

## **Mineral Assessment of Proposed Tagish Narrows SMA Progress Report**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation proposed Tagish Narrows as a Chapter 10 special management area (SMA). Current information from LCIS is that the area will be designated as a Habitat Protection Area with full up-front mineral withdrawal. The SMA proposal is confidential and the First Nation is in the process of ratifying the Final Agreement Memorandum of Understanding that was initiated on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002.

Located between the upper end of Marsh Lake and lower tip of Tagish Lake, on NTS 105D/8, the proposed SMA encompasses approximately 20 square kilometers of water including the channel that joins the two lakes and is within the Yukon Southern Lakes Ecoregion.

Since the proposed SMA is covered in water, the exploration history has been non-existent with the SMA boundary itself. However creeks, which flow into the SMA, have a history of placer gold mining and related exploration.

The Jurassic aged Leberge Group of volcanic and sedimentary rocks underlay the area of the proposed SMA. The regional aero-magnetic geophysical survey results indicate a major structural break that juxtaposes rocks of the Cache Creek Terrane with the Stikine Terrane rocks east of the proposed SMA and northward under Marsh Lake.

A regional mineral assessment panel ranked tracts covered by the proposed SMA for the potential to host the following deposit types: plutonic related gold quartz veins, copper skarn, low sulfidation epithermal, and porphyry copper molybdenum. The proposed SMA area is within tracts that ranked moderate relative regional mineral potential with respect to Phase IV (Stikine Terrane of SW Yukon) of the Yukon-wide Regional Mineral Potential Map (Figure 1 attached).

A compilation of available geoscientific data was completed in April 2002. A creek draining into the southeast corner of the proposed SMA was targeted for the 2002 fieldwork to explore for its placer gold potential. The regional stream geochemistry results were not relevant to the proposed SMA as there are no samples taken in the nearby area.

Multi-element silt and pan concentrate sampling was carried out from the stream to indicate if there is potential for gold bearing gravels near the proposed SMA. A total of 3 samples of rock, silt, and pan concentrates were collected and analyzed during four man-days of field study.

This new data is currently being integrated with existing geochemical, geophysical, and geological data in preparation for hosting a mineral assessment panel scheduled for the second week of December 2002. A mineral potential map of the study area slightly larger than the proposed SMA will be the result of the detailed assessment. Tracts of similar geology will be ranked, by consensus, relative to this much smaller detailed study area around the proposed SMA. A substantive report on the findings of the detailed assessment will be prepared following the panel's assessment of the area.