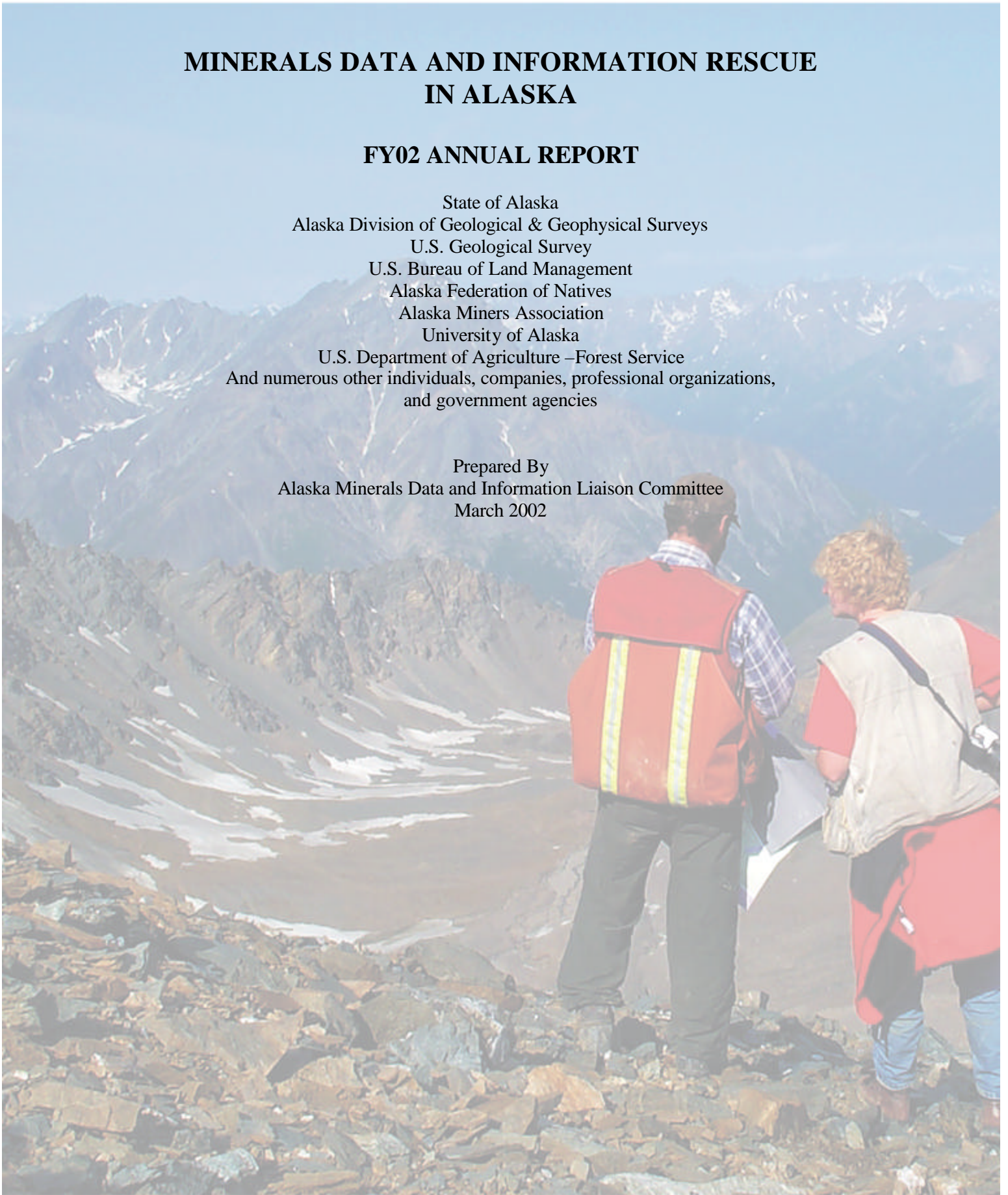


MINERALS DATA AND INFORMATION RESCUE IN ALASKA

FY02 ANNUAL REPORT

State of Alaska
Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Miners Association
University of Alaska
U.S. Department of Agriculture –Forest Service
And numerous other individuals, companies, professional organizations,
and government agencies

