



R E S O U R C E D A T A A N D A N A L Y S I S

MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS - ACTIVITIES OF THE LAND USE OFFICE

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INTRODUCTION

The Land Use Office is responsible for developing reports which document the position of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for land use planning projects throughout the Province. Such projects include: park and recreation area proposals, ecological reserve proposals, mineral reserve requests, official settlement plans, and Crown land allocation plans. The various property files, publications, and staff resources of the Geological Branch provide a vital part of the information base for the Ministry's recommendations on land use projects.

SOUTH MORESBY

Work was completed on the South Moresby Resource Plan in 1984 and the report publicly released after five years of study. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources presented a minority opinion in the report because none of the four alternatives developed by the other planning team members met mineral policy objectives. Principal among those objectives is that evaluation and determination of mineral resource potential should precede any alienation of the land base. In the four options endorsed by the other team members, preservation ranges from 33 per cent (Option 1) to 95 per cent (Option 4) of the total land base of 145 000 hectares. The report has been presented to the Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet. Several Cabinet Ministers and their senior staff toured the area at the end of June. No decision has been reached yet.

SLOCAN VALLEY

The Slocan Valley Planning Program, which began in 1981, culminated with release of the final draft of the Slocan Valley Development Guidelines in September, 1984. This program was the first joint venture between the Province and a regional district in a planning exercise. Extensive

