

## San Juan County

### Bear Creek District

The Bear Creek district is a small district about 19 miles east of Silverton. It lies across the Continental Divide near the border of La Plata and Hinsdale Counties. According to Dunn (2003) it encompasses the headwaters of Bear Creek (a tributary of the Rio Grande River) and Vallecito Creek (a tributary of the Los Pinos River). Mindat.org also uses the name **Beartown District**.

Vanderwilt (1947) describes narrow white quartz fissure veins containing gold and silver tellurides and other minor sulfides. Vanderwilt identifies petzite as the telluride and mindat.org adds calaverite.

According to Eberhart (1969) the town of Beartown rose up after a big strike in 1893. The district was a rich, although smaller, producer well into the 1900s.

Note: Eberhart (Ibid) lists among the mines the *Yankakee*, while mindat.org refers to it as the Kankakee.

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

- Century Mine
- Eldorado Claim (Patented Claim: El Dorado)
- Gold Bug Mine (Patented Claims: Gold Bug; Gold Bug Mill Site; Repeal; Gold Nugget)
- Golden Shear Mine (Patented Claim: Bonita)
- Good Hope Mine (Patented Claims: Good Hope; Wonder)
- Kankakee Mine (Pure Gold; Iron Mask; Aurum; Oro; Tunnel Site; Golden Age; Extension; Lake View; Iron King; Crusader Gold Mine; Chance; Gold Coin; Bullion; Unpatented Claims: Kankakee)
- Little May Mine
- Robinson Mine (Patented Claims: Robertson; Scott)
- Summit Mine
- Sylvanite Mine

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

Alunite	Enargite	Pyrite
Baryte	Galena	Quartz
Bornite	Hematite	Siderite
Calaverite	Kaolinite	Sphalerite
Calcite	'Limonite'	Sylvanite
Chalcocite	Magnetite	Tetrahedrite
Chalcopyrite	Marcasite	Vermiculite
'Chlorite Group'	Petzite	

References:

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Eberhart, Perry. 1969. *Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Fourth, revised edition. Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.

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Prosser, W.C. 1911. The Bear Creek Sylvanite Camp, Colorado. *Engineering and Mining Journal* 91, p. 712.

Vanderwilt, J.W. 1947. Mineral Resources of Colorado. Colorado Mineral Resources Board, Denver, Colorado.

[www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), accessed January 2016.