



The Prospector's Quill

VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE IX

OCTOBER 2018

NUGGETS

- October 15, 1904
One of the largest gold nuggets ever found in Colorado was recently picked up at the Snowstorm placer, in Park county, between Alma and Fairplay. It weighs 120 ounces and has a market value of \$2,000. (Today's value is \$144,000)
- March 4, 1897
A Clear Creek miner recently discovered a ten dollar nugget of gold in the dirt on the roof of his cabin.
- September 18, 1975
Gold dropped to its lowest price in 14 months \$139.50 Troy ounce, analysts scratch their heads in wonderment.
- **Gold is mentioned more than 400 times in the bible.**



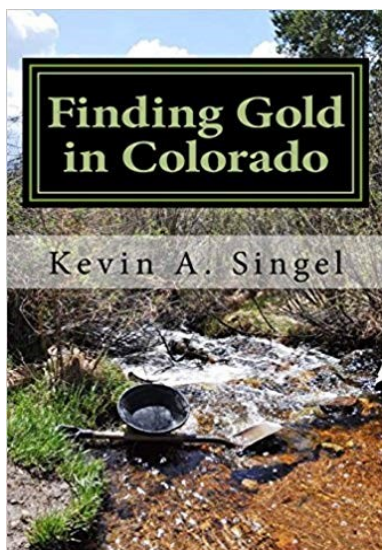
Finding Gold in Colorado, By Kevin Singel

This October, at the general membership meeting, the guest speaker will be Kevin Singel, a prospector and published author, his presentation will be featuring his new book.

"Finding Gold in Colorado"

Kevin A. Singel

Amazon Price \$25.95



"Finding Gold in Colorado"
by Kevin A. Singel

Kevin will bring a limited number of books, available for purchase. If you ask politely, I would bet he'd autograph it for you.

<http://findinggoldincolorado.com>

Kevin's book is a well thought out, extremely easy to read and very thorough book on place to pan and prospect for gold. The book starts out with a brief Colorado gold prospecting history dating back to the 1700s and progress all the way to our present time.

The book is laid out with 18 different chapters, each covering different mining areas. To give you a few ideas; one of his chapters is "Buena Vista, Salida and the lower Arkansas River." Within this chapter he gives you a little history, places to visit such as the Buena Vista Heritage Museum

including addresses, website information and phone numbers. It also includes historical sites, prospecting shops, tourist destinations such as Mount Princeton Hot Springs. After the introduction to the particular area that you may have an interest in he goes deeper into the actual areas to be prospected and info on panning. In this chapter there is 30 pages dedicated on this one area, with 7 main sites and within these sites there are 38 subcategories that include GPS coordinates.

Since we were talking about the Lower Arkansas River area, this is an example of the information that's available within this chapter.

Local Hints and Cautions: Kevin gives an idea on the local water flows and how the water flow differs and varies within the season. He also speaks about what type of activities could affect your prospecting within the area, such as rafting, fisherman or bathers.

Gold Finding Tips: Within this chapter Kevin gives anywhere from several to many different useful tips. Such as sampling, gold movement, times of year, black sands, types and fineness of gold in that location.

Getting There; In this particular chapter he gave 30 different locations along US Highway 24 just north of Buena Vista to just above Salida, CO. Also included in each of these locations, there is the site name, GPS coordinates, parking locations and even mile markers. This book is so well done that he includes use fees, park pass information, places they do not allow you to dig within the area and much more.

Regulations: Kevin talks about what you can and cannot do, one example is "No gas power equipment is allowed and avoid digging at the base of the bridge where the highway

GPOC Election Rules & Process

by Andrew C. Hawkins

Elections for the 2019 GPOC Board will be held at the October GPOC General Membership meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. The election process began in September, when members were asked to nominate candidates for the 2019 Board. Then, in October, after each position is opened for final nominations, candidates will provide introductions and short statements about their goals and qualifications for positions.

For members not familiar with the GPOC election process, the process is conducted by the current Trustees assisted by previous Trustees, if not on the ballot. The Trustee positions normally rotate, from Three to Two to One year positions. In response to membership concerns, each GPOC member will be checked for their status, and if in good standing, may be given a unique ID number card for the voting process. For expediency, the trustees have previously agreed that if a single candidate was on the ballot for a given office, the members would vote by a show of their numbered card or hands, or acclamation.

