

Ouray County

Upper Uncompahgre District

The Upper Uncompahgre District is not listed in Henderson (1926), but is considered by Vanderwilt (1947) to be synonymous with the **Uncompahgre District**. Within Vanderwilt's volume is a description by Burbank of the Uncompahgre and **Ouray Districts**. Dunn (2003) lists the district separately as adjoining the **Mineral Point** and **Poughkeepsie Districts**, including the headwaters of both the Uncompahgre and Animas Rivers in Ouray and San Juan Counties. Mindat.org (2015) does not list the Upper Uncompahgre, but puts it in the Eureka District (of San Juan County).

Moore (2004) provides a significant amount of information, as provided here. First, he describes the district's location in detail as "the area around Bear Creek Falls to the north end of Ironton Park, including the canyon of the Uncompahgre to the junction of Red Mountain Creek and continuing up the canyon along Red Mountain Creek. The western flank of Mt Abram and the drainages into Red Mountain Creek from Hayden Mountain north of Ironton Park form the southern part of the district."

Summarized by Moore (2004), the geology of the district consists of tightly-folded Precambrian quartzite and slate in the canyon of the Uncompahgre with a wedge of Paleozoic and Mesozoic sediments on top below volcanics. The mountain slopes are primarily San Juan Tuff (up to 2,500 feet thick), thinning toward Poughkeepsie Gulch. In that tuff lie the most productive veins, according to Burbank (1947). Ore deposits occur as fissure and cavity fillings, breccia-chimney and breccia-dike deposits and some replacement deposits.

Kelley (1946) points out that the radial faults of the Silverton Caldera do not occur here. The ore veins of the Dunmore, Columbus, Thistledown, Chapman and Ores&Metals are fissure veins in tension fractures. Additional references include: Hazen (1949), Irving (1905), and King and Allsman (1950).

Mines listed in the district (Dunn, 2003) include:

- Guadeloupe
- Sutton
- Daniel Bonanza
- Natalia
- Dunmore
- Crysolite
- North Star
- Silver Link¹
- Michael (Mickey) Breen¹

Note: ¹Discussed in detail in Ransome (1901).

References:

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