

## **Gunnison County**

### **Green Mountain District**

The Green Mountain District lies at the northeast end of the **Gunnison Gold Belt (Gunnison District)**. The district is located in the Iris and Iris NW 7.5-minute quadrangles, either within or adjacent to four other mining districts lies on the border of Gunnison and Saguache Counties: the Gunnison, the **Gold Basin**, the **Iris** and the **Cochetopa**. To further confuse the situation, the term **Cochetopa Creek District** has also been used (mindat.org, July 2015). Here we attempt to make some distinctions on the identity and location of these districts.

Henderson (1926) and Dunn (2003) have considered the Green Mountain District synonymous with Cochetopa District in both Gunnison and Saguache Counties. Mindat.org equates the Green Mountain and the Gold Basin Districts in Gunnison County. Vanderwilt (1947) considered the Green Mountain, the Gold Basin and the Cochetopa the same, and does not mention the latter in his Saguache County section.

Afifi (1981), Drobeck (1981), and Sheridan et al. (1981) wrote about the general area of the Gunnison Gold Belt, but only Afifi mentioned any specific mining district, and he called this area the Iris District in the Iris and Iris NW quadrangles. Streufert (1999), in grouping districts by dominant deposit type, includes the Green Mountain District and the Gold Basin District as "mining areas" within the Cochetopa District, characterized by stratabound sulfide mineralization. Cappa and Wallace (2007) also use the name Iris District in northern Saguache County within the Gunnison Gold Belt. An additional reference is Hedlund (1981).

The most informative description comes from Hill (1908). He described the districts this way: "There are two districts south of Tomichi Creek, the Gold Basin and the Cochetopa, within which a small area around Iris and Chance has been set aside as a separate mining district called Green Mountain." Because Hill provides this specific description originating at the time the districts were active, we have used this.

The geology and mineralization of the Green Mountain District is typical of the Gunnison Gold Belt (Gunnison District). The mines in the area that have been specifically discussed include the Denver City and the Yukon (or Yukon-Alaska). Mindat.org lists the Denver City in the Green Mountain/Gold Basin District (it is located at the townsite of Iris) and the Alaska-Yukon in the Cochetopa District (this mine is located east of Cochetopa Creek at the far eastern boundary of the Gunnison Gold Belt). Hill (Ibid) provides detail on the Lucky Strike Mine (in Gunnison County near the townsite of Chance).

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

- [Denver City Mine](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Gold Basin District Occurrence \(Patented Claim: Belle Flora\)](#)
- [Graflin Mine \(Robert H.; E. S.; Hill Top 1-3; Indiana; Amazon; Capital Prize; Morning Star; Dalore; Carrie G.; Baltimore Boy\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Lucky Strike Mine \(Modoc; Horse Shoe; Belle Valaisane; Only Chance; Mammoth\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Lula Mine](#)<sup>1</sup>

Note: <sup>1</sup> indicates mentioned in Afifi (1981); Afifi also uses Shaunee #33, Mineral Hill.

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

Actinolite	Galena	Pyrrhotite
'Biotite'	Gold	Quartz
Calcite	Hematite	Sphalerite
Chalcopyrite	'Hornblende'	'Tourmaline'
'Chlorite Group'	'Limonite'	
Fluorite	Muscovite var: Sericite	

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