

Custer County

Oak Creek District

The Oak Creek District lies, appropriately, along Oak Creek in northern Custer County, twelve miles northeast of Silver Cliff, on the slopes of the Wet Mountains. The mineralization was discovered in 1879 (Hunter, 1914). It has also been called the Ilse and the Spaulding District, for the nearby town known by both those names. The geology of the area is complex, with alaskite, quartz syenite, mafic syenite, charnockite, quartz-plagioclase gneiss, diabase, and other small igneous and metamorphic bodies (Brock and Singewald, 1968).

The mineralization of the District consists is the lead carbonate cerussite (PbCO_3). The cerussite occurs within fault zones in the District. The most significant production was from the Terrible Mine, with lesser production from the Wild Girl and High Kicker Mines. The deposits are characterized by significant alteration in the fault zones. Iron oxides, chert and chaledony and calcite are common. Cerussite is the only ore mineral of any significance (Hunter, 1914).

References:

Brock, M.R. and Singewald, Q.D., 1968, Geologic Map of the Mount Tyndall Quadrangle, Custer County, Colorado; U.S. Geological Survey Map GQ 596.

Hunter, J.F., 1914, Some Cerussite Deposits in Custer County Colorado; U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 580.

Vanderwilt, J.W., 1947, Mineral resources of Colorado. Denver CO: Colorado Mineral Resources Board.