

Mineral Assessment of Proposed Scottie Creek SMA, Progress Report

The White River First Nation proposed Scottie Creek as a Chapter 10 special management area (SMA). Current information from Land Claims Implementation Secretariat is that the area will be designated as a Habitat Protection Area with no 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 31st, 2002.

The proposed Scottie Creek SMA is located adjacent the Yukon-Alaska boundary centered on Mount Scottie, NTS 115K/10 and 115K/15 approximately 53 kilometers north of Beaver Creek. It encompasses an area of 512.4 km². The area has a limited mineral exploration history and was mapped most recently in the 1970's at 1:250 000 scale geological by the GSC and has never been mapped at 1:50 000 scale. Relatively low metal values were detected in the Regional Reconnaissance Stream Sediment survey (RGS). The area is underlain by potentially favorable geological environments of the Yukon Tanana Terrane and intruded by granitoid intrusives ranging in age from Jurassic to Tertiary.

The three plutonic suites within the proposed SMA area are potential sources for porphyry copper-molybdenum, plutonic related gold and other metal deposits. The plutonic related deposits include vein, vein stockwork, vein breccias, sheeted vein, shear hosted, and skarn styles as well as the porphyry type deposits. The Klondike Schist assemblage rocks, the felsic volcanic and related sedimentary rock units are potential hosts for stratiform base metal mineralization. Currently Yukon Minfile lists one unknown type (claims were staked and trenching carried out) mineral occurrence within the proposed SMA.

Regional Mineral Assessment panelists ranked tracts covered by the proposed SMA for the potential to host the following deposit types: gold-quartz veins, plutonic related gold and epithermal gold-silver deposits. The proposed SMA area is within tracts that ranked moderate and lowest relative regional mineral potential with respect to Phase 4 (SW Yukon) of the Yukon-wide Regional Mineral Potential Map (Figure 1 attached).

A total of 20 man-days were spent investigating the proposed SMA area in 2002. Seventeen rock, forty-eight soil, and forty-nine silt samples were collected and analyzed. As well, several hand specimens of rock lithologies were collected for further identification. The Minfile occurrence was investigated and characterized and the lithologies examined to determine their prospectivity to host mineral deposits.

Currently, this new data is 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 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 is forthcoming.