

Gilpin County

Central City and Idaho Springs Districts

The Central City and Idaho Springs Districts are geologically the northern end of a continuous belt of mineralization extending from the Rollinsville Placers to Idaho Springs on the south. It is commonly considered to contain the following smaller districts: Bay State, Central City, Enterprise, Eureka, Gregory, Nevada, Pleasant Valley, Quartz Hill, and Russell Gulch.

After the early discovery of gold in Clear Creek County, placer districts were developed in the Central City District in Nevada and Illinois Gulches. Lode deposits were shortly discovered but lasted only as long as the oxidized ore. Sulfide ores made accessible by the construction of the Blackhawk smelter in 1868, which treated unoxidized ores from all the nearby districts. Koschmann and Bergendahl (1968) quote a number of 4,200,000 ounces produced through 1959 in the district, including 30,000 ounces from placer deposits.

The geology was described by Moench et al. (1962) and Lovering and Goddard (1950). Precambrian gneisses and schists of the Idaho Springs Formation are injected with granodiorite also of Precambrian age. Later Tertiary porphyry intrusions of a range of compositions appear to have introduced the mineralization. Sims (1956) recognized four types of veins - pyrite-quartz; quartz-pyrite-chalcopryrite, tennantite (with some galena and sphalerite); pyritic lead-zinc veins of quartz, pyrite, galena, sphalerite with minor chalcopryrite and tennantite; and lead-zinc veins of quartz, galena, sphalerite, carbonate, and minor chalcopryrite, tennantite, and pyrite. Gold is present both in sulfides and as small native particles.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

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- [Ada Group of Mines](#)
- [Amazon](#)
- [American Flag Mine](#)
- [American Girl](#)
- [Anchor Occurrence](#)
- [Ashtabula](#)
- [Aurora](#)
- [Ayres Shaft](#)
- [Bangur Shaft](#)
- [Banta Hill Mine](#)
- [Barnes](#)
- [Beecher](#)
- [Bellman \(White Metal Group\)](#)
- [Belmont](#)
- [Bezant](#)
- [Big Six](#)
- [Blackhawk Placer \(Black Hawk Lode No. 2 Claim\)](#)
- [Bonanza](#)
- [Boodle Mine](#)
- [Boss Mine](#)
- [Bow Ton](#)
- [Briggs Mine](#)
- [Brookfield](#)
- [Brooklyn](#)
- [Buckley mine](#)
- [Bullion](#)
- [Burlington - Iowa Group](#)
- [Burroughs](#)
- [Calhoun - Wood \(Jefferson\)](#)
 - [West Calhoun Mine](#)
- [California \(Gardener; Hidden Treasure\)](#)

- Camp Grove
- Carr Mine
- Carrol Mine
- Casto
- Center Tunnel
- Chase
- Chemung - Belmont
- Cherub Lode
- Chihuahua Tungsten Mine
- Cincinnati mine
- Claire Marie Mine
- Clay County Mine
- Clifton Lode
- Climax
- Clinkenbeard
- Coeur D'Alene
- Coeur d'Alene Mine
- Colfax Mine
- Congress Lode
- Cook
- Corydon
- Couch
- Crawford Shaft
- Cuckoo Shaft
- Curtis Lode
- Cyclops Mine
- Delmonico - Alps
- Denango County
- Diamond Joe
- Diamond Lil Tunnel (Vanderbilt)
- Dolores Occurrence
- Downie
- Druid Mine (Druid Mine)
- Dyke
- E & H Jelly Roll Mine
- East Calhoun Mine
- East Pewabic
- East Williams
- Edith; Mollie; Claudia Lodes
- Egyptian
- Eldorado
- English America Lode
- Essex
- F F F Mine
- Fannie Mine
- Federal
- Fisk
- Forfar Mine
- Forks Mine
- Fourmile Gulch; Baltimore Occurrence
- Francis
- Freedom
- Freiburg Mine
- Frontenac Mine
- Gallup
- Gasten Mine
- Gem Vein
 - Argo lateral
- Gladstone
- Gold Bug
- Gold Cup
- Gold Medal
- Golden Opportunity
- Gray Eagle Claim
- Grinnell Mine
- Hard Money mine
- Harker Shaft
- Hazeline
- Hidee Mine
- Hill; Bunkhouse Occurrence
- Hillhouse (Columbus)
- Hope
- Hubert (Prize)
- Huckleberry
- Hunter
- Illinois
- Illinois Gulch Area Occurrence
- Incidental
- Indiana
- J. P. Whitney Mine
- Jasper Cut Area
- Jones Mine
- Justice
- Kansas
- Kent County and Rolls County
- Keystone
- King Mine
- Kokomo Mine

