

Mining Districts in Arizona

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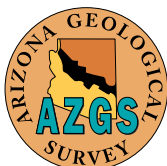
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Cover image: Geologist facing mountainous exploration area as part of the NW Arizona Uranium Project. 2002-01-0257-img-32, Walter E. Heinrichs, Jr. mining collection, Arizona Geological Survey.



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Overview

Arizona's long history of exploration and mining has resulted in the development of mineral resources across the state. By convention, individual prospects, deposits, and mines into mining districts as an organizational framework to refer to prospective areas for economic mineralization. However, there are no strict definitions of what constitute a mining district other than evidence of mineral potential. Thus, mining districts reflect areas with known mineralization, have diffuse boundaries, and may change over time as new discoveries are made. Mining districts provide a useful framework for both geologists and hobbyists for organizing information, with the past county reports on mineral resources organized from a district perspective (Keith, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978). However, the lack of a consistent definition for a mining district means that a shared understanding is lacking when communicating with others about a district's geology or history.

This is most apparent when comparing the past two mining district maps of Arizona (Wilson et al., 1961; Keith et al., 1983). The Wilson et al. (1961) map of mining districts took the approach that districts have diffuse boundaries, showing no boundaries on the map with only the approximate location of district shown via a keyed number. The Keith et al. (1986) map utilized discrete boundary of not mining districts, but mineral districts. The Keith et al. (1986) mineral districts outlined areas of known mineralization and categorized mineralized areas based on the dominant metal and style of mineralization. The Keith et al. (1986) map efficiently displays where ores of specific metals can be found across Arizona, but parsing out this detail results in a significant increase in the number of districts. This framework was furthered in a GIS compilation by Richard (2002).

One of the aims of the Bedrock Geology and Mineral Resources section of the Arizona Geological Survey is to produce a new series on the mineral resources of each county, organized around mining districts of each county. With that in mind, mining districts were revisited and redefined to provide a foundation to develop more rigorous compilations of data in future projects. The results of this revisiting of Arizona's mining districts are displayed on the associated map plate and keyed to the list that follow this section.

Alongside this effort, AZGS is pursuing additional ways to deliver mineral resource information to the public. An ArcOnline webmap (<https://arcg.is/1TLeXe>) using the newly redefined mining districts as a framework, has been developed to accomplish this aim. Using this webmap, users will be able to view compiled information on deposits and prospects in each district, view publicly available and published company reports, and ultimately link to donated materials currently hosted at AZGS's Mine Data website. While still in its nascent form with only limited data available, this webmap will be annually updated with new data as each county report on mineral resources is completed. The first new report on the Mineral Resources of Pinal County is expected to be published in late autumn 2022.

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Mining Districts Key

1	Agua Dulce	50	Cedar Valley	99	Gold Circle
2	Agua Fria	51	Cerro Colorado	100	Gold Hill
3	Ajo	52	Chapel	101	Goldfield
4	Alamo	53	Chemehuevis	102	Goldmine Mountains
5	Alamo Springs	54	Cherry Creek	103	Grandview
6	Amole	55	Chinle	104	Greaterville
7	Apache Iron	56	Cibicue	105	Green Valley
8	Aquarius	57	Cienega	106	Greenwood
9	Aravaipa	58	Cimarron	107	Growler
10	Artillery Mountains	59	Cochise	108	Gunsight
11	Ash Peak	60	Copper Basin	109	Hackberry
12	Baboquivari	61	Copper Mt. (Morenci)	110	Hacks Canyon
13	Banner	62	Copperstone	111	Harquahala
14	Bee Cave	63	Cottonwood	112	Harshaw
15	Bentley	64	Cottonwood	113	Hartford
16	Big Bug-Walker	65	Cottonwood Basin	114	Hassayampa-Groom Creek
17	Big Horn (Aguila)	66	Cove Mesa	115	Havasu Canyon
18	Black Canyon-Kay	67	Cow Springs	116	Heber
19	Black Diamond	68	Coyote	117	Helvetia-Rosemont
20	Black Dome	69	Crescent	118	Holbrook
21	Black Mountain	70	Crosby	119	Hopi Buttes
22	Black Mountain	71	Cunningham Pass	120	Humbug
23	Black Rock	72	Date Creek	121	Kabba
24	Black Rock Point	73	Diamond Joe	122	Kirkland
25	Bloody Basin	74	Dome	123	Kofa
26	Blue Rock	75	Dos Cabezas-Apache Pass	124	La Cholla
27	Blue Tank	76	Douglas	125	La Paz
28	Bonegas	77	Dripping Springs	126	La Posa
29	Boriana	78	Eagle Pass	127	Laguna
30	Bouse	79	Eagle Tail	128	Lakeshore
31	Box Canyon	80	El Capitan	129	Lane Mts.
32	Bradshaw	81	El Dorado Pass	130	Las Guijas (Arivaca)
33	Buck Mountains	82	Ellsworth	131	Little Harquahala
34	Buckeye Hills	83	Empire	132	Long Valley
35	Bullard	84	Eureka (Bagdad)	133	Lost Basin
36	Bunker Hill	85	Fisher Valley	134	Lukachukai
37	Cababi (Comobabi)	86	Fools Folly	135	Mammoth
38	California (Chiricahua)	87	Fortuna	136	Martinez
39	Cameron	88	Fossil Creek	137	Martinez Canyon
40	Camp Verde	89	Four Peaks	138	Maynard
41	Camp Wood	90	Francis	139	Mayor-Peck
42	Cane Valley	91	Galen	140	Mazatzal Mts.
43	Carrizo Mts.	92	Garnet Mountain	141	McConnico
44	Casa Grande	93	Giant Cactus	142	McCracken
45	Casador (Bear Canyon)	94	Gila Bend Mts.	143	Miami-Inspiration
46	Castenada	95	Globe Hills	144	Middle Mountains
47	Castle Creek	96	Goat Camp	145	Middle Pass
48	Castle Dome	97	Golandrina	146	Midway
49	Cave Creek	98	Gold Basin-Cyclopic	147	Mine Canyon