New GPOC Board Members take office in January 2019—and are "sworn in" at the December General Membership Meeting. This allows a little overlap in the Board for a smooth and efficient transition.

crosses the creek."

Attractions and Accommodations: This section gives you general information on hotel rooms, cabins, RV parks, campgrounds, tourist destination, restaurants and places to pick up groceries.

Also included are topics on; Local Hint, Cautions, Land Types, Land Manager info, Boundaries, and much more.

This is the most up-to-date field guide for Colorado that is available. Don't miss out on October's general membership meeting. Cash-in some of that gold dust you have been hording and buy Kevin's book, shake his hand, thank him for the great field and travel guide for Colorado prospectors.

<http://findinggoldincolorado.com>



Product Review

COLORADO GOLD & GEMS MAPS THEN AND NOW

Colorado Gold & Gems Maps

Northwest Distributors, LLC

This past month, on one of my outings, I stopped by "The Rock Doc, at Prospectors Village" between Buena Vista and Salina and was speaking with Cindy. She showed me this interesting map that I have not seen before "Colorado Gold in Gem's, Map Then and Now." I am always looking for new information to go into my library, although it was a sealed package she opened it for me, as well as gave me the opportunity to take a look and see what was inside each map. This type of service is rarely found in today's buy it online economy. I prefer spending my hard-earned cash in the store with such great help.

The revision (revised by R.N. Preston) that I received was revised in 2016, so it is relatively up-to-date. There was a set of five maps, each measuring 17-1/2" by 23". The oldest map was commissioned by the Department of the Interior, General Land Office, October 2, 1866. As with all very old map it was quite fuzzy but very readable. On the reverse side had quite a wealth of information which included Colorado mining history, estimates for production of gold in selected districts (these districts are with today's counties (not 1866) and today's mining districts.

Some of the interesting readings on the back of map number five were warnings about different dangers such as water, old ladders, bad air, old explosives, and several other areas of dangers. It also gave some interesting information on mineral collecting on public

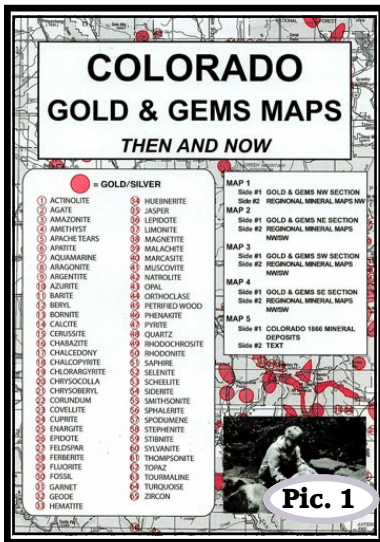
lands, the collecting of artifacts and fossils on public lands and other resources that would be related to recreational gold-mining, collecting of rocks and minerals, and semi precious stones on public property.

The other four maps were broken down into four quadrants; Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast. All four maps had very clean lines cities, national forest, river and water body names, roads and

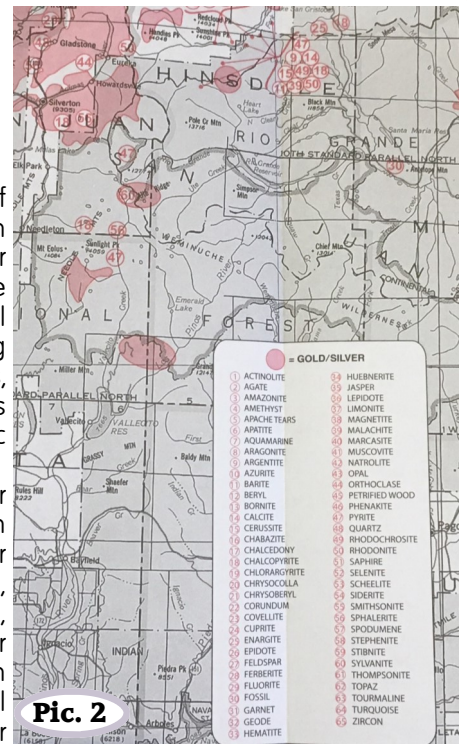
cities, as well as very defined gold and silver deposit areas. It also included a numbered legend with 65 different minerals, gemstones, petrified wood, and much more. The reverse side of each of these maps had more information, such as exploded views of some the more important areas, also including a couple of very old photos.

