

Exploration and mining highlights, Southeast Region, 2022

Overview

Four metallurgical coal mines operate in the Elk Valley of the Southeast Region, accounting for most of Canada's coal production and exports, and mine expansion and exploration continued at these mines.

Dating back to the mid-1800s, the region has a long history of metals mining, including lead, zinc, and silver from the past-producing Sullivan mine and gold and silver from the Rossland, Greenwood, Sheep Creek, and Slocan camps. Today, exploration in the region focusses on base and precious metals with some recent extensions into Rare Earth Metals (REE) and related metals on Canada's critical minerals list. The region hosts several industrial mineral mines and quarries, and placer mining continues. The Trail smelter (Teck Resources Ltd.) produces refined lead, and zinc (which is on Canada's critical minerals list), silver and cadmium along with other metals on Canada's critical minerals list (germanium, indium), and fertilizer products.

Although the number of exploration projects remained similar to recent years, the amount of drilling decreased significantly to slightly more than half of what it was in



Exploration and drilling estimates

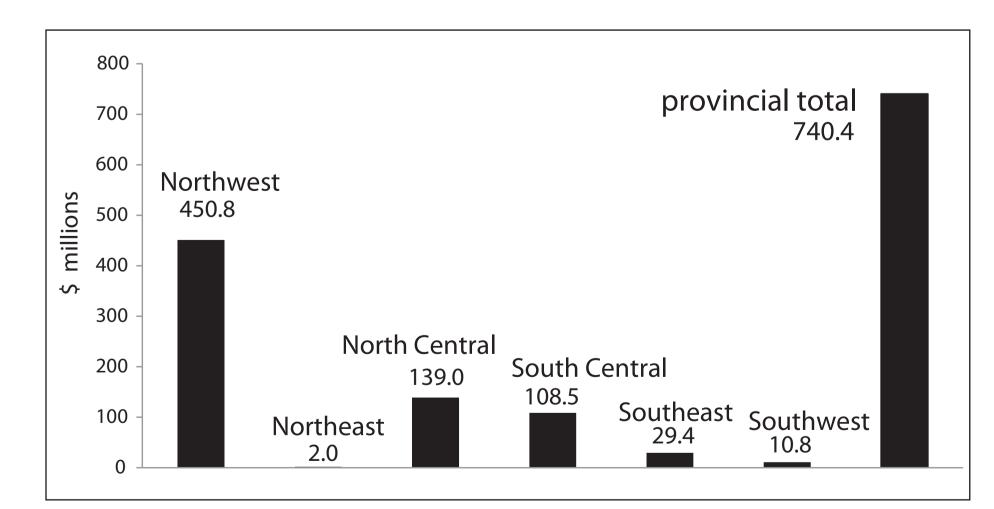
Total British Columbia:

