

Fremont County

Dawson District

The Dawson District lies in the lower reaches of Grape Creek, about five miles southwest of Canon City. The town of Dawson City sprung up in 1898 and lasted only several months. The discovery of a rich lode that became the Copper King Mine. That discovery precipitated a rush of claim-staking that culminated in a population of 500 people in tents and makeshift cabins in the area. It was soon recognized that the discovery was apparently minor and the rush died (Eberhart, 1959).

The Copper King contained copper, gold and silver in a stratabound deposit in metamorphic rocks. In the 1980s, considerable exploration efforts were expended in the Dawson District. The investigations defined stratiform gold-bearing zones with overlying massive sulfides. The interpretation is a metamorphosed polymetallic deposit originating as a submarine volcanic exhalative system (Sunshine Mining files, Colorado Geological Survey). The gold and sulfide zones have been traced over a strike length of several miles in a northeast-southwest direction, probably contiguous with similar zones in the Greenhorn and Grape Creek Districts to the southwest. Massive sulfide horizons are stretched and distorted, ranging in thickness from a few inches to twenty feet. Sulfides are dominantly pyrite with chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, sphalerite and galena, occurring in a matrix of chlorite-biotite or, locally, quartz-anthophyllite.

References:

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data - Dawson Gold Project](#)

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data - Dawson Mountain-Surprise Group](#)

Eberhart, Perry, 1959, Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps; Swallow Press, Athens OH.

Sunshine Mining Company files; archived at Colorado Geological Survey, Denver, CO.