

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Supplement to Ground Hog Claims Report.
Wrangell Precinct,

It is estimated that there is at least 200,000 tons of mineable ore exposed at the Ground Hog Basin Claims by present surface exposures and workings. This does not take into account any additional depth below the lower tunnel level, although the nature of the ore deposit would warrant assuming a continuation of mineralization of 200 feet more in depth.

18.8, 9.6
56° 32' N
132° 02' W

134 132

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Wrangell Prec

The Ground Hog Basin Claims.
Wrangell Precinct. KX 117-1
117-6

Examined by J.G. Shepard.
Oct. 1925.

The Ground Hog Basin Claims are situated in the Wrangell mineral belt, which is described by A. S. Buddington; in Mineral Resources of Alaska 1921, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 739.

The Claims are reached by trail, from the mouth of Mill Creek on Eastern Passage, to Lake Virginia; a distance of less than a mile, with a rise in elevation of 100 feet. Lake Virginia is then crossed to the mouth of Porterfield Creek. (There would be no difficulty in building a road around the North shore of the Lake.) A trail then continues from the mouth of Porterfield Creek to the Claims in ground Hog Basin, a distance of six miles. Rise in elevation for the first five miles is about 100 feet to the mile. The sixth mile steepens rapidly to the base of the bluff mountains.



Showing Lake Virginia and the North shore of the Lake.

Surface equipment consists of a log dwelling and a compressor. Pipe and flume lines have completely deteriorated. Both timber and water power are available.

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The main showing is a bold vein striking North-South and dipping 70 degrees East. This vein is solid mineral where observed, and is traceable for at least 1500 feet. Width is about 4 feet. At one point observed, the vein splits into two sections each $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide of solid mineral, with 20 feet of country rock between. Other veins of a similar character are known to occur within the claim lines. The bold outcrop and vein in the tunnels is a solid mineral consisting of a mixture of fine grained pyrrhotite, spalerite and galena. The valuable metals are zinc, lead, and silver. The amount of silver seems to be controlled by the percentage of lead present.



The head of Ground Hog Basin, showing strike of vein and dip of formation.

Three crosscut adits have been driven to explore the croppings, underground. No. 1, or the upper tunnel is 14 feet long and x-cuts the eastern section of the vein. Eighty feet lower in elevation, No. 2 tunnel is 160 feet long. This tunnel x-cuts a section of the vein which is probably the western part of the split. An accurate survey would be necessary to determine precisely which section it is. No. 3 tunnel is 276 feet below No. 2 and is 180 feet in length. The same condition, as regards the section of the split, in No. 2 tunnel, is present in this lowest x-cut.

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Looking down Ground Hog Basin, from the Claim showings.

Apparently minerals of zinc, lead, and silver are present at this property, in commercial quantities. The main difficulty in the prospect's development seems to be the metallurgical problem involved in the separation of the Sphalerite, galena, and pyrrhotite. The property certainly warrants further consideration.



Extension of Mineral Belt North of Ground Hog Claims, showing dip of formation. Arrow points North. Green arrow to Claims.