

failure (intersection of two structures) on April 4, despite 3 weeks of scaling. The crusher is nearly ready for installation next month. It must be moved past the slide area to reach its in-pit destination. Ore from Denak West pit has been pleasant surprise, Pb content not as high as anticipated. Raises question why Placer stopped mining Denak West, mine manager reports no clear indication from mine-site files. Low Mo price continues to be a concern.

Red Chris- Don Barker continues to evaluate Red Chris property. Don has been invited to present proposed mine plan to Ministry staff. Has indicated not yet ready although very appreciative of interest expressed by Ministry. May be passing through Smithers in next two weeks and if so would like to discuss project informally with Smithers staff. Do indicated that he is looking forward to more formal presentation of project later in year.

EXPLORATION

This year saw 27 Prospector Assistant Program grant applications in the NW Region. Twelve were successful in either full or partial grants.

Staking interest continues but Notices of Work are slow to appear. Expenditure outlook is low, forecast at \$4.2 million.

LAND USE

Cassiar Iskut/Stikine LRMP is moving to completion. On May 30 the Table ratified the recommended plan and forwarded it to government for further consideration and approval. There seems to be a major effort by some agencies to have mining access roads designated under the Higher Level Plan process as the LRMP is implemented. This raises major concerns and is being discussed to resolve.

GENERAL

In the interest of trying to present exploration and mining as a realistic way of life in the NW, Regional staff have made themselves available to make presentation to various schools over the last school year. During this time 19 presentations were made and two field trips with 3 classes were made to Huckleberry Mine. Thanks to Jill, Daryl, Bruce and Paul for their efforts.

On June 7 and 8 W. Bergen took the 2 day Occupational Health and Safety course for office OHS committees. Some very useful information, but could be condensed into 1 day.

Doug Flynn and Bryan Good attended the Mine Rescue competitions.

The Smithers Exploration Group is commencing planning for the annual Fall field trips, presentations and golf tournament. This year planning is under way for a field trip to Golden Bear on September 13 and a field trip to Morrison Cu on September 14 with a golf tournament and banquet on September 15. Watch for more details or contact Paul Wojdak.

Wally Bergen

Regional Manager, Northwest Region
Ministry of Energy and Mines, Mines Branch
Phone (250) 847-7385 Fax (250) 847-7603
mailto:wally.bergen@gems4.gov.bc.ca

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