

THE GOLD NUGGET

March 2025

IT'S 2025 AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS??? GPR CLUB 2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. THIS YEAR DUES ARE \$40.00. PAY AT A MEETING WITH CASH, CHECK, CREDIT CARD (+\$3.00 Square cc reader fee), OR MAIL CHECK TO:

GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES, PO BOX 150096, LAKEWOOD COLORADO 80215-0096.

The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning



I'm currently up in Alma working on a project and have not been in town very much. Our speaker for March will be the Brad Martinez, the designer of the GeoSluice. He is located in Arvada and it should be a good Program. My work has been taking an awful lot of my time here lately and I really appreciate the other Board Members stepping up to help ensure that things continue to run smoothly. We are trying to get things planned for the summer to give the membership opportunities and options to participate in them. I hope to see everyone at the upcoming meeting on March 19. May Your Pans Shine with Gold!

Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel

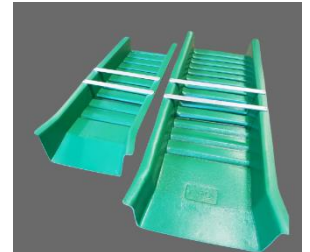


I should start by saying I hope the speaker we had scheduled for February is feeling better. Since he was ill, I presented on my recent visit to the site of the original gold rush in South Africa. The old town is very well preserved but the historic creek has been taken over by illegal miners! If you missed that, it was videoed and, when posted, you will be able to see it on the club website here:

<https://www.goldprospectorsoftherockies.com/video.htm>

For the March meeting, we will have Brad Martinez of GeoSluice. Brad is an extremely avid, productive prospector who recently bought the GeoSluice business and moved the sluice and high banker manufacturing to Arvada, Colorado! Learn more about the unique design of these sluices and their advantages. Brad may also have a few sluices for sale,

depending on his available stock. I can tell you; I have used a GeoSluice highbanker a few times and it worked great. They are also very lightweight and quick to set up. Come to the meeting to see for yourself!



Meanwhile, on the prospecting front, I did manage to do a little sampling at a new spot in metro Denver on 2/19, just before the February club meeting. At the first spot I tried, I found myself breaking ice to get to the dirt I wanted to sample. At the second one, I didn't have to break any ice and the gold was pretty decent in my sample pans... I think I'll be back there when things warm up! Take a note from this, that winter in metro Denver can be a good time to explore and sample new spots, even when it's really too cold in your opinion, to do a lot of digging. My March plans include a bit of sampling on the Roaring Fork River, since I will be there to ski anyway. It'll probably be at a site in Glenwood Springs from my second guidebook (Finding Gold in Colorado: The Wandering Prospector) which was sampled during book research by another prospector. I've never prospected that river so this will be a fun outing for me! I am also hoping the Blue River melts off enough for me to do some sunny winter day type digging up here in Summit County too! I hope reading this inspires you to pick a sunny day to get out there exploring with your gold pan so you "Find Your Gold!"



From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson

We had a decent turnout for the February meeting. We gave away lots of gold nuggets and other door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets as well as your 50/50 tickets. We also have a new 'Special Nugget' and you will want to buy your tickets for that upcoming giveaway as well. If you have any door prizes you would wish to donate to the Club Door Prize coffers, be sure and bring those to me as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting. See you all there!



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Board Meeting Minutes from 19 Feb 2025 (zoom)

x	Bobby Manning		Mike Stevens	x	Andy Doll	X	John Johnson
x	Gordon Smith	x	Kevin Singel	x	Robert Ahr	X	Joe Kafka
x	Gary Hamilton		Erik Van Halle		Bill Manning		
	Joe Johnston						

Quorum Present: Y

Call to Order by: K. Singel at 7:39 pm. [Pres. Manning having technical difficulties at the beginning of the meeting].

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: Approved as read/corrected: Tabled as no copies of Jan. minutes available to the board at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: Income sheet total column title issue, plus no change to the monthly facility fee – Pres. Manning assured the board he was working on the new contract___ Approved: Conditionally. Thanks to board member Singel for his work on moving the spreadsheets over to an Excel format.

Correspondence: phone calls 0 emails 0 mail 5 (4 pertaining to dues and one from Ft. Wallace Museum folks)

Webmaster: Total hits 199 Hits in last 30 days ?

