

Fremont County

Guffey-Micanite District

The Guffey-Micanite Districts overlap in the area around Highway 9 in southern Park and northern Fremont Counties. In his discussion of Park County districts, Scarborough (2001) points out that the Guffey District (also known as the Freshwater District) contains lode deposits of nine different types. This diversity of mineralization, the nomenclature in this area and the overlapping of the historic Guffey and Micanite Districts along with the existence of several other district names (such as Fourmile in Scarborough), creates potential confusion. In this report, we attempt to simplify that. The Micanite District will be used to refer to pegmatite deposits. The Guffey will be used to refer to all the other deposits.

In the Guffey District, the deposit types that Scarborough lists are tungsten and copper-zinc skarns, vein deposits in Proterozoic crystalline rocks, stratiform deposits in metasedimentary sequences, stratabound uranium-vanadium deposits and volcanic-hosted pumice and manganese deposits.

According to Eberhart (1959), the town of Guffey has also been known as Freshwater and Idaville. It reached its peak in 1895, so it is assumed that was also the height of mining activity in the area.

The Isabel Mine is a copper-zinc skarn deposit with sphalerite, galena, chalcopyrite in a recrystallized amphibolite. The gangue includes quartz, actinolite, zoisite, garnet, and some gahnite and pyrite. This assemblage demonstrates its affinity for the metamorphosed Precambrian exhalites, as are found in the Sedalia and Cotopaxi mines and others. Described by Heinrich (1981), the Isabel could probably be considered in the Currant Creek or Grape Creek Districts. For this report, it is included in the Guffey.

The Micanite District gets its name from the old Micanite post office two miles south of the Park County line. The pegmatites have been reviewed by a number of authors. Sterrett (1923) pointed out that the pegmatites are intruded into Precambrian gneisses and schists. Characterized by pink orthoclase, white albite, the pegmatites carry large beryl and apatite crystals in some locations along with "50-pound blocks of mica." He describes a number of the deposits in detail.

Baillie (1962) describes a number of the mines, as does Sharps (1962). They determine that only small reserves of mica and feldspar remain. Heinrich and Bever (1957) also describe individual pegmatite bodies. They singled out the Baumer Pegmatite (in Park County) for its radioactive minerals euxenite, monazite and allanite, along with radio active ilmenite. (They determined that the ilmenite contains radioactive inclusions - probably euxenite and monazite.) Notable occurrences of sillimanite are listed at Meyers Ranch, the Betty Mine, Dicks Creek, the Whopper Pegmatite, with kyanite at the Dicks Creek location.

Mines of the Guffey-Micanite District, Fremont and Park Counties (Mindat.org)

Micanite District - Fremont County:

- Lower South Mine
- Rosemont Mine
- Rowe's Number 2 Mine
- Rowe's North Mine
- Rowe's South Prospect
- Tickon Prospect
- Upper South Mine
- Whopper Mine and Prospect

Micanite District - Park County:

- Beryllium Lode Prospect
- Caylor
- Colorado Feldspar Company Mine

East-West Pegmatite Occurrence
 Famous Lode Mica Prospect (includes Little Joe From Kokomo)
 Rose Dawn Mine/North Mine
 Star Girl Mine
 Climax Mine (Mine No. 8; Climax Mica Mine)
 Lower South Mine (? Whisper Mine?)
 Meyers Ranch
 Rosemont Ridge (East Mine)
 Rowe's No. 2 Mine
 Rowe's North Mine
 Rowe's Prospects

Guffey District - Fremont County:

Charlene Mine
 Four
 Venture No. 1
 Isabel Mine

Guffey District - Park County:

Annie Laurie Mine
 Badger Mountain
 Bessie Mine
 Betty Mine (Lone Chimney, Betty Lowe)
 Black Diamond Mine
 Carbonate King Mine
 Charity Mine
 Chumway Park occurrence
 Copper King Mine (Copper Queen Mine)
 Cover Mountain
 Crescent Mine
 Goermer Lease
 West Occurrence
 Hass 1-12 Prospects
 Isabell Mine
 Johnson Ranch Prospect
 Lues gulch
 Marble Grace Mine
 Margaritte Mine
 Mill Gulch Mine
 Nash Ranch Prospect
 School Section Prospect (B&G Claim)
 Skinney Claim (Lues Gulch Prospect)
 Townsend Ranch Prospect
 West Ranch Deposit (West Deposit)
 Wilcher Mountain
 Willow Claims (Bell Property)

Mineral list contains entries from the region specified including sub-localities

Albite	Covellite	'Pinite'
'Albite-Anorthite Series'	Euxenite-(Y)	Pyrite
'Amphibole Group'	Fluorapatite	Quartz
'Apatite'	'Garnet'	Sillimanite
Beryl	Hematite	Sphalerite
Biotite	'Hornblende'	Spinel
Bismutite	Magnetite	Tourmaline

Bornite	Malachite	Triplite
Calcite	Microcline	Vesuvianite
'Chlorite Group'	'Monazite'	Zircon
Cordierite	Muscovite	Zoisite

References:

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

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

Hanley, J.B., Heinrich, E.W., and Page, L.R., 1950, Pegmatite investigations in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, 1942-1944: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 227.

Heinrich, E. William and Bever, James E., 1957, Selected Studies of Colorado Pegmatites and Sillimanite Deposits; Colorado School of Mines Quarterly, V. 52, No. 4.

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

Scarborough, L. Alex, 2001, Geology and Mineral Resources of Park County, Colorado; Colorado Geological Survey Resource Series 40.

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

Sterret, Douglas B., 1923, Mica Deposits of the United States; U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 740.