

# 7:30 Mine Trail

## Site 1: Tunnels, Adits, Gulches, Lawsuits, and the Story of a Wagon Road

**NOTE: The tunnels, shafts and adits which were created to pull ore from these mines may be dangerous due to bad air, rotted timbers, water and other hazards. Please be careful and stay out of these mines.**

The miners who made their way to the Rocky Mountains in 1859 came in search of gold. They found silver as well, but pushed these claims aside as they focused on gold. In the fall of 1864, rich silver ore was found at the summit of Mt. McClellan, about 4 miles southwest of here as the crow flies. While they hadn't been interested in just "any old" silver mine, the high grade ore was valuable enough to start a new rush to the Rockies. As you might guess from the name of the town, Silver Plume became part of that second rush. The mines north of the town would produce great quantities of silver ore. The hillsides above you are riddled with tunnels, shafts and underground workings. A report done by the United States Geological Survey in 1908 noted 13 miles of underground workings related to the Pelican mine and related claims alone.



*Dalglish photo of Silver Plume taken in the late 1890s from the hillside south of town. Image courtesy of History Colorado 10041682*

Aerial photography shows a quiet mountainside with mine dumps giving us a hint of past activity.



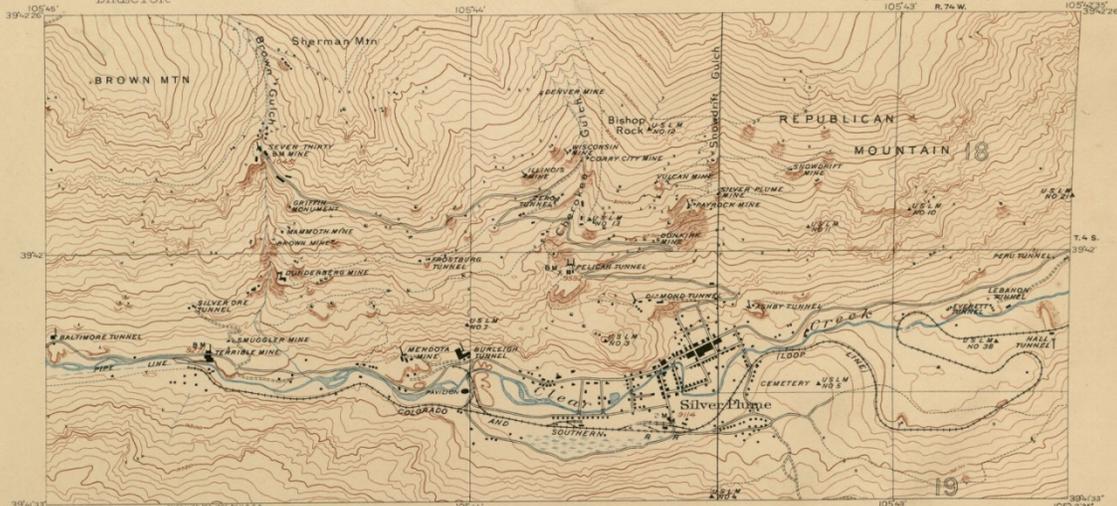
An overlay of mining claims gives you an idea of the frenzied development that took place almost 150 years ago.



**These mining claims and the property rights are in possession of private property owners. The trail you are about to climb is a 19<sup>th</sup> century wagon road now under the management of Clear Creek County. The road is a public right of way, but the properties it crosses are private, and we ask you to respect the rights of these landowners.**

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CHARLES D. WALCOTT  
DIRECTOR

COLORADO  
(CLEAR CREEK COUNTY)  
SILVER PLUME SPECIAL MAP



E. M. Douglas, Geographer.  
Frank Tweedy, in charge of section.  
Topography by Pearson Chapman.  
Triangulation by Frank Tweedy.  
Surveyed in 1904.



Edition of May 1906.

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MAPS PRE-1945 TOPO CO SILVER PLUME  
1904 PCL MAP