

Boulder County

Left Hand Creek Pegmatite District

The Left Hand Creek pegmatites occur in central Boulder County in the vicinity of Left Hand Creek, overlapping with the Gold Hill and Ward Districts. They are related to the Precambrian granites - the Boulder Creek and the Silver Plume Granites - occurring in the schists of the Idaho Springs Formation marginal to the granitic bodies (Galbraith, 1960.)

Zoning is not common and not well developed, although some of the weak zoning reveals beryl in the pegmatite cores. The dominant mineralogy consists of quartz, potassium feldspar and plagioclase; major accessories are beryl and muscovite; minor accessories include garnet, columbite, tourmaline, biotite and cleavelandite (Galbraith, 1960). Minerals of some economic interest are beryl, feldspar and scrap mica. Martin (1993) reports slightly anomalous tantalum and niobium in the district pegmatites.

The Beryl Lode Mine was the most extensive, producing small amounts of beryl and mica during the World War I period (Martin, 1993) but was determined by Baillie (1962) and Sharps (1962) to contain only small reserves of mica and feldspar. The New Girl Mine produced feldspar and mica in 1928 and 1945 (Galbraith, 1960) and also was determined to have little in the way of reserves (Baillie, 1962; Sharps, 1962). Other mines and prospects include the Elkhorn, the Cal-Wood and the Highline.

References:

[Mineral Resource Data System \(MRDS\) - Online Spatial Data – Left Hand Creek District](#)

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

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