On the back of map four (map #4) there is an interesting diagram on how to build a suitable rocker box for general use in placer gold prospecting. This diagram included measurements, very short assembly instructions, and a simple how-to on waterproofing the box. Plus, ideas on how to create riffles, the use of metal lath, and canvas mat to catch fine gold.

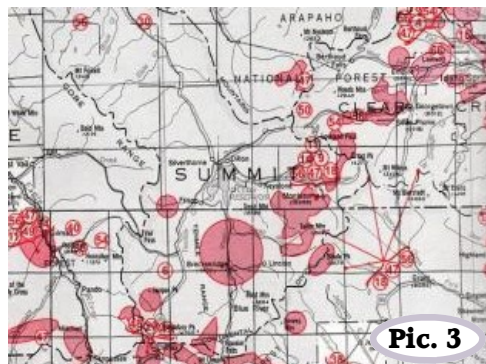
Take a look at picture number two (Pic.2) above, see the shaded red areas, this represents gold and silver bearing areas. Up towards the top of picture (Pic. 2) you can see little circles with numbers in them and they represent the different types of minerals, fossils and precious stones. These numbers correlate with the legend



Pic. 1



Pic. 2



Pic. 3

below, within the same map.

Having several different styles and types of maps within my library, I have found this particular set of maps to be very helpful and useful in my continuous journey of prospecting for precious metals and gems.

THE ROCK DOC

at Prospectors Village

17897 US Hwy. 285
Nathrop, Colorado 81236

(719) 539-2019

between Buena Vista and Salida

Join our email list at "TheRockDoc.net"

Website - www.TheRockDoc.net



Steve Cormier, The Prospector Quill, Editor 2018



Blast from the Past

Good Reports From Park County.

Silver Cliff Rustler, February 6, 1895

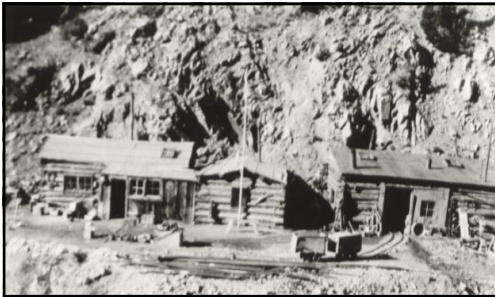
A chimney of ore that carries 22 ounces gold to the ton has just been opened in the Wheeler Mine, Montgomery District, near Fairplay.

Previous to opening the chimney, the mine was outputting free milling ore that carried from two to three ounces gold to the ton. A larger force is being put on, and the mine is being worked to its fullest capacity, shipping to Denver smelters.

The Republican says that mining men down from Fairplay bring reports of a new gold strike having just been made in Park County in the vicinity of Red Hill. Little definite information can be obtained as the location is being kept a secret, but specimens of the ore are displayed in Fairplay and they carry free gold in rich quantities. There is much rich placer ground in the district and miners have insisted that veins of free gold would eventually be found near by.

Whether the long expected discovery has been made or not, no one from there is yet able to say.

Silver Cliff Rustler, February 6, 1895



Located near Alma. Left to right: cook house, bunk house, blacksmith shop, engine room and portal in 1899.

Neighborly Echoes

Salida Mail, December 5, 1899

Lake City Times (December 5, 1899) in describing the accident in which Edward McGraw and George Lair were killed by an explosion in the Ute Mine says: "Both men were blown all to pieces." It is supposed that the boys were loading when the accident happened. Both bodies were so mangled that they would hardly be recognized. Mr. McGraw has a brother, dad (business man in Salida). Both young men were well and favorably known here as upright and industrious miners.

Salida Mail, December 5, 1899

As Clean as a Whistle!

as neat as a

—your house—if you wish it to be. No extra time, work or money needed. Instead, about half as much time, work and money as you now devote to keeping it—half clean.

GOLD DUST Washing Powder.

used for cleaning purposes is the secret of clean, neat house-keeping,—of never being hurried and worried. Sold everywhere. Made only by

THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,

Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston, Philadelphia.

