

INTRODUCTION

The mineral resource assessment of the Medfra quadrangle is part of a multistage study carried out in 1970-1971 by the Geological Survey under its Alaska Mineral Resource Assessment Program (AMRAP). This investigation represents the first attempt to evaluate the mineral resource potential of the Medfra quadrangle by an integrated study of geological, geochemical, and geophysical data. It should be emphasized that our investigations were of a reconnaissance nature; bedrock sampling and observations were limited to 600 sites, and stream sediment, moss, and pan concentrate sampling to 515 sites.

Background data for this assessment are contained in a series of previously issued reports: a regional-scale (1:500,000) geologic map (Patton and others, 1967), a mineral occurrence map (Schwab and others, 1968), a report on the chemistry, mineralogy, and rock types (Koenig and others, 1968), a report on the distribution and abundance of various chemical elements in stream sediments, moss, and heavy mineral concentrates (Koenig and others, 1969), and a series of six reports on the distribution and abundance of various chemical elements in stream sediments, moss, and heavy mineral concentrates (Koenig and others, 1969). Brief reports have also been prepared describing a contact metamorphic gneissic zone in the upper Sulukine River (Throckmorton and Patton, 1970) and a U- and Th-rich rhyolite in the Sitsku Reservoir (Miller and others, 1960).

This report consists of three sheets: Sheet 1. A generalized geologic map showing known mineral deposits and occurrences, and areas designated as favorable for the occurrence of undiscovered mineral deposits.

Sheet 2. Tables describing: Table 1 - Known mines and prospects; Table 2 - Occurrences of sulfides and other indicators of mineralization; Table 3 - Geochemical data for mineral occurrences listed in Table 2; Table 4 - Bedrock samples containing geochemical anomalies but no visible mineralization.

Sheet 3. Additional tables describing: Table 5 - Criteria used to select areas favorable for the occurrence of undiscovered mineral deposits; Table 6 - Threshold values for stream sediment, moss, and C-2 and C-3 fractions of heavy mineral concentrates; and a text describing the mineral and mineral fuel resources of the quadrangle.

Table 1.--Known mines and prospects in the Medfra quadrangle

Table with columns: Map No., Name (if known), Location (Township & Range), Development category, Resource(s), Deposit type, Form, Description, and References. Lists various mines and prospects like Woyning Creek, Nixon Fork, Whalen, Hidden Creek, Stone, Ruby Creek, Crystal Gulch, Birch Gulch, Hidden Creek, Crooked Creek, Eagle Creek, Canyon Creek, Whirlwind Creek, Nixon Fork, Our Creek, Clearwater Creek, Jones Creek, Sunshine Mountain, Sulukine River, Bute Creek, Submarine Creek, Mystery Creek, and Colorado Creek.

1. If deposits do not have a proper name, but are near named geographical features, the name of that feature is shown in parentheses. Symbols used: P - Prospect; A - Active prospect, probable exploration activity after 1967; I - Inactive prospect, no reported exploration activity after 1967; H - Mine; A - Active mine, development or production since 1967 or claim with previous production; I - Inactive mine, no known activity since 1967. Standard chemical symbols used for metallic resource commodities. In addition, the following symbols are used: FM - fissionable materials other than uranium; M - mineral (other than nonmetallic) that contains rare earth element(s). Minor constituents of potential value indicated by parentheses. Most references cited were compiled in Cobb (1978). Map locations are from Cobb (1972), U.S. Bureau of Mines (1976), and U.S. Bureau of Mines (1980).

Table 2.--Description of occurrence of sulfides and other indicators of mineralization in the Medfra quadrangle

Table with columns: Map No., Field No., Location (Township & Range), Mineralization, and Description. Lists occurrences of pyrite, hematite, magnetite, and other sulfides across various map locations.

Table 2.--Description of occurrence of sulfides and other indicators of mineralization in the Medfra quadrangle--Continued

Continuation of Table 2, listing further occurrences of sulfides and mineralization indicators across various map locations.

Table 3.--Geochemical data for mineral occurrences listed in Table 2--Continued

Table with columns: Map No., Field No., Ag (0.5), Au (0.5), Cu (5), Pb (0.02), Zn (5), and Other elements with anomalous values (ppm). Lists geochemical data for various mineral occurrences.

Table 4.--Bedrock samples containing geochemical anomalies but no visible mineralization

Table with columns: Map No., Field No., Location (Township & Range), Anomalous geochemical values (ppm), and Rock Description. Lists bedrock samples with geochemical anomalies.

Abbreviations used: Standard chemical symbols; Ag - silver; As - arsenic, etc.; N - not detected at limit of detection; L - detected, but below limit of determination; G - greater than value shown; A - atomic absorption analysis method; I - instrumental analysis method; G - colorimetric analysis method; DMS - delayed neutron analysis method; M - microprobe analysis method; S - semiquantitative spectrographic analysis method. * Signifies no chemical analysis made for the indicated element. 1. Tourmaline included for its association with mineralized areas in this quadrangle. 2. Semi-quantitative spectrographic analysis used for all elements except Au - atomic absorption analysis (AA); Cu, Sb, Zn (where noted) - colorimetric analysis method; Ag - instrumental analysis method (I); All values in parts per million. 3. Lower limits of determination for each element are shown in parentheses. Other elements not shown: As (0-10, B-10, Ba-20, Be-1, Bi-10, Cd-20, Co-5, Cr-20, Fe-10, Ga-5, Hg-10, Hf-10, Ir-10, K-10, Li-10, Mn-10, Mo-10, Ni-10, Pb-10, Rb-10, Sr-10, Tl-10, U-10, V-10, W-10, Y-10, Zr-10. The definition of anomalous values was arbitrarily made according to background geochemical data obtained in the Medfra quadrangle for individual rock types, and data from Parker (1970) on abundance of elements in the Earth's crust.