Czarina; Czar)¹
- Czarina Mine¹
- Dolly Varden Mine (Varden Belle Mine; Patented Claim: Dolly Varden)
- Eagle and Mary Alice Claims
- Excelsior Mine (Patented Claim: Excelsior)¹
- Frank Hough Mine (Hough Mine; Patented Claim: Frank Hough)
- Gallic - Vulcan Group (Weatherhorn)¹
- Golconda Mine
- Henderson Gold Mine¹
- Henson Creek-Ute Creek
- Highland Chief Mine (Wall Street Empire Chief Mine; Mathison)
- Hoosier Boy Mine (Unpatented Claims: Isabel R.; Little Joe; Red Bird; Patented Claim: Adelia; Blue Bird)
- Lellie Mine (Red Rover)¹
- Lilly Mine¹
- Mohawk
- Moro Mine (Moro Extension; Moro Tunnel Site; Ajax Limited; Moro-Ajax Mine; Moro Mill Site; Patented Claims: Moro Limited; Unpatented Claims: Ajax No. 2)¹
- Oro - Fino Tunnels
- Palmetto Mine (Chimney Corner)
- Pearl and Ruby Groups (Ruby; Patented Claim: Pearl)
- Pride of America Mine¹
- Silver Chord Mine (Patented Claim: Silver Chord)
- St Louis
- Treasure Hill Spar Claim (Patented Claims: Treasure Hill Spar)
- Vermont¹
- Woodstock Prospect
- Yellow Medicine Mine (Mountain Bell; Patented Claims: Yellow Medicine)¹

Note: ¹Detailed description of mine contained in Irving and Bancroft (1911).

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

Acanthite	Copper	Gypsum
Anglesite	'Copper Stain'	Hessite
'Apatite'	Covellite	Jarosite
Azurite	Emplectite	Kaolinite
Baryte	Enargite	'Limonite'
Bornite	Fluorapatite	Malachite
Calcite	Fluorite	Muscovite var: Sericite
Cerussite	Freibergite	'Obsidian'
Chalcocite	Galena	Opal
Chalcopyrite	var: Argentiferous Galena	Petzite
'Chlorite Group'	Gold	Pyrrargyrite

Pyrite
Quartz
var: Amethyst
var: Chalcedony
Rhodochrosite
'Ruby Silver Ore'

Silver
Smithsonite
Sphalerite
Stephanite
Stromeyerite
Sylvanite

Tennantite
Tetrahedrite
Uraninite
Uranophane
Wulfenite

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www.mindat.org, accessed September 2015.