

## Pitkin County

### Roaring Fork District

Generally considered synonymous with the **Aspen District** (Dunn, 2003; Vanderwilt, 1947), the Roaring Fork District is named for the river of that name. Nearly all the significant mines were within a mile of the town of Aspen. The Roaring Fork/Aspen District was famous for its silver production, with over \$100M attributed by Vanderwilt (Ibid).

The geology of the area consists of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks (striking North to Northeast, dipping west) lying on Precambrian granite and schist with intrusions of Laramide age bringing ore-bearing solutions. The Castle Creek Fault, west of the town of Aspen, is the major structural feature of the district, bisecting the Aspen area. Spurr (1898) accounted 5000 feet of displacement west of the town, while Bryant (1979), attributing a better knowledge of the Maroon Formation, calculated some 14000 feet of displacement at Aspen Mountain, bringing the Precambrian rocks against the upper portion of the Maroon Formation. Spurr (Ibid) and Freeman (1972) had somewhat different interpretations.

As in so many Colorado mining districts, the Leadville Formation is the focus of the mineralization. Spurr (Ibid) defined the Leadville as containing the Dyer Dolomite, the Gilman Sandstone and the Leadville Limestone. Above the Leadville, the Weber Shale (of Spurr) - the Belden Shale (of Bryant) - was deposited and is the focus of ore deposition. Disagreement has existed about whether the mineralization at the Leadville - Belden contact and the limestone-dolomite contact was along bedding plane faults or if the zone was just a depositional contact. Bryant took particular note of features that imply cavities and brecciation were present as a result of karst development during a period of erosion between deposition of the Leadville and the overlying Belden and that some ore deposition occurred in the breccias and in cavities. Bryant (1979 - page 106) presents an extensive list of references about these competing interpretations.

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

- A-J Tunnel
- A M & S Group
- Alta Argent
- Argentum - Juniata Mine (Juniata; Argenta Tunnel; Claims: M. & Y.; Golden Fleece; Lost Smuggler; Jesse C.; Amazon; Oriental; Cameron)
- Arkansas Tunnel
- Aspen
  - Mollie Gibson Mine (Molly Gibson Mine)
  - Smuggler Mine (I. X. L.; Leadville; Trueworthy; Glendale; Arkansaw; Ground Hog; Accident; Williams Ranch; General Jackson; Claims: Smuggler; Emma; Smuggler - Durant; Silver Brick)
- Aspen Contact Mine (Claims: Tenderfoot; Last Chance; Eureka; River; Lamokin; Annex; Last Chance No. 2; Mollie)
- Aspen Mine (Claim: Aspen)
- Aspen Mining and Drainage Tunnel (Copperopolis; A. M. & D. Tunnel; Copperopolis; Claims: Aspen Mountain Tunnel Lode No. 1)
- Aspen Mining and Smelting Company Mine (Robert Emmett; King Bee)
- Aspen placers
- Aspen Wince