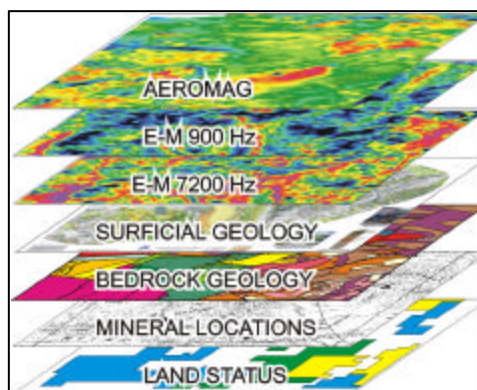
Prepared By
Alaska Minerals Data and Information Liaison Committee
March 2002



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the Mineral Data and Information Rescue in Alaska (MDIRA) project is to recover and make easily available the full body of Alaska mineral information through a coordinated system that provides efficient access or guides to all mineral related files, documents, and physical samples held in the public domain. This body of information includes geologic framework data now out of print as well as data collections from agency and private sector geologists that was never published, geophysical data, state and federal mining claim information, geochemical data sets, and M.Sc and Ph.D. dissertations on Alaska geology that exist in the obscurity of university libraries across the nation.

The (MDIRA) project was implemented in response to recognition of the importance of the Alaska subcontinent's mineral resources to the nation and a concern that decades of important Alaskan minerals information were being lost, or were in imminent danger of being lost. Much information has become unavailable to the public, industry, and even the government agencies that generated it. Out of print government publications are continuously lost through the attrition of unreturned loans or theft. Voluminous files of analytical data that are hard to use or hard to access are ignored in spite of their relevance and value because professionals do not have the time to recover them and convert them to digital format. Recent downsizing of both federal and state geologic agencies has left large volumes of data stranded in unorganized files that, almost surely, will be disposed of as institutional memory of their significance is lost through continued personnel attrition.



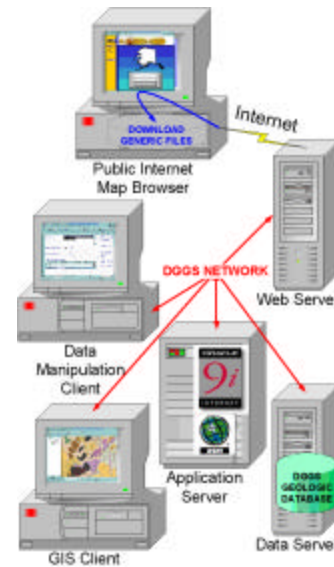
The FY 1997 U.S. Geological Survey's appropriation bill stated:

"The [Senate Appropriations] Committee expects the [U.S. Geological] Survey to report to the Committee no later than March 31, 1997, on the full scope of the geophysical, geologic, and natural resource data collection and storage issues in Alaska. The Survey should work with the University of Alaska, the State of Alaska, the Alaska Federation of Natives, and other interested parties."

Subsequently a report to Congress identifying five major issues regarding Alaska mineral data was prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey with the Liaison Committee in March of 1997. That report provided specific objectives and the goal of making all Alaska minerals information accessible to the public via computer technology as well as in traditional formats in state and federal repositories in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

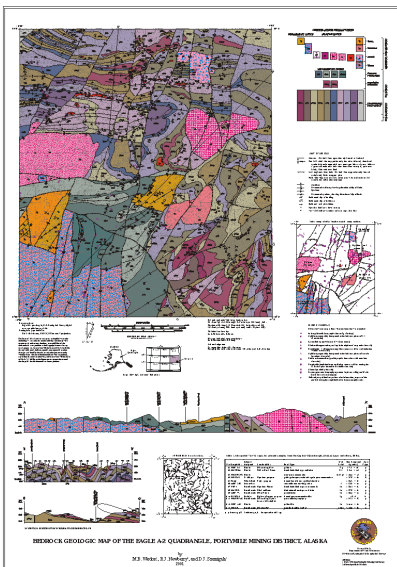
The five issues identified during a thorough canvas of Alaska's geological mineral resource private sector, state and federal agency, and academic communities were:

1. Library resources: need to better network the existing libraries; prepare a guide to geologic and minerals information; and catalog all the major collections of geology and minerals information.
2. Databases: need to develop up-to-date digital databases of Alaskan mineral deposits, geologic literature, and geochemistry data.
3. Physical Samples: need to provide for the physical preservation of core and other physical samples collected in the field; in particular, need to assure the continued existence of the Geologic Materials Center.
4. Mining claim information: need to develop an authoritative, digital, claim information system to include both State and Federal claims, including a business process that would keep it up to date.
5. New Information: need to provide for new geologic minerals information.