- Exploration expenditures: \$740.4 million
- Drilling: 1,149,000 m

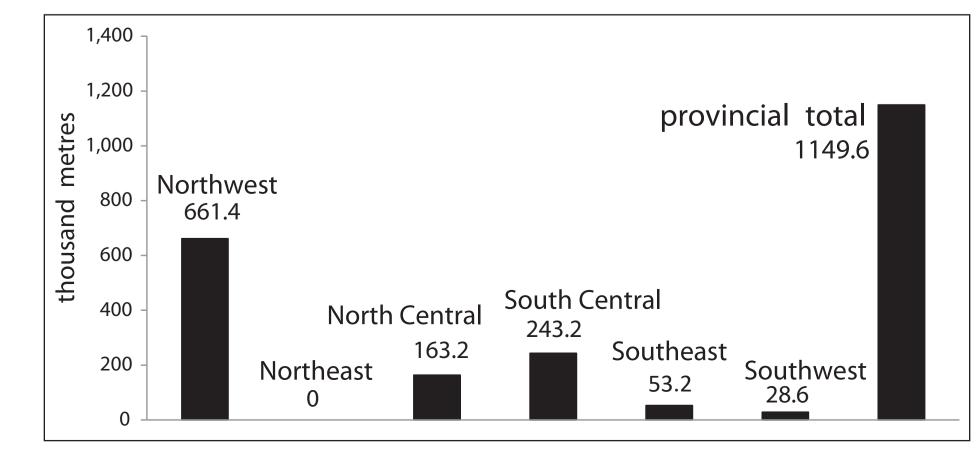
Southeast Region

- Exploration expenditures: \$29.4 million
- Drilling: 28,600 m

Province, expenditures by region

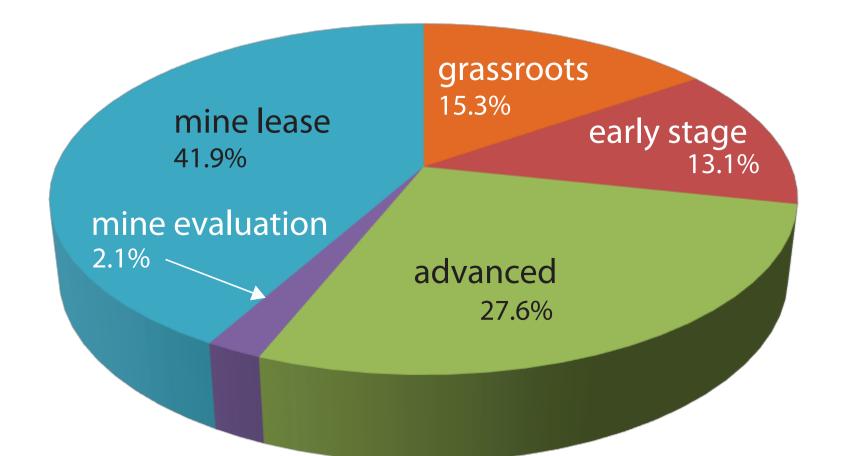


Province, drilling

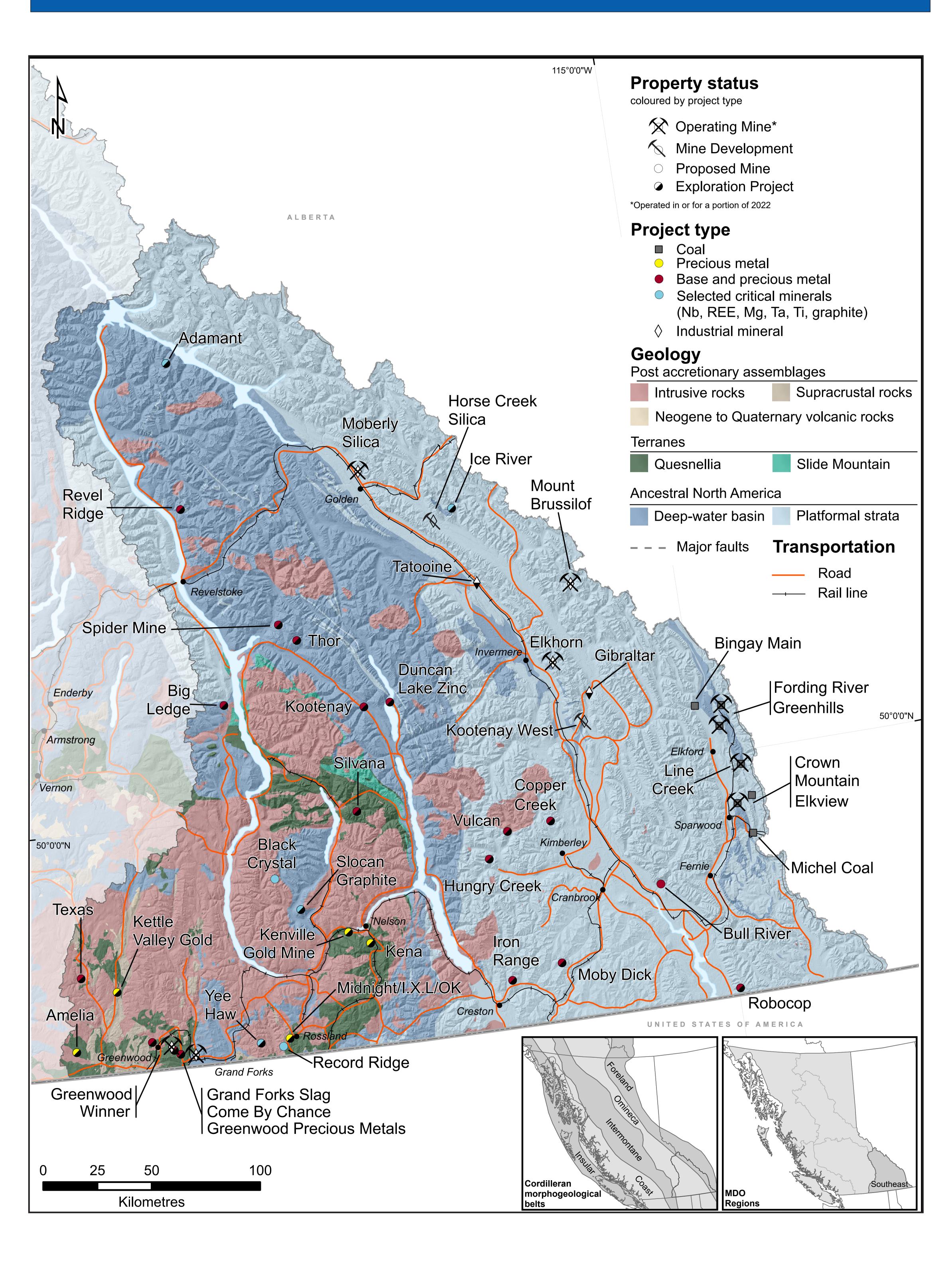




Southeast Region, expenditures by category

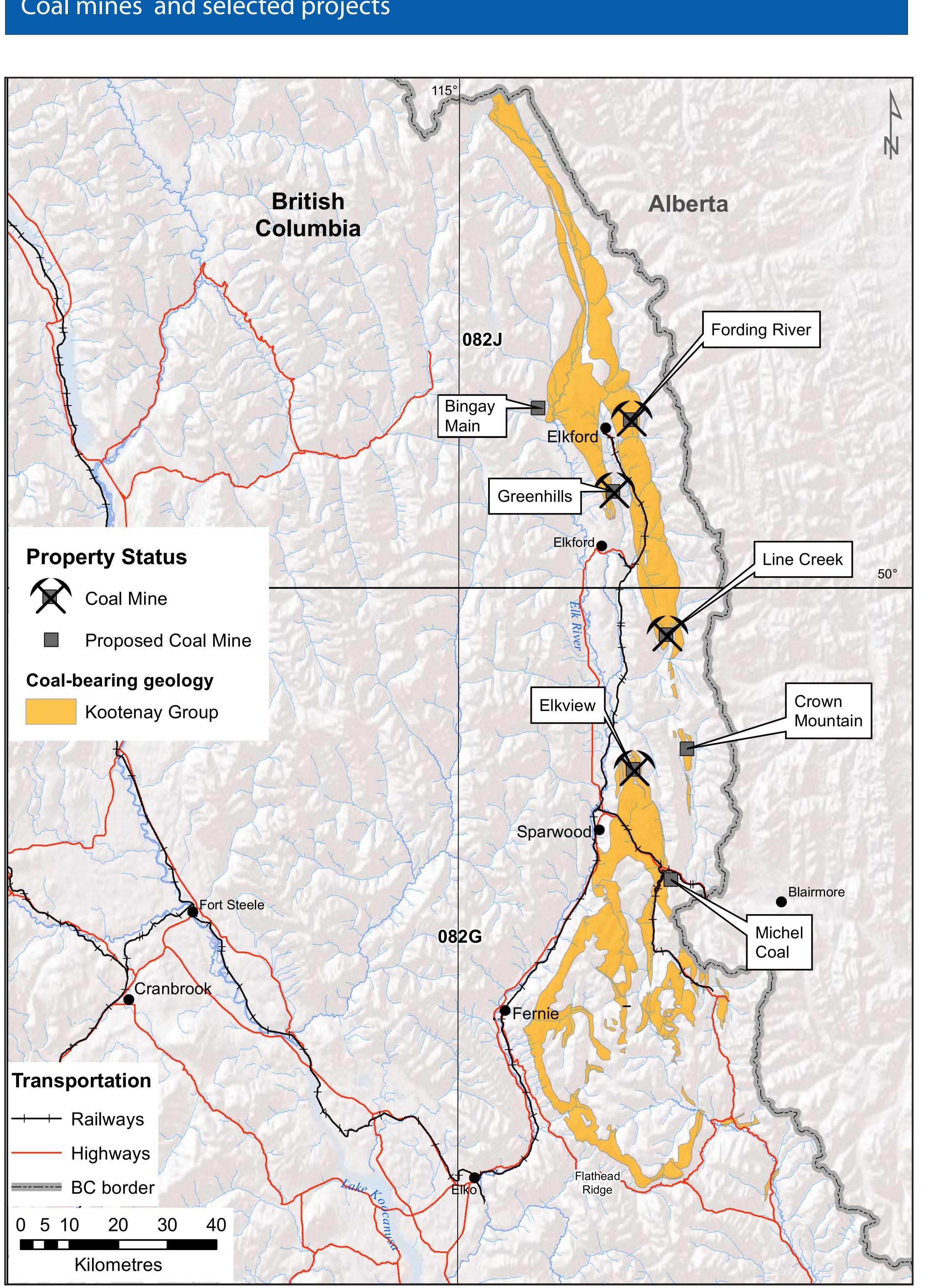


Mines, selected proposed mines, and selected exploration projects



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Coal mines and selected projects





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Exploration drilling highlights

Duncan Lake (Rokmaster Resources Corp.): 34.75 m of semi-massive pyrite-sphalerite-galena that graded 7.03 g/t Ag, 1.56% Pb and 1.76% Zn, including an interval of 3.66 m grading 17.28 g/t Ag, 7.29% Pb and 4.94% Zn.