Committee Reports:

- John Johnson reported on research into Donation Receipt Books. Found they were all relatively expensive - \$50 and up. After discussion, it was decided a regular receipt book would be sufficient and the words "Club Donation" would be handwritten on each receipt along with the club address and E.I.N. number.
- Board member Van Halle reported on his work to invite Scouting troops to earn their Mining Merit Badges by Working with the Club. The Scout Masters he contacted have not been responsive. He indicated he is not a Social Media person and requested another board member with those skills reach out to the Facebook Pages for the various Troops online. Board member Singel made a motion to allow active Scouts to attend all meetings without having to pay dues. Seconded by J. Kafka and unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business: Board member Singel brought up speakers/presenters for the meetings. He reported that all months of 2025 are filled with the exceptions of June and September. Board member Ahr has been in touch with member Jack Meineke and indicated Jack might take one of those open slots to present on "dry rocking." Jack will be contacted to finalize his participation by the next meeting.

New Business: President Manning reports more Club gold is on order and expected to be here prior to next month's meeting.

Planned Outings: President Manning requested other Board members take the responsibility of showing up at the Outings off his plate as his job is now demanding more of his time. Board member Stevens is considering taking over although his family commitments may make that difficult. He will let the Board know by the next meeting.

Board Members Items of Discussion: Board member Ahr brought up changes to the Pirate's Hunt and after discussion it was decided that it would remain on the last Wednesday of each month.

Past President Johnston has not connected with Leisha from the VA facility yet due to being ill recently. He will connect with her by the next meeting.

General Meeting Program for February: Anthony Bowerman on finding the largest gold mine in South America.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting March 13 at 7:30pm via Zoom Next General Meeting: February 19 at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: Move to adjourn by G. Smith; Seconded by M. Stevens

Meeting stands adjourned at 8:52 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the name of the 2500 year old coin that introduced the gold standard ????

2025 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Kevin Singel

Treasurer

John Johnson

Secretary

Gordon Smith

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2025)

Andy Doll (2024)

Mike Stevens (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Joe Kafka

Gary Hamilton

Erik Von Halle

Bobby Manning

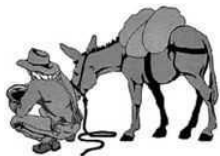
Past President

Joe Johnston

General Meeting Minutes from 19 Feb 2025

1 Meeting was opened at 7:03 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pres. Manning then announced that the evening Program which was Kevin Singel – History of the Gold Rush in South Africa.



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3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 2939, Silver 32.50 Platinum 984 Palladium 1010 Rhodium 4975.
4. Web hits for last month: 199.
5. Treasurer Johnson reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We have a 'Special Nugget drawing going so be sure to buy lots of tickets. They are always beautiful specimens.
6. Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 40 members in attendance. Of that number there were 2 Guests Present tonight and 2 New members.
7. Pres. Manning read the "Question of the Month", which was: "The Carat weight measurement is based on what..?" The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. Pres. Manning advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2025. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. Kale Smith announced that when he checked on the cache it was missing. Since no one had contacted him that it had been found; he will hide another one in the same general vicinity so that the clues given so far will still lead a searcher to the cache. 'Cache Clue' # 7.
10. Pres. Manning advised that gold bags are still available at the Treasurer's table. Their sale helps support your club.
11. Pres. Manning informed the membership that the 2025 Outings schedule is on the website and to monitor it in order to plan for any outings you may want to participate in. Announcements will also be made with the Newsletter postings.
12. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. Additional items to be discussed include: The Monthly "Pirates" Hunt – after member input, the monthly metal Detecting hunt will remain on the last Wed. of the month. Robert Ahr also reminded members that last year the Pirate Hunters found approximately \$250 in coins alone. Quite a few other valuable objects were also found, so come out and Try your luck! President Manning reported that there are potentially two panning demos on the horizon and he will ask the membership to volunteer when he has firm dates. The Club also purchased some nice gold from President Manning's employer at a very competitive price. A copy of a full-color newsletter from the Ft. Wallace Museum showing GPOTR participation was mailed to the Club and on display at the meeting. In a gesture of humility, Board Member Ahr returned the award given him last month. His reasoning is that he did not feel he deserved it when there were 24 others who made the Pirate's Hunt work and he did not feel right taking an award singling him out.
13. Pres. Manning announced the break at 8:12 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:28 pm.
14. Pres. Manning announced the winners of the "Question of the Month". The answer was, "... The Carob Seed. There were 30 winners who received their extra ticket for the gold drawing.
15. Pres. Manning announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month' for Feb. They were:
 - Best Coin – Shellie Zorne
 - Best Jewelry – Shellie Zorne
 - Best Mineral – Bobby Manning
 - Best Artifact – Robert Ahr
 - Best Gold – Kevin Singel
16. Pres. Manning concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Bobby Manning, JJ Long and Kevin Singel, followed by the drawings for the door prizes and gold nuggets. Pres. Manning also wants to remind that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were John Johnson and John Olson.
17. Pres Manning conducted the 50/50 drawing. Billy Manning won \$31 and \$31 went to the Club.
18. Pres. Manning reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his



