Idaho
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Exploration for precious metals increased in Idaho during 1990 to its highest level since the 1920s. Several companies pursued base metals and a number of firms explored for industrial minerals. The number of exploration projects in Idaho increased from 82 in 1989 to 99 in 1990.

Activity was spread across the state, six of last year's prospects moved into development and a number of new projects started. Beartrack, the largest gold discovery in the state's history, continued to draw companies to the Salmon area.

Exploration for disseminated gold deposits increased in the southwestern and southeastern parts of the state on both sides of the Snake River Plain. The Salmon, Yellowstone and Big Creek areas of Valley County received attention as did several deposits near Elk City and Florence.

Coeur d'Alene district and north Idaho

In 1990, underground exploration in Sunshine Mine was especially productive. Company geologist discovered a new vein called the Silver Lane vein, 670 m (2200 ft.) north of the Jewel Shaft. Hecia Mining planned on drilling again this winter from the surface at the Snowstorm Mine, east of the Lucky Friday mine at Mullan.

Asarco finished the American Silver Mine from the 1035 m (3400 ft.) level of the Cobre Mine and was evaluating results of drilling in the Wire Silver Vein area. Low silver prices forced Callaham Mining to defer further exploration at the Caladay project. The company has invested more than $3 million in the program.

Cominco drilled two additional holes at the polymetallic Backhorn Mine on Scout Mountain and another hole at its Brush Creek prospect east of Avery. At the latter, the target is a Sullivan-type deposit in high grade metamorphic rocks. Gold Fields completed a drilling program in the胖egs at Florence. The company is evaluating the old placer camp for lode gold deposits.

Newmont Gold has substantial holdings near Goldan, including the New York Mine. This year's program also included drilling and road construction in the Fall Creek and the Little Leggett Creek areas. Shoshone Silver, Kennebec Exploration, NBD Mines and Cominco also conducted exploration projects in north Idaho.

Salmon area

In April, FMC Gold purchased Meridian Minerals, a subsidiary of Burlingame Resources. Included was the Beartrack gold deposit near Leesburg in Lemhi County. Beartrack is the largest gold discovery in the state's history. Indicated geologic reserves are 41 Mt (45 million st), containing 31 to 65.5 t (1 to 2.1 million oz) of gold. The draft Environmental Impact Statement was released in October 1990, and construction could begin in June 1991.

American Gold Resources (AGR) and FMC (replacing Meridian) continued to explore the 69-km (17,000- acre) Arnett Creek property adjacent to Beartrack. In 1990, the joint venture started exploring near the Little Chief mine. The partnership drilled 96 reverse circulation holes totaling 10,070 m (33,000 ft) and reopened some of the old underground workings. AGR is involved with Asarco on a large claim block south of Arnett Creek.

Placer Dome US picked up 202 km² (50,000 acres) of AGR's Leesburg package. Placer Dome ran surface geophysics and geotechnical surveys before a modest reverse circulation drilling program.

Formation Capital was joined by Teck Resources in a joint venture to explore the 20-km² (5000-acre) Morning Glory property adjacent to Beartrack. Formation also acquired the King Solomon, Wallace Creek and Silverton mines located 7 km (4.5 miles) east of Beartrack.

Gold Fields replaced Corona Gold as the project partner with Formation on the Bobcat-Redrock property. Gold Fields did surface mapping and an aeromagnetic survey on the Wallace Creek claims between Salmon and Leesburg, and drilled about 45 reverse circulation holes in the area. Hecia Mining continued exploration on its Bowman joint venture near William Pass.

At Kinney Creek, Placer Dome and Broken Hill Proprietary drilled seven holes. Montana-based ECM leased the Pine Creek property to Glacia USA, an Australian firm, which mapped, sampled and trenching the property.

Golden Chest obtained a 100% interest in the Freeman Creek property (22 claims) located about 16 km (10 miles) north of Salmon. The property was explored by FMC Gold and Bond Gold over a four-year period. Reserves are estimated at 522 kg (20,000 oz) of gold that are amenable to heap leaching.

West-central Idaho

Kennecott drilled in the Moore Creek drainage that joins Logan Creek above the confluence with Big Creek. The company improved roads and constructed a log bridge across the creek to avoid impacting tribal fisheries. Kennecott reported encouraging results from the six core holes drilled on this bulk-tonnage gold target at the old Moscow Mine.

Placer Dome drilled about 10 holes and built 1.8 km (1.1 miles) of road in the Quartz Creek (Red Mountain) area near Yellowpine.

Independence Mining (formerly Freeport-McMoRan Gold) drilled 12 holes on Logan Creek and Smith Creek near the old Independence Mine. The drill roads will be reclaimed next year.

East-central Idaho

US Army began development of the Yellowjacket open-pit mine in Lemhi County. The company plans to build a flotation mill and mine about 227 Mt (250 million tons) of ore.

Grouse Creek Mining, a subsidiary of CoCu Mines, continued permitting for the Grouse Creek Mine at Jordan Creek on the Yankee Fork in Custer County. The property contains 2.9 Mt (3.2 million st) of 2.8 g/t (0.082 oz per ton) gold at the old Sunbeam Mine, and 4.4 Mt (4.9 million st) of 1.5 g/t (0.044 oz per ton) gold at Grout Creek. In 1991, Grout Creek drilled 34 holes into the Grouse South deposit and did geotechnical work on the waste dump and plant sites.

Cristine Mines, a subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan, continued exploration on the Moose Creek property in Lemhi County. The project contains 2.8 Mt (3.1 million st) of 2.3 g/t (0.072 oz per ton) gold and 10.9 t (350,000 oz) of silver during the first three years.

