

Analysis of the Management Situation

On the Kenai Peninsula, the possibility of gold-bearing veins was noted in the Summit Creek area in 1896. Lode claims were located on Bear, Palmer, and Sawmill Creeks in 1898. Those in the Falls Creek area were located in 1905 and in Slate and Summit Creeks in 1906. The first notable but sporadic production in the Falls Creek area occurred in 1911. Over the years, gold production has come periodically from the same properties. The longest continuous lode gold production on the Kenai Peninsula came from the Hirshey-Lucky Strike veins on Palmer Creek. Other producers include the Primrose, Skeen-Lechner, East Point, Crown Point, Grant Lake, Gilpatrick Dike, Heaston-Oracle, and Ronan & James Mines.

In the Girdwood area, lode gold mining occurred near Crow Pass at the headwaters of Crow Creek where several veins were mined.

In the Port Wells area, with the exception of the Granite Mine, lode gold prospects consist of small, widely scattered, mineralized quartz and quartz-carbonate veins. The date of lode gold discovery in the

Figure IV-43: Production from lode gold mining operations, Chugach National Forest, Alaska (Jansons, U., and others, 1984).

Locality	Reported Gold Production	Percent of Total
* Cliff	51,740	43.9
Granite	24,940	21.2
Hirshey-Lucky Strike	5,545	4.7
* Ramsay-Rutherford	5,375	4.6
Monarch/Jewel	4,932	4.2
Primrose	4,000	3.4
Gilpatrick Dike	3,405	2.9
Crown Point	3,125	2.7
Mineral King	2,783	2.4
Gold King	1,997	1.7
Skeen-Lechner	1,796	1.5
East Point	1,725	1.4
* Heaston-Oracle	1,274	1.1
* Big four	846	<1.0
Grant Lake	792	<1.0
* Cameron-Johnson	585	<1.0
Ronan & James	557	<1.0
Portage Bay	490	<1.0
Hershey & Carlson	408	<1.0
*Little Giant	367	<1.0
*Hercules	269	<1.0
Tomboy Ledge	219	<1.0
Downing	150	<1.0
Nearhouse	102	<1.0
Alaska Homestake	83	<1.0
Lansing	81	<1.0
Rough & Tough	76	<1.0
Falls Creek	65	<1.0
Seward Bonanza	65	<1.0
Culross Mine	62	<1.0
Total	117,854 ounces.	

*No longer on National Forest land, private land.

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Port Wells area is not known. Little interest was shown in lode gold mining in Prince William Sound until 1910 when the veins at the Cliff Mine, discovered in 1906 at Port Valdez, proved to be excellent producers. The Cliff Mine is no longer on National Forest lands.

Major properties in the Prince William Sound area include the Granite, Mineral King, and Portage Bay Mines. Ore at the early operations was processed by stamp and gravity mills, that still exist near some of the mine sites.

In the Port Valdez area, gold deposits occur to the north of and mostly outside the Forest. The trend of the deposits extends into the Forest west to and across Columbia Glacier and east of the Cliff Mine along the Lowe and Tasnuna Rivers. By 1911, 48 mines and prospects were located from Valdez Glacier to Columbia Glacier, a distance of about 26 miles.

On Culross Island, two zones of lode gold are present south of Culross Bay. Both deposits, the Culross Mine and the John Sells Prospect, contain gold in quartz-filled fissures. Claims were first staked in 1907. By 1950, at least 895 ft. of underground workings existed at the Culross Mine.

In the McKinley Lake area, east of Cordova, most of the surface trenching and underground work had been completed by 1912. The records show gold production as 16 ounces. Although gold-bearing quartz veins and stockworks are present, the gold distribution is erratic, sparse, and discontinuous.