Advertisement: Leadville Daily/Evening Chronicle, July 25, 1896

What's Black Sand?

From the Quill Archives February 2007

by Lou Severini

I have often been asked, "What's that black sand at the bottom of my gold pan?" The answer is both simple and complex at the same time. Simple in that the 'black sand' is mostly composed of heavy mineral oxides; complex in that the composition of the 'heavies' depends on where you are panning. In fact, the composition of the black sands will vary with the particular district you are working in, and in many cases even where you are within a given district.

The mineralogy of the sources where the placer gold originated, the surrounding rock material, and the placer deposition mechanism determine just what minerals are available to become 'black sand' in the bottom of your sluice box or pan.

Heavy Minerals Found in Black Sands (globally)

(* = in Colorado, ** = most prevalent)

Mineral	Density
Platinum *	14-20
Gold *	15 - 19
Silver *	10.1-11.1
Tantalite	7.95
Wolframite	7.4
Cassiterite	6.8-7.1
Columbite	5.4-6.4
Scheelite	5.9-6.1
Monazite	4.6 - 5.4
Hematite **	5.26
Magnetite**	5.2
Ilmenite	4.75
Zircon	4.6 - 4.7
Chromite	4.3-4.5
Garnet*	4.25
Rutile	4.23
Sapphire*	4.0
Diamond	3.5-3.53

There are two specific characteristics that define the minerals that you may find in your black sands. First, the mineral must be resistant to weathering; typically these minerals have relatively high hardness and very low chemical activity. Obviously, the mineral must be relatively heavy so it will tend to concentrate.

Some of the materials found within these black sands may be worth more than the gold you are recovering. The potential value of some of these minerals is obvious- e.g., Platinum and Silver. But the value of others is a bit more obscure.

A further discussion of black sand minerals and their potential value will be presented in a future article. In addition to the black sands, you may find valuable gem minerals in your pan or sluice. As you can see from the table above, several minerals considered gems are represented (Zircon, Garnet, Sapphire, and Diamond). In many cases these minerals may be found in large enough sizes to be cut into gemstones. Early miners in areas of Montana complained bitterly about the "blue gravel" that 'clogged' their sluice boxes. During the California gold rush, hundreds of diamonds were recovered by the miners and may still be recovered there today.

The moral of this article is, make sure to look closely at the material you have washed in your pan, sluice, dredge, or dry washer. You may have recovered more than those gold flakes you have been saving!

Quill Archives February 2007



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The Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) was founded around 1974 as a non-profit organization for recreational gold prospectors in the Colorado area. Our membership at any given time has grown to over 600 members and continues to grow across the Front Range, the nation, and even the world!

GPOC Outings & Events Planner

In response to feedback from our members, we are adding a rolling three-month planning calendar to each issue of the Quill. Now you can see and plan for events months in advance—and make requests to the Planning Committee for outings and events in YOUR club! Also check the next page and the GPOC web site at WWW.GPOC.CLUB for more info on events including location and start times.

OCTOBER 2018

The Prospector's Quill Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept 30 Dredge Fest	Oct 1	2	3	4 GPOC Board Meeting	5	6 Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival
7 Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival	8	9 RWMMI Speakers' Bureau Lecture	10 ELECTIONS General Membership Meeting	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 GPOC Planning Committee	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Nov 1 GPOC Board Meeting	Nov 2	Nov 3

NOVEMBER 2018

The Prospector's Quill Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31	1 GPOC Board Meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Rocky Mountain Coal Exhibit Lecture	9	10
11	12	13 WMMI Speakers' Bureau Lecture	14 General Membership Meeting "Silent Auction"	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Assay Class
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1

- **GPOC Board Meetings** are held the 1st Thursday of each month at **7 pm**, Gold Hill Police Station, 955 Moreno Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, (access from W. Moreno Ave.). GPOC Members only.
- **GPOC General Membership meetings** are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at **7 pm**, Elks Lodge, 3400 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO. The General Public is welcome!
- **GPOC Planning Committee Meeting.** **7 pm** at Village Inn, Garden of Gods. & I25, CO Springs. GPOC Members Only.
- **GPOC Claims Committee** Meetings are held at WMMI at **10am**, the last Saturday of the month. GPOC Members Only.
- **GPOC New Member Orientations** are held on Saturdays indicated at 10am @ WMMI. March and June are also followed by a GPOC Power Class—where you can study the GPOC Rules, Ethics, and Regulations—and earn discounts on Power Permits.
- **GPOC New Member Outings** are held the Sunday after New member Orientations. Meet @ 9am in the Cabela's parking lot, off the Ridgeway Parkway exit off I-25, south side of Denver

