

Chaffee County

Cottonwood Creek District

The Cottonwood Creek District in west-central Chaffee County is a small district that produced a small amount of gold in the past. Very little information is available about mines or deposits of the district. Henderson (1926) lists the "Cottonwood Creek" district as a placer gold district. Vanderwilt (1947) briefly noted the district was characterized by small veins of lead, silver and gold in Precambrian granite and schist. He had no recorded production. Heyl (1964) includes the "mines and prospects" of the Cottonwood Creek district on plate 1 in his discussion of oxidized zinc deposits. He quotes a personal communication with C.S. Robinson that oxidized lead and zinc ore are present on some dumps in the old district.

Heyl describes the district as characterized by schists intruded by Mount Princeton quartz monzonite. Structurally within the district lies a small syncline containing Paleozoic limestones and dolomites with bedded replacement deposits of silver-lead-zinc. He feels this area is worthy of further investigation since it shows favorable environment for bedded deposits by has never been explored in detail.

References:

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data - Cottonwood Creek Magnetite Deposit](#)

Henderson, Charles W., 1926, Mining in Colorado: A History of Discovery, Development and Production; U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 138.

Heyl, Allen V., 1964, Oxidized Zinc Deposits of the West; Part 3, Colorado; U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1135-C.

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