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intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the website.

19. Pres. Manning thanked Greg and Nancy Knerl and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Remember to donate to the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

20. The March Meeting Program will be: Brad Martinez who will present a talk on his the GeoSluice business in Arvada.. Having nothing further at this time; remember to always prospect safely.

21. Meeting was adjourned at __8:50_ pm.

A Miner's Laugh

An old miner submitted his tax filing for 2024 and waited for his return. However, when he received a letter from the IRS, he didn't think that it looked like the check he was used to getting. Opening the letter, he read it to discover that he was being informed that his filing was being delayed since he had failed to answer one of the questions properly. It stated that in response to the question, 'Do you have anyone dependent on you?', he had written 9.5 million illegal immigrants, 1.1million crack heads, 3.4 million unemployable scroungers, 80,000 criminals in over 85 prisons plus 650 idiots in Washington DC'. The letter went on to state that that answer was unacceptable. So the old miner wrote back, in response to the letter, stating, 'Who did I leave out??'

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')



Finds of the Month for 2025

The Finds of the Month for January 2025.. Remember, only finds from the last meeting date to the next meeting date may be entered. All gold submitted must be dry and weighed. Categories are for best coin, jewelry, artifact, mineral and most gold. You can also bring stuff for merely 'show and tell', so, let's get out there and get busy and may the best submission win. Good Luck to all!!

- **Best Coin** – Shelly Zornes with a Chinese coin she found while metal detecting.
- **Best Jewelry** – Shelly Zornes with a nice ring she found while metal; detecting.
- **Best Mineral** – Bobby Manning with a specimen of calcite he found while rock hounding.
- **Best Artifact** – Robert Ahr with an old printing die that he found while metal detecting.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Kevin Singel with gold that he found while prospecting in the metro area.



The Pirate's February Hunt by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello everyone! Well, it was a good day to be out and 6 of us started the day with a hot breakfast and stories to tell. At 1000hrs., there were 8 of us that decided to find out if there were any treasure's to be found at Huston Park. We started about 1100hrs.and hunted for 3 hours, give or take. Weather was sunny, wind was light and the temperature almost made 50 degrees. So, with that being said, here is how the day played out; Bill C. took the lead with 1 tungsten carbide ring and 1.07 in coinage. Next in line was Joe F. with 2.16 in coinage, Shellie Z. with 1.87, Chris and Joe K. with 1 earring, 1 dog



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tag and .61 cents. Robert A. managed .60 cent and Mike S. followed up with a .223 shell casing, 1 lighter and .10 cent. which gave the crew a total of \$6.41? It was a good day for the first metal detecting. outing of the 2025 season. And with that said, we'll see ya all at the next G.P.O.R. meeting on March 19th at 1900hrs. until then be safe and keep those machines a swingin..!



Gold Mining in Colorado

(Part 2)

Colorado History Encyclopedia Staff

Authors: Steve Hart and James E. Fell

Timeline of Precious Metal Mining in Colorado

Early History

The 1849 California Gold Rush set off the search for precious metals across the American West. On their way to California, various groups traveling across the Rockies began finding small amounts of gold in Cherry Creek and other streams near present-day Denver. These early findings attracted little attention after the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie made the area more accessible to non-Natives and an economic depression in 1857 led many eastern Americans to seek their fortunes in the West. In 1858 the party of William Green Russell, prospectors with experience from gold rushes in Georgia and California, made a minor gold discovery in Cherry Creek.