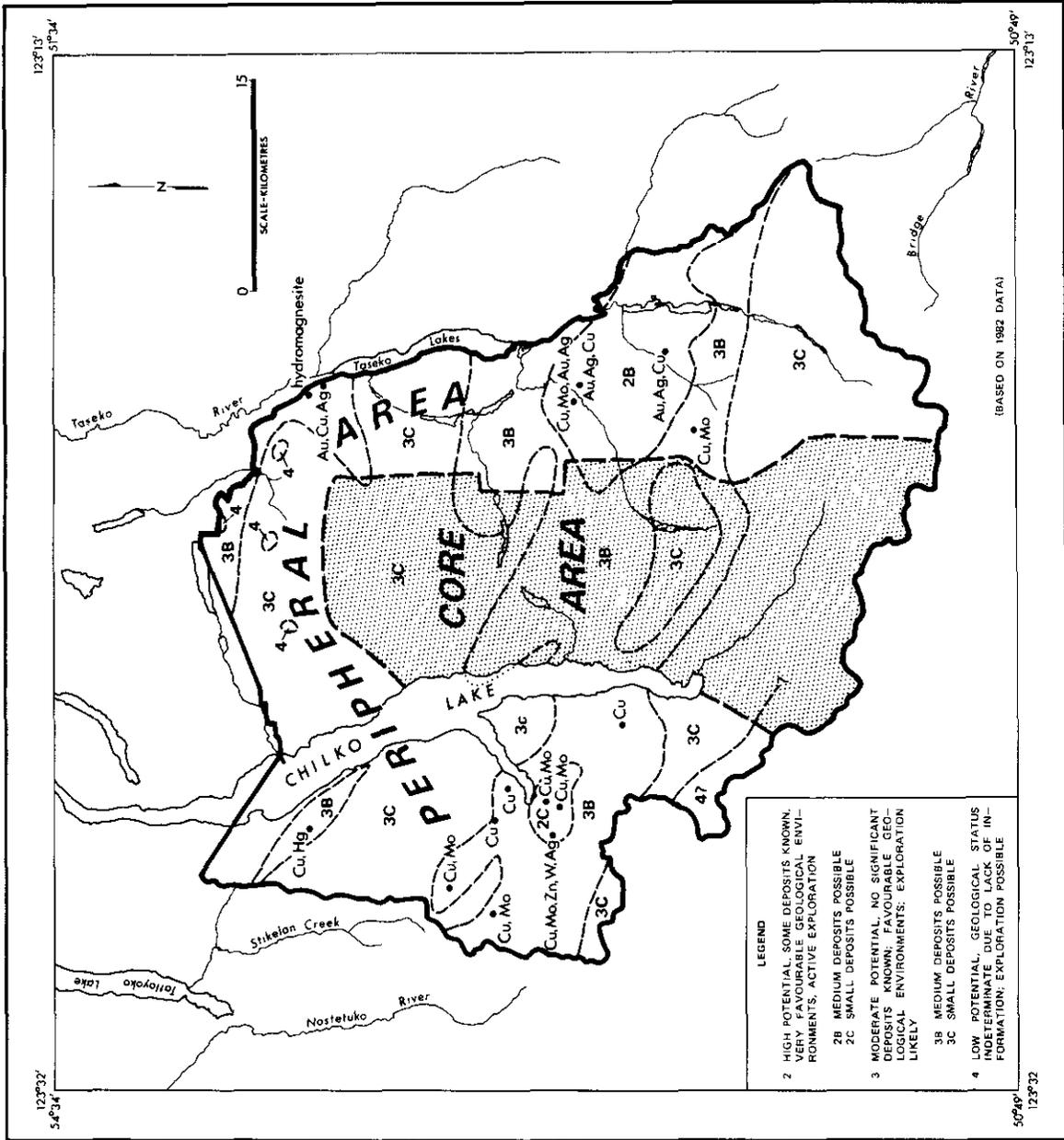


Figure 129. Mineral Potential of Chilko Lake.

involvement of both headquarters and district staff was required to develop the mineral evaluations, and provide the technical information and policy direction necessary to meet the terms of reference for the program. This year another series of public meetings were held including one to provide information on forest landscape management and exploration/mining requirements. Considerable effort was devoted to revising earlier drafts of the guidelines to ensure that policies would provide for continued mineral exploration. In themselves, the guidelines do not allocate land or regulate land use, but they have been the focus of much public debate. The Regional District of Central Kootenay has presented the document to the Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

CHILKO LAKE PARK PROPOSAL

Discussions with the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing regarding the Chilko Lake Park Proposal currently are stalemated. In the spring of 1984, the Parks Branch proposed designating both the core and peripheral areas of this proposal as a recreation area (Fig. 129). The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources countered by proposing to establish a recreation area, zoned to permit exploration, only over the core area. This proposal maintains the peripheral area as unalienated Crown land or recommends its designation as provincial forest to avoid subjecting exploration programs to Parks Branch regulations. The Ministry awaits a response from the Parks Branch to this counteroffer.

MINING AND PARKS

For many years the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has been negotiating with the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing to develop means to allow exploration of mineral properties within park boundaries. This year, the Parks Branch began a reclassification process for their park system. Currently, parks are classified four ways: Class A, Class B, Class C, and Recreation Area. Under the new system there are just two classifications - Class A parks and Recreation Areas. Class A status will continue to protect the natural environment and recreation values of the land; resource and land use will be restricted to the preservation and maintenance of recreational values. Recreation Area status will continue to protect recreation values; non-recreational use of land and resources may be permitted albeit in a controlled manner.

For the most part, local authorities will manage the current Class C parks. Studies made of Class B parks will determine which areas within them should be included in the Class A or Recreation Area designations and which should be excluded from the park system altogether. Three Class B parks are of particular interest to explorationists: Tweedsmuir, Kokanee Glacier, and Strathcona. The park reclassification initiative

may provide a mechanism to free known mineral properties from the park system. No Class B or C parks have been designated in recent years; this initiative is, therefore, a logical extension of recent designation policy.

AREAS ALIENATED OR RESTRICTED FROM MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 1984

Alienation and restriction of lands from mining is the subject of Preliminary Map 55 which was released in early 1984. The map, at scale 1:2 000 000, shows the location of parks, recreation areas, ecological reserves, Indian Reserves, flooding reserves, and the Agricultural Land Reserve. Gross areas for these alienations and restrictions are listed as part of the legend. Twelve planning projects, which could result in further alienations of lands, also are depicted.

FIELDWORK IN SUPPORT OF MINERAL POTENTIAL EVALUATIONS

During the summer of 1984 several field studies were undertaken in areas proposed for alienation from the mineral land base. District Geologist Andrew Legun further (Legun, 1984) examined the Wokkash Valley Park Proposal; Senior Geologist Ron Smyth studied the Brooks Peninsula Ecological Reserve Proposal; and District Geologist George Addie evaluated the Syringa Creek and Deer Park Ecological Reserve Proposals. The Legun and Smyth studies are described elsewhere in this volume.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For information concerning specific land use conflicts or general land use policy, please contact: Ann Ratel, Land Use Coordinator, Geological Branch, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4.

REFERENCES

- Legun, A. (1984): Geologic Reconnaissance of the Wokkash Park Proposal Area (94K), *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines & Pet. Res.*, Geological Fieldwork, 1983, Paper 1984-1, pp. 146-148.
- Ratel, A. and Fontaine, J. (1984): Areas Alienated or Restricted from Mining in British Columbia, *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines & Pet. Res.*, Preliminary Map 55.