Check lists of minerals for mining districts of Colfax, northern Taos, and Union Counties, New Mexico

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CHECK LISTS OF MINERALS FOR MINING DISTRICTS OF COLFAK, NORTHERN TAOS, AND UNION COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO

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Most of these records of occurrence are taken from the writer's (1959) "Minerals of New Mexico." Mineral occurrences of unusual interest are indicated by an exclamation mark (!); exceptional occurrences are indicated by two such marks (!!).

COLFAK COUNTY
Lindgren, Graton, and Gordon (1910) recognized four mining districts in this county: Cimarroncito, Moreno (Elizabethtown), Ponil, and Ute Creek (Baldy). The

INDEX MAP OF MINING DISTRICTS
NEW MEXICO: Colfax County: Baldy District (A), Cimarroncito District (B), Elizabethtown District (C), Ponil District (D). Taos County: Anchor District (E), Red River District (F), Rio Colorado Placers (G), Rio Grande Valley Placers (H), Twining District (I). Union County: Black Mesa District (J), Folsom District (K).
COLORADO: Costilla County: Grayback District (L), Plomo District (M), Sierra Blanca Area (N). Huerfano County: Badito Cone District (O), Huerfano District (P), La Veta District (Q), Spanish Peaks Area (R).
Clason (1911) map shows the same four districts but uses the names Baldy (Ute Creek), Cimarroncito, Elizabethtown (Moreno Valley), and Ponil. Hill’s (1912) map is essentially the same as Lindgren, Graton, and Gordon’s (1910). Lasky and Wootton (1933) combined Baldy and Elizabethtown into a single district.

In the first edition of “Minerals of New Mexico” (1942), I recognized four districts: Baldy, Cimarroncito, Elizabethtown, and Ponil. Anderson’s (1955) map shows five districts: Baldy (Ute Creek), Cimarroncito, Elizabethtown (Moreno), Ponil, and Willow Creek. Willow Creek District lies southeast of Baldy Mountain. In the revised edition of “Minerals of New Mexico” (1959), I regarded Willow Creek as an eastward extension of the Baldy District.

**Baldy District**

Subdistricts and synonyms include Aztec, Baldy Mountain, Copper Park, Eagle Nest, Maxwell’s, Mount Baldy, Ute Creek, and Willow Creek.

- Amphibole
- Anglesite
- Calcite
- Cerargyrite(?)
- Cerussite
- Chalcopyrite
- Chlorite
- Chrysocolla
- Copper
- Cuprite
- Epidote
- Feldspar
- Galena(?)
- Garnet
- Gold
- Placer
- Hematite
- Specularite
- “Limonite”

**Cimarroncito District**

Subdistricts and synonyms include Bonito, Cimarron Canyon, Uraca, Urraca, and Urraca Creek.

- Calcite
- Chalcopyrite
- Epidote
- Garnet
- Andradite
- Gold
- Placer
- Hematite
- Specularite
- “Limonite”

**Elizabethtown District**

Subdistricts and synonyms include Eagle Nest, E-Town, Hematite, Hematite Creek, Iron Mountain, Moreno, Moreno Valley, and West Moreno.

- Amphibole
- Argentite
- Calcite
- Chalcopyrite
- Chrysocolla
- Cuprite
- Diopside
- Epidote
- Feldspar
- Galena
- Garnet
- Gold
- Placer
- Hematite
- Specularite
- Hornblende
- “Limonite”
- Magnetite
- Malachite
- Pyrite
- Quartz

**Ponil District**

From this district, placer gold and quartz have been cited.

**Eastern Colfax County**

Many of the following minerals have been cited in petrographic descriptions.

- Acmite-diopside
- Aegirite
- Analcime
- Anorthoclase
- Arfvedsonite
- Barkevikite
- Augite
- Titan-augite
- Biotite
- Canecrinite
- Chlorite
- Diopside
- Garnet
- Gypsum, var.
- Hematite
- Hornblende
- Hypersthene
- Ice (in ice caves)
- “Iddingsite”
- Ilmenite
- Magnetite
- Titano-magnetite
- Muscovite
- Natrolite
- Nepheline

Staatz (1965, p. 231) describes thorium-bearing veins in the Chico Hills area:

“at least seven veins ranging from a fraction of an inch to 15 feet in width . . . in irregularly brecciated zones in Dakota sandstone and in phonoilite. Their exposed length is from 10 to 550 feet. Vein material consists principally of quartz, iron-oxide minerals, thorite, plumbogummite, and brockite; brockite is the principal thorium mineral.”