DECEMBER 2018

The Prospector's Quill Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6 GPOC Board Meeting	7	8 Rocky Mountain Coal Exhibit Closes
9	10	11	12 Christmas Party	13	14	15
16	17 Holiday Model Train Exhibit Opens	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Jan 1, 2019	Jan 2	Jan 3 GPOC Board Meeting	Jan 4	Jan 5



WMMI News

7th Annual Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival

This annual family friendly weekend helps you to get in the spirit of fall.

Enjoy a pumpkin patch, hayrides, food trucks, vendors, spooky stores, and more!

www.wmmi.org

225 North Gate Blvd.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
719.488.0880

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Monday-Saturday Year Round

I'm that grumpy old man...

You don't see me at any of the meetings, I sit in the back row with empty chairs all around me. I wear faded blue jeans that are worn and ragged on the bottom with a dusty blue denim shirt with hole worn in the elbows and an old MDing baseball cap tipped back for that leisurely comfort.

I'm quiet and meek and very polite, I may say hello to a passerby or a neighborly gentleman that gives me a glance over their shoulder.

I have attended many meetings, yet not a soul knows my name. I come to find my way amongst the many folks that have the same industrious hobby I do.

I creak a little as I stand up to hold my hat over my heart, then listen intently to the guess speaker as they deliver a wealth of new and old information to the crowd.

I may nod off a moment when the business starts, but not from boredom. I just had a long day scooping the last of my bags of "Fines" in to my concentrator.

I enjoy the anticipation of the drawing near the end of the meeting, and yell with excitement when my number is called.

Just smile and say "Hi" I'd enjoy meeting you, I don't bite. I would love to hear about the big pickers you found, or the meteorite in the bottom of your pan.

I'm that grumpy old man...



What size are your Arkansas river concentrates?

Post by cjJohnson » Fri Jun 03, 2016 10:58 pm

Most know that the Gold and concentrates on the GPOC Arkansas river claims and Pt Bar BLM area are "fines" or small, not nugget size. Ever wonder just how much of what size? I had often thought about it and so I took a 5 gallon bucket of my dredge concentrates from Woody's and scales to find out.



OK, I didn't mean using a tape measure ;)

First, you should know that I had screened my concentrates at the river with a 2 mesh or 1/2 inch screen and left the "+2mesh" material at the river. I also poured off all excess water, but didn't dry the concentrates. The original weight was 77 lbs. Then I started classifying. I use the convention that "+" means it didn't make it through the stated screen size and "-" means that it went through.

Then I stopped. I will update this when I get something better than "bucket top" screens for 50 and 100 mesh.

~ Rough	Concentrates	Concentrates	~% of Fraction
-2	77lbs	100%	1
+4, +8 and +12	25lbs	32.466%	1/3
-12	52lbs	67.532%	2/3
+20	10lbs	12.987%	1/8
-20	42lbs	54.545%	1/2
+30	10lbs	12.987%	1/8
-30	32lbs	41.558%	3/8

Question from Bill;

Did you happen to weigh the black sands?

The short answer is no. I am not sure how I would do that without spending a large portion of time and I'm not sure what would be learned by doing it. I can tell you that two similarly full buckets of "black sand" from Cache Creek historical commercial tailings that had almost no "blonds" weighed in at 78 lbs and 84 lbs. I hope you don't mind, but your question

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

What size are your Arkansas river concentrates?

gives me the chance to share some things that others might not know, so I'll also give a much longer answer.

You bring up several interesting items by asking about how much "black sand" was in that 77 lb bucket of my dredge concentrates. One of these involves equipment and like many other things, no two people will set up the same piece of equipment the same. We will 'tune' and tailor our equipment to our liking and to better do what we are trying to do. Like other clubs, most GPOC members try to provide the opportunity in our outings, Forum and meetings to exchange information, not to have one solution be better than another, but to provide ideas and options to each other and to the novice prospector. Some want to have almost no "black sand" in their concentrates they take home and that is OK, I have learned a lot from them and exchanged ideas that they later incorporated (Gold Hog mat configurations, etc.). I have my reasons for the way my machines are set up and how I run them and its ok for others to disagree. I don't want to keep all the "black sands", but I do want to capture and take home the heavy ones!

