

2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance DNR Subcommittee

TO: HB 281 / HB 282

OFFERED BY: Rep. Hopkins

DEPARTMENT: Natural Resources

APPROPRIATION: Fire, Land and Water Resources

ALLOCATION: Geological/Geophysical Surveys

ADD: \$750.0 UGF Inc 1004

EXPLANATION: These funds will allow the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) to accelerate their efforts to conduct large geophysical, geochemical and geological data collections over mineral-rich portions of the state as detailed in their report to the legislature entitled “Mapping Alaska’s Mineral-Rich State Lands.” These activities will include, but are not limited to:

- Complete regional airborne geophysical surveys (magnetic, radiometric and electromagnetic) using the most cost-effective aircraft for the area.
- Complete re-analysis of existing stream sediment samples, and filling data gaps in coverage with new sampling through private-sector contractors.
- Expand bedrock geologic mapping during the term of the project.

This would bring Alaska into comparable status with other major mining jurisdictions in terms of data availability, increasing the attractiveness of working in the state, and the rate of mineral discovery.

As data becomes available, DGGS will provide free visual access to the information via an online portal and publish paper maps which will be available for a nominal charge. This will provide free - or low-cost - access to prospectors and the public. DGGS will develop a fee schedule to requiring payment for versions of the data that can be ingested into GIS or other software for more advanced processing and exploration targeting by companies.