

Pitkin County

Lincoln Gulch District (aka Lincoln District; aka Ruby District)

Vanderwilt (1947) describes the Lincoln Gulch District as lying 15 miles southeast of Aspen, where Lincoln Gulch runs into the Roaring Fork River. The district abuts the **Red Mountain District** of Chaffee County on the south, with Red Mountain dividing the two.

Vanderwilt (Ibid) describes the northern part of the District as containing pyritized iron-stained rock with stringers of galena and sphalerite and scattered molybdenite flakes. The southern part of the area consists of granite and schist with small veins containing lead and silver and small rich lenses of auriferous chalcopyrite. He notes that in 1938 and 1939 six tons of ore were shipped averaging 15 percent lead, 8 ounces per ton silver, and 0.7 ounces per ton gold.

Worcester (1919) mentions the Greenhorn Occurrence in his compilation of molybdenum occurrences in Colorado.

The town of Ruby was founded in Lincoln Gulch in the 1890s. The mines were not big producers and have not operated since World War I (Eberhart, 1969).

Much of the District now lies within the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness area. The geology and resources of the wilderness area is covered in detail by Bastin (1987) and additional information can be obtained from a thesis by Cruson (1973).

Mines listed in the district (Dunn, 2003; mindat.org) include:

- Boston Claim
- [Greenhorn Occurrence](#)
- [Grizzly Gulch](#)
- Hillside Claim
- Highland Claim
- [Independence Mine \(Gatton; Claims: Independence; Mammoth; Dolly Varden\)](#)
- [Lincoln Gulch](#)
- Mammoth Claim
- [Mt. Hope Mine \(Golden Champion Mill Site; Golden Champion; Claims: Mount Hope; Mount Hope Mill Site\)](#)
- [Ruby Mine \(Claims: Ruby 1-4\)](#)
- [Sphalerite Mine](#)

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

Anglesite	Epidote	Montmorillonite
Barite	Galena	Muscovite var: Illite
Calcite	Gold	Polybasite
Chalcopyrite	Kaolinite	Pyrargyrite
'Chlorite Group'	Laumontite	Pyrite
Copper	'Limonite'	Quartz
Covellite	Malachite	Silver
Cuprite	Molybdenite	Sphalerite

References:

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.

Cruson, M. G. 1973. Geology and Ore Deposits of the Grizzly Peak Cauldron Complex, Sawatch Range, Colorado. Colorado School of Mines, unpublished PhD dissertation.

Dunn, Lisa. 2003. Colorado Mining Districts: A Reference. Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado.

Eberhart, Perry. 1969. *Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Fourth, revised edition. Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.

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

Worcester, P.G. 1919. Molybdenum Deposits of Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey Bulletin 14, p.77.

www.mindat.org, organized July 2015.