

Fremont County

Eight Mile Park District

The Eight Mile Park District is a classic pegmatite district covering about ten square miles adjoining the Royal Gorge west of Canon City. Mining began as early as 1900 and continued sporadically through the 1960s (Martin, 1993; Colorado Bureau of Mines annual reports.) Precambrian rocks in the area are granites, schists and gneisses. These are intruded by dikes of pegmatite, aplite and basalt. The larger pegmatites occur north of the Arkansas River. They can be as large as 1000 feet long and 650 feet wide. South of the river, the bodies are much smaller.

The pegmatites were mined mostly for feldspar and quartz, but beryl, columbite-tantalite and some other commodities were produced. Activity as recent as the 1960s saw quartz, beryl and mica at the Devils Hole Mine, quartz at the Zingheim Mine and mica at the Mica Lode (Colorado Dept of Mines annual reports). Several of the mines are specifically discussed in Baillie (1962) and Sharpes (1962).

The Mica Lode was the largest producer of feldspar in Colorado and one of the largest producers of beryl and mica. Hanley, et al (1950) describe mica blades up to ten feet long at that mine. According to their investigation, the mine produced 169,000 tons of feldspar, 34,700 tons of scrap mica, 57 tons of beryl and 615 pounds of columbite-tantalite.

The Meyers Quarry, on the other hand, contains almost no beryl, but rather pods of cleavelandite and lepidolite. It is principally a microcline-muscovite pegmatite (Hanley, 1950). Hanley, et al, also described the School Section Pegmatite as containing quartz-microcline-muscovite-biotite-black tourmaline-apatite-beryl-garnet-thorite-triplite-bismutite. Additional entries for uncommon minerals are listed below from Mindat.org.

Eight Mile Park pegmatite District (Meeves, et al, 1966)
 Border Feldspar Prospect No. 1 and No. 2
 Colfelco No. 12 Pegmatite Occurrence
 Consolidated Feldspar Corporation Mine (Feldspar Corporation Mine)
 Dell Prospect (C. B. Dell Prospect)
 Devil's Hole
 Eight Mile Park
 Hoyt Adkins Ranch Anomaly 3 Occurrence
 Lorain Pegmatite
 Magnussen Crosscut
 McMullin Lease No. 2 Occurrence

Meyers - McMullin Pegmatite Occurrence
 Meyers quarry (Meyers Quarry; Meyers-Halstead Quarry; Suzana Claims; Suzanna Claims; Royal Gorge No. 2)
 Mica Lode mine (Mica Hill Mine)
 R. H. Magnuson Mine (Magnusson Crosscut)
 Rim Pegmatite Occurrence (Rim Prospect)
 School Section mine (Shipleigh Cut; Meyers Cut)
 Suzanna Mine
 Twin Mountain
 Bumback Gulch
 Van Buskirk mine
 Zingheim Deposit

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

Actinolite	Chalcocite	Magnetite	Schumacherite
Albite	'Chlorite Group'	Malachite	Silver
var: Cleavelandite	Chrysocolla	Meta-autunite	Spessartine
var: Oligoclase-Albite	Columbite	Microcline	Tantalite
'Albite-Anorthite Series'	Columbite-(Mn)	Microlite Group	Thorite
'Allanite'	Cordierite	Monazite-(Ce)	Torbernite
Almandine	Covellite	Montebrasite	'Tourmaline'
Amblygonite	Djurleite	Muscovite	'var: Rubellite'
Andradite	Elbaite	var: Sericite	'var: Watermelon Tourmaline'
'Apatite'	Fluorapatite	Namibite	Triplite
Autunite	Gahnite	Natromontebrasite	Upalite
Azurite	'Garnet'	Parsonsite	Uraninite
Beryl	Goethite	'Psilomelane'	Uranpyrochlore
Beyerite	Goyazite	Pyrolusite	
Biotite	Hematite	Quartz	
Bismutite	'Hornblende'	var: Rose Quartz	
Calcite	'K Feldspar'	Samarskite-(Y)	
Cerussite	Lepidolite	Schorl	

References:

Baillie, William N., 1962, Feldspar Occurrences in Colorado; Colorado School of Mines Mineral Industries Bulletin, Vol, 52, No. 4.

Hanley, J.B., Heinrich, E.W., and Page, L.R., 1950, Pegmatite Investigations in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah; U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 227.

Martin, Clay M., 1993, Reconnaissance Investigations of Selected Columbium and Tantalum Occurrences in Colorado; U.S. Bureau of Mines Open File Report 17-93.

Meeves, Henry C., Harrer, Clarence M., Salsbury, Melford H., Konselman, Albert S., Shannon, Spencer S. Jr., 1966, Reconnaissance of Beryllium-Bearing Pegmatite Deposits in Six Western States: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming; U.S. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 8298.

Mindat.org; accessed 8 Nov 2012.

Sharps, Thomas I., 1962, Colorado Mica; Colorado School of Mines Mineral Industries Bulletin, Vol. 5 #1.