- La Cross
- Leavitt Mine
- Linda No. 1 & No. 2
- Little Annie
- Little Eola
- Little Rebel
- Lost Lode
- Lotus
- Macky Burroughs Shaft
- Main
- Mammoth Mine
- Mary Miller
- Mattie May
- McAllister
- McKay Mine
- Meeker
- Minnesota
- Missori
- Moose Mine
- Moscow; Essling
- Mountain House
 - Atlantic - No. 691
- Narragansett Mine
- Nation
- Nemeha - Cotton
- Nevada Gulch Placer
- Newhouse
- Newkirk
- Ninety-One
- OK Mine
- Old Town Shaft
- Ontario
- Ophir Mine
- Orandake
- Otte
- Patch Mine (Glory Hole Mine)
- Paxter
- Pease
- Perseverance
- Pewabic Occurrence
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh (Notaway East; Notaway Shaft; Notaway West)
- Pleasant View Mine
- Pocahontas (Rotechield; Gold Rock; Springdale; Denbeigh vein)
- Polk county mine
- Powets mine
- Powhatan tunnel
- Pozo
- Pricilla Group Claim (Pricilla; Dorothy & Sunshine; Pricillia; Dorothy & Sunshine)
- Prize Mine
- Prompt Pay Mine
- Pyrenees mine
- Quartz Hill
 - East Flack Mine
 - Flack Mine
 - German and Belcher
 - Kirk Mine
 - Mercer County Mine
 - West Flack Mine
 - Willis Gulch
 - Powers Mine
 - Wood Mine (E. Calhoun)
- Quartz Hill Tunnel
- Queen (Spread Eagle)
- Queen Bee Mine
- R. H. D. Mine (St. Anthony mine)
- R. P. Ranney
- Rara Avis
- Reider Mine
- Rhoderick
- Richardson
- Rickards Mine
- Rio Dolores Mine
- Robert Emmett
- Root Ranch
- Royal Keith Lode
- Russell
- San Juan
- Sans Souci
- Santa Fe
- Sap Mine
- Saratoga Mine
- Scandia
- Seaton

- Shafer
- Silver Age
- Sixteen-To-One
- Specie Payment
- Strayer Corner Occurrence
- Summit Occurrence
- Taylor-Leavenworth Mine
- Telegraph Mine
- Topeka Mine
- Toronto Mine
- Treasure Key Tunnel Williams Vein Occurrence

- Tucker No. 1
- Two Forty Group
- Ute Gold Properties
- Virginia Canyon
 - Crystal Mine
- Wain Mine
- War Dance
- Waterloo Mine
- Wautauga Shaft
- Whiting
- Wolverine
- Wyandotte

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

Acanthite	Dumontite	Molybdenite
Allophane	Enargite	Molybdite
Almandine	Epsomite	'Monazite'
Aluminocopiapite	'Feldspar Group'	Montmorillonite
Anglesite	Fluorite	Muscovite
'Apatite'	Franklinite	var: Illite
Arsenopyrite	Gahnite	var: Sericite
Aurichalcite	Galena	<i>Natrozippeite ?</i>
Autunite	Gold	Pearceite
Azurite	Goslarite	Petzite
Baryte	Greenockite	Polybasite
'Biotite'	Gypsum	Proustite
Bismuth	Hawleyite	Pyrrargyrite
Bismuthinite	Hematite	Pyrite
Bornite	Hercynite	Pyrrhotite
Calcite	'Högbomite'	Quartz
Cerussite	'Hornblende'	var: Chalcedony
Chalcanthite	Jarosite	var: Rose Quartz
Chalcocite	Johannite	Rhodochrosite
Chalcopyrite	Kaolinite	'Ruby Silver Ore'
Chalcostibite	Kasolite	Siderite
'Chert'	'Limonite'	Sillimanite
Chlorargyrite	Magnetite	Silver
Copiapite	Malachite	Smithsonite
Copper	Marcasite	Sphalerite
'Copper Stain'	Melanterite	Sulphur
Coquimbite	Meta-autunite	Svanbergite
Cordierite	Metatorbernite	Sylvanite
Covellite	Minium	Tennantite

'Tennantite-Tetrahedrite
Series'
Tenorite
Tetrahedrite
Torbernite

Uraninite var: Pitchblende
'Wad'
Willemite
'Wolframite'
Xenotime-(Y)

'Zincobotryogen'
Zippeite
Zircon

References:

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Lovering, T.S. and Goddard, E.N. 1950. Geology and Ore Deposits of the Front Range, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 223.

Moench, R.H., Harrison, J.E., and Sims, P.K. 1962. Precambrian Folding in the Idaho Springs-Central City Area, Front Range, Colorado. Geological Society of American Bulletin, Vol. 73, pp. 35-58.

Sims, P.K. 1956. Paragenesis and structure of pitchblende-bearing veins, Central City district, Gilpin County, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Trace Elements Investigations 433.

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