1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Kootenay-Boundary Region offers a variety of mining and exploration opportunities, and is a significant contributor to both the regional and national economy. Elkview Truck and shovel operations for base and precious metals at Armex Mining Corp continue to be a focus. Several mines produce industrial minerals such as dolomite, magnesite, gyttja, and graphite.

In 2014, exploration spending and drilling increased relative to 2013, with approximately $2.4 million spent on exploration (Fig. 1). Exploration drilling (approximately 125,000 ft) increased for major projects relative to last year, whereas coal exploration drilling was scaled back. With sufficient coal prices, drill programs in the coal mines were cut, and spending was focused on mineral exploration and 100% owned mineral projects. (Table 1)

2.0. GEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

The Kootenay-Boundary Region contains a variety of rock types and mineral deposits. The region is noted for its Neoproterozoic to Carboniferous tectonic assemblages (Table 2). The region is also known for its Neoproterozoic to Carboniferous tectonic assemblages (Table 2). The region is also known for its Neoproterozoic to Carboniferous tectonic assemblages (Table 2).

3.0. COAL

The Kootenay-Boundary Region is home to five operating mines in the Elk Valley. These mines, operated by Teck Coal Limited, produce approximately 70% of Canada’s total annual coal exports. The main product is metallurgical coal (MCC), with some thermal and pulverized coal injection (PCI) coal (10%). Coal mines in southwestern British Columbia mines began in the 1900s, with many of the deposits discovered in the Elk Valley around 1945. The first underground mine, at Coal Creek, opened in 1960 and operated until 1995. In the early 1960s, several other underground mines operated intermittently, and produced industrial steam coals and coke for the smelting industry. (Table 1)

3.1. MINERALS

The Kootenay-Boundary Region continues to be an important source of industrial minerals such as gypsum, magnesite, silica sand, gabbro and basalt as components for mineral wool, dolomite, limestone, graphite, tufa, flagstone, railroad ballast, rip rap, cement, and aggregate (Table 3).

5.0. METALS

Expansion occurred in the Porcupine Batholith, the Kootenay Arc, Quesnel, and the Thompson sub-basins (Table 4, Figs. 4, 5a, 5b).

6.5. INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

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