

Sweetwater Gold Mining District

The discovery of the Carissa Lode in 1867 launched the South Pass gold rush, the largest of Wyoming's 19th century gold mining booms. Prospectors and miners swarmed gulches and hilltops in hopes of locating a new El Dorado. As the boom gained steam, the Carissa sat at the center of mining development, serving as the primary economic force for the region.

Ghost towns and deserted mines now echo the triumphs and failures of the masses of prospectors that populated the area throughout the gold rush years.

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