The ensuing Colorado Gold Rush saw thousands of people cross the Great Plains to newly established towns such as Denver, Boulder, Cañon City, and Golden; by 1860, the non-Native population of Colorado—which was then still controlled mainly by Indigenous people and officially part of western Kansas Territory—numbered over 34,000. The following year, with the Civil War looming, Congress organized Colorado Territory in part to safeguard the gold-producing region from the emerging Confederacy.

Colorado's population swiftly declined in the early 1860s, as many of the most popular gold streams were panned out and hard rock mining began. People left the area to join the Union or Confederate armies and to seek their fortunes in the Idaho and Montana gold rushes that began in 1862.

Spread Across the Rockies

In the mid-to-late 1860s, the violent removal of the Arapaho and Cheyenne, as well as treaties with the Ute people of the Rocky Mountains and the importing of stamp milling and smelting, revived Colorado's gold-mining industry. This was followed in the 1870s by the development of railroads in the mining districts and discoveries of gold and silver in the San Juan Mountains, the Gunnison Valley, and Leadville. The forced removal of much of Colorado's Ute population in 1881



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made industrial mining possible in places such as Aspen (silver) and the San Juan Mountain towns of Ouray, Silverton, and Telluride (gold and silver).

Silver's Rise and Fall

The fates of Colorado's gold and silver mining industries were always bound to national events. Beginning in the late 1850s, during the Colorado Gold Rush, the rapid development of the Comstock Lode, a massive silver deposit in Nevada, sent the price of silver tumbling. The price drop continued when Colorado's silver industry came alive in Leadville in the late 1870s, prompting those invested in western silver to lobby Congress for support. The Bland-Allison Act, passed in 1878, compelled the government to purchase a set amount of silver each year and was a boon for Colorado mines. Later, the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890 increased the government's silver-buying obligation and further stimulated silver production in Colorado. During the ensuing debate over which precious metals would back US currency, most Coloradans supported silver because Colorado's silver mines, anchored by booming Leadville and Aspen, were producing some \$20 million in silver each year.

The overproduction of silver had already caused its price to drop by about a quarter when another economic depression hit in 1893. That year, the US government sought to protect its diminishing gold reserves by halting its silver purchases. After the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, the price of silver dropped even further, to about sixty-three cents per ounce by 1894.

Although the repeal was intended to stimulate the national economy, it devastated Colorado's. Of the silver mining towns, Leadville suffered the most, with ninety mines closed and 2,500 unemployed. Aspen's silver boom effectively ended, and the town later had to reinvent itself as a ski destination to survive. Altogether, more than 9,500 jobs dried up in mining towns across the state. Colorado's silver industry never recovered, with production dwindling to below \$10 million per year after the turn of the century.

Cripple Creek and Consolidation

Although the bane of Colorado's silver industry, repealing the Sherman Act was a boon for mining gold and other metals. Many out-of-work silver miners flocked to new discoveries in the Cripple Creek gold mines.

The Cripple Creek district was on the western flank of Pikes Peak, where local rancher Bob Womack found gold in 1890. With the repeal of the Sherman Act, the value of gold in Colorado increased by about \$4 million (40 percent) from 1894 to 1895 and reached a peak of \$28 million in 1900, due primarily to Cripple Creek production.

As in other industries—such as railroads, steel, and petroleum—the precious metals industry began to consolidate in the 1890s. This led to the creation of large companies that controlled both mines and smelters. Formed in 1899, the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) was the most significant of these companies in Colorado, operating the Globe smelter in Denver, the Arkansas Valley smelter in Leadville, and the Colorado smelter in Pueblo, as well as dozens of mines across the state. Several years later, ASARCO also acquired the Guggenheim family's smelters at those locations, creating a near-monopoly in Colorado's smelting industry.