148	Mineral Creek	198	Prospect Canyon	248	Tiger (Pine Grove)
149	Mineral Hill	199	Quijotoa	249	Tip Top
150	Mineral Point	200	Quitobaquito	250	Tombstone
151	Minnehaha	201	Rainbow	251	Topcock
152	Minnesota	202	Ranch	252	Tortolita
153	Mohawk	203	Ranch Creek Iron	253	Trigo Mountains
154	Money Maker	204	Rattlesnake	254	Triple H
155	Montezuma	205	Rawhide	255	Turkey Creek
156	Monument Valley	206	Red Hills	256	Turquoise
157	Moon Mountains	207	Red Rock	257	Tussock
158	Muggins	208	Red Rock	258	Twin Peaks
159	Music Mountains	209	Redington	259	Tyndall
160	Nakai Mesa	210	Rich Hill	260	Union Pass
161	Nazlini	211	Rincon	261	Valle
162	Neversweat	212	Ripsey	262	Vekol
163	New Water	213	Riverside	263	Verde (Jerome)
164	Nogales	214	Roskruge	264	Vermillion Cliffs
165	North Star	215	Rough Rock	265	Virginia
166	Northern Plomosa	216	Rucker Canyon	266	Vulture
167	Oatman	217	Saddle Mtn	267	Wagner
168	Old Baldy	218	Safford	268	Wallapai
169	Ophir	219	Salt River	269	Warhoop
170	Oracle	220	Salt River Mts.	270	Warm Springs
171	Oro Blanco	221	San Cayetano	271	Warren (Bisbee)
172	Orphan	222	San Domingo	272	Waterman
173	Osborne	223	Sand Tank	273	Webb
174	Owl Head	224	Santa Maria	274	Whetstone
175	Painted Rocks	225	Santa Rosa	275	White Hills
176	Pajarito	226	Seligman Iron	276	White Picacho
177	Palmetto	227	Sheep Tanks	277	White Tank Mts.
178	Papago (Sierrita)	228	Sierra Ancha	278	Wikieup
179	Parker Canyon	229	Silver	279	Willcox
180	Pat Hills	230	Silver Bell	280	Willow Beach
181	Patagonia	231	Silver Mts.	281	Winchester
182	Pearce	232	Silver Reef	282	Winifred
183	Petrified Forest	233	Silverado	283	Winslow
184	Phoenix Mts.	234	Slate	284	Wood Camp Canyon
185	Picacho	235	Southern Plomosa	285	Wrightson
186	Pikes Peak	236	Spike "E" Hills	286	Yellowstone
187	Pilgrim	237	Spring Creek	287	Yuma
188	Pilot Rock	238	Squaw Peak		
189	Pima	239	Stanley		
190	Pinal Mts.	240	Stinking Springs		
191	Pioneer	241	Summit		
192	Pioneer-Alabama	242	Sunset		
193	Pittsburg-Tonto	243	Superstition Mountains		
194	Placerita-Walnut Grove	244	Swisshelm		
195	Poston Butte	245	Tank Mountains		
196	Prescott	246	Three-In-One		
197	Promontory Butte	247	Thumb Butte		