Midnight/I.X.L./OK West (West High Yield Resources Ltd.): 41 DDH 6202 m. Selected assay highlights from early results of typically 1.5 m sample intervals yielded grades of 38.4, 36.1, 22.6 and 20.7 g/t Au. Highlights from a later release included 1. 5 m grading 15.7 g/t Au, 2.9 g/t Ag and 1.05 m grading 33.7 g/t Au, 3.5 g/t Ag.

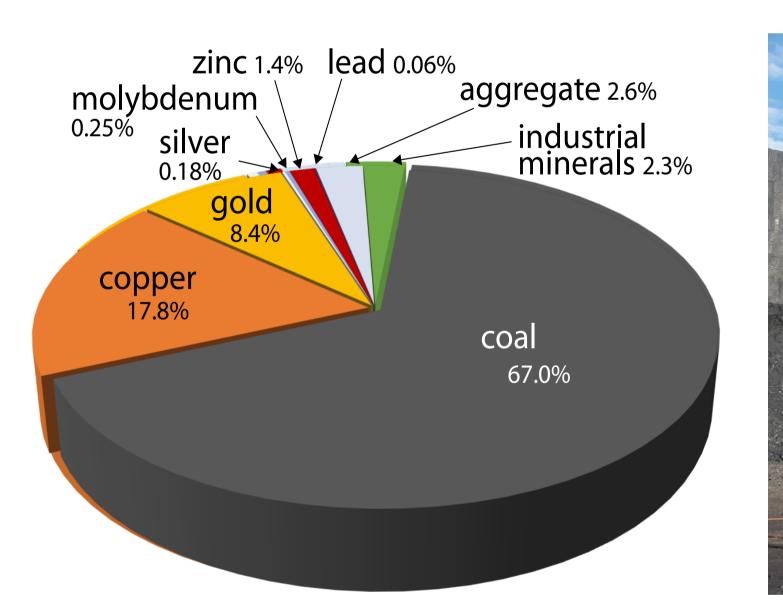
Revel Ridge (Rokmaster Resources Corp.): 14 DDH (10 underground, 4 surface); rock and soil sampling, stream sampling. Selected highlights: Main zone 4.35 m grading 2.57 g/t Au, 17.11 g/t Ag, 0.66% Pb, and 1.94% Zn; Yellowjacket zone 4.45 m grading 0.01 g/t Au, 5.32 g/t Ag, 0.06% Pb, and 0.87% Zn.

Mining highlights

Coal remains British Columbia's most valuable mined commodity with sales forecasted at CDN \$12.2 billion for 2022, which accounts for approximately 67.0% of the mining revenue for the province. In the Southeast Region, Teck Coal Limited mines coal seams of the Kootenay Group (upper Jurassic to lower Cretaceous) at four open-pit operations along the Elk River valley: Fording River, Greenhills, Line Creek, and Elkview. Resource expansion drilling continued at the Fording River Extension project.

Total annual production in the Southeast Region for 2022 is forecast to be 22 Mt of metallurgical coal. Teck reported that Q3 2022 production (5.7 Mt) with nine-month sales of 16.6 Mt.

Proposed coal mines include **Bingay Main**, (Centerpoint Coal Ltd.), **Crown Mountain** (NWP Coal Canada Limited), and Michel Coal (North Coal Limited).





2022 forecast value of British Columbia mineral production by commodity. Total is a record \$18.2 billion. Coal (mainly metallurgical) accounts for 67%.

The Southeast Region has several industrial mineral mines and quarries. The operators range from local companies through to large international corporations. No metal mines are operating.

Kootenay West (CertainTeed Gypsum Inc.) continued developing its Kootenay West gypsum mine, anticipating operation in 2023 with a projected mine life of 43 years. The company reported a resource of 17 Mt gypsum at a blended quality of 83%, with an annual production of 400,000 tpy. Production will replace that from the Elkhorn mine, where the gypsum reserve life is ending.

Further information

Hancock, K., 2023. Exploration and mining in the Southeast Region, British Columbia. In: Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2022. British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, British Columbia Geological Survey, Information Circular 2023-01, pp. 129-142.

EY LLP, 2023. British Columbia Mineral and Coal Exploration Survey 2022 Report.

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