

Summit County

West Argentine District (aka Argentine District; aka Peru District)

The West Argentine District (a.k.a. Peru-Argentine District) crosses the Continental Divide from northeast Summit County into adjacent Clear Creek. Vanderwilt (1947) considers the Peru District of Summit County to be synonymous with the **Montezuma District** (refer to the Argentine District in Clear Creek County for further information). The West Argentine District is considered by Lovering and Goddard (1950) as that part of the Argentine District west of the Continental Divide.

Lovering and Goddard (Ibid) describe the district as a narrow belt (less than a mile in width) trending south-southwest from the Divide into Summit County. They account Pennsylvania, Delaware, Peruvian, Santiago, and Independence veins as making up the bulk of the district's output. Lead, silver, and gold were the principle constituents of the ores, but there was some zinc and copper.

The geology is characterized by Silver Plume Granite and Tertiary quartz monzonite, rhyolite, and dacite intrusions in the Idaho Springs Formation. Gold occurs in polymetallic veins of sphalerite-galena-pyrite-chalcopyrite + silver minerals (Lovering & Goddard, Ibid).

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org; Lovering and Goddard, 1950) include:

- Baker Mine
- Congress; Rothschild; Pennsylvania (Minerou Tunnel)
- Double Header Lode
- Josephine Mine
- Peru Creek Area
 - Allen - Emory Mine
 - Allen Emory
 - Anderson Tunnel
 - Buda
 - Buena Vista Mine
 - Callo Mine & Tunnel
 - Decatur Mines
 - Hidden Treasure Group
 - Louisiana Lode
 - Minikus; Olson and Associates Site Claim
 - National Treasury Mine
- Orphan Boy
- Paymaster; Peruvian; Shoe Basin Tunnel
- Quail Mine
- Revenue; Brittle Silver; Delaware (Baltic and Revenue)
- Rose Mine
- Ruby Mountain
- Sarisfield
- Silver Spoon Mine
- Vidler Tunnels West; Queen of the West
- Whale Lode (Alhambra Mill Site; Silver Falls Lode; T-Boy Tunnel Site)
- Winning Card; American Eagle (Eliza Jane)
- Stephens Mine

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

Acanthite
Alabandite

Ankerite
Azurite

Baryte
Beudantite

'Biotite'	Galena	Rhodochrosite
Calcite	var: Argentiferous Galena	Sillimanite
Cerussite	Gold	Silver
Chalcanthite	Jalpaite	Sphalerite
Chalcopyrite	'Limonite'	Stephanite
Chlorargyrite	Malachite	Stromeyerite
Copper	Matildite	Sulphur
Covellite	Muscovite var: Sericite	Tetrahedrite
Fluorite	Pyrite	'Wad'
Freibergite	Quartz	'Wolframite'

References:

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

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

www.mindat.org, accessed July 2015.