

Bend
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Westmin is key player in camp at Stewart

Westmin Resources has been a key player in the Stewart camp, British Columbia, for a number of years. Its primary focus has been the Big Missouri property which it holds under option from Tournigan Mining Exploration. At last report the project's reserve inventory had reached approximately 2.2 million tons at a grade of 0.098 oz. gold equivalent.

Mine evaluation studies are under way and Westmin has the right to earn a 70% interest in the prospect which is located 111 miles north of Stewart, an area with a diversified mineral history. A feasibility study must be submitted to Tournigan by June 1, 1985, and although the mining logistics there are difficult, the company's experience at Butte Lake on Vancouver Island, a major base-precious metals producer, should be a big plus for the Big Missouri project.

Four potential open pit zones containing gold, silver and minor lead with zinc mineralization have been outlined on the Big Missouri. Additional drilling is planned this year to further define the various mineralized zones.

Four potential open pit zones

Exploration work on the British Silbak Premier Mine prospect, five miles to the south, also has been encouraging. Diamond drilling has mostly involved the evaluation of near-surface mineralization in the upper part of the old Silbak Premier mine. But there are numer-

ous other targets for future exploration, Westmin stated.

Although Esso Minerals Canada has closed down its Granduc mining operation there, the company still intends to retain an active presence in the region. The company has even moved its head office to Vancouver at a time when a number of firms have or are talking about leaving the city. Esso has teamed up with Scottie Gold Mines to explore a 37-unit claim block adjacent to Scottie's Summit Lake gold mine. These claims cover major gold-bearing showings discovered in 1983, according to Scottie president, Donald A. McCleod. There are five separate showings and three have high gold values, he said.

High gold values not unusual for area.

The Bend showing contains massive pyrrhotite. It is located about 1,500 ft. northeast of the Granduc mill. A chip sample taken over an 8-ft. width returned 0.61 oz. gold, including a massive sulphide section which graded 1.1 oz. gold. Exceptional gold values also were found on the Road vein about one mile from the Granduc mill. These values are not unusual for the area as Scottie is one of the highest grade gold producers in the country.

A 50-50 joint venture between the two companies, the program will involve a budget of \$500,000. It is scheduled to get under way immediately, Scottie explaining

that any reserves blocked out could be processed at its existing mill.

Last year Esso tested seven target areas on Consolidated Silver Butte Mines' Big Missouri Ridge property which it optioned in 1980. In total, Esso drilled 5,512 ft. and completed 787 ft. of trenching on this promising gold-silver-lead-zinc-copper prospect. Of the 13

A 50-50 joint venture with program budgetted at \$500,000.

holes drilled, six tested the No. 2 zone and others parallel to it to the east.

No. 2 stockwork has been traced for 500 ft. and the work outlined moderate to high grade precious and base metal values in tabular vein structures.

Also, work on another five targets disclosed pyritic, altered and veined andesites with patchy stockwork mineralization but it was sub-economic. One of the best holes last year averaged 0.78 oz. gold and 2.05 oz. silver per ton with 1.47% lead and 6.84% zinc across a true thickness of 14.8 ft.

Silver Butte has converted its interest to a 20% carried interest in net proceeds from production. Esso has already spent \$1 million on the property but no budget has been set for 1984. Exploration will resume when metal prices stabilize.