

# Larimer County

## Empire District

The Empire District is also known as the Howe's Gulch District. The district lies near the Horsetooth Reservoir southwest of the town of Bellevue. According to the Mineral Resource Data System (MRDS), activity in the district started in about 1873 and was sporadic. Very little ore was produced. Claims were patented in the time period from 1889 to 1900, the main one being the Empire Claim.

Vanderwilt attributes the mineralization to poorly-defined veins with cupriferous pyrite, along with chalcopyrite and some gold in Precambrian granitic schist. The geologic map of the area (Braddock, 1989) shows various metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks in the sequence.

Claims and mines in the district included the following (MRDS):

**Snow Drift, MS 13435;**

**Bonita;**

**Copper District;**

**Claims: Empire, MS 5721;**

**Eli 1-3, MS 13435;**

**Grand View, MS 13435;**

**Mona, MS 13435;**

**Pilot, MS 13452;**

**Columbia, MS 13452;**

**Copper Blossom, MS 13452;**

**Unpatented Claims: Little Empire; Copper Boy 1-2; Copper King; Savannah; Elk; London; Maria; Merry Christmas; Moose.**

## References:

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data - Empire \(Howes Gulch\)](#)

Braddock, William A.; Calvert, Ronald H.; O'Connor, Joseph T., Swann, Gordon A., 1989, Geologic Map of the Horsetooth Reservoir Quadrangle, Larimer County, Colorado; U.S. Geological Survey GQ 1625.

Dunn, Lisa, 2003, Colorado Mining Districts: A Reference; Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO.

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