Parker (1965, p. 294) describes an occurrence of niobium in the Laughlin Peak area:

“some veins which cut phonolite and the Dakota Sandstone are rich in thorium, niobium, and rare earths and contain also carbonate, phosphorus, barium, and strontium. The niobium content in some veins is as much as 0.37 percent, but the
minerals containing the niobium have not yet been identified.”

At various other localities in Colfax County, the following have been noted.

- Aragonite
- Arsenopyrite
- Augite
- Biotite
- Calcite
- Iceberg spar
- Graphite
- Gypsum, var.
- Selenite
- Hornblende
- "Iddingsite"
- Ilmenite
- "Leucoxene"

"Limonite"
Muscovite, var.
Sericite

In addition to these, Schilling (1960) cites the following:

- Argentite
- Biotite
- Garnet
- Sphalerite

Argentite occurs at the Memphis Mine; sphalerite is rare at the Cora Gibson and Neptune prospects; biotite and garnet occur at the Enderman prospect.

RED RIVER DISTRICT

Subdistricts and synonyms include Alum Gulch, Black Copper, Black Mountain, Questa, and Sulphur Gulch. (As noted above, some writers have included the Anchor District in the Red River District.)

ANCHOR DISTRICT

Subdistricts and synonyms include Keystone, La Belle, and Midnight.

"Limonite"
Petzite
Muscovite, var.
Pyrite
Sericite
Quartz

In addition to these, Schilling (1960) cites the following:

- Arsenopyrite
- Azurite
- Pyrargyrite (?)
- Flosite (?)

Arsenopyrite and “ruby silver” were reported from the Jay Hawk Mine; azurite stains were observed at prospects along Spring Gulch and at the Copper King Mine; tenorite occurs also at the Copper King.
Placer gold and quartz seem to be the only minerals reported from these districts.

**Twinning District**

Subdistricts and synonyms include Amizett, Amizette, Arroyo Hondo, and Rio Hondo. The last two names should not be confused with Hondo Canyon, northeast of Pilar, in southern Taos County. Northrop's (1959) Hondo Canyon District has been assigned by some writers to the large Picuris District. The following minerals have been reported from the Twinning District:

- **Amphibole**
- **Azurite**
- **Bornite**
- **Calcite**
- **Chalcopyrite**
- **Chlorite**
- **Copper**
- **Epidote**
- **Galena**
- **Gold**
- **Placer**

In addition, Schilling (1960) reported the following:

- **Biotite**
- **Chrysocolla**
- **Cuprite**
- **Hematite**
- **“Limonite”**
- **Malachite**
- **Molybdenite**
- **Pyrite**
- **Quartz**
- **Siderite**
- **Sphalerite**
- **Stibnite (?)**
- **Talc**
- **Tourmaline**

In addition, Schilling (1960) reported the following:

- **Tourmaline**
- **Feldspar (pink)**
- **Muscovite**

Chrysocolla occurs at the Frazer Mine and at the Comstock and Highline prospects; cuprite occurs at the Highline prospect. Clark (1966) cites hornblende.

A number of other minerals occur at isolated mines and prospects not generally assigned to any district, such as those in the Culebra Range, northern Taos Range, Cañezo Creek area, and San Cristóbal Creek. See Schilling (1960).

**Union County**

No mining districts had been recognized by early workers, such as Lindgren, Graton, and Gordon (1910), the Chason (1911) map, Hill (1912), Lasky and Wootton (1933), Northrop (1942), and Anderson (1955). However, in his report on the geology and ore deposits of northeastern New Mexico exclusive of Colfax County, Harley (1940) had described two "mineralized districts," Folsom and Black Mesa. I decided in 1959 to accept these as mining districts.

**Black Mesa District**

Both Black Mesa and Folsom have been called the Dry Cimarron area or district.

**Folsom District**

- **Azurite**
- **Chalcopyrite**
- **Gold**
- **Placer**

**Other Localities in Union County**

- **Alumogen**
- **Analcime**
- **Apatite**
- **Carbonate-apatite**
- **Halogens**
- **Hematite**

Baldwin and Muchberger (1959) have cited the following, mostly in petrographic descriptions:

- **Aegirite (?)**
- **Anorthoclase (?)**
- **Augite**
- **Barite**
- **Calcite**
- **Cancrinite (?)**
- **Enstatite**
- **Gibbsite**
- **Gypsum**
- **Selenite**
- **Hauyne**
- **Hypersthene**
- **“Iddingsite”**

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