- Baltic
- Baystate
- Benedict Pit
- Best Friend Mine (Claim: Best Friend)
- Bi-Metallic Tunnel
- Birmingham
- Bonnybel Mine (Claims: Bonnybel; Chloride)
- Broadway Shaft
- Broadway Tunnel
- Brownlime Tunnel
- Bushwhacker Mine (Claims: Bushwhacker; Alpine)
- Camp Bird Mine (Claims: Camp Bird; Camp Bird M. S.)
- Celeste Mine (Claim: Celeste)
- Champion Shaft
- Clark Tunnel
- Compromise Mining Company
- Conomara Shaft New
- Copperopolis Mine
- Cowenhoven Tunnel
- D. P. Rohlphing Company
- Deep Shaft
- Della S. Mine (Ballarat; Fossil Fraction; Della S.; J. C. Johnson; Alpine; Last Chance; General Jackson; Bushwhacker; Claims: Alma M.; Chatfield)
- Denver Shaft
- Dubuque Tunnel Occurrence
- Durant Mine
- Durgen Tunnel
- Edison Incline
- Emma Shaft
- Enterprise
- Franklin
- Free Silver
- Golcanda
- Good Thunder Shaft
- Gravel Pit (MRDS - 10118053)
- Great Western
- Harkins Tunnel
- Harrisburg
- Highland Tunnel
- Holden
- Homestake
- Homestead
- Hope Mine (Claims: Hope Nos. 1-4; Hope M. S.)
- Igneous Tunnel
- Iowa Chief Mine (Claim: Iowa Chief)
- Iowa Shaft
- Jenny Lind
- Johnson Tunnel
- Justice Mine (Claim: Justice)
- Lasalle
- Last Dollar Mine (O.K.; Minnie Moore; Claims: Last Dollar)
- Late Acquisition Mine (Monarch; Claims: Late Acquisition; Traynor; Hoskins; Iron)
- Leadville Mine (Claim: Leadville)
- Lease
- Lenado
- Lenado Exploration
- Lime Gulch & Hurricane
- Little Annie Mine (Claim: Little Annie)
- Little Cloud Tunnel
- Little May
- Little Nell Shaft
- Little Percy Mine (Claim: Little Percy)
- Martha Washington
- Mary B. Mine (Claim: Mary B. No. 2)
- Mayflower Tunnel
- Middle Tunnel
- Midnight Mine
- Millinee
- Mineral Farm
- Mt Ranger Group
- New York Tunnel
- Newman Tunnel (Bijou; Keystone; St. Paul; Denver; Claims: La Salle; Harrisburg)
- North Tunnel
- Old Pioneer Tunnel
- Old Shaft

- Oriental Gravel Pit
- Park Regent Mine (Cascade; Alaska; Tiger; Lizzie; Iowa No. 2; Regent; Siberia; Claims: Park; Joplin No. 2)
- Park Tunnel (Mayflower; Claims: Jenny Lind; San Jacinto; Bob Ingersoll; Libbie Bell; Celeste)
- Pelland
- Percy Lasalle M & Power Company
- Pioneer Tunnel
- Pride of Aspen Mine (Claim: Pride of Aspen)
- Pride of the Hills
- Princess Louise Shaft
- Red Spruce
- Roaring Fork
- Robert Emmet
- Saint Joe
- Saint Paul Shaft
- Sam Houston
- San Jacinto
- Schiller Mine (Schiller Incline; Claim: Schiller)
- Section of Aspen Mining Belt
- Silver Bell
- Silver Star
- Single Jack Group
- South Tunnel
- Spar Consolidated
- Spar Disc
- Spar No. 2
- Statesman Tunnel
- Stillwell Shaft
- Teaser
- Tilly Shaft (Claim: Tillie)
- Tom Gilmore
- Tower Durant Tunnel and Dump
- Traynor
- Unknown Lead (MRDS - 10118664)
- Unnamed Zinc - Lead - Silver Prospects (See Last Page; MRDS - 10094583)
- Vallejo
- Varney Tunnel
- Veteran
- Visine
- Woody Creek
  - Lenado
- Yankee Tunnel
- Yopsie Tunnel
- Young Shaft

Minerals listed in the district ([mindat.org](http://mindat.org)) include:

Acanthite	'Limonite'	Silver
Anglesite	Malachite	Smithsonite
Anhydrite	Minium	Sphalerite
Baryte	Muscovite	Stromeyerite
Bornite	var: Sericite	Tennantite
Calcite	Palygorskite	Tenorite
Cerussite	Pearceite	Tetrahedrite
Chalcopyrite	Platinum	'Tourmaline'
Cuprite	Polybasite	Uraninite
Dolomite	Pyrargyrite	Willemite
Galena	Pyrite	Wurtzite
Glauconite	Quartz	
Goslarite	Siderite	

References:

Bryant, Bruce. 1979. Geology of the Aspen 15-minute Quadrangle, Pitkin and Gunnison Counties, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1073.

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

Freeman, V.L. 1972. Geologic Map of the Woody Creek Quadrangle, Pitkin and Eagle Counties, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Quadrangle 967. Scale 1:24,000.

Spurr, J.E. 1898. Geology of the Aspen Mining District, Colorado, with Atlas. U.S. Geological Survey Monograph No. 31.

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

[www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), accessed July 2015.