Twentieth Century

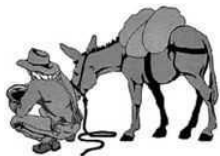
Thereafter, the amount of gold produced in Colorado began to taper off, dropping from 20 million ounces in 1900 to 8.5 million by 1910, then down to 5.4 million ounces in 1920. Gold's value, however, remained steady throughout the 1910s, hovering around \$20 million for the better part of the decade. Its value declined as English investors pulled out of Colorado mines to support their home nation during World War I.

In the 1910s, dredging provided hope for gold mining outfits in five Colorado counties. Dredging used a mechanical chain of buckets attached to a boom on a huge flat-bottom barge floating on a self-dug pond. The dredge buckets scooped large volumes of riverbed gravel into an onboard sluice, where gold was separated. The "waste" gravel was then stacked by a conveyor belt in huge dredge piles still visible along the Blue River near Breckenridge and southeast of Fairplay.

Although it did not bring gold mining back to its heyday, dredging yielded modest gold production in Summit and Park Counties through the early 1940s, when the federal government halted gold mining during World War II.

Meanwhile, with mine production continuing to fall, most Colorado silver-lead-zinc smelters had been shut down by the late 1920s, leaving only one Leadville and one Denver facility in operation. Fewer smelters meant higher costs for transporting ore, making it even harder to turn a profit on the lower-grade ore that remained. Gold and silver production and values dwindled. To compensate, the US Mint stopped coining gold in 1933 and raised the price from \$20 per troy ounce to \$35 per troy ounce, where it remained until 1972.

After the war, gold and silver became mere nuggets in the state's mining stream, which was dominated by molybdenum and uranium. The last underground mine in the Cripple Creek District shut down in 1964. By 1975, when US citizens could again own gold bullion, Colorado still produced some \$5.4 million in gold annually. However, along with silver,



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gold was primarily a by-product of mining for other, more profitable metals. Colorado's molybdenum production, for instance, was \$183 million that year.

Labor Strife

As the precious-metal mining industry consolidated in the late nineteenth century, the era of the individual prospector rushing to strike it rich came to an end, replaced by the grueling drudgery of workers mining for a company. Hard-rock mining was dangerous, with daily hazards including rock falls, injuries from drills and other equipment, and dynamite blasts. As mining historian Duane Smith put it, many accidents and injuries stemmed from "general rashness and lack of care" on behalf of the companies and fellow workers. In addition, many miners developed silicosis, a deadly lung disease caused by inhaling tiny rock particles all day. By 1900 miners braved all these risks for an average of about three dollars per eight-hour day, paltry earnings compared to those of the company bosses.

Disgruntled hard-rock miners joined the Western Federation of Miners (WFM), which lobbied for better pay and working conditions and organized strikes in such places as Leadville, Cripple Creek, and Telluride. The tensions that stemmed from the miners' exploited condition sometimes boiled over into outright labor conflict, such as when WFM members in Cripple Creek blew up a train platform where strikebreakers arrived in 1894 or when striking miners shot at and bombed strikebreakers in Leadville in 1896. For all their organizing and sacrifice, miners' gains in this period were relatively small; slight pay increases, as well as the state's implementation of an eight-hour workday in 1899, were among their victories—although subsequent strikes proved necessary to get mine owners to follow the law.

Today

Production

Although it is far from being as profitable as it was in the nineteenth century, gold and silver mining continues in Colorado today. After a brief hiatus in the 1960s, gold and silver mining resumed at the Cripple Creek and Victor Mine in the late 1970s. Today the mine produces about 322,000 ounces of gold and silver each year. While this is nothing compared to the 25 million ounces pulled out of Colorado mines in 1893, its value—some \$580 million at a rate of roughly \$1,800 per troy ounce—is still substantial.

Mine operators still use milling technology to crush the ore to a usable size. From there, the Cripple Creek and Victor Mine now use a process called *heap-leaching* to recover gold from ore instead of cyanide vats. In heap-leaching, the ore is crushed into sand, piled up, and dripped with a cyanide solution that causes the metals to dissolve and leach into a catchment pond, where the gold can be recovered, and the cyanide reused.

Legacy

Gold and silver mining played an essential role in the development of modern Colorado, but it also touched off a statewide environmental crisis that is ongoing today. Acid mine drainage—the breakdown and leaching of sulfide metals from mine workings, mine waste rock, and mill tailings into local water sources—became a concern in the late twentieth century due to the Clean Water Act and similar environmental laws. This has resulted in lawsuits against mining companies and the creation of several Superfund sites in Colorado where the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has worked to contain and treat contaminated water from mining districts.

