

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Table 1.—Semi-quantitative spectrographic and other analyses of 132 rock samples from the Livingsood quadrangle

Table with columns: Field No., Map No., and elements (Al, Si, Ti, Fe, Mn, Ni, Cu, Zn, Pb, Sb, Sn, Sr, V, W, Y, Zr, Ba, Be, B, Co, Cr, Ga, Ge, In, K, Li, Na, Nb, Rb, S, Se, Te, U, Th, UO2, Zr, Hf, Ta, Nb, Bi, Po, At, Fr, Ra, Ac, Th, Pa, U, Np, Pu, Am, Cm, Bk, Cf, Es, Fm, Md, No, Lr). Rows include various rock types like Granite (felsic), Diorite, Basalt, etc.

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INTRODUCTION

Analytical data for 132 rock samples and 79 stream sediment samples from the Livingsood quadrangle are given in tables 1 and 2, and the bedrock type or predominant rock types in the stream drainage are noted. The sample sites are shown on plate 1. The samples were collected during the course of geologic mapping in the Livingsood quadrangle, and as a part of geological and geochemical investigations in the Fairbanks district, a portion of which is within this quadrangle. These samples do not constitute a systematic and thorough geochemical sampling coverage of the quadrangle. Most of the samples are random grab samples, but some were selected because of obvious metal enrichment and are representative of only a small vein or mineralized zone. Several other reports that include geochemical sample analyses from parts of this quadrangle are listed under references.

The granitic rock bodies and the hornfels associated with them are shown on plate 1. The reader is referred to the geologic map of the Livingsood quadrangle (Chapman, Weber, and Taber, 1971) for more complete geological information. A detailed interpretation of the data is not made in this preliminary report, but all of the analytical values are given. Some anomalous and probably-anomalous values are indicated, and the data may be useful as a guide to geochemical sampling in this quadrangle or in geologically similar areas. The more outstanding and the clearly anomalous amounts of some of the elements are discussed briefly in the following sections. The values for threshold of anomalous amounts, shown in table 3, have been selected by the authors as reasonable interpretations based on various published analytical values and experience with other Alaskan geochemical samples. Other interpretations may be made, and the reader is referred to Mason (1966), and Parker (1967) for data on amounts of the elements in the earth's crust and various types of rocks.

Under economic significance should not be attached to apparently-anomalous values without confirming them by means of a systematic sampling program in the area, or rock units of interest. Some of the elements do not have primary economic interest, but may be useful as pathfinder elements or the analytical values may serve to establish characteristic geochemical suites for certain rock units.

The lower Paleozoic mafic and ultramafic rocks are represented by 25 samples, 16 of which show anomalous amounts of one or more of the metals shown in table 3. The average amounts of chromium and nickel are higher than in the other groups of rocks, as would be expected. In 8 of the samples chromium ranges from > 500 to 3,000 ppm, and nickel from 300 to 1,500 ppm, which may be interpreted as anomalous. Copper is not abundant in these samples, and only 2 samples (sites 60, 84) are possibly weakly anomalous (200 and 300 ppm). The values for chromium and copper are similar to those given by Foster (1969, p. 4) for 16 samples of serpentinite from rocks in this unit, but the nickel values are considerably lower than the 100 to 5,000 ppm that he reports. Anomalous amounts of lead, 70 and 100 ppm, are reported in 2 samples (sites 82, 83) taken along Troublesome Creek near Sawtooth Mountain, and 1.5 ppm silver also is present in the sample from site 82. The lead and silver enrichment are probably related to the later granitic intrusion.

The 30 samples of the Triassic and Permian intrusive and extrusive rocks are chiefly from diabase, diorite, or basalt, and 17 of these samples include anomalous amounts of one or more of the metals shown in table 3. One sample shows a characteristically higher background value for copper, and 12 of them have an anomalous or possibly anomalous amount (150-15,000 ppm). Only 2 copper values are outstanding: 15,000 ppm in a very thin green-stained mineralized shear zone, which is the mafic and ultramafic rocks, and 10,000 ppm in a sample from site 127, which is a sample of a mafic and ultramafic rock. The presence of lanthanum, plus several exposures of hornfels and spotted slate along the creek (site 127), and 7,900 ppm from a tuff-halite-diabase outcrop along upper Hecker Creek (site 64) has no apparent economic significance. The sample from the shear zone also contains anomalous amounts of gold (1.4 ppm), silver (17 ppm), and tin (10 ppm). Nickel and chromium are generally lower in the Triassic and Permian rocks than in the lower Paleozoic mafic rocks, and few, if any, of the samples show amounts that seem to be anomalous.

There are several anomalous amounts of metals among the 17 samples that are grouped as miscellaneous rock types. Samples from sites 32 and 33 show 300-300 ppm arsenic, 15 ppm molybdenum, and 300 ppm antimony. These samples are from a contact and sheared shale with abundant yellow, yellow-green, and red and reddish stains and secondary coatings, and this isolated high exposure on Lost Creek north of Hecker Dome. There is possibly part of a fault zone that could be a favorable host for mineralizing solutions. The metal enrichment in the samples from sites 109, 110, 111, and 112 in the Troublesome Creek-Hunter Creek area (sites 109-112 ppm), molybdenum (7 and 50 ppm) and zinc (500 and 700 ppm), is probably related to veins in fractured or sheared zones.