Other items sparked by your question are: How are size (5 gal bucket full) and weight (77 lbs) related? What is "black sand"? Why does a prospector care? Why did I start this thread about size? Many reasons, one is to manage expectations for those thinking those large nuggets found in California, Alaska, Australia and in all the magazines, books and videos are also here in Colorado. Because classification (sorting by size) is time consuming, labor intensive and sort of boring, a lot of money is made by manufacturers claiming (correctly) that you don't NEED to do much classification. The Gold Cube is a great machine, and you don't NEED to classify below 8 mesh, UNLESS you want to get more gold! I classified down to -30 mesh in my experiment, but have researched a lot of Colorado geological studies that state 90-95% of all the GOLD in Colorado is invisible to the human eye! Good news for me is that I haven't thrown away any concentrate tailings and since the 'size' experiment reported here, I have discovered that my sluices, dredges and high banker, Gold Cube and Genie all capture a good portion of it. See my post elsewhere in this forum about "smudge" gold at www.gpoc.club/forum/viewtopic Articles differ, but somewhere between -200 mesh and -250 mesh an individual particle of GOLD or anything else is beyond the optical capability of the 20/20 human eye.

Now about the relationship between size and weight. All gravity separation methods (panning, sluicing, high-banking, dredging, cubing, blue bowls or spiral wheels, etc.) all rely on the differences in the density of the materials we are trying to separate.

For those not aware, you need to know that density is simply mass (weight) divided by size. 'Relative density' or 'specific gravity' are terms often used and

are both a comparison of two different materials, in mining this is most often a mineral (pure) compared to the same volume of pure water. Pure (99.999 refinery pure or 24 Carat) gold has a relative density of 19, or 19.3, meaning that it is 19 times heavier than the same volume or size of pure water. The only denser natural mineral is Platinum at a pure 'specific gravity' of about 21. Now, how do you use this information to get your gold?

A very good set of videos about using size to maximize gold recovery in gravity separation processes (yes it all starts with panning) is Mike Pung's "FINE GOLD CHALLENGE". Mike introduces his 'Golden Rule', which is "If everything is the same size, GOLD rules!" Again I highly recommend the video clips, check them out at: www.goldcube.net You also might notice how many times the co-inventor of the '8 mesh' Gold Cube tells you that you should always classify to at least -100 mesh when dealing with fine (very small) GOLD! For those interested, many gold rush era stamp and ball mills had a production size of -100 mesh - even the new mill at the CC&V mine produces -100 mesh material for further non-mechanical processing.

Unfortunately, you can't use just size to extract the GOLD from your Colorado "black sand" concentrates. Why? because the other minerals in the "black sand" concentrates are also down to those same microscopic sizes. If Mike is correct about the 'Golden Rule', is there an exception to the rule? In my experience, yes. Why? Because of the specific gravity and mixtures of the minerals in the Arkansas river (and other Colorado locations) "black sand" concentrates. If you are a Colorado prospector, you've heard the stories about the short lived gold rush to the California Gulch tributary of the upper Arkansas river and the second and third rush when the prospectors learned that the mineral making it hard to separate the gold from the other minerals in the concentrates was lead and then they learned it was actually a silver-lead ore, hence the name "Leadville". By carefully researching the geologic reports about Colorado and the Arkansas river basin, you can learn that several of earth's very dense minerals occur in it and so will likely be in your "black sands". you want a shortcut? They are Platinum, Gold, Silver, Lead, Hematite and Magnetite. Another time ask me about "heavy magnetite".

Now go get some YELLER GOLD!

p.s. Why do you care? If there was a half pound of silver in that 77 pound bucket of concentrates, but only a few grams of GOLD, then what?

by Calvin Johnson, GPOC



There is a 2018 updated
BLM - Mining Claim Packet.

See link below.

https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/2018_mining_claim_packet.pdf



The Prospector's Quill Summer Edition

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OCTOBER 2018



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