Chaffee County

Red Mountain District

The Red Mountain District was of minor significance in the history of Colorado mining and in production. Henderson (1926) shows the locations of some unnamed lode mines in the Red Mountain District, although he may have included them in the Twin Lakes District. Later, Vanderwilt (1947) combines the Red Mountain and Twin Lakes Districts. Writing of that combined district, he notes small gold veins in altered rhyolite and diorite and in Precambrian schist. Only a few tons of ore yielding one ounce of gold and 1 1/2 ounces of silver per ton.

The District as outlined here extends from Twin Lakes in Lake County, along Lake Creek to (and across) the continental divide. It includes Sayres, Peekaboo and McNasser Gulches, Red Mountain (including East Red, West Red, and Middle Mountain of Cruson, 1972). Most of the district lies within the Grizzly Creek Caldera which in turn is included within the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area.

The first mining in the area was probably in the 1860s. The Enterprise Mine produced in the 1920s and 1930s, the Eureka Mines as recently as the 1940s (Cruson, 1973). The Colorado Bureau of Mines (1969) reports summer season production at the Stewart Mine as recently as 1969 (CBOM, 1969). Cruson (1973) reported that exploration studies were conducted in the 1960s by AMAX, Union Carbide, Union Pacific and Bear Creek Mining Company. Bastin (1987) includes a table of known mines and activity and notes that Amoco Minerals conducted exploration (including drilling) for gold in the Peekaboo Gulch and Middle Mountain areas.

The geology of the Red Mountain District consists mainly of rocks of the aforementioned Grizzly Peak Caldera complex, including ash flow tuffs of andesite to rhyolite composition, latite tuff and breccias of several types. Fridrich and Mahood (1984) recognized a resurgent dome in the complex.

Mineralization occurs in a variety of environments (from Cruson, 1973, and Bastin, 1987). Veins are common, with sphalerite, chalcopyrite, galena (with exsolved altaite). Stockworks are reported at both East Red Mountain and West Red Mountain. Mineralized breccias are also found in the district. Details of each type and locations can be found in those two references.

Minerals reported from the Red Mountain District include:

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

Altaite	Ore
Arsenopyrite	Ore
Chalcopyrite	Ore
Galena	Ore
Gold	Ore
Pyrite	Ore
Pyrrhotite	Ore
Sphalerite	Ore
Calcite	Gangue
Quartz	Gangue

Named mines in the Red Mountain District include the following:

Stewart
Enterprise (Gunnison County)
Bwlchgoch (yes, that spelling is correct)

References:

Mineral Resource Data System (MRDS) - Online Spatial Data – Red Mountain District

Bastin, G. David, 1987, Mineral Resources of the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area, Chaffee, Gunnison, Lake and Pitkin Counties, Colorado; U.S. Bureau of Mines Open File Report MLA 45-87.

Colorado Bureau of Mines 1969, Summary of Mineral Industry Activities in Colorado; Denver CO.

Cruson, M. G., 1973, Geology and ore deposits of the Grizzly Peak Cauldron complex, Sawatch Range, Colorado; Colorado School of Mines unpublished PhD dissertation.

Fridrich, C.J. and Mahood, G.A., 1984, Reverese zoning in the resurgent intrusions of the Grizzly Peak Cauldron, Sawatch Range, Colorado; Geological Society of America bulletin, vol. 95, pp. 779-787.

Henderson, Charles W., 1926, Mining In Colorado: A History of Discovery, Development and Production; U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 138.

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