

Swabs and Jobs: Rising to the Challenge at Donlin

Michelle Deal, Exploration Manager and Dan Graham, General Manager

Donlin Gold LLC

The Donlin Gold deposit is located in southwestern Alaska, approximately 10 miles north of Crooked Creek and 270 miles west of Anchorage, Alaska. The project is situated on mineral rights leased to Donlin by the Calista Corporation, with the surface including a combination of native lands owned by Calista Corporation and The Kuskokwim Corporation. The project is operated by Donlin Gold LLC, co-owned by NOVAGOLD and Barrick in a 50/50 partnership. Gold mining dates back to the early 1900's with placer work in the Snow Gulch area. The mid-1980's saw increased hard rock exploration and by the mid-2000's several mineralization centers had been recognized at Lewis, ACMA, Richelieu, and 400.

The Donlin deposit is hosted in a series of rhyolitic to rhyodacite intrusives within the Kuskokwim flysh basin. The system has been identified as a Cretaceous-aged hypothermal deposit with measured and indicated mineral resources of 39.0 million ounces (Moz) of gold. Mineralization is hosted within structural corridors trending north-northeast with vein sets dipping southeast. Gold mineralization is present disseminated throughout the intrusive body and within veins; often accompanied by very fine-grained arsenic sulfides and oxides, native arsenic, stibnite, pyrite, and trace sphalerite. Associated alteration is dominantly argillic with lesser sericite and assorted clays.

Recent field activity has seen some significant interruptions in the form of the 2019 wildfire activity and the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020 program was designed to confirm the validity of a new geologic model and improve reserve definition. The original 2020 program included 22,000 meters of drilling in the ACMA and Lewis regions. Despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic, Donlin Gold drilled more than 23,000 meters, maintained above 80% shareholder hire, and completed the season with no positive Covid19 cases at the camp.

This talk will present a summary of the exploration field program completed in 2020.