

2017 New Mexico Geological Society Fall Field Conference

Geology of the Ouray- Silverton area

September 27-30, 2017



Sneffels Range taken from Dallas Divide on highway from Ridgeway to Telluride; photo courtesy of Phillip Noll (Ravenmountain.com)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2017 NMGS Fall Field Conference will examine the geologic history of the Ouray-Silverton area of southwestern Colorado. Many aspects of the geologic record exposed here are similar to northern New Mexico such that “across the border” comparisons are important for understanding regional geology. Past NMGS field conferences to the western San Juan Mountains were held in 1957 and 1968, about 60 and 50 years ago. This area has been called the Switzerland of Colorado for good reason—it provides an excellent and diverse geologic region for the NMGS 2017 field conference. Anticipate spectacular alpine geology with flamboyant fall foliage!

We are seeking guidebook manuscripts for mini-papers and technical papers covering all aspects of geology in and around the San Juan Mountains.

Please contact technical editors, as soon as possible if you wish to submit a manuscript:

- [Karl Karlstrom](mailto:kek1@unm.edu) — kek1@unm.edu
- [David Gonzales](mailto:gonzales_d@fortlewis.edu) — gonzales_d@fortlewis.edu
- [Matt Zimmerer](mailto:Matthew.Zimmerer@nmt.edu) — Matthew.Zimmerer@nmt.edu
- [Matt Heizler](mailto:matt.heizler@nmt.edu) — matt.heizler@nmt.edu

Deadlines:

- Peer-reviewed technical papers – March 1
- Mini-papers – February 1.

Conference organizers and leaders are Karl Karlstrom, David Gonzales, and Matt Zimmerer, and Matt Heizler. General logistical and technical support provided by Andres Aslan, Laura Crossey, and Lynn Heizler.

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Day 0 - Pre-meeting hike near Molas Pass- Wednesday Sept 27, 2017: Led by Karl Karlstrom.

Participants will assemble at the Molas Pass trailhead on the Colorado Trail at 9 AM and hike to the Animas River, then take the Durango-Silverton historic railroad to Silverton. The geology and landforms include Animas River geomorphology, Paleozoic strata, the Great Unconformity, and the Paleoproterozoic history recorded in the Irving Formation, Twilight Gneiss, and Uncompahgre Formation.

Day 1- Hiking circuit around Ouray, Thursday September 28, 2017. Led by David Gonzales and Karl Karlstrom. Participants will assemble at the meeting hotel at 8 AM and hike parts of the 4.2-mile Ouray Perimeter Trail <http://www.rockymountainhikingtrails.com/ouray-perimeter-trail.htm> that loops through excellent exposures of Uncompahgre Formation, Paleozoic and Mesozoic stratigraphy, Ancestral Rockies and Laramide faults, hot springs, and ore deposits. The hike will allow participants to explore the fantastic geology exposed at Box Canyon Falls. Shuttles will be provided for those not interested in hiking the entire perimeter trail.

Day 2- Volcanism and ore deposits near Silverton and Red Mountain, Friday September 29, 2017: Led by Matt Zimmerer and David Gonzales. Participants will assemble at 8 AM in Ouray to drive to Silverton where we will recap the Precambrian and Paleozoic history and get an overview of the the volcanic and plutonic history of the western San Juan caldera complex and related mineralization. Outcrop stops include mineralized postcaldera intrusions and megabreccia near the caldera margin. Afternoon stops will emphasize breccia pipes and related high-sulfidation ore systems of the Red Mountain mining district.

Day 3- Potential half day fieldtrips, Saturday September 30, 2017

- A. Gold King Mine spill and environmental concerns, led by TBA
- B. Hot Springs of the Ouray- Durango area, led by Laura Crossey
- C. Old 100 Mine tour and visit to the Silverton Mining Museum- led by David Gonzales

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The volume will be dedicated to early Ouray and San Juan geologists Caswell and Lee Silver.