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Big Missouri
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(Speaker: S.M. Dykes)

The Big Missouri Property, near Stewart, British Columbia, is underlain by a southwest-facing, moderately dipping sequence of rhyolitic to andesitic volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks of the Lower-Middle Jurassic Hazelton Group. Pyrite, sphalerite, galena and chalcopryite with significant gold and silver mineralization occur in siliceous cherty tuff layers that separate individual silicified and sericitized andesite flow, tuff and agglomerate units. The andesite unit overlies a mixed volcanoclastic and rhyolite fragmental sequence. Three mineralized horizons consisting of several cherty tuff layers with fine disseminated to semi-massive lenses of pyrite, sphalerite, galena and chalcopryite are recognized.

The gold-silver-lead-zinc cherty tuff mineralization and the silica and sericite alteration are interpreted to have formed as a result of submarine exhalative activity occurring during periods of relative quiescence in andesite volcanism. Several generations of quartz-carbonate veining have resulted in redistribution of gold and silver in the cherty tuff to form zones of lower-grade mineralization potentially amenable to open-pit mining.

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