The anomalous values are largely grouped in the Pedro Dome-Fairbanks Creek area in the southeastern corner of the quadrangle and in the Hecker dome area at Livingsood Mountain. Anomalous amounts of barium (7 ppm) and tungsten (300-100 ppm). All of these metals are directly or closely associated with the gold deposits in the Fairbanks district. Nine samples from the Any-Dome-Honey-Knob area contain anomalous amounts of one or more of the following elements—arsenic (160-1,200 ppm), chromium (700-1,000 ppm), copper (100-150 ppm), nickel (150-300 ppm), lead (50 ppm), and antimony (15 ppm). The apparently-anomalous amounts of chromium, nickel, and possibly copper are due to their characteristic enrichment in the presence of lanthanum, plus several exposures of hornfels and spotted slate along the creek (site 127), and 7,900 ppm from a tuff-halite-diabase outcrop along upper Hecker Creek (site 64) has no apparent economic significance. The sample from the shear zone also contains anomalous amounts of gold (1.4 ppm), silver (17 ppm), and tin (10 ppm). Nickel and chromium are generally lower in the Triassic and Permian rocks than in the lower Paleozoic mafic rocks, and few, if any, of the samples show amounts that seem to be anomalous.

There are no lode or placer deposits known around Tolovana Hot Springs Dome. The 4 samples from streams that drain the quartz monzonite and surrounding hornfels show 100-500 ppm lanthanum, which are apparently anomalous concentrations, but may be characteristic of this igneous body. Anomalous amounts of barium (7 ppm) and tungsten (300 ppm), present in 2 samples (sites 263, 264), are probably indicative of small, localized concentrations near the margin of the pluton. A sample from Uncle Sam Creek (site 263), about 20 miles southeast of Tolovana Hot Springs Dome, contains 150 ppm lanthanum, the presence of lanthanum, plus several exposures of hornfels and spotted slate along Uncle Sam Creek indicate that the Tolovana Hot Springs Dome quartz monzonite pluton extends southwestward, under a thin cover of hornfels and spotted slate areas. Apparently-anomalous amounts of barium (10 ppm) and tungsten (100 ppm) from Buckley Creek (site 271), which drains the contact zone of the Sawtooth Mountain granitic pluton, suggest that these 2 elements may be characteristically associated with this pluton, also.

Isolated anomalies occur at 4 other sites. One on Cushman Creek, at mile 20 on the Elliott Highway (site 223), shows 120 ppm arsenic and 35 ppm antimony; this probably is derived from a few small, localized pods of stibnite arsenopyrite in the schist in this small drainage basin. No deposits are known in the area, and another sample (site 224) from this creek does not confirm the anomalous values. A second sample, at site 258 on a small creek 10 miles west of Livingsood, contains 15 ppm antimony; however, a sample at site 257 about 0.6 mile downstream does not show an antimony anomaly. This occurrence also can probably be attributed to some small, isolated pods of stibnite in the chert and argillite bedrock. At a third site (233) on Lost Creek 10 miles north of Hecker Dome the sample shows 500 ppm zinc, and this anomaly is believed to be related to the mineralization that is exposed in the bluff on the west side of the creek. The fourth locality, site 277 on Twentyfive Creek near Hoyale Hill, shows 700 ppm chromium and 150 ppm nickel; these apparently-anomalous amounts are interpreted as characteristic of the mafic intrusive and extrusive rocks that underlie a large part of this drainage basin.

The three centers of known mineral deposits in the Livingsood quadrangle, Pedro Dome-Fairbanks Creek, Any-Dome-Honey-Knob, and Sawtooth Mountain, are characterized by the distribution of anomalous values of some of the more common metals of economic interest. These areas are more obvious also because of the greater density of samples. The small amount of sampling in and near the Cache Mountain and Tolovana Hot Springs Dome granitic plutons reveals some contact-zone metal enrichment but no outstanding anomalies.

The apparently-anomalous amounts of chromium, nickel, and, in part, copper are due to the characteristic abundance of these elements in the schist in this small drainage basin. Anomalous amounts of barium (7 ppm) and tungsten (300 ppm) of the granitic rocks. Anomalous amounts of silver that are not associated with granitic rocks or vein deposits probably should be evaluated as part of the characteristic "geochemical signature" of parts of the mafic-basaltic rock unit in the northern part of the quadrangle.

The modest anomalies in bedrock and stream sediment samples from Lost Creek north of Hecker Dome are derived from a sheared and mineralized zone in shale, and this zone may be interpreted as part of an east-northeast trending fault zone. No other exposures are known in either direction from Lost Creek along this presumed trend, but surficial and vegetal cover is widespread in this area of low relief. Some sampling might be justified along this possible fault zone, which could be a favorable locus for mineral deposits.

Table 3.—Probable threshold anomalous amounts in parts per billion for some elements of economic or geochemical interest. Values are arbitrarily selected, based in part on figures given by Mason (1966) and Parker (1967) for crustal average and several common types of rocks.

Table 4.—Geochemical analyses of bedrock and stream sediment samples from the Livingsood quadrangle, Alaska. Columns include Element, Bedrock, and Stream Sediment.