

Clear Creek County

Idaho Springs District

The Idaho Springs District is in the southeast part of the Central City quadrangle and the northeast part of the Georgetown quadrangle; it includes parts of Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. The district has an area of about 10 square miles (Moench & Drake, 1966). Lovering and Goddard (1950) combined the Idaho Springs District with the adjacent **Central City District** and included the **Freeland-Lamartine District** (southwest of Idaho Springs) into a 25 square mile district based on the similarity and characteristics of the rock type and ore deposits.

Schist of Precambrian age predominates in the Idaho Springs region, but includes numerous lenses of granite gneiss and pegmatite (Lovering and Goddard, Ibid). The schist has a predominant northeast strike and dips 45°~75° NW. Scattered through the district are numerous Tertiary-aged dikes, sills, and irregular bodies of pegmatite, a few small masses of Silver Plume granite and hornblende gneiss, and lenses of lime-silicate rocks of the Idaho Springs formation.

The Idaho Springs District is the site of the first major gold discoveries in Colorado. The district is on the southern end of a belt of gold deposits that extends from Idaho Springs north to Central City and Blackhawk. The Idaho Springs district itself can be considered to be made up of five smaller named districts: the **Mill Creek, Lawson-Dumont, Trail, Jackson's Bar, and Ohio Districts**. Several of these are mainly placer districts, and others either lode districts or both lode and placer. The lode mines were largely deserted after the oxidized ore was mined-out, but were rejuvenated with the opening of a mill in Blackhawk that could process the more complex ores. Production generally decreased until about 1932, was active again, but then declined again after 1942.

The district was mined primarily for gold and silver, but also for copper, lead, zinc and uranium. In value of the total ore output of the district, gold accounts for 59 percent, silver 18 percent, lead 15 percent, copper 7 percent, and zinc about 1 percent. Although sphalerite is almost as abundant as galena in most ores, zinc was not reported for many years (Moench & Drake, 1966). The ores are of two main types-one consisting mainly of pyrite, chalcopyrite, and quartz and the other of galena, sphalerite, chalcopyrite and subordinate pyrite (Lovering and Goddard, Ibid). The bulk of the ore of the district occurs in veins that follow zones of minor faulting, but a few important ore bodies occur in chimney-like zones of brecciation better classed as stockworks (Lovering and Goddard, Ibid).

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

- [Ace of Diamonds Shaft](#)
- [Ada](#)
- [Addule Shaft](#)
- [Alacoque Shaft](#)
- [Albro Group - Hiawatha; Porphyry; Sept \(Old Chief; Morn; Caledonia; Grandview; Helitrode\)](#)
- [Allen Shaft](#)
- [Alma Lincoln Mine](#)
- [American - Standard Tunnel](#)
- [Annie Lode](#)
- [Ashland Shaft](#)
- [Aurum shaft](#)

- Austerlitz Tunnel
- Aztec Tunnel
- Bald Eagle Extension
- Bald Eagle Mine (Two Brothers Mine)
- Bell adit
- Bellevue Shaft
- Bellman
- Berry Tunnel
- Big Five - Belman
- Borealis
- Boston Run Tunnel
- Bourbon Tunnel
- Bridge Tunnel
- Brighton No. 2 Claim
- Bronaber
- Brooklyn Shaft
- Bryant Shaft (Bryan)
- Bullion mine
- California Tunnel
- Calvin
- Camp Bird
- Castleton Shaft
- Central Shaft
- Champion Mine (Bellvue-Trio Mine)
- Clarissa Tunnel Upper
- Colorado School of Mines Experimental
- Columbine
- Coming Nation mine
- Comstock
- Cornucopia adit
- Crescent City Tunnel
- Crocett Mine
- Crocket shaft
- Crown Point & Virginia Shaft
- Danube Mine
- De Lesseps
- Denbigh
- Donna Juanita
- Doves Nest Shaft - West
- Dubuque
- Earl of Kent
- East Lake Occurrence
- Edgar Extension Tunnel
- Edgar Leeper
- Edgar Miami Tunnel Entrance
- Edgar Shaft
- Edgarine mine
- Edna Fannie Tunnel
- Elkhorn Shaft
- Essex
- Etna adit
- Eulalie Tunnel
- Eureka Swansea
- Eussel Shaft
- Fall River
 - Unknown Uranium (MRDS - 10190137)
- Fanny Shaft
- Forge Hill Tunnel
- Fourth of July et al. Occurrence
- Franklin Shaft No. 73
- Franklin Shaft No. 87
- Franks
- Freeman Shaft
- Frontenac Shaft
- G and M adit (Centennial)
- Galatea adit (Hudson-Burr)
- Garden
- Gatatea
- Gem (Freighter's Friend)
- German Shaft
- Gertrude
- Gilson Gulch
- Gladstone Tunnel
- Glenalla
- Gold Dust Shaft
- Gold Vault Mine
- Golden Cloud
- Golden Edge Shaft
- Golden Treasure Tunnel
- Gondola Tunnel
- Good Luck
- Gray Copper
- Great American (Big Chief)