Pervading all these issues was the recognition that if the data and information recovered were to be kept safe from again slipping into obscurity and loss, they would have to be made more accessible to the public.

Data that are used are data that are valued and protected. Therefore, all five of the above issues embody a commitment to convert as much of the information as appropriate to digital form accessible via the world-wide-web. In those instances where that is impossible, e.g., physical mineral samples, indexes of the archival holdings will be made available online.



Under MDIRA, a tremendous volume of information has been recovered and converted to digital data files since 1997. Many of these files are now accessible via the world-wide-web, but one has to have prior knowledge of the location of many different sites in order to find them. This situation falls short of the original goals of the Mineral Data and Information Rescue in Alaska project in that easy access to the data still has not been achieved. This deficiency is being addressed now by the MDIRA project, and, given continued support, a sustainable interagency Alaska mineral database management system will be in place within two years

The Committee projects that the comprehensive public interface to the data files being recovered in his project will be completed in FY04. At that time, the last of the original data and information files identified as being at risk will be recovered in physical or digital form and an interagency database management system will be in place that will allow for maintaining the historical data and updating the database as new information becomes available.

Project Status

In conformance with the original Congressional mandate that established the Minerals Data and Information Rescue in Alaska (MDIRA) project, a liaison committee comprising representatives of Alaska's diverse geologic minerals community meets regularly to review the progress being made by the funded agencies. These meetings are attended by staff from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the University of Alaska, the Alaska Resource Library Information System (ARLIS) and other state libraries, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska Miners Association, and at various times, other interested members of Alaska's mining community. U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Land Management representatives are invited to these meetings to provide progress reports on the many tasks comprising the MDIRA project and to listen to Alaska stakeholder comments and concerns relevant to the ongoing and scheduled work.



The liaison committee process has worked well to maintain the focus and momentum of MDIRA. The following list of Internet sites provides access to a wide range and growing volume of online Alaska geologic mineral data and mining claim information. The project is still recovering and adding data to several of these sites and the sites are still isolated and non-standardized. Nevertheless, these sites are getting increasing use by the public as awareness of their existence spreads. Statistics are not yet available for all sites, but there were 27,000 visits to the DGGs publications site in 2001 and about 870 hits per month on the Alaska Resource Data File (mineral occurrence) site. Statistical software is not yet installed at the other MDIRA sites. The MDIRA project has also published a comprehensive guide to Alaska state and federal agency mineral data to serve as an interim product while the full range of at risk data files are recovered and a suitable maintenance and delivery system is built.



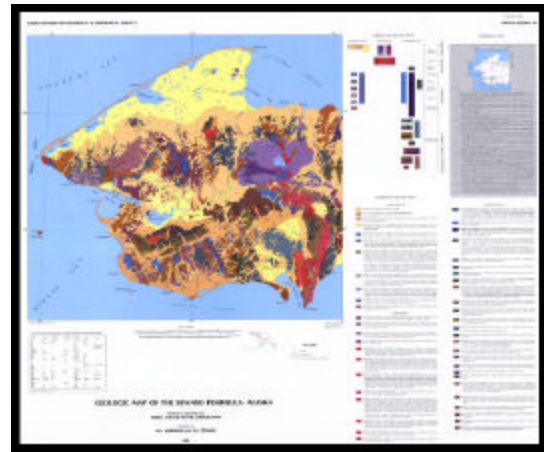
Alaska Minerals Data and Information Online

