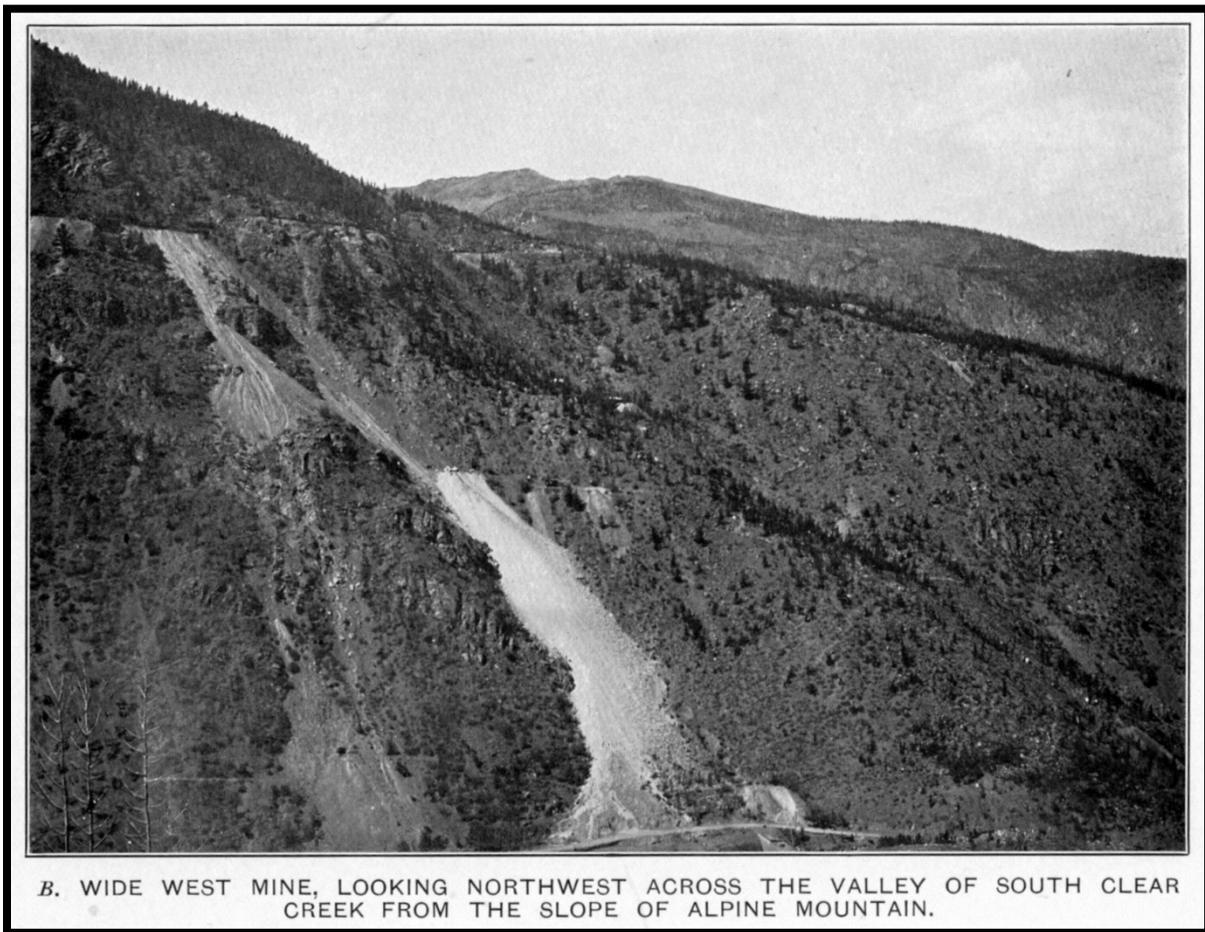


Site 8: Wide West Mine and the Devil's Slide

An anecdote from Dan Abbott's book, *Stairway to the Stars*, recalls a railway accident that occurred in this area in 1915: "Spreading rails on rotten ties caused another accident on August 17. A tourist train left Silver Plume and was just above what is known at the Devil's Slide, where a steep slide area ran to the electric company dam. At that point the rails spread, causing the passenger coach to bump along on the ground. Fortunately, the train was not going more than 10-miles-per-hour, and the derailed car only bounced over five ties before the train was stopped. The frightened passengers wasted no time getting out of the coach, and many of them walked down the mountain to Georgetown, where they caught the C&S train back to Denver."

From this vantage point, looking east and down into the valley below, are remnants a massive tailing called the Devil's Slide, belonging to the Wide West Mine. Located in the same mineral zone as the famous Colorado Central Mine, which lies further to the south, the Wide West was one of many large producers on south side of Leavenworth Mountain. From this vantage point, the Georgetown Reservoir and remnants of a mill constructed by the Colorado Central Mining Company are also visible.



This photo illustrates the prominence of the Devil's Slide; the grade of the Argentine Central can be seen in the upper left corner. Image courtesy: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 63 pl. XLVI-B.