- Great East Shaft
- Great West Shaft
- Grisley Shaft
- Grover Cleveland
- H (Free Gold; U.S.; Baker; Beaver; Alma)
- Happy Easter (Queen Elizabeth)
- Hayes Tunnel
- Helen Tunnel
- Helenslea
- Hiawatha Tunnel
- Homestake Shaft
- Hope
- Hot Pot Shaft
- Hudson Tunnel
- Hughes Shaft
- Hukill
- Hyland
- J. Warner
- Jackson
- John L. Emerson Shaft
- John L. Frannie (Clarissa; Belman; Forge Hill; Fairmont; Frontenac Occurrence)
- John Paul Jones
- Kangaroo
- Katie S.
- Kentucky Tunnel
- Kinda - Upper Shaft
- Kinda Tunnel (UPR)
- Knickerbocker
- Kokomo Shaft
- Lady Bell
- Lafayette adit
- Lake Central Project
- Lake Tunnel - Lower
- Lake Tunnel Lower East
- Lake Tunnel Upper
- Lake Tunnel Upper East
- Lawrence L mine (Philadelphia)
- Lead Belt Tunnel
- Lee Shaft
- Lexington (Little Richard)
- Little Annie Tunnel
- Little Ella
- Little Emma Tunnel
- Little Harry
- Little Six
- Loeber
- Lorroway
- Lost Vein adit
- Lucania Tunnel
- Lynch Shaft
- M. K. Shaft
- Main Trunk Shaft
- Mandolina Tunnel
- Mary C.
- Mary Matilda Mine
- Mary Philips
- Mastedon
- Maude Monroe
- May
- May Day
- Mayflower
- Metropolitan
- Millington
- Minnie Shaft
- Minott
- Mona Tunnel
- Monte Cristo
- Moose Shaft
- Morning Star
- Mystery Shaft
- Nabab Occurrence (Torrey; Summit; Great West; Fairfield; Berry; Ella; Dubuque; Lucania; Great East)
- New Europe
- Nonpareil Mine
- Olive
- Ophir; Argo
- Oregon Shaft
- Oro Fino Tunnel
- Owatonna Occurrence
- P.T. Mine

- Pennsylvania
- Pine Shade mine
- Pine Tree Shaft
- Plutus Mine
- President Hayes Shaft
- Pride of the West
- Protection
- Providence
- Puzzler; Alkire (Lincoln Tunnel)
- Quartermaster Shaft
- Queen Bee Shaft
- Richmond Shaft
- Rio Grande Shaft
- Rob Roy lode
- Rockford (Lucania; Berry)
- Ruby Tunnel
- Saginaw Shaft
- Salisbury
- Santa Fe Shaft West
- Searle Shaft
- Seaton Mine
- September Tunnel
- Ship Ahoy
- Silver Age Mine
- Silver King - Upper
- Silver King Tunnel - Lower
- Silver King Tunnel Extension
- Smith Mine
- Sound Shaft
- Spear Tunnel
- Specht Tunnel
- Specie Payment Tunnel
- St. Joseph
- Stanley Mine (Gehrmann; Cooper; York; Whale; Golden Link)
- Star Mine
- Summit
- Sun & Moon
- Telephone Tunnel
- Tim Tarsney
- Tom Boy (Treasure Vault; John Paul Jones; Edna Fannie; Golden Treasure)
- Tomahawk
- Torrey 2 Tunnel
- Transvaal
- Two Brothers Tunnel
- Two Kings
- United Freeland
- United Gold
- Veto Shaft
- Victor Shaft No. 3
- Vida Shaft
- Vigilant; Banta Hill; Gold; Bunkhouse Occurrence
- Washington (Pennsylvania; Madeline; Dakota)
- West Chester Shaft
- West End Tunnel - Lower
- West End Tunnel - Upper
- White Cloud mine
- Williams Shaft
- Willis Gulch Occurrence (Carcasonne; Adudell; Colfax; Elkhorn; Bertha; Druid; Moose)
- Windsor Castle Shaft
- Wolverine Tunnel
- Wyandotte

Note: Additional shafts and adits are listed in Moench and Drake (1966).

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

Acanthite	Galena	var: Thucholite'
Anglesite	Goethite	Quartz
Ankerite	Gold	var: Amethyst
Aragonite	Goslarite	var: Chert
Argentite*	<i>Haiiyne ?</i>	Rhodochrosite
Autunite	Hematite	'Ruby Silver Ore'
Azurite	Ilsemanite	Schröckingerite
Baryte	Kaolinite	Siderite
Bayleyite	'K Feldspar	Sillimanite
Betazippeite*	var: Adularia'	Silver
Biotite	Limonite	Sphalerite
Bismuthinite	Magnetite	Stromeyerite
Bornite	Malachite	Svanbergite
Bourbonite	Marcasite	Sylvanite
Calcite	Meta-autunite	Tennantite
Cerussite	Metatorbernite	Tenorite
Chalcanthite	Molybdenite	Tetrahedrite
Chalcocite	Muscovite	Torbernite
Chalcopyrite	var: Sericite	Uraninite
Chlorargyrite	Nagyágite	var: Pitchblende
'Chlorite Group'	Opal	Uranophane
Coffinite	Pearceite	'Wad'-hydrous manganese oxides
Copper	Polybasite	Wolframite
Covellite	Proustite	Zippeite
Enargite	Pyrargyrite	
'Feldspar Group'	Pyrite	
Fluorite	'Pyrobitumen	

* Additionally listed in Moench & Drake (1966).

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.

Moench, R.H. and Drake, A.A. Jr. 1966. Economic geology of the Idaho Springs district, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1208.

www.mindat.org, accessed July 2015.