

Gilpin County

South Boulder Creek Placers

The South Boulder Creek Placer District is located within the **North Gilpin District**. The North Gilpin District is described in Bastin and Hill (1917) and Lovering and Goddard (1950) as a large area (approximately 35 square miles) stretching from North Clear Creek to the Boulder County line, east from Mammoth Gulch and Kingston Peak to the Eastern border of the Central City Quadrangle. It is composed of a number of smaller mining districts that grew out of the 19th century gold boom. Made up of the significant gold-producing districts of **Pine-Kingston-Apex** and **Perigo**, along with areas that have been called the **Illinois**, **Gamble Gulch**, **Union** (or **Gold Dirt**), South Boulder and the **Rollinsville Placers**. The **Wisconsin**, **Phoenix** and **Kansas Districts** are contiguous with the other North Gilpin districts and display the same geologic characteristics.

The first gold discoveries in the area occurred in Gamble Gulch in 1859 (Koschmann and Bergendahl, 1968). Stamp mills processed the oxidized ore and the level mining activity followed the same pattern as in Clear Creek County. Much placer activity occurred in the various gulches, especially near Rollinsville. The geology is much the same as in Clear Creek County, with Precambrian bedrock of the Idaho Springs Formation cut by Boulder Creek Granite with Tertiary intrusions of quartz monzonite and bostonite porphyries. Fissure fillings include pyritic gold that, where unweathered, is rather low grade but has been enhanced by oxidation.

The South Boulder Creek Placer district is often considered to include both the Rollinsville District and the **Pactolus District** (Dunn, 2003). Marshall (1920) indicates that although it existed in August 1860, the district was legally created on March 30, 1861. Dunn, 2003 indicated that the district was located at the border with Boulder County along South Boulder Creek (from the mouth of Moon Gulch through Rollinsville and Pactolus North to the County border). An additional reference is Parker (1974),

References:

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Marshall, Thomas H. (ed.). 1920. *Early Records of Gilpin County, Colorado, 1859 - 1861*. W. F. Robinson Printing Company, Denver, Colorado. 313 p. in J.F. Willard (ed.) *The University of Colorado Historical Collections Volume II*, Boulder, Colorado.

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