Although the EPA is tasked with cleaning up mines with acidic drainage, the agency has sometimes caused further damage. In 2015, EPA crews accidentally released some 3 million gallons of metal-contaminated water into the Animas River. That spill, originating from the Gold King Mine north of Durango, demonstrated the risk of modern environmental disasters arising from nineteenth-century gold and silver mining in Colorado.

In addition to the mines themselves, processing precious metals also produced environmental problems. Emissions from smelters caused localized acid rain; the emissions, as well as the waste material from smelting called *slag*, contained high levels of arsenic and lead, both harmful to human health. Multiple smelter locations across the state, including in Denver's Globeville neighborhood and in Pueblo, became Superfund cleanup sites in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, with the EPA and in some cases, the smelting company working to remove contaminated soil and slag piles.

However, the legacy of Colorado's precious-metal mines also continues in other, more positive ways. As a result of its durability and malleability, much of the gold mined in Colorado during the 1800s is still in use today, whether in jewelry, electronics, space probes, or the treasury reserves of nations across the globe. And the silver, used in US coins until 1972 and in film processing until the 1990s, is now found in jewelry and high-conductivity electronic circuits. Although more than 160 years have passed since the Colorado Gold Rush began, the sun's gleam off the State Capitol's gold dome continues to reflect the state's mining heritage.



How Much Gold Has Been Mined in Human History? Story by ERAN TAL

In the vast landscape of precious metals, gold remains a cornerstone of human economic and cultural significance. But just how much of this glittering resource has humanity extracted from the Earth?

The Total Volume of Mined Gold

As of **February 2024**, the most reliable estimates suggest that approximately 212,582 tonnes of gold have been mined throughout human history. Remarkably, about two-thirds of this total has been extracted since 1950, highlighting the exponential growth of mining capabilities in the modern era.

A Remarkable Perspective on Gold Quantity

To truly comprehend the scale of global gold mining, consider these fascinating visualizations:

- If all mined gold were consolidated into a single cube, it would measure just 22 meters on each side.
- The entire gold production would fill slightly more than three Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- Spread across a football pitch, the gold would create a layer just one meter deep.

All the gold ever mined (credit: Rated Red)

Mining Production and Trends

The World Gold Council reports that gold producers currently uncover between 2,500 and 3,000 tonnes of gold annually. The Witwatersrand Basin in South Africa contributes approximately 170 tonnes to this global output.

Historical Mining Milestones

The United States Geological Survey provides striking insights into gold mining trends:

- 80% of all gold ever brought above ground was mined since 1910
- Approximately 50% of global gold production occurred after 1967

Future Outlook and Challenges

The gold mining industry is facing significant challenges. Exploration has struggled to discover new large deposits, leading some industry experts to question the future of gold mining. Ian Telfer, chairman of Goldcorp, provocatively stated in 2018 that we might have already discovered all accessible gold reserves.

Reserves and Potential

Current estimates suggest:

- 212,582 tonnes of gold already mined
- Approximately 54,000 tonnes of gold reserves potentially remaining underground
- A projected total of 244,040 tonnes of gold available using current mining technology

The Sustainable Mining Approach

With traditional deposits becoming increasingly scarce, mining companies are focusing on technological innovations to improve production efficiency from existing sites. This approach aims to maximize extraction while minimizing environmental impact.



Future Possibilities: Space Mining

The finite nature of terrestrial gold reserves has sparked interest in space mining. The concept of extracting precious metals from asteroids presents an exciting, albeit currently impractical, potential solution to dwindling resources.

Conclusion

Gold remains a finite and fascinating resource. While the total quantity might seem substantial, the rate of discovery and extraction suggests we are approaching a critical point in global gold production. The industry's future will likely depend on technological innovation, exploration techniques, and potentially, extraterrestrial mining ventures.



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- For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)

Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 2025 (GPR Events – Check the Outing Schedule)

Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (<https://www.wmmi.org/>)
(Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 April Fools' Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday	14	15	16 GPR Club Meeting	17	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting) You figure it out???			