

Gunnison County

Spring Creek District (aka Spring Gulch District)

Henderson recognized the Spring Creek District in his 1926 compilation and placed it in sections 23-26 of T14S, R83W. Vanderwilt (1947) notes it occurs in a narrow canyon adjoining the Taylor River. Eberhart (1969) mentions Petersburg, the main town in the Spring Creek District. Streufert (1999) describes the area as being characterized by highly-faulted Paleozoic sedimentary rocks (most important of which are the carbonates) and Proterozoic granitic rocks. Mineralization is deeply-oxidized replacement deposits in the Mississippian Leadville limestone.

Heyl (1964) describes the Doctor Mine as the only significant mine in the district. The Doctor consisted of extensive underground workings, beginning in 1881. He estimated production (from records and personal communication with the owner) as 12,025,262 lb zinc from 1914 to 1920 and 1937 to 1938. Later sampling showed 0-10 oz/ton Ag, 0.5 to 6% Pb and 0 - 20% Zn. He reports that "large quantities of oxidized lead-zinc ore still exists in the district." The Doctor Mine is a well-known site for mineral collectors, particularly for smithsonite.

Eberhart (Ibid) briefly discusses Petersburg, the town that serviced the Spring Creek District. More detailed geologic information is available in a 1954 Colorado School of Mines thesis by Meissner.

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

- Barium - Maggie Mn.
- Beason Occurrence
- Big Deer; Winnebec; Scooper Occurrence
- Boiler Shaft
- Doctor
- Doctor Mine
- Jack Shaft
- Nash Shaft
- Nash Tunnel
- Old Shaft
- Springtime; Boston No. 4; Scooper; Commonwealth Occurrence
- Whip Shaft

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

Anglesite	Dolomite	<i>Massicot?</i>
Aurichalcite	Galena	Plumbojarosite
Azurite	Goethite	'Psilomelane'
Calcite	Hemimorphite	Pyrolusite
Cerussite	Jarosite	Quartz var: Jasper
Chalcocite	'Limonite'	Silver
'Clay'	Malachite	Smithsonite

References:

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Streufert, Randall K. 1999. Geology and Mineral Resources of Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 37.

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