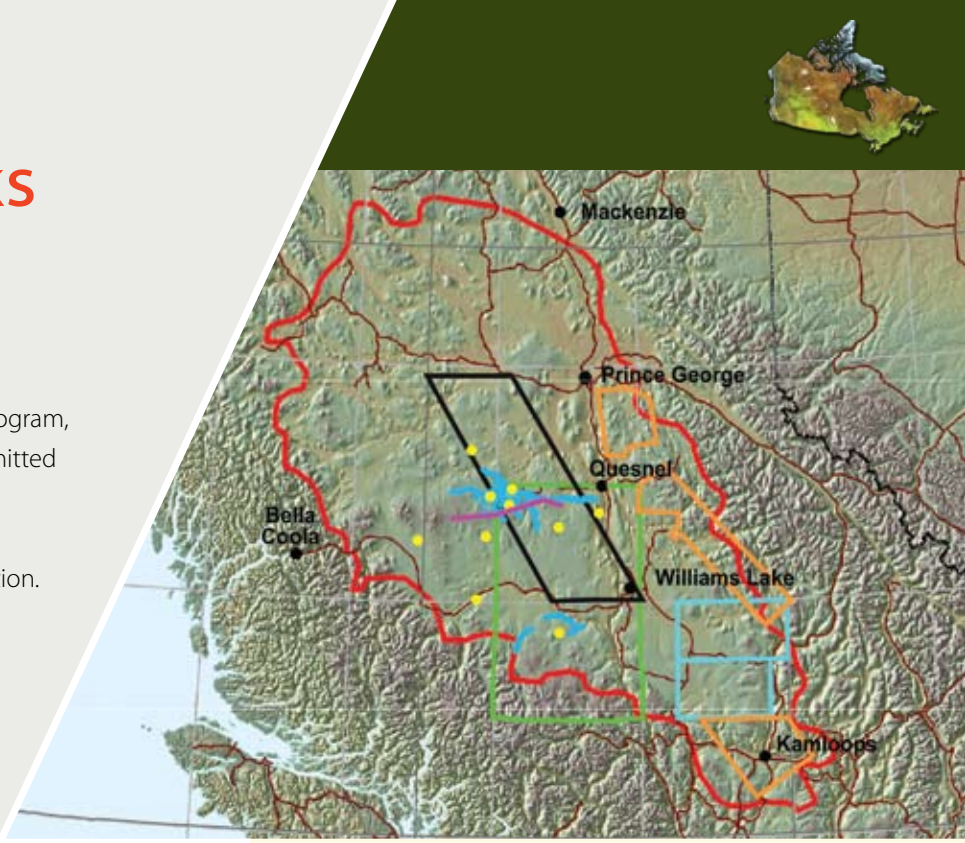
Natural Resources Canada | Ressources naturelles Canada

FROM BUGS TO ROCKS
GEOSCIENCE FOR MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RESPONSE

The Government of Canada's Mountain Pine Beetle Program, through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has committed $6 million to the collection and distribution of new geoscience information from the central region of British Columbia most impacted by the beetle infestation.

Mineral and oil and gas exploration is an effective way to diversify the resource economies of beetle-infested areas and could provide well-paying jobs in communities facing declining forestry-sector employment.



GEOSCIENCE SURVEY LOCATIONS MAP LEGEND

Geoscience data is key to informed land-use decisions, understanding geological hazards, and estimating the potential for non-renewable resources in the area.

Surveys supported under NRCan's Geoscience for Mountain Pine Beetle Program:

Regional airborne magnetic, radiometric and gravity surveys
– exploring base-metal deposits

Natural and active source seismic surveys
– demonstrating how the latest acquisition methods and techniques generate improved images of the sub-basalt strata

Ground magnetotelluric surveys
– mapping the distribution of potential reservoir rock key to the identification of prospective energy resources

Geochemical and mineralogical surveys
– collecting glacial sediment samples (dominantly till) to evaluate base mineral and precious metal content

Geoscience surveys increase our understanding of the most economically prospective rocks in central British Columbia and what the best tools are to explore them. The results will allow industry to target areas identified as having mineral and energy deposits, thereby reducing their financial risk.

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The area affected by the mountain pine beetle infestation is thought to host significant mineral and energy deposits. However, the prospective rocks lie buried beneath a surface blanket of thick glacial deposits and barren older volcanic rocks, both of which make exploration in the region risky and expensive.

NRCan's surveys funded by the Mountain Pine Beetle Program will complement other public geoscience work being done in the region by the British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and by Geoscience BC.

DATA AVAILABILITY

NRCan geoscience data will be released as it becomes available. Starting in July, 2008, data will be posted on the Geoscience Data Repository: http://gdr.nrcan.gc.ca

FOR AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL DATA THE SPECIFIC LINKS ARE:

Aeromagnetic and Electromagnetic Data
http://gdr.nrcan.gc.ca/aeromag

Radiometric Data
http://gdr.nrcan.gc.ca/gamma

Gravity Data
http://gdr.nrcan.gc.ca/gravity

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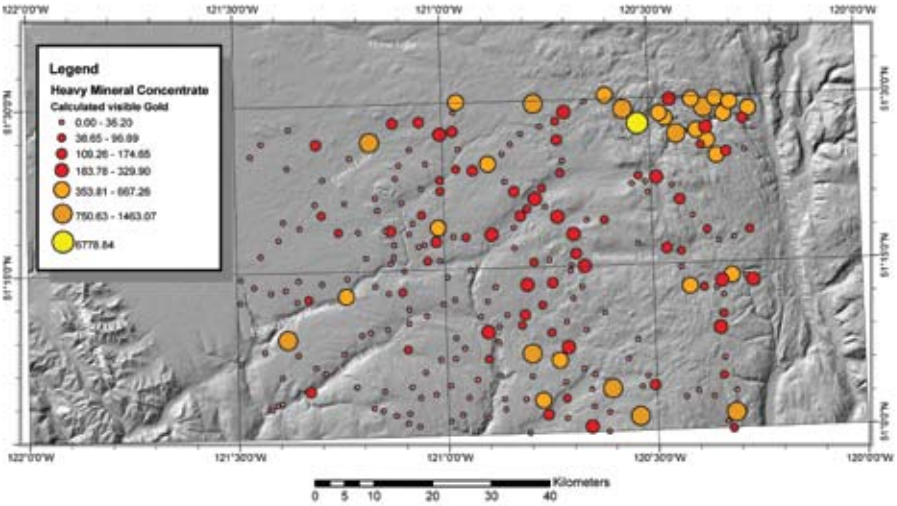

Gold in heavy mineral concentrates – preliminary results from north-west of Kamloops, July 2007

Geochemical and mineralogical surveys – collecting glacial sediment samples (dominantly till) to evaluate base mineral and precious metal content.

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