

Gunnison County

Taylor Peak District

The Taylor Peak District has not been widely recognized. It appears in Dunn (2003), locating it in the Elk Mountains on the county line between Gunnison and Pitkin Counties, (obviously) near Taylor Peak. The district appears on the website www.mindat.org where it is associated with several gold placers, a uranium occurrence and a lead-zinc mine (the Thunderbird Mine). Placers of the Upper Taylor River in Parker (1974) appear to be more closely associated geographically with what we have called the **Silverside District** (areas of Pieplant and Illinois Creeks).

The clearest use of the name is found in Harder (1909) in his USGS publication on iron ore deposits of Gunnison County. He locates the iron ore deposits of the district along the east margins of an intrusive body northeast, east, and southeast of Taylor Peak. These deposits occur at the contact of the diorite intrusive with sediments and are named the Cooper Creek (northernmost), Twenty Percent Creek, and Taylor River (southernmost) deposits. He describes the deposits as dark blue, glossy magnetite with calcite, quartz, pyrite, kaolin, siderite, barite and chlorite as replacement bodies in limestone.

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

- [Gold Field No. 2 Placer](#)
- [Gold Gulches No. 1 & 2; Homestake Occurrence](#)
- [Hyde Park; Kensington Placers](#)
- [Illinois Creek Placers](#)
- [Matchless Group Occurrence](#)
- [Northwestern; Idalia Placers](#)
- [River Placer No. 1 and No. 2](#)
- [Taylor River Placers](#)
- [Texas Creek Placer](#)
- [Thunderbird Mine](#)

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

'Chlorite Group'
Gold
'Limonite'

Magnetite
Pyrite
'Pyroxene Group'

'Serpentine Group'
Siderite
'Wad'

References:

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

Harder, E.C. 1909. The Taylor Peak and Whitepine Iron-ore Deposits, Colorado *in* Contributions to Economic Geology, 1908, Part I, Metals and nonmetals except fuels--Iron and Manganese. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 380-E, pp.188-198.

Parker, Ben H. Jr. 1974. Gold Placers of Colorado. Colorado School of Mines Quarterly, 69 (3).

www.mindat.org, accessed August 2015.