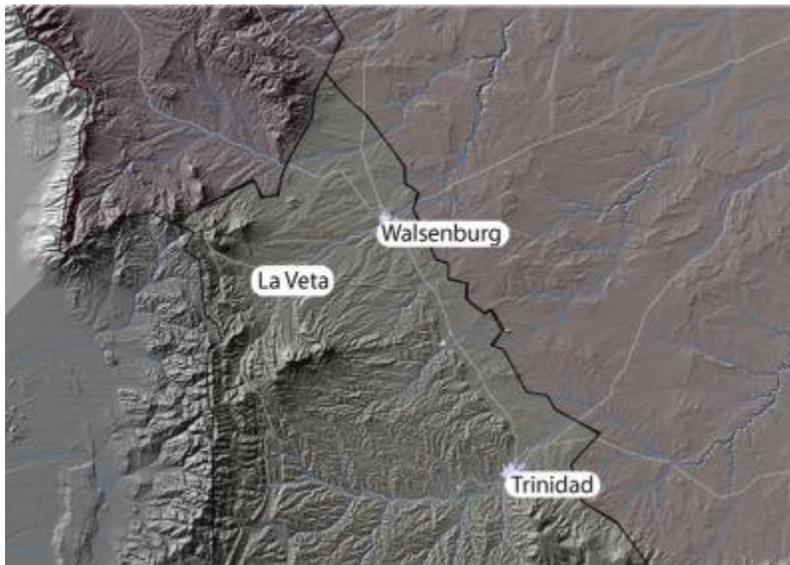


Raton Basin



Geology

The Raton Basin is a geologic structural basin located in southern Colorado. The sedimentary rocks that form the basin are extensively intruded by igneous plugs, dikes, and sills of Eocene to Oligocene age. East and West Spanish Peaks located near the center of the basin are formed by two large granitic intrusions.

The Raton Basin is an important source of coal and coalbed methane. Coal has been mined from the Raton and Vermejo formations since the late 1800's. Thousands of coalbed methane wells have been drilled in the basin. Most CBM production occurs in the center of the basin and straddles the Colorado-New Mexico state line.

Useful Links

[Ludlow Massacre site](#) Learn about early coal mining in Colorado and the labor movement that began here having national implications. Learn why the coal mining owners were jerks.

[Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum](#) T Rex Footprints are on display with a background painting enabling visitors to understand what the area looked like when T Rex roamed here. (museum is in Trinidad)

[Walsenburg Mining Museum](#) - Information on coal mining in the Walsenburg area