Lode Gold Production (Jansons, U., and others, 1984; Nelson, S. W. and others, 1984) Lode gold was produced from the Kenai Peninsula, Girdwood, Port Wells, Port Valdez, and McKinley Lake areas. The most recent, more or less continuous, lode gold production from the Forest was in the 1930's and 1940's when records show that gold was sold to the U. S. Mint at Seattle. There appears to have been little or no lode gold mining activity since 1956. In the Kenai Peninsula area, from 1911 to 1930, lode production fluctuated from a few hundred ounces to 1,500 ounces/year. During this period about 15,000 ounces or an average of 750 ounces gold/year, were produced from properties located near the headwaters of Palmer Creek (Hirshey-Lucky Strike), near Summit Lake (Gilpatrick, Heaston-Oracle), and the Moose Pass area (Crown Point, Primrose, and Skeen Lechner). From the East Point Mine, 1,725 ounces were produced mostly during the 1950's. Lode production in the Girdwood area occurred mostly between 1937 and 1942 from the Jewel and Monarch properties. Of the total estimated 30,000 ounces of lode gold production from these two areas, 25,000 ounces came from the Kenai Peninsula area and 5,000 ounces from the Girdwood area, figure IV-44.

Figure IV-44: Primary gold production, Chugach National Forest and adjacent areas, Alaska (Jansons, U., and others, 1984).

District/Area	Lode (ounces)	Placer (ounces)
Girdwood	5,000	42,500
Kenai Peninsula	25,000	90,500
Port Wells	40,000	negligible
Port Valdez	61,646	negligible
McKinley Lake	16	negligible
Culross Island	62	negligible
Total	131,724	133,000

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Several properties produced gold from the Port Wells area of Prince William Sound. The Granite Mine produced at least 24,940 ounces gold and was the largest gold producer on the Forest. The Mineral King Mine reportedly recovered 2,117 ounces gold from 3,500 tons of ore between 1928 and 1932 and had a total recorded production of 2,783 ounces gold. The Portage Bay Mine has a recorded production of at least 490 ounces gold. The Lansing Mine recorded 81 ounces of gold. The Culross Mine produced an estimated 62 ounces of gold.

Figure IV-45: *Inferred lode gold reserve base at larger (>200 ton) mines and prospects, Chugach National Forest, Alaska (Jansons, U., and others, 1984).*

Mine/Prospect	Reserve base (tons of ore)
Golden Eagle	21,000
Crown Point	15,000
Portage Bay	10,000
Skeen-Lecher	10,000
Culross Mine	8,600
Seward Bonanza	7,400
Nearhouse	7,000
East Point	3,700
Summit Vein	3,400
Monarch, Jewel	3,100
Donohue	2,500
Hirshy-Lucky Strike	2,000
Gilpatrick Dike	2,000
Granite	1,900
*Cameron-Johnson	1,800
Primrose	1,300
Brewer-Alaska	1,100
Nugget	900
Mayfield	600
Lansing	500
Mineral King	500
Mountain	500
Sweepstake	500
Hirshy & Carlson	500
*Hercules	450
Shell	420
Minnie	400
Bahrenberg	340
Tomboy Ledge	300
Grant Lake	270
McMillan	250
Ivanhoe	210
Total	108,440

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The reported production from the Port Valdez area is about 61,646 ounces gold. The Cliff Mine, produced at least 51,740 ounces of gold. Other mines with sustained gold production in the Port Valdez area include the Ramsey-Rutherford (375 ounces), Gold King: (1,997 ounces), Big four (846 ounces), and Cameron-Johnson (585 ounces). Of these mines, only the Gold King is actually on National Forest land.

McKinley Lake properties near Cordova have a recorded production of 16 ounces of gold. No notable production has come from the other districts.

The inferred reserve base of past lode gold producers is 108,440 tons of vein material (figure IV-45).

The overall mineral resource potential of the Chugach National Forest was rated by the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines. A summary of the acres of land with potential for lode gold occurrences is shown in Figure IV-46.

Base Metal Deposits (Jansons, U., and others, 1984; Nelson, S. W., and others, 1984)
Copper has been an important resource in the Chugach National Forest since the early 1900's. Copper production has been entirely from volcanologic massive sulfide deposits. The Beatson mine, the second largest copper producer in Alaska, on Latouche Island yielded 80-85 percent of the copper from the Forest. The other principal producing massive sulfide deposits include the mine at Ellamar, the Midas mine near Valdez, the Threeman mine at Landlocked Bay and the Schlosser mine at Port Fidalgo. The large number of copper prospects and occurrences imply that considerable copper-bearing sulfide resources still exist. The Forest has a high potential for copper resources. Copper deposits with past production are shown in Figure IV-47.

Systematic copper mining and ore shipments started from the Beatson Mine in 1903 and from the