

Gunnison County

Quartz Creek District (aka Quartz District)

The Quartz Creek District was recognized by Henderson (1926), who described the area as overlapping both the **Tin Cup** and the **Gold Brick Districts**. Vanderwilt (1947) describes the district as 1-4 miles northeast of Pitkin near the road to Tincup. Dunn (2003) provides a more specific location description: bounded on the north by the ridge between Fairview Peak and the Continental Divide, on the east by the main range, on the south by Quartz Creek and on the west by the divide between Armstrong Gulch and Ohio Creek. She notes it has also been called the **Quartz District**.

Vanderwilt (Ibid) describes the district as the southern extension of the mineralized district that includes the Tincup District. Geology is Proterozoic granite and schist in a wide faulted zone extending north to Aspen. Paleozoic sediments and Tertiary intrusives (quartz monzonite porphyry) characterize the area. Veins of silver, lead and gold and replacement deposits with argentiferous galena, tetrahedrite-tennantite in carbonate beds comprise the mineralization along with some molybdenum-bearing quartz veins. Hill (1909) described the mineralization in Armstrong Gulch north of Pitkin. Streufert (1999) describes in detail the Fairview Mine on the divide between Armstrong and Hall Gulches.

Heyl (1964) notes that smithsonite is a common constituent in oxidized ores in the Leadville Limestone in the Maid of Athens Mine. Dings and Robinson (1957) discuss a number of mines in the district, as noted on the list below. They also describe graphite production from Graphite Basin as occurring in the Quartz Creek District. Worcester (1919) discusses molybdenite occurrences in the "Quartz District."

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

- Ben Franklin¹
- Citizen¹
- Cleopatra
- Complex group¹
- Emma H¹
- Fairview
- Fluorspar Lode Occurrence¹
- Gold Hill Cumberland Pass
 - Bon Ton¹
 - Hubnerite Lode¹
 - Ida May mine¹
 - Mammoth mine¹
- Graphite Basin
- J. B. W. claim
- Lady Franklin¹
- Lamphere Lakes Occurrence
- Maid of Athens¹
- Molybdenite¹
- Morning Glory¹
- Morning Glory Lower Adit
- Nesbitt Mine
- North Quartz Creek Placer
- Occident Occurrence¹
- Pearson Property
- Pitkin
- Porcupine¹
- Red Jacket
- Robinson & Ferry; Eldorado Occurrence
- Silent Friend¹
- Silver Basin Shaft Occurrence
- Swiss Bell
- Terrible
- Tungsten Shaft
- Wolfram No. 2 Occurrence

Notes: ¹Specifically discussed in Dings and Robinson (1957).

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

Andradite	Cuprite	Powellite
Anglesite	Fluorite	Pyrite
'Apatite'	Galena	Quartz
Azurite	Gold	Samarskite-(Y)
Barite	Graphite	Scheelite
Bornite	Gypsum	Silver
Calcite	Hübnerite	Smithsonite
Cerussite	'Ilsemanite'	Sphalerite
Chalcocite	Kyanite	var: Marmatite
Chalcopyrite	'Limonite'	Spodumene
Chlorargyrite	Malachite	Tetrahedrite
Chrysocolla	Microlite Group	'Uvite'
Copper	Molybdenite	
'Copper Stain'	Molybdite	
Covellite	Montebrasite	

References:

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- Heyl, A.V. 1964. Oxidized Zinc Deposits of the United States - Part 3, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1135-C.
- Streufert, R.K. 1999. Geology and Mineral Resources of Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 37.
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