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RESOURCE EVALUATION, SOUTH-CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM MOUNTAINS, ALASKA

By

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Alaska Division of
Geological and Geophysical Surveys

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Since August 1977, the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) has supported a resource-evaluation program in the central and south-central Kuskokwim Mountains. The primary goal of this study is to produce and publish geologic maps at a scale useful for state planning, private industry, and the general public. In all study areas, a special effort is made to visit mining operations, which are predominantly placer-gold mines. Limited prospect examinations are commonly done, and samples of gold, heavy concentrates, and other mineralized rocks are collected and studied. When the study of an area is completed, a report that summarizes pertinent geologic information is published. Geologic Report 72 (on display) was the first map completed in a series of reports* on the geology of the south-central Kuskokwim Mountains.

Because the Kuskokwim Mountains lack dramatic relief---except for a few local massifs---logistics and transportation are relatively economical in spite of the area's remoteness. During geologic field studies, walking is the primary mode of transportation. Motorbikes and rafts have been used when possible, and horses proved an efficient, economical alternative during the 1984 field season. Although fixed-wing aircraft are generally used to supply spike camps, minimal helicopter support has been necessary to reach otherwise inaccessible areas.

* See Information Circular 11 for a complete list of reports published by DGGS.

For the past 2 years, the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys and the U.S. Geological Survey have run a cooperative program based out of Fairbanks, Alaska. Both agencies will publish geologic maps and reports.

' As new DGGS reports become available, press releases are issued to local papers and announced in the DGGS quarterly newsletter, 'Alaska Mines & Geology.'