

Eagle County

Battle Mountain District (aka Gilman District, aka Red Cliff District, aka Belden District)

The Battle Mountain District has been referred to as the Gilman District, the Red Cliff District and the Belden District. The ore deposits there are classic examples of replacement-type deposits.

On the northeast flank of the Sawatch Range in southeastern Eagle County, rich lead-silver ore was discovered in 1879 as prospectors spilled over the pass from nearby Leadville. Some \$8 million of silver, gold and lead ore had been recovered from oxidized ore by 1900 (Tweto and Lovering, 1947). Below the oxidized zone, sulfide ore was discovered that was mainly zinc ore. The mines were eventually consolidated into one major operation that was a primary producer of zinc for many years.

Several types of ore deposits are found in the complex. Veins in Precambrian rocks contain pyritic gold and complex sulfide ores. Small veins in the Sawatch quartzite contain gold and silver telluride ores. Replacement deposits of pyritic gold and auriferous sideritic sulfide bodies and mantos (called also a blanket deposit) occur along bedding planes in quartzite. Chimneys of pyritic silver-copper ore occur in limestone and zinc sulfide ores are found as mantos in limestone. Although zinc was the main product in later years, enough gold was still recovered to cover the mining expenses.

Several towns grew up in this thriving area (Eberhart, 1979). The town of Gilman was founded in 1886 and Redcliff developed during the early boom times. Belden was described as the miners' answer to Indian cliff dwellings with cabins high up and on the tops of cliffs with mining along the cliff walls. Cleveland also developed between Gilman and Redcliff.

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

- Battle Mountain
 - Ground Hog Mine
- Eagle Occurrence
- Foster Combination Mine
- Gilman
 - Alpine Mine
 - Belden Mine
 - Ben Butler Mine
 - Black Iron Mine (Eagle No. 2 Mine; Iron Mask)
 - Bleak House Mine
 - Body Mine
 - Champion Mine
 - Eagle Mine (New Jersey Zinc Eagle Mine; Gilman Mine; Wilkesbarre shaft; Newhouse tunnel; Little Chief Mine; Iron Mask Mine; Belden Mine; Black Iron Mine)
 - Evening Star Mine
 - F. C. Garbutt Mine
 - Fourth of July Mine
 - Spirit Mine
 - Star of the West Mine
 - Tip Top Mine
- Golden Wedge
- Homestake Creek
- Homestake Creek (2)
- Homestake Creek (3)
- Hornsilver Mine
- Iron Dyke
- Liberty Mine
- Mabel Mine
- New Jersey Zinc Pit
- Ovee - Silurian Mine
- Pando porphyry sill

- Percy Chester Mine
- Pine Martin Mine

- Wyoming Mine

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org; Warren & Peterson, 2003) include:

Acanthite	Fibroferrite	Proustite
'Alaskaite'	Fluorapatite	'Psilomelane'
Albite var: Andesine	Freibergite	Pyrrargyrite
Allophane	Freieslebenite	Pyrite
Alunite	Galena	Pyrolusite
Anglesite	var: Argentiferous Galena	Pyrrhotite
Ankerite	Goethite	Quartz var: Amethyst
Arsenopyrite	Gold var: Electrum	Rhodochrosite
Barite	Goslarite	Römerite
'Beegerite'	Gunningite	'Schalenblende'
'Biotite'	Gypsum	Siderite
Bornite	Halotrichite	Sillimanite
Bournonite	Hematite	Silver
Braunite	Hemimorphite	Smithsonite
Calcite	Hessite	Sphalerite
Cerussite	Hydroxylapatite	var: Marmatite
Chalcanthite	Hydrozincite	Stephanite
Chalcocite	Jarosite	Stibnite
Chalcopyrite	Kaolinite	Stromeyerite
Chlorargyrite	Ktenasite	Sulphur
Copiapite	Kutnohorite	Sylvanite
Copper	'Limonite'	Szomolnokite
Coquimbite	Magnetite	Tennantite
Covellite	Marcasite	Tetradymite
Dickite	Matildite	Tetrahdrite
Digenite	Melanterite	var: Argentic Tetrahedrite
Dolomite	Mendozite	'Turgite'
Dyscrasite	Pearceite	'Wad'
Epsomite	Petzite	Wollastonite
Ferberite	Polybasite	

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