WestGold mapped, sampled, and prepared drill sites at Easters Mountain, across the valley from the Sunbeam Mine.

Sunshine Mining drilled eight to 10 holes at the Buckskin Mine on Valley Creek west of Stanley, and four more holes in Washington Basin. Union Mining and Cyprus Minerals also directed prospects, and development work was done at the Last Chance Mine and the Greyhound Mine.

South-central Idaho

Idaho Gold completed its first full year of operation at the Champagne Mine. The company has reserves for one more year of production, and was exploring in the St. Louis and Potter...
Gat儿chases for additional ore. Westmont Mining was active at the DSA polymer- 
affable prospect located near the headwa-
ters of the North Fork of the Lost River. 
The company finished detailed mapping 
and soil sampling, and drilled eight 
diamond drill holes totaling 1220 m 
(4000 ft).

Plexus Resources took over Sov-
eign Exploration. It drilled 18 reverse 
circulation holes on the Navarre prop-
erty near Mackay and trenches and ran 
ground geophysics.

Heca Mining continued exploration 
activity at Muledeer Canyon (near the 
Eagle Bird Mine) in Blaine County. 
Manville drilled six core holes on the 
Pioneer Project near the old Paymaster 
Mine in the Luna Creek District. 
Further west, Atlanta Gold signed an 
agreement with Newmont Exploration in 
December to explore its gold property 
near Atlanta in Elmore County. Ac-
cording to a feasibility study, the prop-
erty contains 31 t (1 million oz) of near-
surface gold amenable to both 
leaching and cyanidation.

Newmont is the operator on a first-
phase drilling program totaling 4570 m 
(15,000 ft) in early 1991. Newmont 
drilled about 30 reverse circulation holes 
and did surface mapping and sampling 
at Rocky Bar, under a Cosa-Newmont 
agreement.

Boise basin

Pegasus Gold entered into a joint 
venture with Cactus West on the 
Century claims by the Gold Hill Mine near 
Quartzburg. In addition to surface work, 
Pegasus drilled eight holes and Cactus 
West 4 holes. Independence Mining 
mapped, sampled, and drilled 10 holes 
in the Alder Creek drainage below 
Placerville.

Frontino mapped, sampled and 
prepared new drill sites on the Ophir Creek 
property. Rhino Resources put down 
six core holes at the Giant Mine on Shaw 
Mountain. APC Mining opened an old 
disturbance block near its placer mine on Buckskin Creek.

Southwest Idaho

Nerco Minerals mined from three 
pits at its Delamar gold-silver mine in 
Owyhee County. The company per-
formed exploration work on Tennessee 
Mountain, War Eagle Mountain, Twin 
Peaks and the Milestone deposit. Nerco 
also performed permitting and develop-
ment work at the Stone Cabin Mine on 
benches of the Idaho range. The new 
mine is scheduled to come on line in 
1991-1992 and will have at least a 
10-year life.

Amex drilled six reverse circulation 
holes south of Jordan Valley on the 
iron oxide frontal zone of slightly 
more than 2000 m. The host 
rocks are well-altered rhyolite flow 
units. Asaro drilled two reverse 
circulation holes in the Jasper Basin 
area south of Pearl and returned the 
property to the owner.

fence Minerals drilled four holes at the 
Idaho Almaden epithermal gold project 
immunized by Weiser, including two 213- 
m (700 ft) deep holes to test for a feeder 
at depth. The main zone in the deposit 
(76 m or 250 ft deep) contains 36 Mt (40 
million st) of 0.9 g/t (0.03 oz per st) gold.

Gold Canyon Resources signed an 
agreement with Nordan for explora-
tion at the Blue Dog prospect in Wash-
ington County. Several new holes were 
drilled early in 1990 by the former 
partners. Gold Canyon and Brauner 
Resources. The property has reported 
reserves of 2.7 Mt (3 million st) of 1.7 g/t 
(0.05 oz per st) gold.

Illinois

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Construction aggregates, consisting of 
dolomite, limestone, sand and gravel, 
and then limestone, sand and gravel, 
remained the leading non-fuel 
minerals produced in Illinois. Aggre-

gate producers had a good year, but the 
market was spotty. Producers in areas 
of high demand continue to explore 
for new reserves.

The Denny and Simpson and Rigby-
Rankin companies combined to form 
the Hardin County Materials Co. This 
gave them a strong market position 
in southeastern Illinois and on the 
Ohio River. High-purity limestone and 
dolomite were being sought statewide 
that would be suitable for chemical grade 
CaCO3, whiting agents and desulfuriza-
tion process.

The Illinois Association of Aggregate 
Producers, the Illinois Department of 
Transportation and the Illinois Mines 
and Mineral Resources Research 
Institute at Southern Illinois University 
are planning several research projects. 
These include the more efficient use 
of existing reserves, and ways to 
upgrade lesser-quality materials.

Zoning continues to be a major 
problem, especially where producers 
try to economically supply major 
metropolitan areas. The “not in my 
backyard” attitude of some of the public 
in Illinois highlights industry’s need for a 
more positive public relations program.

Ozark-Mahoning, a subsidiary of 
Aibecen North America, is the main 
flourspars producer in the Illinois-Ken-
tucky Flourspar District. It had three 
mills operating in Illinois in 1990; the 
Anna-Beck Lee and Denton mines in 
Harris Creek District and the No. 1 in 
the Cave-in-Rock District. The No. 1 
has been deepened about 1.5 m (50 ft) 
by a decline from the Roselene to mine the