

Ouray County

Engineer Mountain District

The Engineer Mountain District lies where Ouray, San Juan and Hinsdale Counties meet and is surrounded by several other districts - the **Poughkeepsie**, the **Mineral Point**, the **Galena**, and the **Eureka**. It was recognized as a separate district by Moore (2004). Mindat.org includes the Engineer Mountain area in the Ouray District. Burbank and Luedke (1969) appear to include the Engineer Mountain area in the Eureka District while King and Allsman (1950) include the area within the Mineral Point District.

Moore (Ibid) defines the area as bounded by Mineral Creek on the south, extending north of Engineer Mountain "about a mile" and as far east as Henson Creek in Hinsdale County. Thus, he defines it as including mines in all three counties in the headwaters of the Animas, Uncompahgre, and Lake Fork Rivers.

Mindat.org includes the Bismuth and Uncle Sam Mines, but they appear in no other sources. The Bismuth Mine was a former Au-Ag mine located 1.7 km (1.0 mile) northwest of Engineer Mountain. The Uncle Sam Mine was a former Au-Zn-Ag-Pb-Cu mine located 0.5 km (0.3 mile) southeast of Engineer Mountain, on National Forest land. Hon et al. (1986) list the Frank Hough, Polar Star, Palmetto, Engineer and Wyoming mines.

The geology and mineralization are the same as in the other districts listed above, as part of the vein complex of the Silverton Caldera.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org; Hon et al., 1986) include:

- Engineer Mountain
 - [Bismuth Mine](#)
 - [Uncle Sam Mine](#)
- Frank Hough
- Polar Star
- Palmetto
- Engineer
- Wyoming

Minerals listed in mindat.org include:

[Baryte](#)

[Quartz](#)

References:

Burbank, W.S. and Luedke, R.G. 1969. Geology and Ore Deposits of the Eureka and Adjoining Districts, San Juan Mountains, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 535.

Hon, K., Bove, D.J., and Grauch, V.J. 1986. Geology and mineral deposits of the region surrounding the American Flats Wilderness Study Area, western San Juan Mountains, Colorado. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-431.

King, W.H. and Allsman, P.T. 1950. Reconnaissance of Metal Mining in the San Juan Region, Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel Counties. Colorado Bureau of Mines Information Circular 7554.

Moore, G.E. 2004. Mines, Mountain Roads, and Rocks. Ouray County Historical Society Guidebook Series #1, Ouray, Colorado.

www.mindat.org, accessed December 2015.