

Fremont County

Cotopaxi District

The Cotopaxi District surrounds the iconic Cotopaxi Mine, near the Arkansas River outside the small town of Cotopaxi. Lindgren (1908) visited the mine site and noted that the Cotopaxi, while inactive at his visit, had been "a considerable shipper of copper ore." Activity resumed off and on in the years since, the most recent documented being drilling and experimental copper leaching in the late 1960s (Blake, 1969).

Heinrich (1981) and Salotti (1965) detailed the geology and rock types present. They are listed as biotite gneiss, nodular sillimanite gneiss, amphibolite and lime-silicate rocks. The mineral assemblage is typical of Precambrian deposits that have been interpreted as metamorphosed seafloor assemblages of sediments and volcanics, including volcanic exhalative ores (Sheridan and Raymond, 1984) characterized by the zinc spinel *gahnite*. In the Fremont-Chaffee County area, other similar deposits are found in the Turret, Cleora, Grape Creek, Currant Creek and Guffey Districts and, most notably, at the Sedalia Mine.

The ores consist predominantly of sphalerite with subordinate chalcopyrite, although numerous ore minerals occur (see minerals list below) (Salotti, 1964).

Cotopaxi District
Carson Mining Company Prospect
Coaldale Gypsum Quarry and Plant
Colorado Barry Quarry
Colorado Feldspar Pegmatite
Cotopaxi feldspar mine (Henry pegmatite)
Cotopaxi Mine (Cotopaxi Lode; Gumaer Mine; Fannie Lode; Fannie Mill)
Cotopaxi Prospect (Sand Gulch Prospect)
Howard Prospect
Indian Mountain
Iron Dollar Gulch Deposit

Knob Hill Occurrence
McCoy Prospects
Mine Gulch
Ogden Prospect
Pine Ridge pegmatite
Quarry (MRDS - 10239328)
Quarry (MRDS - 10263665)
Red Gulch
Sand Gulch Prospect No. 2
Schaaf Prospect
Sturbaum - Fister Mine
Texas Creek Stone Quarry
Unknown Feldspar Occurrence (MRDS - 10017722)
Unknown Marble - Dimension Occurrence (MRDS - 10018678)
Unnamed No. 2 Pegmatite Occurrence (MRDS - 10010898)
West McCoy Gulch Property
Zabresky pegmatite

Mineral list contains entries from the region specified including sub-localities (Mindat.org and MRDS)

Actinolite	Columbite	Kainosite-(Y)	Samarskite-(Y)
Albite	Copper	Kaolinite	'Scapolite'
var: Oligoclase	Cordierite	'K Feldspar'	Scheelite
'Albite-Anorthite Series'	Covellite	Leucoxene	Schorl
'Allanite'	Cuprite	Limonite	'Serpentine Group'
Allanite-(Ce)	Diopside	Linarite	Siderite
Almandine	Epidote	Magnetite	Sillimanite
Amesite	Euxenite-(Y)	Malachite	Silver
Anglesite	Fluorite	Marcasite	Sphalerite
Anorthite	Franklinite	Muscovite	Strengite

Calcite Chalcopyrite 'Chlorite Group' Chrysocolla Clinohumite Clinozoisite	Gypsum Hematite 'Hornblende' Ilmenite	Pyrite Pyrrhotite Quartz Rutile	Zircon var: Cyrtolite Zoisite var: Thulite
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References:

Blake, Norman R. (1969); A Summary of Mineral Industry Activities in Colorado, 1969; Colorado Bureau of Mines, Denver, CO.

Heinrich, E. W., 1981, Precambrian Tungsten and Copper-Zinc Skarn Deposits of South-Central Colorado; Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 21.

Lindgren, Waldemar, 1908, Notes on Copper Deposits in Chaffee, Fremont and Jefferson Counties, Colorado; in U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 340, pp. 157-175.

Mindat.org. accessed over a period of months, November 2012 - January 2013.

[Mineral Resources Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data – Cotopaxi District](#)

Mineral Resources Data System. accessed over a period of months, November 2012 - January 2013.

Salotti, Charles A., 1965, Mineralogy and Paragenesis of the Cotopaxi, Colorado, Copper-Zinc Skarn Deposit; American Mineralogist, v. 50, pp. 1179-1212.

Sheridan, Douglas M. and Raymond, William H., 1984, Precambrian Deposits of Zinc-Copper-Lead Sulfides and Zinc Spinel (Gahnite) in Colorado; U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1550.