DGGS Publications On-Line (100%)	http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/pubs.html
Search for geologic publications, and access the files directly on-line.	
DGGS Maps On-Line (100%)	http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/gisexampl3.html
Recently published maps available on line. Also see DGGS Key Word Search Capability	
RASS, PLUTO Geochemistry Data (80%)	http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/open-file/of99-433/
Summary of non-rock USGS geo-chemistry data grouped by quadrangle	
Alaska Resource Data Files (75%)	http://ardf.wr.usgs.gov/
Summary descriptions of known mineral occurrences in Alaska grouped by quadrangle.	
NURE Data (100%)	http://imcg.wr.usgs.gov/nuredata.html
National Uranium Resource data; multi-element regional stream and lake-sediment geochemical trace element data	
Land Records Web Application: (80%)	http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/landrecords
A single point of access for State Status Plats, State Surveys, BLM Master Title Plats, and Federal Surveys.	View updated state mining claims, federal mineral surveys, other land records via this site. Look up state case information by case number.
State Recorder's Office Search: (100%)	http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ssd/recoff/search.cfm
On web-searchable index of the State Recorder's Office documents. Do your mining claims research on-line. Scanned images of the associated documents are coming on-line next	Real time access to recorded index data.
State UCC Documents Search:	http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ssd/ucc/search.cfm
On web-searchable index of UCC documents. Scanned images of the associated documents are coming on-line next, ability to file on-line.	
State Map Library	http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/lris/gis_maplib/maplib_start.cfm
On web-searchable database of maps produced by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. View on-line in PDF format, or download and print anywhere you want - for free	RS2477, general land status, mining claims info available here.
On-Line Annual Payments (100%)	https://nutmeg.state.ak.us/ixpress/dnr/case/lasmenu.dml
Make mining claim payments on-line -additional records research is available.	(Secured site, note the 's' in https)
DNR Sites Related to Mining Applications (100%)	http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/forms/index.htm
Mining claim forms, Affidavit of Annual Labor Form, many other forms available to download.	
Alaska Mining Claims Information System (99%)	http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ssd/lris/gis/mcis_p0/index.cfm
Online spatial display of Federal and State mineral holdings.	

Alaska Minerals Data and Information Online (continued)

Digital Index of Geological Information (90%)	http://imcg.wr.usgs.gov/digi.html
Electronic bibliography of U.S. Bureau of Mines, State DGGS, and some USGS publications. References searchable by location within Alaska.	
Georeferenced Bibliography of USGS Publications (80%)	http://akdata.wr.usgs.gov/moims/default.htm
Electronic bibliography of USGS publications on Alaska. References searchable by location.	
USGS Alaska Technical Data Unit (90%)	ftp://pluton.wr.usgs.gov/pub/atdu/aktkdata.htm
Electronic index of unpublished USGS materials on Alaska.	
Guide to Alaska Geologic and Mineral Information (100%)	http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/Libguide/intropage.htm
Electronic version of published guide to all known sources of geologic and minerals information on Alaska.	

In addition to the above data compilations, the following schedule indicates when the remainder of Alaska mineral related geologic data at risk will be recovered and cataloged, and when online references or full-content digital files of the material will be accessible online. The U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources anticipate that all recovered public sector Alaska geologic report, map, and mining claim records information will be online by the end of FY04.



For the following table “Done,” means that the digital reference citation or scanned files have been created and the material is either physically archived or captured as a set of digital files that are accessible in some fashion on the internet.

Remaining MDIRA Project Tasks

Milestone	FY02	FY03	FY04
USGS holdings in Alaska Resource Library Information System		Done	
Online catalog of USGS, Technical Data Unit holdings		Done	
Online catalog of USBLM – Juneau mineral information		Done	
Acquisition of all Alaska M.Sc. and Ph.D. dissertations, nationwide			Done
Reconcile and coordinate all agency Alaska geologic bibliographies			Done
Canvas of private sector mineral data collections	Done		
Catalog and archive unpublished federal agency mineral data files			Done
Online access to text & maps of USBLM mineral information files			Done
Online access to out of print USGS Alaska publications & maps			Done
Online files of USGS non-rock geochemistry trace element data		Done	

Remaining MDIRA Project Tasks (continued)

Milestone	FY02	FY03	FY04
Online files of USGS major-oxide rock chemistry	Done		
Online files of DGGG major-oxide and trace element chemistry	Done		
Online files of USBLM geologic materials geochemistry data			Done
Online files of Alaska Mineral Resource Data (USGS)		Done	
Online files of Alaska Minerals Information (USBLM)		Done	
State-Federal online Alaska Minerals Information Delivery System			Done
Alaska Geologic Materials Center mineral materials inventory		Done	
Online catalog of Alaska Geologic Materials Center holdings			Done
Interim Expansion of the Alaska Geologic Materials Center	Done		

