

The RED METAL QUEEN

A Copper - Silver- Zinc - Gold target in Nicola Volcanics

The **Red Metal Queen** claim group was located to cover several Cu-Zn-Ag-Au prospects hosted by the highly prospective Nicola Group Volcanic rocks.

The property lies within the Nicola Mining Division and is located in south-central British Columbia approximately 10 km southeast of the town of Merritt and roughly 200 km northeast of Vancouver.

A number of good quality gravel roads give reasonable access to most parts of the property. The property lies on the outskirts of Merritt and is ideally situated with regard to power, water supplies, etc. The claim area is part of the well-established Aspen Grove-Merritt copper exploration belt. This locality is a segment of the large Porphyry belt extending from the Copper Mountain Mine area in the south through the Craigmont - Highland Valley section to the north and continuing northward into the Gibraltar Mine area.

The property is near the eastern margin of a belt of the Upper Triassic Nicola Group volcanic rocks, consisting of plagioclase andesitic to dacitic flows, tuffs and breccias which are variably epidotized and silicified. These are intercalated with north-northeast trending, discontinuous layers of limestone and argillite. Carbonate lenses up to 30 metres in width consist of blue-grey, massive to cherty limestone which appears to be a controlling factor for mineralization. A medium-grained microdiorite also outcrops in the west central area of the property. A strong shear zone strikes 070 degrees with numerous associated faults, fractures and joints. Quartz veins parallel the shears and dip 70 degrees south.

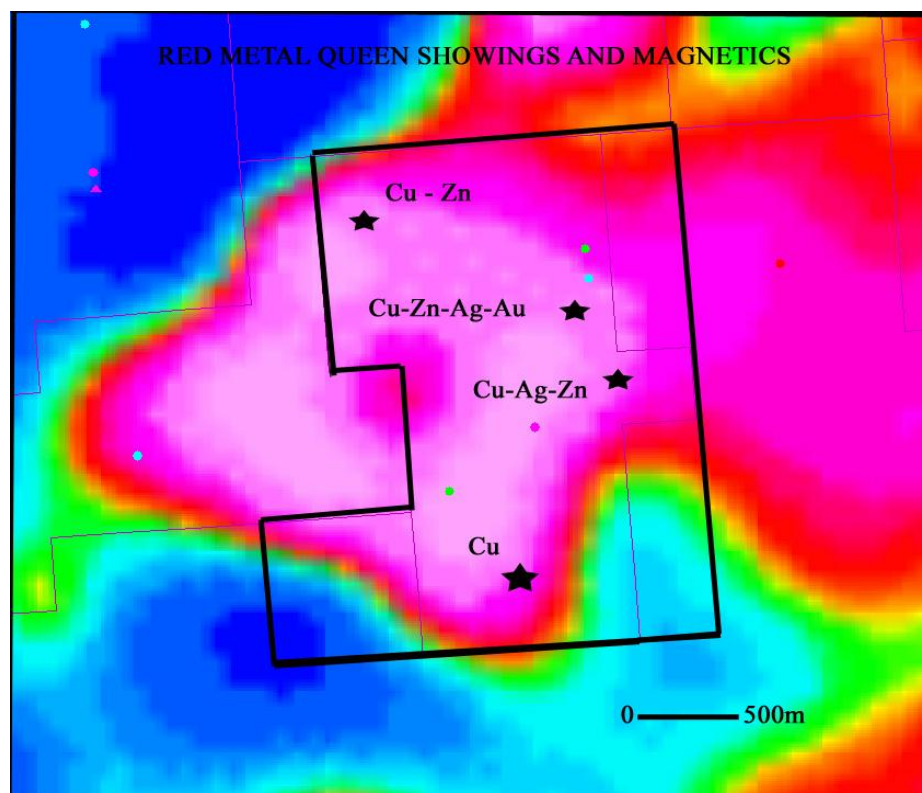
At the **Dot Eva** showings Cu-Ag-Zn-Fe mineralization occurs in skarns and in the Nicola Group volcanic rocks. The skarn zones are up to 3 metres wide, consist of magnetite and carry chalcopyrite and bornite. In the volcanic flows and limestones, these sulphides occur as fracture fillings and disseminations. Sphalerite, pyrite, pyrrhotite and specular hematite also occur. The Craigmont Cu-Fe Ag-Au mine, located 23 Km to the north-west, is in the same rock package.

The **Ell showing** consists of a shallow (early 1900's) shaft and a 36.6 metre crosscut which intersected a zone of strong sulphides in a brecciated and silicified limestone. Mineralization is comprised of auriferous pyrite, chalcopyrite, bornite and sphalerite. Malachite, azurite and hematite stain is abundant. Several other local gossanous areas are also present. Mineralization also replaces limestone where it is cut by numerous quartz veins. Grab samples from the dump of the old shaft returned up to 0.34 grams per tonne gold, 133.7 grams per tonne silver, 6.85 per cent copper and 6.40 per cent zinc (Assessment Report 12194). Geochemical soil surveys have delineated zones anomalous in copper and zinc and previous VLF-EM surveys have defined several NE to north trending fault structures. A broad zone anomalous in copper straddles the faults and has several associated anomalous zones of zinc silver and gold.

The **Win showing** exposes fractured and faulted silicified limestone with considerable epidote alteration and malachite and azurite staining. Generally the mineralization within the exploration pit consists of fracture-controlled chalcopyrite, pyrite, hematite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite and bornite. A grab sample from a surface trench assayed 1.04 per cent copper and 19.88 grams per tonne silver.

At the **Blue Jay showing** area, the Upper Triassic Nicola Group rocks are comprised of calc-alkaline flows grading upward into pyroclastics, epiclastic sediments and limestone. The showing is underlain by dark grey to green andesitic to basaltic flows which vary from massive to plagioclase-porphyritic and/or amygdaloidal, and volcanic breccia. The volcanics are intercalated with limestone and argillite. Approximately 500 metres east of the Blue Jay showing is a northeast trending regional fault structure which marks the eastern boundary of the western belt. The Nicola Group rocks in this area are locally intensely altered and contain disseminated **native copper**, chalcocite and chalcopyrite.

Bibliography EMPR ASS RPT... 4107, 4108, 6041, 12194
EMPR EXPL 1976-E89; 1989-119-134, GSC MEM 249, GSC MAP 886A, GSC OF 980



For Further information

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