**Minerals Data and Information Rescue in Alaska
Spending Plan 2002-2004**

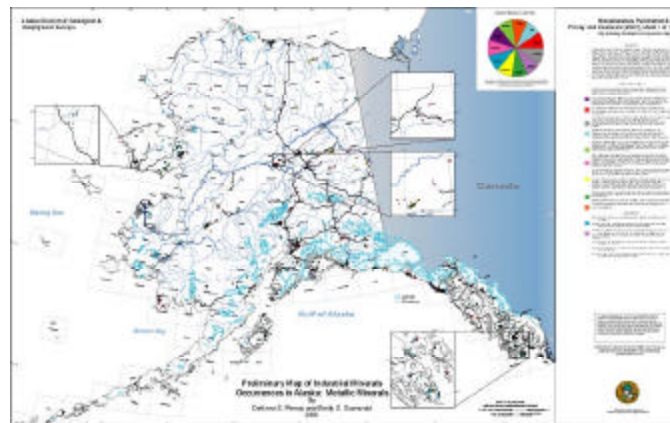
Issues/Recommendations	FFY02 USGS	FFY02 USBLM		FFY03 USGS	FFY03 USBLM		FFY04 USGS	FFY04 USBLM	
LIBRARIES									
a) Interlibrary Communication	10			5			5		
b) Guide to Minerals Information & Update	20			40		Update Done			Done
c) ARLIS, USGS, AKTDU, BLM/Jun, collection catalogue (TOTAL)	90			100					
ARLIS USGS Collection			Done			Done			Done
USGS Alaska TDU						Done			Done
Juneau BLM Minerals Information						Done			Done
Alaska Geologic Thesis acquisition						Done			Done
d) Internet accessible indexes for private mineral property files, legacy public property files,		475			160	Done			Done
USDA-FS & BLM file Indexing						Done			Done
Inventory Private-Sector Mineral Ind.						Done			Done
Archive Unpublished Agency and Private Sector Field Data						Done			Done
e) Convert priority maps & reports to digital files	300	400		160	240				Done
Scan ADGGG Maps & Reports						Done			Done
Mineral Access Corridor map conversion						Done			Done

Spending Plan 2002-2004 (continued)

Issues/Recommendations	FFY02 USGS	FFY02 USBLM		FFY03 USGS	FFY03 USBLM		FFY04 USGS	FFY04 USBLM	
Scan BLM Mineral Information Files						Done			Done
Scan USGS Alaska Bulletins, Maps & PP & Legacy Files									Done
DATABASES									
a) Geochemistry Data	175	400		100	135	Done			Done
Non-rock GX sample data (USGS)						Done			Done
Major/Minor Oxides (USGS) (Done)						Done			Done
Major/Minor Oxides (DGGs existing \$)						Done			Done
USGS Rock GX (Low priority)						Done			Done
USBLM GX									Done
b) Mineral deposits and occurrences (USGS-Alaska Resource Data Files) & AMIS	50	100		270	100	Done	120		Done
INTERAGENCY MINERAL INFORMATION DELIVERY SYSTEM									
a USGS Alaska Minerals Information delivery system (MIDS)	300								
Analysis, Design, Interagency Portal									Done
DGGs (Larry F.) Analysis coordination									
b) DGGs Alaska Minerals Information delivery system	400			350	60		300	200	Done
Analysis, Design, Core System									Done
Data Loading, Applications									Done
Interagency Database Applications									Done
c) Alaska Minerals Information Portal Interface & Public Applications		300		500	300		150	150	Done
d) USBLM Alaska Minerals Information Delivery system					500			300	Done

Spending Plan 2002-2004 (continued)

Issues/Recommendations	FFY02 USGS	FFY02 USBLM		FFY03 USGS	FFY03 USBLM		FFY04 USGS	FFY04 USBLM	
e) USGS-USNLM -DGGS Bibliography (figure in FY02 for update)	50	40							Done
f) Geochronology database for mineral terranes	55								Done
g) Macro-Fossil database for mineral terranes	75								Done
h) Interagency Alaska Mineral District Data Update & Maintenance							500	1000	
PRESERVATION OF PHYSICAL MATERIALS									
a) Geologic Materials Center - compliance upgrade of facilities									Done
b) Geologic Materials Center-Database Conversion to Access & Update									Done
c) Geologic Materials Center-mineral sample inventory		60			80				Done
d) Catalogue USGS rock samples moved up from Menlo Park									Done
e) GMC Interagency Mineral Sample Storage & Retrieval Database System					200				Done
TOTAL	1525	1775		1525	1775		1075	1650	



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